

# **Drought Contingency Plan for La Joya Water Supply Corporation**

**La Joya Water Supply Corporation  
P.O. Box 518-A  
La Joya, TX 78560**

**Water CCN #10559  
Public Water Supply #1080022**

**Effective July 15, 2006**

## **Section 1 Declaration of Policy, Purpose, and Intent**

In cases of extreme drought, periods of abnormally high usage, system contamination, or extended reduction in ability to supply water due to equipment failure, temporary restrictions may be instituted to limit nonessential water usage. The purpose of the Drought Contingency Plan (Plan) is to encourage customer conservation in order to maintain supply, storage, or pressure or to comply with the requirements of a court, government agency or other authority.

## **Section 2 Public Involvement**

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by publishing notice in the local paper on June 23, 2006 and June 24, 2006 and requesting public input on the plan through written comment by June 28, 2006. Additionally, the changes and zone designation map was provided to all customers as part of the La Joya Water Supply Corporation's Consumer Confidence Report.

## **Section 3 Public Education**

The La Joya Water Supply Corporation (La Joya) 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.

Drought plan information will be provided by one or more of the following:

- (1) public meeting*
- (2) press releases*
- (3) utility bill inserts*

## **Section 4 Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups**

The service area of the La Joya is located within Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) M (Rio Grande).

La Joya mailed a copy of this Plan to the Rio Grande RWPG.

## **Section 5 Notice Requirements**

Written notice will be provided to each customer **prior to implementation or termination of each stage of the water restriction program**. Mailed notice must be given to each customer 72 hours prior to the start of water restriction. If notice is hand delivered, the utility cannot enforce the provisions of the plan for 24 hours after notice is provided. The written notice to customers will contain the following information:

1. the date restrictions will begin,
2. the circumstances that triggered the restrictions,
3. the stages of response and explanation of the restrictions to be implemented, and,
4. an explanation of the consequences for violations.

**The La Joya shall notify the TCEQ by telephone at (512) 239-4691, or electronic mail at [watermon@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:watermon@tceq.state.tx.us) prior to implementing Stage III and must notify in writing the Public Drinking Water Section at MC - 155, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 within five (5) working days of implementation including a copy of the utility's restriction notice. La Joya shall file a status report of its restriction program with the TCEQ at the initiation and termination of mandatory water use restrictions (i.e., Stages III and IV).**

## **Section 6 Violations**

1. First violation - The customer will be notified by written notice of their specific violation.
2. Second violation - After written notice of the violation, the customer shall be assessed a penalty of \$27.15.
3. Third violation - After written notice of the violation, the customer shall be assessed a penalty of \$45.25.
4. Fourth and Subsequent Violations - After written notice of the violation, the customer shall be assessed a penalty of \$54.30. La Joya shall also discontinue service at the meter for a period of seven (7) days, or until the end of the calendar month, whichever is LESS. The normal reconnect fee of the utility will apply for restoration of service.

## **Section 7 Exemptions or Variances**

La Joya may grant any customer an exemption or variance from the drought contingency plan for good cause **upon written request**. A customer who is refused an exemption or variance may appeal such action of the utility in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. La Joya will treat all customers equally concerning exemptions and variances, and shall not discriminate in granting exemptions and variances. No exemption or variance shall be retroactive or otherwise justify any violation of this Plan occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.

## Section 8 Response Stages

Unless there is an immediate and extreme reduction in water production, or other absolute necessity to declare an emergency or severe condition, La Joya Water Supply Corporation will initially declare Stage I restrictions. If, after a reasonable period of time, demand is not reduced enough to alleviate outages, reduce the risk of outages, or comply with restrictions required by a court, government agency or other authority, subsequent stages may be implemented if necessary.

### **STAGE I - VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION:**

**Target: Achieve a 5 percent reduction in daily demand.**

La Joya Water Supply Corporation will implement Stage I on May 1 of each year pursuant to the requirements specified in La Joya Water Supply Corporation's wholesale water purchase contract with District # 6 and the United Irrigation.

**Upon initiation and termination of Stage I, the utility will mail a public announcement to its customers. No notice to TCEQ required.**

#### Requirements for Termination:

Stage I of the Plan may end on September 30 or when the storage capacity at Falcon Reservoir has been equal to or greater than 50% of storage annually for thirty (30) consecutive days, which ever is later.

