

COLORADO RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN



May 2024

# Colorado River Municipal Water District DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

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# **Drought Contingency Plan for a Wholesale Public Water Supplier**

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Colorado River Municipal Water District  
PO Box 869 Big Spring Texas 79720  
CCN P1129  
PWS 0000001

May 2024

## **Section I: Declaration of Policy, Purpose, and Intent**

In order to conserve the available water supply and to protect the integrity of water supply facilities, with particular regard for domestic water use, sanitation, and fire protection, and to protect and preserve public health, welfare, and safety and minimize the adverse impacts of water supply shortage or other water supply emergency conditions, the Colorado River Municipal Water District (CRMWD) adopts the following Drought Contingency Plan (the Plan).

## **Section II: Public Involvement**

Opportunity for the public and wholesale municipal water customers to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by CRWMD by means of the following:

- Posting the draft plan on the District's web site at [www.crmwd.org](http://www.crmwd.org) and having a copy of the draft plan at the District's office for the public to view.
- Providing the draft plan to member cities and customers for review and comment.
- Providing the draft plan to anyone requesting a copy.

## **Section III: Wholesale Water Customer Education**

CRMWD will periodically provide wholesale water customers 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. This information will be provided by means of a monthly virtual meeting/call.

## **Section IV: Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups**

CRWMD has provided a copy of the Plan to the Region F and Region G Regional Planning Groups.

## **Section V: Authorization**

The Board of Directors is hereby authorized and directed to implement the applicable provisions of this Plan upon determination that such implementation is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to initiate or terminate drought or other water supply emergency response measures as described in this Plan.

## **Section VI: Application**

The provisions of this Plan shall apply to all customers utilizing water provided by CRWMD. The terms “person” and “customer” as used in the Plan include member cities, customer cities, industrial users, rural users, and all other water user groups (WUGs) and other legal entities.

## **Section VII: Criteria for Initiation and Termination of Drought Response Stages**

The General Manager, or designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a monthly basis. The Board of Directors shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the Plan. Customer notification of the initiation or termination of drought response stages will be made by email, mail, or telephone. The news media will also be informed.

The Board of Directors may decide not to order the implementation of drought response stage or water system emergency measures outlined under Section VIII even though one or more of the trigger criteria for the stage are met. Factors which could influence such a decision include, but are not limited to, the time of the year, weather conditions, water quality concerns, the anticipation of replenished water supplies, the anticipation that additional facilities will become available to meet needs, or the ability to meet needs using groundwater.

The Board of Directors may decide not to order the termination of drought response stage or water system emergency measures implemented under Section VIII even though the conditions for termination are met. Factors which could influence such a decision include, but are not limited to, the time of the year, weather conditions, or the anticipation of potential changed conditions that warrant the continuation of the drought response stage or water system emergency.

The triggering criteria described below are based on:

CRMWD uses the following sources of supply: Lake J.B. Thomas, E.V. Spence Reservoir, O.H. Ivie Reservoir, North Ward County Well Field and the Big Spring Raw Water Production Facility. (There are other sources, but they currently make up less than 1% of our water production.) O.H. Ivie Reservoir serves the following wholesale users: the three member cities of CRMWD (Big Spring, Odessa, and Snyder), City of Midland, City of San Angelo, City of Abilene, and Millersview-Doole Water Supply Corporation. The other supply sources serve the three member cities and several other customer contracts. Due to different factors affecting supply and demand for the District’s various water sources, drought triggers have been separated into two categories based on source of supply: O.H. Ivie Reservoir (Ivie) and the remaining CRMWD System (System).

Based on the past five years of data on average water use, evaporation, and releases from Ivie, a minimum capacity of 92,468 ac-ft (1510.66 ft water level) is required to supply Ivie’s WUGs for one year. This assumes there is no inflow.

