

# Combined User Drought Contingency Plan for Ruby Ranch WSC

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## Introduction

This UDCP will enable Ruby Ranch Water Supply Corporation (*the Permittee*) to manage its water system and water resources in a conscientious, fair, and appropriate manner during certain situations when water use reductions are necessary. It is not designed to punish, stigmatize, or criticize anyone about their usage of water. Its sole intent is to maintain an adequate supply of water during the various stages of drought conditions or other water supply emergencies, which may occur from time to time.

The Permittee believes that significant reductions in water usage can be achieved through drought triggered water use restrictions and voluntary efforts. Implementation of voluntary water conservation measures and conscientious water use practices are encouraged at all times; however, additional water use restrictions are required in cases of extreme drought, periods of abnormally high usage, system contamination, or extended reduction in ability to supply water due to equipment failure. During drought, these efforts, if sufficiently effective, may delay the depletion of spring flows at Barton Springs and aquifer water levels until sufficient recharge is available to replenish the aquifer. Should drought conditions reach more severe levels, the permittee has planned and is prepared to restrict or curtail certain types of usage.

Section 1- Declaration of Policy, Purpose and Intent:

Ruby Ranch Water Supply Corporation (the Permittee) in its continuing effort to maintain an adequate supply of high-quality water, has prepared this UDCP with the guidance of the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (District). In order to maintain supply, storage or pressure; or to comply with regulatory requirements, temporary restrictions may be instituted to limit nonessential water usage. This UDCP satisfies and complies with District rules 3-7.5 and 3-7.7 related to Drought Management.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (*print name*), being the responsible official for Ruby Ranch Water Supply Corporation (permittee) agrees to comply with all applicable District Rules and the measures of the enclosed User Drought Contingency Plan, and to officially adopt the enclosed plan through the appropriate vehicle (i.e. ordinance, TCEQ tariff amendment, resolution, policy amendment, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Signature of Responsible Official) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

Section 2 - Drought Notice:

The District will notify permittees of the implementation or termination of each stage of the water restriction program. Permittees must then inform all customers prior to implementation or termination of each stage of the water restriction program. Notice of the District declaration must be provided at least 72 hours prior to the start of water use restrictions. The written notice to customers will contain the following information:

1. The date restriction will begin
2. The circumstances that triggered the restrictions
3. The stages of response and explanation of the restrictions to be implemented

Upon notification of a Drought Stage declaration by the District, the permittee will activate the respective response measures of its UDCP. The Permittee will perform the recommended and mandatory action specified in this UDCP. The Permittee will curtail pumpage according to the following curtailment schedule:

Drought Curtailment Chart

	Edwards Aquifer					Trinity Aquifer
	Historical	Conditional Class A	Conditional Class B	Conditional Class C	Conditional Class D	Historical
No Drought	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Water Conservation	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Alarm	20%	20%	50%	10%	100%	20%
Critical	30%	30%	75%	100%	100%	30%
Exceptional	40%	50% (1)	100%	100%	100%	30%
Emergency	50% (3)	>50% (2)	100%	100%	100%	30%

1. Only applicable to Edwards LPPs and existing unpermitted nonexempt after A to B reclassification triggered by Exceptional Stage declaration
2. Curtailment >50% subject to Board discretion
3. ERP (50%) curtailments become effective October 11, 2015. ERP curtailments to be measured as a rolling 90-day average after first three months of declared ERP.

### Section 3 - Alternative Water Sources:

The Permittee will identify an alternate water source or other contingency to be utilized or implemented directly by the permittee to manage limited water supplies in the event of water supply contamination, system outage, or conditional permit curtailments. The alternate supply or other contingency shall be evidenced by documentation (contracts, affidavits, etc.) that demonstrates the availability when needed. If no alternate water sources are identified, please provide a descriptive explanation as to why.