#### Operational Measures:

Announcements will be sent to all customers that are designed to increase customer awareness of water conservation and encourage the most efficient use of water. A copy of the current public announcement on water conservation awareness shall be kept on file available for inspection by the TCEQ.

La Joya Water Supply Corporation will visually inspect lines and repair leaks on a daily basis. La Joya will conduct a monthly review of customer use records and follow-up on any that have unusually high usage.

#### Voluntary Water Use Restrictions:

1. **Restricted Days/Hours:** Water customers are requested to voluntarily limit the irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems. Customers are requested to limit outdoor water use to **Mondays and Thursdays for water customers in Green Watering Zone No. 1, Tuesdays and Fridays for water customers in Yellow Watering Zone No. 2, and Wednesdays and Saturdays for water customers Red Watering Zone No. 3. The Green Watering Zone No. 1 includes customers south of Expressway 83 from west of Inspiration Road eastward into Starr County. The Yellow Watering Zone No.**

**2 includes customers north of Expressway 83, south of 3 Mile Line from west of Inspiration Road eastward into Starr County. The Red Watering Zone No. 3 includes customers north of 3 Mile Line, south of 8 Mile Line from West of Bentsen Palm Dr. eastward into Starr County. A copy of the map identifying the different zones is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.** Water customers are requested to voluntarily limit irrigation of landscaped areas hours of 12:00 midnight until 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight on designated watering days. Irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at anytime if it is by means of a hand-held hose, a faucet-filled bucket or watering can of five (5) gallons or less, or drip irrigation system.

2. Water customers are requested to avoid activities that waste water or that allows water to leave the customers property, such as water running down the gutter.

### **STAGE II - MANDATORY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS:**

**Target: Achieve a 10 percent reduction daily water demand.**

The water utility will implement Stage II when any one of the selected triggers is reached:

#### **Supply-Based Triggers:**

The water storage capacity in Falcon Reservoir is equal to or less than 40 percent storage capacity.

#### **Demand- or Capacity-Based Triggers:**

1. Drinking water treatment as % of capacity – 65%
2. Total daily demand as % of pumping capacity – 65%

**Upon initiation and termination of Stage II, La Joya will mail a public announcement to its customers. Notice to TCEQ required.**

#### **Requirements for Termination:**

Stage II of the Plan will end when the conditions listed as supply-based triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 60 consecutive days.

Stage II of the Plan will end when the conditions listed as demand- or capacity-based triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of three (3) consecutive days.

Upon termination of Stage II, Stage I becomes operative.

Operational Measures:

Visually inspect lines and repair leaks on a regular basis. Flushing is prohibited except for dead end mains.

Mandatory Water Use Restrictions:

The following water use restrictions shall apply to all customers.

1. Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems **shall be limited to Mondays and Thursdays for water customers in Green Watering Zone No. 1, Tuesdays and Fridays for water customers in Yellow Watering Zone No. 2, and Wednesdays and Saturdays for water customers Red Watering Zone No. 3. The Green Watering Zone No. 1 includes customers south of Expressway 83 from west of Inspiration Road eastward into Starr County. The Yellow Watering Zone No. 2 includes customers north of Expressway 83, south of 3 Mile Line from west of Inspiration Road eastward into Starr County. The Red Watering Zone No. 3 includes customers north of 3 Mile Line, south of 8 Mile Line from West of Bentsen Palm Dr. eastward into Starr County. A copy of the map identifying the different zones is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.** Irrigation of landscaped areas is further limited to the hours of 12:00 midnight until 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight on designated watering days. However, irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at anytime if it is by means of a hand-held hose, a faucet-filled bucket or watering can of five (5) gallons or less, or drip irrigation system.
2. Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. Such washing, when allowed, shall be done with a hand-held bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle for quick rinses. Vehicle washing may be done at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service station. Further, such washing may be exempted from these regulations if the health, safety, and welfare of the public are contingent upon frequent vehicle cleansing, such as garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.
3. Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or "jacuzzi" type pool is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight.
4. Operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a recirculation system.