Based on the past five years of data on average water use by the District’s member cities and other customers served from the CRMWD System(omitting Ivie-specific contracts), a minimum of 46,061 ac-ft is required to supply the District water for one year. The Ward County Well Field System has a maximum daily pumping capacity of 73 million gallons. However, the current pipeline capacity is 45 million gallons per day. Therefore, 50,406 ac-ft of groundwater is currently available each year to meet System needs.

In 2013, CRMWD completed engineering studies to plan for a pipeline capacity expansion of the Ward County Well Field System from 45 million gallons per day to 65 million gallons per day. It is estimated that this project will take 30 months to complete, and this additional supply will be considered a viable response

to a Stage 3 drought.

Additionally, the following criteria can apply to Ivie and/or the System:

- The Board of Directors finds that the conditions warrant the declaration of a specific stage.
- Water demand for all or part of the delivery system approaches delivery capacity.
- Supply source becomes contaminated.
- Water supply system is unable to deliver water due to failure or damage of major water system components.

### **Stage 1 Triggers -- MILD Water Shortage Conditions**

Requirements for initiation – CRMWD will recognize that a mild water shortage condition exists when Ivie capacity is less than 184,936 ac-ft or the System capacity is less than 92,122 ac-ft.

Requirements for termination - Stage 1 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 30 consecutive days. The District will notify its wholesale customers and the media of the termination of Stage 1.

### **Stage 2 Triggers -- MODERATE Water Shortage Conditions**

Requirements for initiation – CRMWD will recognize that a moderate water shortage condition exists when Ivie capacity is less than 138,702 ac-ft or the System capacity is less than 69,092 ac-ft.

Requirements for termination - Stage 2 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 30 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1 becomes operative. The District will notify its wholesale customers and the media of the termination of Stage 2.

### **Stage 3 Triggers -- SEVERE Water Shortage Conditions**

Requirements for initiation – CRMWD will recognize that a severe water shortage condition exists when Ivie capacity is less than 92,468 ac-ft or the System capacity is less than 46,061 ac-ft.

Requirements for termination - Stage 3 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 30 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 3, Stage 2 becomes operative. The District will notify its wholesale customers and the media of the termination of Stage 3.

The following table summarizes the triggers for Stage 1, Stage 2, and Stage 3 drought conditions:

<b>CRMWD Drought Contingency Triggers</b>			
	<b>Stage 1 (Mild)</b>	<b>Stage 2 (Moderate)</b>	<b>Stage 3 (Severe)</b>
Ivie	<184,936 ac-ft capacity	<138,702 ac-ft capacity	<92,468 ac-ft capacity
System	<92,122 ac-ft capacity	<69,092 ac-ft capacity	<46,061 ac-ft capacity

### **Stage 4 Triggers -- EMERGENCY Water Shortage Conditions**

Requirements for initiation - CRMWD will recognize that an emergency water shortage condition exists when

a pipeline break, equipment failure, or source contamination severely limits the distribution capacity for one or more water sources. In most cases, CRMWD is prepared to handle such situations without significant disruption of water deliveries. Because of the System's flexibility, raw water supplies can typically be rerouted to customers through alternative delivery schemes.

Requirements for termination - Stage 4 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 15 consecutive days. The District will notify its wholesale customers and the media of the termination of Stage 4.

### **Section VIII: Water Shortage Response Stages**

The Board of Directors, or its designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions and, in accordance with the triggering criteria set forth in Section VII above, the Board may determine that mild, moderate, or severe water shortage conditions exist or that some other emergency water shortage condition exists. Based on such a determination, the Board may implement one or more of the following actions, depending upon the applicable stage, as further outlined below:

1. Contact wholesale water customers monthly to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions.
2. Request wholesale water customers to initiate mandatory measures to reduce non-essential water use.
3. Discuss the possibility of pro rata curtailment of water diversions and/or deliveries.
4. Prepare for the implementation of pro rata curtailment of water diversions and/or deliveries by preparing a monthly water usage allocation baseline for each wholesale customer.

