

Lancaster County Water and Sewer District
Drought Management and Response Plan
(Revised May 12, 2026)

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Drought Management and Response Plan

Section I: - Declaration of Purpose and Intent

The Lancaster County Water and Sewer District (LCWSD) understands the fundamental need to make efficient use of the limited and valuable water resource under its stewardship in order to protect the public's health and safety and environmental integrity. The purpose of this document is to establish a plan and procedures for managing water demand and evaluating supply options before and during a drought-related water shortage. The intent is to satisfy the requirements of the Drought Response Act of 2000 (Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, Section 49-23-10, et seq., as amended) with the goal of achieving the greatest public benefit from domestic water use, sanitation, and fire protection and to provide water for other purposes in an equitable manner. Therefore, LCWSD has adopted this Drought Management and Drought Response Plan that provide the policies and the authority to fulfill this obligation. LCWSD strives to update these plans every 5 years, or as needed, to address changes in the customer base, the treatment or distribution systems and Catawba River Basin planning.

The Drought Management Plan outlines the framework by which LCWSD will internally prepare for water shortages. The Drought Response Plan provides the regulations by which LCWSD will manage and control its customer water usage during various levels of a drought. LCWSD reserves the right to modify the particular requirements established herein based on the current water supply situation.

Section II: Definition of Terms

For the purposes of this Drought Management Plan and the accompanying Drought Response Plan, the following definitions will apply:

Aesthetic Water Use: Water use for ornamental or decorative purposes such as fountains, reflecting pools and waterfalls.

The Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group (CW DMAG) consists of large water users/withdrawers along the Catawba River, as well as certain state and federal regulatory agencies in both North and South Carolina. The members of this group developed the Low Inflow Protocol (LIP) to establish procedures for reductions in water use during periods of low inflow to the Catawba-Wateree basin. The CW DMAG periodically reviews, evaluates and (when necessary) modifies the LIP.

Members of this group include:

- North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality(including Division of Water Resources and Division of Water Quality)
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- National Marine Fisheries Service

- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- South Carolina Department of Environmental Services
- United States Fish and Wildlife Services
- United State Geological Services
- Owners of large water intake structures located on the Catawba-Wateree Project or main stem of the river
- Owners of large water intake structures located on any tributary stream within the basin that ultimately drains to Lake Wateree
- Duke Energy

Commercial and Industrial Use: Water use integral to the production of goods and/or services by any establishment having profit as its primary business purpose.

Conservation: Reduction in water use to prevent depletion or waste of the resource.

Customer: Any person, company or organization using finished water owned or supplied by LCWSD.

Domestic Water Use: Water use for personal needs or for household purposes such as drinking, bathing, heating, cooking, sanitation or for cleaning a residence, business, industry or institution.

Drought Alert Phases: There are four drought alert phases to be determined by the Drought Response Committee for the State of South Carolina. The four phases are:

- 1) Incipient Drought
- 2) Moderate Drought
- 3) Severe Drought
- 4) Extreme Drought

There are five drought alert phases to be determined by the CW DMAG. The five phases are:

- 1) Watch Phase – Stage 0
- 2) Incipient Drought – Stage 1
- 3) Moderate Drought – Stage 2
- 4) Severe Drought – Stage 3
- 5) Extreme Drought – Stage 4

Drought Response Management Areas: There are four drought management areas corresponding to the major river basins in South Carolina. The four areas are:

- 1) West or Savannah
- 2) Central or Santee
- 3) Northeast or Pee Dee
- 4) Southern or Ashepoo, Combahee, and Edisto.

In order to prevent overly broad response to drought conditions, drought response measures shall be considered within individual drought management areas or within individual counties, as applicable.

Drought Response Committee (SCDRC): A committee composed of State and local representatives created for the purpose of coordinating responses to water supply shortages within Drought Management Areas and making recommendations for action to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and/or the Governor. The Committee is composed of State agency representatives from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division of the Office of the Adjutant General, South Carolina Department of Environmental Services, South Carolina Department of Agriculture, South Carolina Forestry Commission, and South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, as well as local committees representing counties, municipalities, public service districts, private water suppliers, agriculture, industry, domestic users, regional councils of government, commissions of public works, power generation facilities, special purpose districts and Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Essential Water Use: Water used specifically for fire fighting, maintaining in-stream flow requirements and to satisfy Federal, State or local public health and safety requirements.

