

SECTION H.

DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

A: Declaration of Policy, Purpose and Intent

In order to conserve the available water supply and protect the integrity of water supply facilities, with particular regard for domestic water use, sanitation, fire protection, to protect and preserve public health, welfare, safety and minimize the adverse impacts of water supply shortage or other water supply emergency conditions, Bethel Ash WSC hereby adopts the following regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water.

B: Public Involvement

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by Bethel Ash WSC by means of utility bill insert to each customer.

C: Public Education

Bethel Ash WSC will periodically provide the public with information about the Plan, including information about the conditions under which each stage of the Plan is to be initiated or terminated and the drought response measures to be implemented in each stage. This information will be provided by means of utility bill inserts and/or press releases.

D: Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups

The service area of Bethel Ash WSC is located within the Regional Planning Area C and Bethel Ash WSC has provided a copy of this Plan to the Regional Planning Area C.

E: Authorization

The General Manager or his/her designee is hereby authorized and directed to implement the applicable provisions of this Plan upon determination that such implementation is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. The General Manager or his/her designee shall have the authority to initiate or terminate drought or other water supply emergency response measures as described in this Plan.

F: Application

The provisions of this Plan shall apply to all persons, customers, and property utilizing water provided by Bethel Ash WSC. The terms “person” and “customer” as used in the Plan include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

G: Definitions

For the purposes of this Plan, the following definitions shall apply:

Aesthetic water use: water use for ornamental or decorative purposes such as fountains, reflecting pools, and water gardens.

Commercial and institutional water use: water use which is integral to the operations of commercial and non-profit establishments and governmental entities such as retail establishments, hotels, motels, restaurants and office buildings.

Conservation: those practices, techniques, and technologies that reduce the consumption of water, reduce the loss or waste of water, improve the efficiency in the use of water or increase the recycling and reuse of water so that a supply is conserved and made available for future or alternative uses.

Customer: any person, company or organization using water supplied by Bethel-Ash WSC.

Domestic water use: water use for personal needs, household or sanitary purposes such as drinking, bathing, heating, cooking, sanitation, or cleaning a residence, business, industry, or institution.

Even number address: street addresses or box numbers ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, 8 and locations without addresses.

Industrial water use: the use of water in processes designed to convert materials of lower value into forms having greater usability and value.

Landscape irrigation use: water used for the irrigation and maintenance of landscaped areas, whether publicly or privately owned, including residential and commercial lawns, gardens, golf courses, parks, rights-of-way and medians.

Non-essential water use: water uses that are neither essential nor required for the protection of public, health, safety, and welfare, including:

- (a) irrigation of landscape areas, including parks, athletic fields, and golf courses, except otherwise provided under this Plan;
- (b) use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle;
- (c) use of water to wash down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts or other hard-surfaced areas;
- (d) use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
- (e) flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
- (f) use of water to fill, refill or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools or jacuzzi-type pools;
- (g) use of water in a fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes except where necessary to support aquatic life;
- (h) failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and
- (i) use of water from hydrants for construction purposes or any other purposes other than firefighting

Odd number address: street addresses or box numbers ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and locations without addresses.

H: Triggering Criteria for Initiation and Termination of Drought Response Stages

The General Manager or his/her designee shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the Plan. Public notification of the initiation or termination of drought response stages shall be by means of direct mail to each customer.

- (a) Stage 1 - Moderate Water Shortage Conditions:** Stage 1 water allocation measures may be implemented when one or more of the following conditions exist.

Requirements for initiation:

- 1) Water consumption has reached eighty (80) percent of daily maximum supply for three (3) consecutive days.
- 2) Water supply is reduced to a level that is only twenty (20) percent greater than the average consumption for the previous month.
- 3) There is an extended period (at least eight (8) weeks) of low rainfall and daily use has risen twenty (20) percent above the use for the same period during the previous year.

Requirements for termination - Stage 1 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of fourteen (14) consecutive days.

- (b) Stage 2 - Severe Water Shortage Conditions:** Stage 2 water allocation measures may be implemented when one of the following conditions exist.

Requirements for initiation:

- 1) Water consumption has reached ninety (90) percent of daily maximum supply for three (3) consecutive days.
- 2) The water level in any of the water storage tanks cannot be replenished for three (3) consecutive days.

Requirements for termination - Stage 2 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of fourteen (14) consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1 becomes operative.

- (c) Stage 3 - Critical Water Shortage Conditions:** Stage 3 water allocation measures may be implemented when one of the following conditions exist.

