



North Texas
Municipal Water District

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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NTMWD Executive Director Calling For “ALL-IN TOGETHER” To Conserve Our Water Supply Turn OFF Your Automatic Sprinklers

(May 29, 2014-Wylie, Texas) North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) Executive Director, Tom Kula, calls for unified efforts to extend and conserve water supplies throughout the summer.

“The rains experienced in the north Texas area this week helped, although not enough to change the current situation. Now it is your turn to help,” states Tom Kula. “I want to provide information for customers of the NTMWD so collectively we can take actions to conserve our precious water supplies this summer. It’s well known that we are years into an extended drought, and we’ve been here before,” Kula continues.

The NTMWD was actually formed during the drought of record in the 1950s. In 1951, local leaders from ten communities unified and formed an association that led to legislation establishing the NTMWD. Today the NTMWD provides water supply and other vital services to 13 Member Cities and in total serves over 61 cities, towns, municipal utility districts, special utility districts, and water supply corporations. NTMWD serves approximately 1.6 million north Texans.

“Granted, the recent decision made by the NTMWD Board of Directors to extend Stage 3 watering restrictions through the summer (watering only once every two weeks) hasn’t been a popular one, but it’s a decision that had to be made and for the right reasons,” stresses Kula. “The reservoirs that provide the water supply for NTMWD’s customers are extremely low due to the extended drought. Even with supply from Lake Texoma coming back on line, the potential for facing the decision to enter Stage 4 later this summer (no outdoor watering at all) is possible unless greater water reduction measures are implemented through the summer,” Kula continues. “NTMWD thanks those cities and customers for their efforts in meeting or exceeding the 10% water reduction goals. NTMWD’s entire service area will need upwards of 15-20% water reduction for the entire summer in order to extend available water supplies until drought conditions ease. That’s where your help is needed.”

The NTMWD Board took all factors into consideration in making this important decision. With lawns receiving watering once every two weeks, it is understood that lawns may suffer this summer. However, it is critical that our existing water supplies be preserved to maintain adequate supplies for our highest priorities - public health, sanitation, and firefighting capabilities. If Stage 4 restrictions were necessary, they would result in greater impacts than just no outdoor watering, potentially hurting many businesses as well as the local economy.

“There is a way we can all help to lessen and possibly prevent future Stage 4 restrictions,” Kula cites. “Most homes, businesses, and community areas are equipped with automatic sprinkler systems that account for over 50% of water use this time of year. As part of the action taken by the NTMWD Board of Directors, this is a call for all customers served by the NTMWD to do what's needed - Turn Off your automatic sprinklers and only operate your systems manually to ensure the lawn is watered only one day every two weeks, when needed, and within your cities' guidelines.” Kula continues, “Operating systems in this manner will provide the greatest control of the biggest water users, the automatic sprinklers.”

Customers of the NTMWD should refer to their city's web site for instructions for their days to water, when they should manually turn their irrigation or sprinkler system on, and remember to run only a normal cycle, not an extended cycle that may overwater the lawn. NTMWD customers should also refer to guidelines for acceptable smart “low water use” ways to water trees, shrubs, and plants so they survive the summer, and guidelines for protecting your home's foundation. “Should we get some much needed rains in the right amounts that raise our reservoir levels and allow us to ease these current restrictions, we will certainly do that,” Kula commits.

“Although the current situation seems dire, it is temporary. But because we do not know when this temporary situation will end, it is important that we all do our part to extend our current strained water supplies,” states Kula. “This region is known for its unity and cooperation. The District was created with the vision of “Regional Service through Unity” and that motto stands strong today and will for the future. We will be tested this summer as it will be tough to stay within the guidelines.” Kula continues, “Now that we understand what's at stake, collectively we can do the right thing. Do your part now, turn off your irrigation and sprinkler systems, and remind your neighbors the importance of the Stage 3 restrictions...that we are “ALL-IN TOGETHER!”