Finished Water: Water distributed for use after treatment. The terms “water use,” “water user,” and “water customer” refer to finished water use unless otherwise defined.

Institutional Water Use: Water used by government, public and private educational institutions, churches and places of worship, water utilities, and organizations within the public domain.

Irrigation Water Use: Water used to maintain gardens, trees, lawns, shrubs, flowers, athletic fields, rights-of-way and medians.

Low Inflow Protocol (LIP): The purpose of the LIP is to establish procedures for reductions in water use during periods of low inflow to the Catawba River. The LIP was developed on the basis that all parties with interests in water quantity will share the responsibility to establish priorities and to conserve the limited water supply.

The LIP provides trigger points and procedures for how the Catawba River will be operated by Duke Energy, as well as water withdrawal reduction measures and goals for other water users during periods of low inflow (i.e., periods when there is not enough water flowing into Catawba reservoirs to meet the normal water demands while maintaining remaining usable storage in the reservoir system at or above a seasonal target level). Duke Energy will provide flow from hydro generation and other means to support electric customer needs and the instream flow needs of the Catawba River. During periods of normal inflow, reservoir levels will be maintained within prescribed normal operating ranges. During times that inflow is not adequate to meet all of the normal demands for water and maintain reservoir levels as normally targeted, Duke Energy will progressively reduce hydro generation. If hydrologic conditions worsen until trigger points outlined herein are reached, Duke Energy will declare a Stage 0 – Low Inflow Watch and begin meeting with the applicable agencies and water users to discuss this and further stages of the LIP. If hydrologic conditions continue to

worsen, Duke Energy will declare various stages of a Low Inflow Condition. Each progressive stage of the Low Inflow Condition will call for greater reductions in hydro station releases and water withdrawals, and allow additional use of the available water storage inventory.

Non-essential Water Use: Categories of water use other than Essential Water Use. Examples of non-essential water use include aesthetic, irrigation and the washing of buildings, parking lots, automobiles, etc.

Residential Equivalent Unit (REU): An equivalency unit defined to be equal to one single-family residence. LCWSD's allocated water capacity equals 300 gallons per day per REU.

SC Dept. of Natural Resources: The State agency with primacy to implement the provisions of the Drought Response Act.

Water Supply Shortage: Lack of adequate, available water caused by drought to meet normal demands.

Section III: Drought Management Plan

- A. Introduction:** To ensure that LCWSD adequately manages its water system during drought-related conditions, an organized plan is necessary for system operation and reliability, proper communications, effective coordination and ultimate allocation of water use. Prior planning will complement LCWSD's ability to respond to drought conditions and to enforce the related plan.

- B. Designation of Water System Drought Response Representative:**
Administering a Drought Management and Response Plan requires the skills needed to undertake a comprehensive public information program and the judgment required to deal with equity issues arising from enforcement of a mandatory program. Someone who has these skills will be selected by the water system to manage the water system's program and serve as the principal contact for the news media as the water system's Drought Response Representative. **The Drought Response Representative for LCWSD is the District Manager, Lancaster County Water and Sewer District, P.O. Box 1009, Lancaster, SC 29721. Phone 803-285-6919. E-mail info@lcwasd.org**

- C. Description of Water System Layout, Water Sources, Capacities and Yields:**
LCWSD is located in the Northeastern or Pee Dee Drought Response Management Area of South Carolina. The system serves the unincorporated areas of Lancaster County (i.e. excluding the actual service area of the municipalities at the time of creation of LCWSD). LCWSD presently serves 38,850 active accounts. LCWSD's system includes a 40 million gallon per day water treatment plant (Catawba River Water Treatment Plant, a joint venture of Union County, NC and LCWSD) located on the Catawba River just south of Highway #5 in Lancaster County, which includes 1 billion gallons of off-stream raw water storage, 16 million gallons of finished water storage, and 20 million gallon per day finished water pumping station. The system includes 30", 24", 20", 16" and 12" water transmission mains

supplying 6 booster pumping stations with a combined 13.4 million gallons per day pumping capacity. The system also includes 11 elevated storage tanks with a combined storage capacity of 6.25 million gallons.