5. Use of water from hydrants or flush valves shall be limited to maintaining public health, safety, and welfare.
6. Use of water for the irrigation of golf courses, parks, and green belt area is prohibited except by hand-held hose and only on designated watering days between the hours 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight.
7. The following uses of water are defined as nonessential and are prohibited:
  - a. wash down of any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
  - b. use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
  - c. use of water for dust control;
  - d. flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
  - e. failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and
  - f. any waste of water.

### **STAGE III - SEVERE WATER USE RESTRICTIONS:**

**Target: Achieve a 20 percent reduction in the daily water demand.**

The water utility will implement Stage III when any one of the selected triggers is reached:

#### **Supply-Based Triggers:**

The water storage capacity in Falcon Reservoir is equal to or less than 30 percent storage capacity.

#### **Demand- or Capacity-Based Triggers:**

1. Drinking water treatment as % of capacity – 75%
2. Total daily demand as % of pumping capacity – 75%

**Upon initiation and termination of Stage III, La Joya will mail a public announcement to its customers. Notice to TCEQ required.**

#### **Requirements for Termination:**

Stage III of the Plan will end when the conditions listed as supply-based triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 30 consecutive days.

Stage III of the Plan will end when the conditions listed as demand- or capacity-based triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of three (3) consecutive days.

Upon termination of Stage III, Stage II becomes operative.

Operational Measures:

Visually inspect lines and repair leaks on a regular basis. Flushing is prohibited except for dead end mains.

Mandatory Water Use Restrictions:

The following water use restrictions shall apply to all customers.

1. Irrigation of landscaped areas with a hand-held hose, a faucet-filled bucket or watering can of five (5) gallons or less, or drip irrigation system **shall be limited to Mondays and Thursdays for water customers in Green Watering Zone No. 1, Tuesdays and Fridays for water customers in Yellow Watering Zone No. 2, and Wednesdays and Saturdays for water customers Red Watering Zone No. 3. The Green Watering Zone No. 1 includes customers south of Expressway 83 from west of Inspiration Road eastward into Starr County. The Yellow Watering Zone No. 2 includes customers north of Expressway 83, south of 3 Mile Line from west of Inspiration Road eastward into Starr County. The Red Watering Zone No. 3 includes customers north of 3 Mile Line, south of 8 Mile Line from West of Bentsen Palm Dr. eastward into Starr County. A copy of the map identifying the different zones is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.** Irrigation of landscaped areas is further limited to between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight on designated watering days. Landscape irrigation by means of hose-end sprinklers or automated sprinkler systems is prohibited at any time.
2. Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. Such washing, when allowed, shall be done with a hand-held bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle for quick rinses. Vehicle washing may be done at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service station. Further, such washing may be exempted from these regulations if the health, safety, and welfare of the public are contingent upon frequent vehicle cleansing, such as garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.
3. Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or “jacuzzi” type pool is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight.
4. Operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a recirculation system.

5. Use of water from hydrants or flush valves shall be limited to maintaining public health, safety, and welfare.
6. Use of water for the irrigation of golf courses, parks, and green belt area is prohibited unless the golf course utilizes a water source other than that of La Joya.
7. The following uses of water are defined as nonessential and are prohibited:
  - a. wash down of any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
  - b. use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
  - c. use of water for dust control;
  - d. flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
  - e. failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and
  - f. any waste of water.

#### **STAGE IV - CRITICAL WATER USE RESTRICTIONS:**

**Target: Achieve a 25 percent reduction in the daily water demand.**

The water utility will implement Stage IV when any one of the selected triggers is reached:

##### **Supply-Based Triggers:**

The water storage capacity in Falcon Reservoir is equal to or less than 25 percent storage capacity.

##### **Demand- or Capacity-Based Triggers:**

- a. Drinking water treatment as % of capacity - 85 %
- b. Total daily demand as % of pumping capacity - 85 %

**Upon initiation and termination of Stage IV, La Joya will mail a public announcement to its customers. Notice to TCEQ required.**

##### **Requirements for Termination:**

Stage IV of the Plan will end when the conditions listed as supply-based triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 30 consecutive days.

Stage IV of the Plan will end when the conditions listed as demand- or capacity-based triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of three (3) consecutive days.

Upon termination of Stage IV, Stage III becomes operative.