#### **Stage 1 Response -- MILD Water Shortage Conditions**

Target: Achieve a two percent reduction in total water use that would have otherwise occurred in the absence of these measures. The Board of Directors can order the implementation of any of the following actions, as deemed necessary:

##### **Ivie**

- Initiate studies to evaluate alternative actions if conditions worsen.
- Request any WUG solely dependent on Ivie water to implement Stage 1 of their drought contingency plan.

##### **System**

- Initiate studies to evaluate alternative actions if conditions worsen.
- Begin 'pump back' operation as needed.
- Request all WUGs to implement Stage 1 of their drought contingency plans.

#### **Stage 2 Response -- MODERATE Water Shortage Conditions**

Target: Achieve a five percent reduction in total water use that would have otherwise occurred in the absence of these measures. CRMWD will notify TCEQ within 5 business days of any mandatory measures that are implemented. The Board of Directors can order the implementation of any of the following actions, as deemed necessary:

##### **Ivie**

- Continue or initiate any actions available under Stage 1.
- Initiate studies to evaluate alternative actions if conditions worsen.
- Request any WUG solely dependent on Ivie water to implement Stage 2 of their drought contingency plan.

##### **System**

- Continue or initiate any actions available under Stage 1.
- Initiate studies to evaluate alternative actions if conditions worsen.
- Request all WUGs to implement Stage 2 of their drought contingency plans.

### **Stage 3 Response -- SEVERE Water Shortage Conditions**

Target: Achieve a ten percent reduction in total water use that would have otherwise occurred in the absence of these measures. The Board of Directors can order the implementation of any of the following actions, as deemed necessary:

#### **Ivie**

- Continue or initiate any actions available under Stages 1 or 2.
- Initiate studies to evaluate alternative actions if conditions worsen.
- Request any WUG solely dependent on Ivie water to implement Stage 3 of their drought contingency plan.

#### **System**

- Continue or initiate any actions available under Stages 1 or 2.
- Initiate Ward County Well Field System pipeline expansion project.
- Initiate additional studies to evaluate alternative actions if conditions worsen.
- Request all WUGs to implement Stage 3 of their drought contingency plans.
- Implement viable alternative water supplies.

### **Stage 4 Response -- EMERGENCY Water Shortage Conditions**

Whenever emergency water shortage conditions exist as defined in Section VII of this Plan, the Board of Directors shall:

1. Assess the severity of the problem and identify the actions needed and time required to solve the problem.
2. Inform the utility director or other responsible official of each wholesale water customer by telephone or in person and suggest actions, as appropriate, to alleviate problems.
3. If appropriate, notify city, county, and/or state emergency response officials for assistance.
4. Undertake necessary actions, including repairs and/or clean-up as needed.
5. Prepare a post-event assessment report on the incident and critique of emergency response procedures and actions.

### **Section IX: Pro Rata Water Allocation and Contract Provisions**

In the event that the triggering criteria specified in Section VII of the Plan for Stage 3 – Severe Water Shortage Conditions have been met, water supplies will be allocated on a pro rata basis in accordance with Texas Water Code §11.039, and in accordance with the provisions in the District’s water supply contracts. CRMWD will include a provision in every wholesale water contract entered into or renewed after adoption of the Plan, including contract extensions, that in case of a shortage of water resulting from drought, the water to be distributed shall be divided in accordance with Texas Water Code, §11.039, and in accordance with the provisions in the District’s water supply contracts.

### **Section X: Enforcement**

The Board of Directors declares a drought an emergency situation. The Board of Directors is authorized to implement, enforce this Plan, and is authorized to ration water in an emergency situation. Discontinuation of service may be an enforcement action by the Board for non-compliance, for the duration of the violation.