The Catawba River is the water supply source for the system. The SCDES total permitted capacity of the water system operated by LCWSD is 20 million gallons per day.

D. Identification of Water System Specific Drought or Water Shortage

Indicators: Operators of every water system must develop historical trends that are valuable indicators of a system's ability to meet demand when demand begins to outpace supply. LCWSD has developed trigger points for use during drought or demand water shortages that describe when specific phases of the Drought Response Plan are implemented. Drought declaration is determined by the LIP/CW DMAG or the Drought Response Committee as described below.

For the stages of Watch, Incipient, Moderate and Severe, the LIP shall take precedence over the Drought Response Committee. For stages of Extreme, the Drought Response Committee may take precedence over the LIP if deemed appropriate by the District Manager.

Recovery as conditions improve will be accomplished by reversing the staged approach outlined above, except that:

1. All three of the trigger points identified below for declaring the lower numbered stage must be met or exceeded before returning reservoir minimum elevations and flows to levels specified in that stage or normal conditions.
2. Once ten or more years of approved data are available, the groundwater level trigger points must also be attained before returning reservoir minimum elevations and flows to the levels specified in that stage, or normal conditions.

The system trigger points are as follows:

CW DMAG Stage 0 or Watch Phase

When any two of the three trigger points are reached.

Stage 0 trigger points:

- On the first or sixteenth day of the month (or first business day thereafter), Storage Index is below the Target Storage Index, but greater than 90% of Target Storage Index;
- The U.S. Drought Monitor 3 Month Numeric Average has a value greater than or equal to 0;
- The sum of the actual rolling six-month average streamflows at the Monitored USGS Streamflow Gages is equal to or less than 85% of the sum of the period of record rolling average streamflows for the same six-month period.

CW DMAG Stage 1 or SCDRC Incipient Phase

Stage 1 trigger points:

- On the first or sixteenth day of the month (or first business day thereafter),, the Storage Index is at or below 90% of Target Storage Index, but greater than 75% of the Target Storage Index and either of the following conditions exists;
- The U.S. Drought Monitor 3 Month Numeric Average has a value ≥ 1 or the sum of the actual rolling six-month average streamflows at the Monitored USGS Streamflow Gages is equal to or less than 78% of the sum of the period of record rolling average streamflows for the same six-month period.

CW DMAG Stage 2 or SCDRC Moderate Phase

Stage 2 trigger points:

- On the first or sixteenth day of the month (or first business day thereafter),, the Storage Index is at or below 75% of Target Storage Index, but greater than 57% of the Target Storage Index, while providing the Stage 1 Minimum Project Flows, and either of the following conditions exists;
- The U.S. Drought Monitor 3 Month Numeric Average has a value ≥ 2 or the sum of the actual rolling six-month average streamflows at the Monitored USGS Streamflow Gages is equal to or less than 65% of the sum of the period of record rolling average streamflows for the same six-month period.

CW DMAG Stage 3 or SCDRC Severe Phase

Stage 3 trigger points:

- On the first or sixteenth day of the month (or first business day thereafter),, the Storage Index is at or below 57% of Target Storage Index, but greater than 42% of the Target Storage Index, while providing the Stage 2 Minimum Project Flows, and either of the following conditions exists;
- The U.S. Drought Monitor 3 Month Numeric Average has a value ≥ 3 or the sum of the actual rolling six-month average streamflows at the Monitored USGS Streamflow Gages is equal to or less than 55% of the sum of the period of record rolling average streamflows for the same six-month period.

CW DMAG Stage 4 or Extreme Conditions

Stage 4 trigger points:

- On the first or sixteenth day of the month (or first business day thereafter), the Storage Index is at or below 42% of Target Storage Index, while providing the Stage 3 Minimum Project Flows, and either of the following conditions exists;
- The U.S. Drought Monitor 3 Month Numeric Average has a value of 4 or the sum of the actual rolling six-month average streamflows at the Monitored USGS Streamflow Gages is equal to or less than 40% of the sum of the period of record rolling average streamflows for the same six-month period.

When conditions continue to deteriorate beyond extreme conditions as outlined above, LCWSD will take all necessary steps to attempt to adequately keep SC DES approved pressure requirements within its distribution system. LCWSD will also evaluate the possibility and need of entering into a state of rationing to protect the public health and safety of its customers.

