

# RULE 13. DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

## Section 13.1 Drought Conditions & Provisions

(13.1.1) The District shall designate the various drought conditions and implement the applicable provisions of this rule upon determination that such implementation may be necessary for the conservation, preservation, protection and recharge of the groundwater within the District boundaries.

(13.1.2) Monthly Baseline Production Amount. Each permit shall include a Monthly Baseline Production Amount based on the actual amount of groundwater produced and put to a beneficial use each month of 2017. A permittee may amend the Monthly Baseline Production Amount by filing an amendment application with the District. The Monthly Baseline Production Amount may be amended if the Board determines any of the following:

- 1) The total groundwater demand has increased through the addition of New Water Utility Service Connections;
- 2) The total groundwater demand has increased through expansion or growth; or
- 3) The permittee implemented water conservation measures during calendar year 2017 that resulted in 10% or greater demand reduction.

## Section 13.2 Drought Triggers

(13.2.1) The District's drought triggers are based upon the water elevation of the Dedicated Skipton Monitoring Well and the discharge flow rates provided by the USGS for the ~~Pedernales and Blanco Rivers~~. The District also references the Palmer Drought Index as its third drought trigger. Current water elevation and discharge flow rates along with the ~~To see the latest drought trigger indicators,~~ District Drought Stage Chart will be posted on, ~~or Drought Stage History visit~~ the District's website.

(13.2.2) The District shall monitor the discharge flow rates of the ~~Pedernales and Blanco Rivers~~, water elevation of the Dedicated Skipton Monitoring Well and the Palmer Drought Index Map to determine the drought stage level. Drought stages will move up and down the vertical drought chart as follows:

- A. To move into a drought stage, both the flow of the Blanco Rivers must flow thirty consecutive days within that drought stage trigger. and water elevation of the Dedicated Skipton Monitoring Well must fall below the trigger level for that specific drought stage.
- B. After To move out of a drought stage, the flow of the Blanco River and the water elevation of the Dedicated Skipton Monitoring Well remain above a particular

trigger level for a specific drought stage for thirty (30) ~~sixty~~ consecutive days within the lesser drought stage ~~trigger shall apply.~~

**(13.2.3)** The General Manager shall declare any drought stage level changes when they occur and provide a written Order for the Board to approve and sign at the next available Board meeting. Once drought stage has been initiated, all permit holders shall be notified of current drought status and its effective date. Permit holders are required to reduce groundwater production as indicated on their individual Drought Production Cutback Chart.

**(13.2.4)** Projecting aquifer drought conditions. HTGCD staff shall evaluate the short-term projected drought conditions of the Dedicated Skipton Monitoring Well and the Blanco River. If projected drought conditions reveal the likelihood of a pending drought stage, the HTGCD General Manager may declare the commencement of the next drought stage in anticipation of meeting the actual trigger indicators.

### **Section 13.3 Drought Stages**

**(13.3.1)** District drought management consists of four drought stages with the curtailment percentage applied to each permittee's Monthly Baseline Production Amount for each applicable trigger level. When either spring flow or river flow drops below a trigger level, groundwater production may not exceed the Monthly Baseline Production Amount adjusted by the following reduction percentages:

- ~~1. No Drought / Voluntary Conservation;~~
- ~~2. Alarm;~~
- ~~3. Critical; or~~  
~~Emergency.~~

<u>Drought Stage</u>	<u>Curtailment Percentage from Monthly Baseline Production Amount</u>	<u>Skipton Dedicated Well (measuring the depth to water from the surface in feet)</u>	<u>Blanco River (flow at Cubic Feet per Second)</u>
<u>No Drought</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>&gt;369</u>	<u>&gt;28.5</u>
<u>Alarm</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>369</u>	<u>28.5</u>
<u>Critical</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>386</u>	<u>14.5</u>
<u>Emergency</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>417</u>	<u>9.28</u>

### **Section 13.4 User Drought Contingency and Water Conservation Plans**

**(13.4.1)** Operating permit holders shall file with the District an acceptable User Drought Contingency Plan and Water Conservation Plan, which shall be kept current so as to remain consistent with the District's:

- A. Management Plan;
- B. Drought Contingency Plan, including but not limited to drought stage target pumpage volume;
- C. Water Conservation Plan; and
- D. Rules.

**(13.4.2)** Permit holders who are found to be in non-compliance with District drought management rules, the User Drought Contingency Plan, the Water Conservation Plan or the Drought Production Cutback Chart, may be subject to penalties.

*Adopted August 9, 2001. Amended March 25, 2004; Effective March 29, 2004 by Board Order 102. Amended February 24, 2005; Effective March 9, 2005 by Board Order. Amended June 14, 2007; Effective June 14, 2007 by Board Order 140. Amended and Effective April 3, 2013 by Board Order 159. Amended December 17, 2014; Effective January 1, 2015 by Board Order 174. Amended November 18, 2015; Effective December 1, 2015 by Board Order 178. Amended December 20, 2017; Effective January 1, 2018 by Board Order 187. Amended September XX, 2019; Effective January 1, 2020 by Board Order XXX.*

**END OF RULE 13**