## **Section XI: Variances**

The Board of Directors may, in writing, grant a temporary variance to the pro rata water allocation policies provided by this Plan if it is determined that failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the public health, welfare, or safety and if one or more of the following conditions are met:

- a) Compliance with this Plan cannot be technically accomplished during the duration of the water supply shortage or other condition for which the Plan is in effect.
- b) 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 the General Manager within 5 days after pro rata allocation has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors and shall include the following:

- a) Name and address of the petitioner(s).
- b) Detailed statement with supporting data and information as to how the pro rata allocation of water under the policies and procedures established in the Plan adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with this Ordinance.
- c) Description of the relief requested.
- d) Period of time for which the variance is sought.
- e) Alternative measures the petitioner is taking or proposes to take to meet the intent of this Plan and the compliance date.
- f) Other pertinent information.

Variances granted by the Board of Directors shall be subject to the following conditions, unless waived or modified by the Board of Directors:

- a) Variances granted shall include a timetable for compliance.
- b) Variances granted shall expire when the Plan is no longer in effect, unless the petitioner has failed to meet specified requirements.

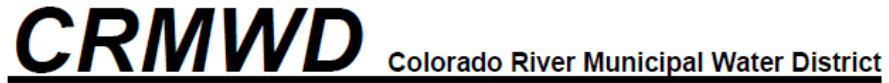
No variance shall be retroactive or otherwise justify any violation of this Plan occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.

## **Section XII: Severability**

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the CRMWD Board of Directors that the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Plan are severable and, if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Plan shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this Plan, since the same would not have been enacted by the Board of Directors without the incorporation into this Plan of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section.



Appendix A  
Letter to Region F Regional Water Planning Group



April 26, 2024

Cole Walker, Region F Water Planning Group Chair  
Colorado River Municipal Water District  
P.O. Box 869  
Big Spring, TX 79720

Dear Mr. Walker:

Enclosed please find copies of the Colorado River Municipal Water District's Water Conservation Plan and Drought Contingency Plan. I am submitting a copy of this plan to the Region F Regional Water Planning Group in accordance with the Texas Water Development Board and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality rules. The Board of Directors approved this plan on April 20, 2024.

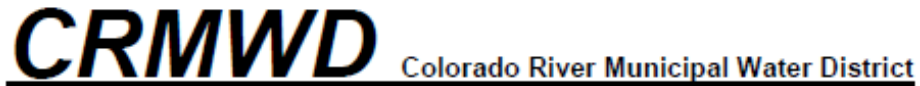
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allison Strube".

Allison Strube  
Engineering Services Manager

CC: Lissa Gregg, Freese and Nichols, Inc.

Appendix B  
Letter to Region G Regional Water Planning Group



April 26, 2024

Wayne Wilson, Region G Water Planning Group Chairman  
Brazos River Authority – Planning Group Administrator  
P.O. Box 7555  
Waco, TX 76714

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Enclosed please find copies of the Colorado River Municipal Water District's Water Conservation Plan and Drought Contingency Plan. I am submitting a copy of this plan to the Region G Regional Water Planning Group in accordance with the Texas Water Development Board and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality rules. The Board of Directors approved this plan on April 20, 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allison Strube".

Allison Strube  
Engineering Services Manager

CC: Tony Smith, Carollo Engineers, Inc.

Appendix C  
Resolution of the Board of Directors

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-08**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE COLORADO RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
ADOPTING THE DISTRICT'S UPDATED DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, Texas Water Code § 11.1272 and Chapter 288 Rules of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) require wholesale public water suppliers such as CRMWD to develop, submit and implement updated Drought Contingency Plans every five years, for implementation during periods of water shortages and drought; and

**WHEREAS**, current TCEQ rules require the latest cycle of updated plans to be submitted in May of 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the District has updated and revised its existing (2019) Drought Contingency Plan with current data and in accordance with applicable TCEQ rules and guidance; and


**WHEREAS**, the District has considered the proposed updated 2024 Drought Contingency Plan at a duly noticed open meeting;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of the Colorado River Municipal Water District does hereby adopt and approve the proposed updated 2024 Drought Contingency Plan, and authorize the General Manager to submit the Plan to TCEQ and otherwise to consult and coordinate with CRMWD customers and other related entities regarding its implementation.

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED** this 20th day of April, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Fred M. Jones, President

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Steel, Secretary-Treasurer