



# AUSTIN WATER

## Alternative Irrigation Compliance Program

### PILOT PROGRAM FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

An alternative compliance variance from the water use regulations may be granted in accordance with Austin City Code, Chapter 6-4-32, Water Conservation, Alternative Compliance. This variance, granted at the discretion of the Austin Water Executive Director, is reserved for those customers whose irrigation practices meet or exceed the intent of the Water Conservation Code, but not the specific mandates of the irrigation schedules contained therein. This variance will be authorized for commercial property participants on a limited time basis for the purposes of conducting a pilot study for Austin Water. Participants in this pilot study must adhere to the following guidelines and program parameters:

**Pilot Study Period:** 4 years

**Water Budget Determinations:**

1. A water budget is required for each quarter: Jan.-March, April-June, July-Sept, and October-December. These budgets must be determined for all quarters and submitted with the initial application. Water not used in a quarter shall not be rolled over into subsequent quarters.
2. Water budget will be calculated using the following methodology:

$$\text{Water Budget} = \underline{\text{ETo}} \times \underline{\text{Tcw}} \times \underline{\text{Qf}} \times \underline{\text{sq. ft.}} \times \underline{.623}$$

- **ET data source 70-year historic average for the City of Austin as reported by Texas Agrilife Extension Service**

City	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Austin	2.27	2.72	4.34	5.27	6.39	7.15	7.22	7.25	5.57	4.38	2.74	2.21	57.51

- **Tcw - (Crop Coefficient - warm season turf grass)**

City	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Austin	.10	.20	.30	.60	.60	.60	.60	.60	.60	.60	.30	.10

- **Qf - Quality Factor - permanent restrictions set at 0.8**

No Stress	Low Stress	Normal Stress	High Stress	Very High Stress
1.0	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.4

- Square footage will be made up of all irrigated areas on the site. Natural and non-irrigated areas will not be counted as part of the water budget.
- 0.623 value is equal to the number of gallons of water in 1.0 foot-inch

3. Upon implementation of more restrictive drought stages, water budgets will require the same percentage reduction as required by Austin’s drought contingency plan. The water budget for each quarter will be prorated and recalculated should more restrictive drought stages be encountered during any quarter.

### **Property Selection:**

During 2012, thirty properties were selected: 15 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (April- June) and another 15 in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter (Oct-Dec). An additional 15 properties will be selected for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2013, and the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2014. A total of 90 properties will participate over the course of the four-year pilot study with a guarantee of 24 months for each participant. Properties served by multiple meters will be considered one property so long as the various meters are in the name of the same entity and the property is contiguous. Dedicated Austin Water irrigation meters must service participating properties. Applications received will be consecutively numbered in order of receipt and randomly selected to participate. Each application period, Austin Water will reserve 5 spaces for properties applying with irrigated areas equal to or less than 3 acres. If a site that applied for an equal to or less than 3 acre space is determined to have an irrigated area greater than 3 acres, it will be removed from the application process.

### **Property Requirements:**

The irrigation system must be supplied by one or more Austin Water irrigation only meters, must have an established Austin Water Utility account for a minimum period of 3 years, must be in compliance with Austin City Code, Chapter 6-4-12(B), Water Waste Prohibited, and must pass a site inspection.

### **Site Inspections:**

Austin Water staff will conduct site inspections to determine compliance, requiring the operation of a selection of irrigation zones and pressure evaluations. Properties that fail the site inspection will be removed from the participant roster and allowed to re-apply during the next enrollment period. The vacated enrollment position will be offered to successive participants. Selected properties will be contacted and the site inspection required for program participation must be scheduled within 5 business days of the initial contact. Properties that cannot schedule a site inspection within that time frame may be removed from the selected list.

### **Program Acceptance:**

Program acceptance is completed upon successful enrollment and acknowledgement of the program parameters in writing by the utility account holder (form established by Austin Water).

### **Signage:**

Each participating property is required to erect a sign at the applicant's expense in an area on the property openly visible to the public. The signage will indicate that the property is enrolled in an Austin Water pilot study and provide notice of the variable watering schedule with verbiage determined by Austin Water.

### **Monitoring:**

Meters will be read on the last day of each month by Austin Water staff. These reads are used for comparing a property's water use to its water budget and are separate from the billing reads. Reports will be delivered to participant representatives within 5 business days following the close of each quarter.

### **Enforcement:**

Witnessed violations of Chapter 6-4-12(B), Water Waste Prohibited, will be processed as required by the code in effect at the time of the violation. Exceeding the established budget for any two quarters will result in removal from the program for a year. Exceeding the established budget by 150% in any given quarter will result in the assessment of a monetary penalty and removal from the program for a year.

### **Fees and Charges:**

Fees will not be assessed in the initial phases of the pilot, allowing Austin Water the time necessary to conduct a fee study. Once adopted by Council, appropriate fees and/or monetary penalties may be administered for continued participation.

### **Separation:**

A property may separate from the program without penalty at any time with written notice to Austin Water. Austin Water reserves the right to terminate the pilot program with reasonable notice.

SR # \_\_\_\_\_  
(Austin Water Use Only)

**AUSTIN WATER**  
Alternative Irrigation Compliance Pilot Program for Commercial Properties  
APPLICATION

**Property Information**

Property Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**City of Austin Utility Service Account Information**

Name/Business on Account: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Irrigation Meter #(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information** - Check one box for this property's primary contact person

Property Representative (required): \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Landscaper/Irrigator (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attach a site map showing the following information:**

- north arrow, street information, and building arrangement
- color coded boundary of each irrigated area, associated irrigation meter number, and location.

**Estimated Quarterly Water Budget Calculation**

**Jan-Mar: 1.03 X** \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ **Apr-Jun: 5.62 X** \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
(square feet) (gallons) (square feet) (gallons)

**Jul-Sep: 5.99 X** \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ **Oct-Dec: 1.83 X** \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
(square feet) (gallons) (square feet) (gallons)

I have submitted the required information, site map, and proposed water budget for the property above and understand that all attachments are made part of this variance request and any subsequent approval. I further understand that Chapter 6-4-12(B), Water Waste Prohibited, remains in full force and effect.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit applications to: Austin Water, Water Conservation Division**  
P.O. Box 1088  
Austin, TX 78767  
FAX to (512) 974-6548  
Email to [waterusecompvar@austintexas.gov](mailto:waterusecompvar@austintexas.gov)

AWU Verified Irrigated Area  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Austin Water Use Only)