



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Kenneth M. Griffin, P.E., Director of Engineering/Public Works

**DATE:** December 13, 2011

**RE:** Discussion concerning the City's Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan and a date for implementation of Stage 1.

On November 16, 2011, the Dallas City Council was briefed on the initiation of their Drought Contingency Plan Stage 1. Based on the briefing and action from the Managers office, the City of Dallas will be implementing Stage 1 of their plan on December 12, 2011. If you review the City of Dallas Drought Contingency Plan, their Stage 1 states that their target is to "achieve a 5% reduction in total gallons per capita per day." In their plan, they list a menu of possible actions to achieve the 5% reduction. The number one action states "require reduction of water use through **mandatory** maximum two days per week landscape watering schedule and require watering only during allowed watering hours."

Wholesale water customers of the City of Dallas, of which the City of Coppell is one, have received notification from the City of Dallas that we will also be required to implement a 5% reduction in usage. I have asked for a clarification from Dallas Water Utilities on whether we are just supposed to achieve a target reduction of 5% or are we supposed to restrict landscape irrigation to no more than two days per week as required by the City of Dallas Stage 1. I have been notified via email that the only requirement of the wholesale customers will be to reduce consumption by 5%. The 5% reduction was also verified in the official December 5, 2011 notification letter from Dallas. I am still seeking additional clarification as to what the 5% is measured against, i.e., is it a 5% reduction from the previous year of the same time frame, is it a 5% reduction from our maximum usage, is it a 5% reduction from our average daily usage, is it a 5% reduction of our total usage during either a calendar year or a certain period of time, etc. To date, I have not received a detailed explanation.

A concern arises when we consider initiating one of our stages to attempt to reduce consumption. If we are bound to the "no more than two days per week landscape irrigation," then Stage 3 of the City of Coppell Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan should be implemented. However, Stage 3 could cause an increase in water usage, as we have experienced in past years. Overall, our water consumption has reduced over time. Prior to the record drought this summer, our last request for a rate of

flow increase from Dallas was August 14, 2000. In the five years, leading up to August 14, 2000 (1995-2000), we requested 11 rate flow increases from Dallas. Our current rate of flow is 18 MGD. In 1995 it was 9.0 MGD and, after the 11 increases, it was at 17 MGD. It remained at 17 MGD from August 2000 until August 2011. In 1995 our population 24,000, in 2000 it was 36,000, and it is currently about 40,000. The population growth drove most of the rate of flow increases in the late 1990's. However, even with the growth in the last eleven years, we did not need an increase in our rate of flow until the drought. The point of the above discussion is that even with growth in the last eleven years, we reduced our per capita usage.

Council may recall that our current Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan automatically implements Stage 1 on May 15<sup>th</sup> through September 15<sup>th</sup> in any given year. The City Manager, upon notification to the City Council, may implement the plan prior to May 15<sup>th</sup> or extend it beyond September 15<sup>th</sup>. Also, the City Manager, upon notification to the City Council, is authorized to move from Stage to Stage within the plan. To be inline with the City Dallas stated goal of a 5% reduction, my recommendation is that the City Manager should reinitiate Stage 1 of the City of Coppell Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan. Also, the City should stay in Stage 1 until at least September 15, 2012 or until/unless required to go to a more restrictive Stage by the City of Dallas or by the actual water consumption within the City of Coppell.

Information from the presentation made to the City of Dallas City Council by City Staff will be provided at the Council meeting. With this agenda item, I have included pertinent sections of the City of Dallas Drought Contingency Plan as adopted by resolution of the City of Dallas City Council on June 9, 2010.

The entire plan can be found at:

<http://savedallaswater.com/pdf/Drought%20Contingency%20Plan.pdf>.

I have also included pertinent sections of the City of Coppell Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan as approved by City Council on May 12, 2009.

The entire Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan can be found at:

[weblink.ci.coppell.tx.us/weblink7/DocView.aspx?id=28747&dbid=0](http://weblink.ci.coppell.tx.us/weblink7/DocView.aspx?id=28747&dbid=0).

Staff will available to make a presentation and answer any questions at the Council meeting.