The current available water sources and alternate contingency sources for the Permittee include:

Source: Edwards and Trinity Aquifers

Source: N/A

### Section 4 - Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups:

The Permittee's water service area is located within the following listed Regional Water Planning Areas. A copy of this drought contingency plan has been provided to those applicable regional water planning groups.

Region K, Lower Colorado

#### Section 5 - Public Information:

The permittee will periodically provide retail water customers and the public with information about this 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 such as public meetings, via billing invoices, websites, public notice, news media announcement, or electronic mail etc. Customer notification of the initiation or termination of drought response stages will be made by the next billing cycle.

An opportunity for the public to provide input in the initial preparation and future revisions of the Plan will be provided by the Permittee via means such as public meetings, via billing invoices, websites, public notice, news media announcement or electronic mail etc. Documentation of these efforts will be provided to the District for record.

#### Section 6 - Enforcement Procedure:

The UDCP must include a means of implementation and enforcement in accordance with District Rules 3-7.5(E). Specifically, each permittee must: 1) develop and implement procedures for enforcing this UDCP, 2) incorporate all enforcement measures and surcharges available to CCN holders under TCEQ rules; and 3) inform permittee customers of the authority and intent to enforce the measures of this UDCP.

#### Section 7 - Drought Stage Triggers and Responses:

Permit Type: Historic Middle/Lower Trinity	
No Drought	No Curtailment
Stage I Water Conservation (Voluntary)	10% Curtailment
Stage II Alarm	20% Curtailment
Stage III Critical	30% Curtailment
Stage IV Exceptional	30% Curtailment
Stage V Emergency Response Period	30% Curtailment

Permit Type: Historic Edwards	
No Drought	No Curtailment
Stage 1 Water Conservation (Voluntary)	10% Curtailment
Stage II Alarm	20% Curtailment
Stage III Critical	30% Curtailment
Stage IV Exceptional	40% Curtailment
Stage V Emergency Response Period	50% Curtailment

Permit Type: Conditional Edwards Class B	
No Drought	No Curtailment
Stage 1 Water Conservation (Voluntary)	10% Curtailment
Stage II Alarm	50% Curtailment
Stage III Critical	75% Curtailment
Stage IV Exceptional	100% Curtailment
Stage V Emergency Response Period	100% Curtailment

## **Stage I - Water Conservation Period:**

### **Initiation**

The Permittee will recognize that Stage I Water Conservation Period exists when the District issues a Stage I Water Conservation Period declaration. This water conservation period will be in effect between May 1 and September 30 every year when not already in a declared drought period. The permittee will be expected to follow voluntary water use measures during this water conservation period. This status will be prominently noted on the next regular billing cycle but not more than 20 days following May 1.

### **Termination**

The Permittee will recognize that Stage I Water Conservation Period may be rescinded when the District issues a No-Drought declaration or has declared a different drought stage. The water conservation period will not be effective during October 1 and April 30 every year.

### **Recommended Actions**

Voluntary overall 10% monthly reduction

### **Response Measures**

Continue measures of Use Conservation Plan

### **Utility System Management**

1. Visually inspect lines and repair leaks on a regular basis

### **Public Awareness**

1. Promote water conservation BMPs listed in Appendix A through website and print materials
2. Implement public awareness efforts such as placing yard signs and/or posters in visible places within the service area to remind users of the prospective drought stage
3. Include historic water use and customer water use comparisons in customer billings.
4. Include on each water bill a conspicuous reminder of the prospective drought stage
5. If your utility follows the District's drought stages then utilize the correct terminology on all outreach signage, "Water Conservation Period".

### **Utility Initiated Penalties or Consequences**

1. Utility employees and system operators should regularly monitor the service area for occurrences of waste.
2. Utility should notify customers who demonstrate excessive or wasteful usage of water.

## **Stage II - Alarm Drought:**

### **Initiation**

The Permittee will recognize that Stage II Alarm Drought exists upon receiving notification from the Barto Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District that the District has declared the aquifer to be in a Stage II Alarm Drought; the permittee will activate the Stage II Alarm Drought measured of its UDCP.

