

Drought Contingency Plan: Comal Trace

Water is a precious and limited resource. By being mindful of water usage and taking steps to reduce consumption, we can continue to build water supply resiliency. In order to ensure efficient use of water resources, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) has adopted this Drought Contingency Plan (Plan) for Comal Trace to conserve water supply and outline the steps and strategies to reduce water usage during drought, water shortages or emergency situations.

This Plan follows the guidelines and requirements outlined by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for public water suppliers and applies to all wholesale, retail, and industrial customers using water provided by GBRA. The GBRA General Manager/CEO or his designee is authorized to implement the applicable provisions of the Plan upon determination that such implementation is necessary and to initiate or terminate the response measures described in this Plan.

Goals

The goals of the Comal Trace Plan are to: (1) provide an adequate supply of water to meet customer needs; and to (2) encourage customers to implement water conservation techniques, primarily in landscape irrigation, helping to reduce usage and cost especially during high-demand periods.

Public Involvement

Opportunity for the public to provide input on the Plan was provided by GBRA at the April 19, 2023 Board Meeting as an agenda item for public comment.

Public Education & Notification

GBRA will 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.

GBRA will communicate with water customers through the GBRA website (www.gbra.org), an emergency management software notification system, water conservation information brochures and/or the Comal Trace Homeowner Association. GBRA may contact wholesale water customers directly to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions and to request voluntary measures to reduce water use.

Coordination with Regional Water Planning Group

The service area of Comal Trace is located within Region L South Central Texas and GBRA has provided a copy of the Plan to Region L South Central Texas.



Drought Response Stages

GBRA will monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis to determine when each stage of the Drought Plan will be initiated or terminated, based on the specified triggers of either the level of Canyon Reservoir, the storage capacity of Comal Trace ground storage tank, and the ability of the storage facility to recover. These triggers can either be reached by high-system demand or lack of water supply. The triggering criteria described below are based on known system capacity limits. Listed below are the triggering criteria and conservation measures.

Stage 1: Voluntary Reductions

At least one condition outlined below must be met to trigger Stage 1: voluntary reductions in order to achieve a 10% reduction in daily water demand.

Requirements for Initiation

1. Canyon Reservoir reaches 900 ft above msl;
2. Storage capacity at Comal Trace is at 50% ground storage capacity for two consecutive days; or
3. Comal Trace ground storage facility is not able to recover to 50% within 24 hours.

Conservation Measures/Water Restrictions

- Reduce landscape watering with automated irrigation systems or hose-end sprinklers to twice per week
 - Water before 10 a.m. or after 7 p.m.
 - Even-numbered addresses should water on Tuesday and Friday
 - Odd-numbered addresses should water on Monday and Thursday
 - Locations without an address such as parkways and commercial meters should water on Wednesday and Saturday
- Adjust your sprinkler heads to keep them from spraying areas that do not need to be watered (house, driveway, sidewalk)
- Check faucets and toilets to ensure they are free from leaks

Requirements for Termination

Stage 1: Voluntary restrictions of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events cease.

Stage 2: Mild Water Shortage Conditions

At least one condition outlined below must be met to trigger Stage 2 in order to achieve a 20% reduction in daily water demand.

Requirements for Initiation

1. Canyon Reservoir reaches 895 ft above msl;



2. Storage capacity at Comal Trace is at 41% ground storage capacity for two consecutive days; or
3. Comal Trace ground storage facility is not able to recover to 41% within 24 hours.

Conservation Measures/Water Restrictions

- Limit landscape watering with automated irrigation systems or hose-end sprinklers to twice per week
 - Water before 10 a.m. or after 7 p.m.
 - Even-numbered addresses should water on Tuesday and Friday
 - Odd-numbered addresses should water on Monday and Thursday
 - Locations without an address such as parkways and commercial meters should water on Wednesday and Saturday
- Hand watering with a hand-held hose, drip irrigation, bucket, or watering can is allowed any time, any day

Requirements for Termination

Stage 2 of the Plan may be rescinded when the condition listed as a triggering event cease. Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1: Voluntary Reductions will be in effect.

Stage 3: Moderate Water Shortage Conditions

At least one condition outlined below must be met to trigger Stage 3 in order to achieve a 25% reduction in daily water demand.

Requirements for Initiation

1. Canyon Reservoir reaches 890 ft above msl;
2. Storage capacity at Comal Trace is at 33% ground storage capacity for two consecutive days; or
3. Comal Trace ground storage facility is not able to recover to 33% within 24 hours.

Conservation Measures/Water Restrictions

- Customers are required to limit landscape watering with automated irrigation systems or hose-end sprinklers to once per week
 - Water before 10 a.m. or after 7 p.m.
 - If your address ends with 0 or 1 the water day is Monday
 - If your address ends with 2 or 3 the water day is Tuesday
 - If your address ends with 4 or 5 the water day is Wednesday
 - If your address ends with 6 or 7 the water day is Thursday
 - If your address ends with 8 or 9 the water day is Friday
 - Locations without an address or commercial meters should water on Saturday
- Hand watering with a hand-held hose, drip irrigation, bucket or watering can is allowed any time and any day.



