Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer CONSERVATION DISTRICT

User Conservation Plan

For

Limited Production Permittee

INTRODUCTION

The Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer is a groundwater resource managed by the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (District) under the authority granted under Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code and the District's enabling legislation. Conservation and Drought Contingency are among the management goals the District must include in its Management Plan that is approved by the Texas Water Development Board no less than every five years. Rule 3-1.20.B addresses non-exempt domestic use and references the requirement to develop a User Conservation Plan.

It is in this context that _____ *(print owner name)* as the Permittee has adopted the contents of this document to serve as the User Conservation Plan (UCP) for the production of groundwater from _____ *(address of domestic/livestock well)*. The granting of authorization to withdraw water from the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer or Trinity Aquifer and approval of this plan as submitted serves as a commitment by the permittee to implement this plan as described and to remain in compliance with District Rules.

The intent of a UCP is to set forth guidelines and conservation measures that will maximize the utility of the water withdrawn. The guidelines are to be implemented at all times and may only be replaced by more restrictive requirements as ordered by the Board under an Exceptional or Emergency Response declared drought stage.

The UCP also sets forth guidelines for recommended and voluntary curtailments of groundwater during each of the stages of drought that may be declared by the District as described in Rule 3-7. While it is the effort through conservation to prevent drought conditions, it is integral to the wise management of the resource to plan for this contingency in this manner. Notification of drought will occur through email, community notification through public notice, the District website, and other means. The UCP 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, especially during the various stages of drought conditions which may occur from time to time.

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy, Purpose, and Intent

As the Permittee I, _____ *(print name),* being the designated responsible official, and in a continuing effort to maintain an adequate supply of high quality water, has adopted this UCP with the guidance of the 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 UCP satisfies and complies with District Rules 3-7.5 and 3-7.7 related to Drought Management.

_____ (Signature of Permittee or Responsible Official) _____(Date)

Ongoing Conservation Measures

The Permittee will 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 leaky plumbing promptly.
5. At least once each year, cease all water usage and check 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 shutoff devices, smart clocks and controllers, etc.
11. Wash vehicles using a hose-end sprayer with an automatic shut off or with buckets full of water and not allowing the water to continue to run from the hose when not in use.
12. Use a 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 readings as record for future determination of possible system leaks and to quantify success of conservation practices and steps for usage reduction during drought conditions.
15. Periodically review and evaluate this conservation plan and implement revisions to the plan as necessary.

Recommended Drought Measures

The permittee will adopt the following voluntary water efficiency measures during District declared drought stages:

Indoor Measures

- Visually inspect lines and repair leaks on a regular basis.
- Check for toilet and faucet leaks and repair any found leaks immediately.
- Use water displacement device in toilet tank or replace older model toilets with HET models when possible.
- Install aerators on faucets and water efficient appliances.
- While waiting for hot water to reach faucet, catch cold water in a container to be reused.
- Only run dishwasher with full load.
- Keep drinking water in a container in the refrigerator.
- Reduce use of garbage disposal.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Turn off master water shutoff when out of town or on vacation.
- Draw less water for bath or reduce shower time.
- Do not over water houseplants.

Outdoor Measures – Landscape Irrigation

- Adopt a 1 day a week or every other week schedule for lawn watering and always only water between 8pm and 8am.
- For Automatic Sprinkler systems:
  - check sprinkler heads regularly to prevent clogging
  - adjust to eliminate overspray and
  - adjust run times and frequency monthly to respond to water schedules and changing rainfall and temperature conditions.
  - Install a weather base controller if possible
- Use hand held hose, drip irrigation, or soaker hoses for trees, garden, non-turf areas and bedded plants.
- Avoid watering on windy days.
- Cut lawns on highest setting and leave lawn clippings on lawn instead of bagging.
- For hose-end sprinklers - use sprinkler timers to limit water duration.
- Use mulch to conserve soil moisture.
- Use hand held hose, drip irrigation, or soaker hoses for trees, garden, non-turf areas and bedded plants during designated water days and times.
- Use of soaker hoses for foundation protection shall be limited to designated water days and times

Outdoor Measures – Vehicle Washing

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

Outdoor Measures – Pools and Fountains

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

- wash down of any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
- use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
- use of water for dust control;
- flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
- 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.

Recommended Drought Stage Curtailments

The permittee will adopt the following voluntary curtailments during District declared drought stages:

Water Conservation Period	10% curtailment
Stage 1 Alarm	20% curtailment
Stage 2 Critical	30% curtailment
Stage 3 Exceptional	50% curtailment
Stage 4 Emergency Response Period	50% curtailment *

* Edwards LPP permittees may be subject to temporary pumpage curtailments during Stage V Emergency Response Drought.