### **Termination**

The Permittee will recognize that Stage II Alarm Drought may be rescinded upon receiving notification from the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District that the District has declared No-Drought or has declared a different drought stage.

### **Mandatory Actions**

Mandatory overall minimum 20% monthly reduction from Historic Trinity Permit.

### **AND**

Mandatory overall minimum 20% monthly reduction from Historic Edwards Permit

### **AND**

Mandatory overall minimum 50% monthly reduction from Conditional Edwards Class B Permit

### **Response Measures**

Continue measures of User Conservation Plan.

### **Utility System Management**

1. Conduct a Monthly Leak Detection Survey and immediately repair all identified leaks in the system.
2. Limit line flushing to the hours of 9pm to 3am and only flush dead-end mains.
3. Implement the provisions of the utility's Water Conservation Plan or Drought Contingency Plan that are on file with the TCEQ or TWDB.

### **Public Awareness**

1. Promote the water conservation BMPs listed in Appendix A through website and print materials.
2. Implement public awareness efforts such as placing yard signs and/or posters in visible places within the service area to remind users of the prospective drought stage.
3. Include historic water use and customer water use comparisons in customer billings.
4. Include on each water bill a conspicuous reminder of the prospective drought stage.
5. If your utility follows the District's drought stages then utilize the correct terminology on all outreach signage, "Stage II Alarm Drought.

### Utility Initiated Penalties or Consequences

1. Utility employees and system operators shall regularly monitor the service area for occurrences of waste.
2. Utility should issue warnings for 1<sup>st</sup> occurrence of waste to residential customers who demonstrate waste, UDCP violations, excessive monthly consumption or proscribed use (greater than 30,000 gallons/month).
3. Utility may install flow restrictors on connections with continued waste and excessive monthly consumption, or proscribed use.
4. Utility may assess surcharges and fines for continued waste, UDCP violations, excessive monthly consumption or proscribed use.

### Municipal Practices

1. Follow recommended irrigation BMPs for municipal parks and recreation areas supplied by the water utility.
2. Train employees and personnel on implementing recommended indoor water conservation BMPs.

### **Stage III - Critical Drought:**

#### Initiation

The permittee will recognize that Stage III Critical Drought exists upon receiving notification from the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District that the District has declared the aquifer to be in a Stage III Critical Drought; the permittee will activate the Stage III Critical Drought measures of its UDCP.

#### Termination

The Permittee will recognize that Stage III Alarm Drought may be rescinded upon receiving notification from the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District that the District has declared No-Drought or has declared a different drought stage.

#### Mandatory Actions

Mandatory overall minimum 30% monthly reduction from Historic Trinity Permit.

#### AND

Mandatory overall minimum 30% monthly reduction from Historic Edwards Permit

#### AND

Mandatory overall minimum 75% monthly reduction from Conditional Edwards Class B Permit

#### Response Measures

Continue measures of User Conservation Plan

### Utility System Management

1. Conduct a weekly Leak Detection Survey and immediately repair all identified leaks in the system.
2. Limit line flushing to the hours of 9pm and 3am and only flush dead ends.
3. Implement the Utility's Water Conservation Plan or Drought Contingency Plan that are on file with the TCEQ or TWDB.

### Public Awareness

1. Promote the water conservation BMPs listed in Appendix A through website and print materials.
2. Implement public awareness efforts such as placing yard signs and/or posters in visible places within the service area to remind users of the prospective drought stage.
3. Include historic water use and customer comparisons in customer billings.
4. Include on each water bill a conspicuous reminder of the prospective drought stage.
5. Utility should identify the highest 5% water users in the residential, commercial, and industrial customer sectors so that focused efforts can be initiated by the utility to provide awareness information and irrigation auditing services(if the utility has the ability to provide irrigation audits).
6. If your utility follows the District's drought stages then utilize the correct terminology on all outreach signage, "Stage III Critical Drought".