Operational Measures:

Visually inspect lines and repair leaks on a regular basis. Flushing is prohibited except for dead end mains and only between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. Emergency interconnects or alternative supply arrangements shall be initiated.

Mandatory Water Use Restrictions:

The following water use restrictions shall apply to all customers.

1. Irrigation of landscaped areas with a hand-held hose, a faucet-filled bucket or watering can of five (5) gallons or less, or drip irrigation system **shall be limited to Mondays for water customers in Green Watering Zone No. 1, Wednesdays for water customers in Yellow Watering Zone No. 2, and Fridays for water customers Red Watering Zone No. 3. The Green Watering Zone No. 1 includes customers south of Expressway 83 from west of Inspiration Road eastward into Starr County. The Yellow Watering Zone No. 2 includes customers north of Expressway 83, south of 3 Mile Line from west of Inspiration Road eastward into Starr County. The Red Watering Zone No. 3 includes customers north of 3 Mile Line, south of 8 Mile Line from West of Bentsen Palm Dr. eastward into Starr County. A copy of the map identifying the different zones is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.** Irrigation of landscaped areas is further limited to between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight on designated watering days. Landscape irrigation by means of hose-end sprinklers or automated sprinkler systems is prohibited at any time.
2. Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is prohibited. Vehicle washing may be done at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service station. Further, such washing may be exempted from these regulations if the health, safety, and welfare of the public are contingent upon frequent vehicle cleansing, such as garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.
3. Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or "jacuzzi" type pool is prohibited.
4. Operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a recirculation system.
5. Use of water from hydrants or flush valves shall be limited to maintaining public health, safety, and welfare.

6. Use of water for the irrigation of golf courses, parks, and green belt area is prohibited unless the golf course utilizes a water source other than that of La Joya.
7. The following uses of water are defined as nonessential and are prohibited:
  - a. wash down of any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
  - b. use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
  - c. use of water for dust control;
  - d. flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
  - e. failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and
  - f. any waste of water.
8. No applications for new, additional, expanded or increased-in-size water service connections, meters, service lines, pipeline extensions, mains, or water service facilities of any kind shall be allowed or approved.

**STAGE V - EMERGENCY WATER USE RESTRICTIONS:**

**Target: Achieve a 30 percent reduction in daily water demand.**

The water utility will implement Stage V when any one of the selected triggers is reached:

**Supply-Based Triggers:**

The water storage capacity in Falcon Reservoir is equal to or less than 20 percent storage capacity.

**Demand- or Capacity-Based Triggers:**

- c. Drinking water treatment as % of capacity - 90 %
- d. Total daily demand as % of pumping capacity - 90 %

**Upon initiation and termination of Stage V, La Joya will mail a public announcement to its customers. Notice to TCEQ required.**

**Requirements for Termination:**

Stage IV of the Plan will end when the conditions listed as supply-based triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 30 consecutive days.

Stage IV of the Plan will end when the conditions listed as demand- or capacity-based triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of three (3) consecutive days.

Upon termination of Stage V, Stage IV becomes operative.

### Operational Measures:

The utility shall visually inspect lines and repair leaks on a daily basis. Flushing is prohibited except for dead end mains and only between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. Emergency interconnects or alternative supply arrangements shall be initiated. All meters shall be read as often as necessary to insure compliance with this program for the benefit of all the customers.

### Mandatory Water Use Restrictions:

1. Irrigation of landscaped areas is absolutely prohibited.
2. All outdoor use of water is prohibited.
3. Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is absolutely prohibited.
4. Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or “jacuzzi” type pool is prohibited.
5. Operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a recirculation system.
6. Use of water from hydrants or flush valves shall be limited to maintaining public health, safety, and welfare.
7. Use of water for the irrigation of golf courses, parks, and green belt area is prohibited unless the golf course utilizes a water source other than that of La Joya.
8. The following uses of water are defined as nonessential and are prohibited:
  - a. wash down of any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
  - b. use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
  - c. use of water for dust control;
  - d. flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
  - e. failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and
  - f. any waste of water.

9. No applications for new, additional, expanded or increased-in-size water service connections, meters, service lines, pipeline extensions, mains, or water service facilities of any kind shall be allowed or approved.

**SYSTEM OUTAGE or SUPPLY CONTAMINATION**

Notify TCEQ Regional Office immediately.