Requirements for initiation:

- 1) Failure of a major component of the system or an event which reduces the minimum residual pressure in the system below 20 psi for a period of 24 hours or longer.
- 2) Water consumption of ninety-five (95) percent or more of the maximum supply available for three (3) consecutive days.
- 3) Water consumption of one hundred (100) percent of the maximum available and the water storage levels in the system drop during one 24-hour period.
- 4) Natural or man-made contamination of the water supply source(s).
- 5) The declaration of a state of disaster due to drought conditions in a county or counties served by the Corporation.
- 6) Other unforeseen events which could cause imminent health or safety risks to the public.

Requirements for termination - Stage 3 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of fourteen (14) consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 3, Stage 2 becomes operative.

I: Drought Response Stages

The General Manager or his/her designee shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis and, in accordance with the triggering criteria set forth in Section H of the Plan, shall determine that a moderate, severe, critical or emergency condition exists and shall implement the following actions by direct mailing of notice to each customer:

Stage 1 - Moderate Water Shortage Conditions

Goal: Achieve an eight (8) percent reduction in gallons pumped per day.

Water Use Restrictions:

- (a) Water customers are to limit the irrigation of landscaped areas to Sundays and Thursdays for customers with a street address ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6, 8), and Saturdays and Wednesdays for water customers with a street address ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) and to irrigate landscapes only between the hours of 8:00 pm at night to 8:00 am in the morning on designated watering days. The washing of vehicles, use of water to refill swimming pools, wading pools and etc. is prohibited.
- (b) Water customers are to practice water conservation and to minimize or discontinue water use for non-essential purposes.

Stage 2 - Severe Water Shortage Conditions

Goal: Achieve a twenty (20) percent reduction in gallons pumped per day.

Water Use Restrictions:

- (a) Bethel Ash WSC’s rate structure in effect at any given time shall be modified during Stage 2 to charge an additional \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons for water usage over 10,000 gallons per month. Month is defined as Bethel Ash WSC’s monthly billing cycle.

Water Rates under Stage 2 Drought Contingency

0 gallons to 10,000 gallons	Regular \$3.65 per 1,000 gallons
10,001 gallons to 20,000 gallons	Stage 2 Rate \$15.65 per 1,000 gallons
20,001 gallons and above	Stage 2 Rate \$17.65 per 1,000 gallons

Stage 3 - Critical Water Shortage Conditions

Goal: Achieve a twenty-five (25) percent reduction in gallons pumped per day.

Water Use Restrictions:

- (a) Bethel Ash WSC’s rate structure in effect at any given time shall be modified during Stage 3 to charge an additional \$20.00 per 1,000 gallons for water usage over 10,000 gallons per month. Month is defined as Bethel Ash WSC’s monthly billing cycle.

Water Rates under Stage 3 Drought Contingency

0 gallons to 10,000 gallons	Regular \$3.65 per 1,000 gallons
10,001 gallons to 20,000 gallons	New rate \$25.65 per 1,000 gallons
20,001 gallons and above	New rate \$27.65 per 1,000 gallons

J: Variances

The General Manager or his/her designee may, in writing, grant temporary variance for existing water uses otherwise prohibited under this Plan if it is determined that failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the health, sanitation, or fire protection for the public or the person requesting such variance and if one or more of the following conditions are met:

- (a) Compliance with this Plan cannot be technically accomplished during the duration of the water supply shortage or other condition for which the Plan is in effect.
- (b) Alternative methods can be implemented which will achieve the same level of reduction in water use.

Persons requesting an exemption from the provisions of this Ordinance shall file a petition for variance with Bethel Ash WSC within five (5) days after the Plan or a particular drought response stage has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the General Manager or his/her designee and shall include the following:

- (a) Name and address of the petitioner(s).
- (b) Purpose of water use.
- (c) Specific provision(s) of the Plan from which the petitioner is requesting relief.
- (d) Detailed statement as to how the specific provision of the Plan adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with this Ordinance.
- (e) Description of the relief requested.
- (f) Period of time for which the variance is sought.
- (g) Alternative water use restrictions or other measures the petitioner is taking or proposes to take to meet the intent of this Plan and the compliance date.
- (h) Other pertinent information.

Variations granted by Bethel Ash WSC shall be subject to the following conditions, unless waived or modified by the General Manager or his/her designee:

- (a) Variations granted shall include a timetable for compliance.
- (b) Variations granted shall expire when the Plan is no longer in effect, unless the petitioner has failed to meet specified requirements.

No variance shall be retroactive or otherwise justify any violation of this Plan occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.