### Utility Initiated Penalties or Consequences

1. Utility employees and system, operators shall regularly monitor the service area for occurrences of waste.
2. Utility should issue Warnings for the first occurrence of waste to residential customers who demonstrate waste, UDCP violations, excessive monthly consumption or proscribed use (greater than 20,000 gallons/month).
3. Utility may install flow restrictors on connections with continued waste, UDCP violations, and excessive monthly consumption, or proscribed use.
4. Utility may assess surcharges and fines for continued waste, UDCP violations, excessive monthly consumption or proscribed use.

### Municipal Practices

1. Follow a recommended irrigation BMPs for municipal parks and recreational areas.
2. Train employees and personnel on implementing recommended indoor water conservation BMPs.



## **Stage IV - Exceptional Drought:**

### **Initiation**

The Permittee will recognize that Stage IV Exceptional Drought exists upon receiving notification from the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District that the District has declared the aquifer to be in a Stage IV Exceptional Drought; the permittee will activate the Stage IV Exceptional Drought measures of its UDCP.

### **Termination**

The Permittee will recognize that Stage IV Exceptional Drought may be rescinded upon receiving notification from the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District that the District has declared No-Drought or has declared a different drought stage.

### **Mandatory Actions**

Mandatory overall minimum 30% monthly reduction from Historic Trinity Permit.

### **AND**

Mandatory overall minimum 40% monthly reduction from Historic Edwards Permit

### **AND**

Mandatory overall minimum 100% monthly reduction from Conditional Edwards Class B Permit

### **Response Measures**

1. Continue measures of User Conservation Plan and implement measures listed in Appendix A.
2. The Permittee will provide updates on the website with information regarding current water supply and/or demand conditions, projected water supply and demand conditions if drought continues to persist.
3. If Permittee fails to meet District required drought curtailments, the District will seek all available remedies to enforce curtailment available to the District under state law.

### **Utility System Management**

1. Conduct a weekly Leak Detection Survey and immediately repair all identified leaks in the system.
2. All meters shall be read as often as necessary to ensure compliance with this program for the benefit of all the customers.
3. Limit line flushing to the hours of 9pm to 3am and only flush dead-end mains.
4. Implement the provisions of the utility's Water Conservation Plan or Drought Contingency Plan that are on file with the TCEQ or TWDB.
5. Emergency inter-connects, pumpage authorized by a Temporary Transfer Permit, or alternative supply arrangements shall be initiated to meet the respective reduction requirement.

### Public Awareness

1. Promote the water conservation BMPs listed on Appendix A through website and print materials.
2. Implement public awareness efforts such as placing yard signs and/or posters in visible places within the service area to remind users of the prospective drought stage.
3. Include historic water use and customer water use comparisons in customer billings.
4. Include on each water bill a conspicuous reminder of the prospective drought stage.
5. Utility should identify the highest 5% water users in the residential, commercial, and industrial customer sectors so that focused efforts can be initiated by the utility to provide awareness information and irrigation auditing services (if the utility has the ability to provide irrigation audits).
6. If your utility follows the District's drought stages then utilize the correct terminology on all outreach signage, "Stage IV Exceptional Drought".

### Utility Initiated Penalties or Consequences

1. Utility employees and system operators shall regularly monitor the service area for occurrences of waste.
2. Utility should issue Warnings for 1<sup>st</sup> occurrence of waste to residential customers who demonstrate waste, UDCP violations, excessive monthly consumption or proscribed use (greater than 20,000 gallons/month).
3. Utility may install flow restrictors on connections with continued waste, UDCP violations, and excessive monthly consumption or proscribed use.
4. Utility may assess surcharges and fines for continued waste, UDCP violations, and excessive monthly consumption or proscribed use.

### Municipal Practices

1. Follow recommended irrigation BMPs for municipal parks and recreational areas.
2. Train employees and personnel on implementing recommended indoor water conservation BMPs.