- Residential washing of cars, motorcycles, boats, trailers or any other motor vehicle is allowed on the designated landscape watering day only
- All non-public swimming pools must have a minimum of 25% of the surface covered by evaporation screens when not in use. Inflatable pool toys or floating decorations may be used.
- All non-public swimming pools are restricted from either being filled or refilled.
- Operators of schools should achieve a 25% reduction in daily water demand.
- Operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or systems equipped with a recirculation system.

Requirements for Termination

Stage 3 of the Plan may be rescinded when the condition listed as a triggering event cease. Upon termination of Stage 3, Stage 2 will be in effect.

Stage 4: Severe Water Shortage Conditions

At least one condition outlined below must be met to trigger Stage 4 in order to achieve a 30% reduction in daily water demand.

Requirements for Initiation

1. Canyon Reservoir reaches 885 ft above msl;
2. Storage capacity at Comal Trace is at 25% ground storage capacity for two consecutive days; or
3. Comal Trace ground storage facility is not able to recover to 25% within 24 hours.

Conservation Measures/Water Restrictions

- Customers are required to limit landscape watering with automated irrigation systems or hose-end sprinklers to once every other week
 - Watering should occur before 10 a.m. and after 7 p.m.
 - If your address ends with 0 or 1 the water day is Monday
 - If your address ends with 2 or 3 the water day is Tuesday
 - If your address ends with 4 or 5 the water day is Wednesday
 - If your address ends with 6 or 7 the water day is Thursday
 - If your address ends with 8 or 9 the water day is Friday
 - Locations without an address or commercial meters should water on Saturday
- Residential washing of cars, motorcycles, boats, trailers or any other motor vehicle is prohibited.
- Hand watering with a hand-held hose, drip irrigation, bucket or watering can is allowed any time and any day.



- All non-public swimming pools must have a minimum of 25% of the surface covered by evaporation screens when not in use. Inflatable pool toys or floating decorations may be used.
- All non-public swimming pools are restricted from either being filled or refilled.
- Operators of schools should achieve a 30% reduction in daily water demand.
- Operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or systems equipped with a recirculation system.

Tiered Water Usage Rate

Water Usage	Rate
2,001 – 10,000 gallons (base rate + usage)	\$3.60
10,001 – 15,000 gallons (base rate + usage)	\$4.60
15,001 – 25,000 gallons (base rate + usage)	\$6.60
25,001 – 50,000 gallons (base rate + usage)	\$8.60
50,001 – 75,000 gallons (base rate + usage)	\$12.00
75,001 – 100,000 gallons (base rate + usage)	\$16.00
100,001 – 150,000 gallons (base rate + usage)	\$20.00
Over 150,000 gallons (base rate + usage)	\$24.00

* Rates are subject to change upon GBRA board approval on an annual basis*

Water base rates, which include the first 2,000 gallons, will remain the same for each meter size. Individuals using over 25,000 gallons during Stage 4 will incur a 25% rate increase.

Requirements for Termination

Stage 4 of the Plan may be rescinded when the condition listed as a triggering event cease. Upon termination of Stage 4, Stage 3 will be in effect.

Stage 5: Emergency Water Shortage Conditions

Customers will be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions outlined in this Plan in order to achieve a 50% reduction in daily demand when it is determined that a water supply emergency exists based on:

- Major water line breaks, or pump or other system failures occur, which cause unprecedented loss of capability to provide water service;
- Natural disasters related to weather; or
- Natural or man-made contamination of water supply source(s).

Water Restrictions

- Watering of landscape is prohibited
- Washing of motor vehicles, boats, trailers, etc. is prohibited



- The filling or refilling of pools is prohibited

Requirements for Termination

Stage 5 of the Plan may be rescinded when the condition listed as a triggering event ceases. Upon termination GBRA will provide notification of the appropriate stage to be in effect.

For questions, please contact 830-885-2639

Water Waste

Water waste is prohibited at all times and is defined as:

- Allowing water to run off into a gutter, ditch or drain;
- Runoff or overspray from a sprinkler or irrigation system regardless of the time of day;
- Failing to repair a controllable leak; or
- Washing sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, or other impervious hardscapes except to alleviate immediate health or fire hazards.

Variations

GBRA may grant a 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:

- Compliance with this Plan cannot be technically accomplished during the durations of the water supply shortage or other condition for which the Plan is in effect.
- 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 Plan shall file a petition for variance with GBRA within 5 days after a particular drought response stage has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by GBRA, and shall include the following:

- Name and address of the petitioner.
- Purpose of water use.
- Specific provisions of the Plan from which the petitioner is requesting relief.
- 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 the petitioner complies with this Plan.
- Description of the relief requested.
- Period of time for which the variance is sought.
- 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.
- Other pertinent information.



Enforcement

No person shall knowingly or intentionally allow the use of water from the Comal Trace water distribution system for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, governmental, or any other purpose in a manner contrary to any provision of this Plan. Any person found in violation of this Plan may be subject to a civil fine of up to \$500. Compliance with this plan may also be sought through injunctive relief in the district court.