### **Stage V - Emergency Response Period:**

#### Initiation

The Permittee will recognize that Stage V Emergency Response Period exists upon receiving notification from the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District that the District has declared the aquifer to be in a Stage IV Exceptional Drought; the permittee will activate the Stage V Emergency Response Period measures of its UDCP.

#### Termination

The Permittee will recognize that Stage V Emergency Response Period may be rescinded upon receiving notification from the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District that the District has declared No-Drought or has declared a different drought stage.

### Mandatory Actions

Mandatory overall minimum 30% monthly reduction from Historic Trinity Permit

### AND

Mandatory 50% monthly reduction from Historic Edwards Permit

### AND

Mandatory 100% monthly reduction from Conditional Edwards Class B Permit

### Response Measures

1. Continue measures of User Conservation Plan and implement measures listed in Appendix A.
2. The Permittee will provide updates on the website with information regarding current water supply and/or demand conditions, projected water supply and demand conditions if drought continues to persist.
3. If Permittee fails to meet District required drought curtailments, the District will seek all available remedies to enforce curtailment available to the District under state law.

### Utility System Management

1. Conduct a weekly Leak Detection Survey and immediately repair all identified leaks in the system.
2. All meters shall be read as often as necessary to ensure compliance with this program for the benefit of all the customers.
3. Limit line flushing to the hours of 9pm to 3am and only flush dead-end mains.
4. Implement the provisions of the utility's Water Conservation Plan or Drought Contingency Plan that are on file with the TCEQ or TWDB.
5. Emergency inter-connects, pumpage authorized by a Temporary Transfer Permit, or alternative supply arrangements shall be initiated to meet the respective reduction requirement.

### Public Awareness

1. Promote the water conservation BMPs listed on Appendix A through website and print materials.
2. Implement public awareness efforts such as placing yard signs and/or posters in visible places within the service area to remind users of the prospective drought stage.
3. Include historic water use and customer water use comparisons in customer billings.
4. Include on each water bill a conspicuous reminder of the prospective drought stage.
5. Utility should identify the highest 5% water users in the residential, commercial, and industrial customer sectors so that focused efforts can be initiated by the utility to provide awareness information and irrigation auditing services (if the utility has the ability to provide irrigation audits).
6. If your utility follows the District's drought stages then utilize the correct terminology on all outreach signage, "Stage IV Exceptional Drought".

#### Utility Initiated Penalties or Consequences

1. Utility employees and system operators shall regularly monitor the service area for occurrences of waste.
2. Utility should issue Warnings for 1<sup>st</sup> occurrence of waste to residential customers who demonstrate waste, UDCP violations, excessive monthly consumption or proscribed use (greater than 20,000 gallons/month).
3. Utility may install flow restrictors on connections with continued waste, UDCVP violations, and excessive monthly consumption or proscribed use.
4. Utility may assess surcharges and fines for continued waste, UDCP violations, and excessive monthly consumption or proscribed use.

#### Municipal Practices

1. Follow recommended irrigation BMPs for municipal parks and recreational areas.
2. Train employees and personnel on implementing recommended indoor water conservation BMPs.

## Appendix A

### Ongoing Conservation Measures

The utility will encourage or will establish ordinance requirements (if possible) of end users to adopt the following water conservation measures at all times:

1. Replace faulty or unusable plumbing fixtures or appliances with water saving devices such as low-flow toilets, shower and faucet aerators, water efficient dishwashers and clothes washers.
2. Choose and install water efficient appliances and fixtures in new construction.
3. Check for leaks in toilets at least every six months.
4. Repair dripping faucets and leaking plumbing promptly.
5. At least once each year, cease all water usage and check the meter to determine if leaks exist in underground transmission lines.
6. Utilize water efficient landscape practices such as water-wise landscape design and drip irrigation for new turf and landscaping.
7. Convert high water use turf and landscapes to native and water-wise designs for existing turf and landscaping.
8. Select vegetation from the list of appropriate native and naturalized plants compiled by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center when installing new or replacing landscape vegetation.
9. Implement a watering schedule endorsed by the District that includes watering restrictions for hose-end and underground irrigation systems.
10. Maximize efficient operation of automatic sprinkler systems to avoid waste by conducting periodic irrigation audits, frequently adjusting controllers based on conditions, installing rainwater shut-off devices, smart clocks and controllers, etc.
11. Wash vehicles using a hose-end sprayer with an automatic shutoff or with buckets full of water and not allowing the water to continue to run from the hose when not in use.
12. Use cover on swimming pools, when possible, to minimize evaporative loss of water.
13. When possible, consider alternative water supplies including but not limited to rainwater collection and alternative irrigation strategies to improve conservation of water on site.
14. Maintain record of submitted meter reading as record for future determination of possible system leaks and to quantify success of conservation practices and steps for usage reduction during drought conditions.

### Recommended Drought Stage Measures

The permittee will encourage or will establish ordinance requirements (if possible) of end users to adopt the following water efficiency measures during District declared drought stages.

#### Indoor Measures

1. Visually inspect lines and repair leaks on a regular basis.
2. Check for toilet and faucet leaks and repair any found leaks immediately.
3. Use water displacement device in toilet tank or replace older model toilets with HET models when possible.
4. Install aerators on faucets and water efficient appliances.
5. While waiting for hot water to reach faucet, catch cold water in a container to be reused.

6. Only run dishwasher with a full load.
7. Keep drinking water in a container in the refrigerator.
8. Reduce use of garbage disposal.
9. Wash only full loads of laundry.
10. Turn off master water shutoff when out of town or on vacation.
11. Draw less water for bath or reduce shower time.
12. Do not overwater house plants.

#### Outdoor Measures – Landscape Irrigation

1. Adopt a one-day schedule for lawn watering and always only between 8pm and 8am.
2. For automatic sprinkler systems:
  - a. Check sprinkler heads regularly to prevent clogging.
  - b. Adjust to eliminate overspray.
  - c. Adjust run times and frequency monthly to respond to water schedules and changing rainfall and temperature conditions.
3. Use hand-held hose, drip irrigation, or soaker hoses for trees, garden, non-turf areas and bedded plants.
4. Avoid watering on windy days.
5. Cut lawns on highest setting and leave lawn clippings on lawn instead of bagging.
6. For hose-end sprinklers – use sprinkler timers to limit water duration.
7. Use mulch to conserve water moisture.
8. Irrigation of lawn areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems shall be manually set to follow a two-day watering schedule between the hours of 8pm and 8am.
9. Use hand-held hose, drip irrigation, or soaker hoses for trees, gardens, non-turf areas and bedded plants during designated water days and times.
10. Use of soaker hoses for foundation protection shall be limited to designated water days and times.

#### Outdoor Measures – Vehicle Washing

1. Vehicle washing should be avoided except when conducted with a bucket or hand-held hose with an automatic shutoff device during designated water days and times (if possible, use a commercial car wash that recycles water).
2. Wash vehicles over lawn areas where possible.

#### Outdoor Measures – Pools and Fountains

1. Keep pools covered when not in use.
2. Limit pool filter backwashing to only when necessary.
3. Utilize supplemental water sources where possible (e.g. purchased water, collected rainwater, etc.).
4. Filling or refilling of pools is strongly discouraged. Topping off existing pools for essential maintenance purposes is acceptable only during designated watering days and times.
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.

The following uses of water are defined as non-essential and should be avoided during drought.

1. Washdown of any sidewalk, walkway, driveway, parking lot, tennis court, or other hard-surfaced areas.
2. Use of water to washdown buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection.
3. Use of water for dust control.
4. Flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street.
5. Failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and any waste of water