E. Cooperative Agreements and Alternative Water Supply Sources:

Successful drought management requires a comprehensive program by the water utility. In many situations administrative agreements are required with other agencies to fully implement the Plan. Agreements with other water providers may be necessary for alternative water supply sources. Other agreements that strengthen conservation efforts by large users may be necessary.

LCWSD identifies the following agreements that are in place to facilitate the implementation of this Plan: Emergency connections with Charlotte Water on Hwy 521 at the state line, along Harrisburg Road at Bridgehampton Subdivision, and along Harrisburg Road at the state line for up to 3 million gallon per day during emergencies. Emergency connection with Union County, North Carolina along Shinnecock Lane at the state line for an amount as is necessary to handle any shortfall of the surrounding area as the hydraulics will permit during emergency situations.

Agreements that are being negotiated or considered with other entities are: Emergency connections with Union County, North Carolina at strategic locations where LCWSD's large diameter mains are in close proximity to Union County's, such as but not limited to, at the Catawba River Water Treatment Plant and Jim Wilson Road. Emergency connection with Cassatt Rural Water Company along

Hwy 521 south of the Town of Kershaw for up to 100,000 gallons per day during an emergency.

F. Description of Pre-Drought Planning Efforts:

Before the occurrence of a water supply shortage and the need to implement the emergency provisions of the Plan, it is important that certain pre-response measures be taken with the aim of conserving the system's source water, as well as the water distributed to the customer. In regards to the conservation measures listed below, LCWSD has taken the following actions:

1. Major users of the system include: City of Lancaster, Town of Kershaw, Town of Heath Springs and Nexus/Carolina Water Service Inc.
2. Conservation and drought compliance terms are addressed in our wholesale agreement with the Town of Kershaw and Town of Heath Springs. Other agreements in place with other wholesale customers will be modified to include conservation and drought terms.
3. A vigorous public education program is critical for achieving substantial water use reductions. An effective public outreach program will keep the public informed about the water supply situation, what actions will mitigate drought emergency problems, and how well the public is doing in terms of meeting the program goals. Keeping the public involved, informed, and participating in the decision-making process is key to implementing an effective Drought Management Plan. To ensure the public is educated and informed concerning water conservation practices and issues, LCWSD uses its website, customer contact software, annual Consumer Confidence Report / Newsletter, inserts in water bills, local news media (TV and newspaper) and water conservation presentations in our local schools.

G. Description of Capital Planning and Investment for System Reliability and Demand Forecasting:

Water utilities routinely find that capital improvements to the system strongly enhance their ability to get through times of drought. It is important that every water utility aggressively plan and build for future needs. The utility must continue to provide for system operation flexibility, improved pumping and storage capacity and new technologies to meet the demands of tomorrow.

LCWSD maintains a 20 year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Water and Sewer requirements. This plan is reviewed annually and updated as required. The CIP serves as a basis for establishing capacity fees, rates and budgets as well as future planning. The CIP identifies future storage and pumping requirements as well as interconnections to supply redundancy. LCWSD also maintains an electrical generator plan for contingency planning and implements on-site emergency electrical generation as part of future pump stations.

Key improvements to be considered for future droughts include additional elevated/ground storage within the distribution system, piping redundancies within the system, enhancing the ability to utilize the existing emergency connections and establish new emergency connections with neighboring systems.

Section IV: Drought Response Plan

- A. Declaration of Policy and Authority:** The objective of this Drought Response Plan is to establish authority, policy and procedure by which LCWSD will take the proper actions to manage water demand during a drought-related shortage. The Plan satisfies the requirements of the Drought Response Act of 2000 and has the goal of achieving the greatest public benefit from limited supplies of water needed for domestic water use, sanitation, and fire protection and of allocating water for other purposes in an equitable manner.

This Plan outlines the actions to be taken for the conservation of water supplied by LCWSD. These actions are directed both towards an overall reduction in water usage and the optimization of supply.

To satisfy these goals, LCWSD hereby adopts the following regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water. This Plan is hereby declared necessary for the protection of public health, safety and welfare and shall take effect upon its adoption by LCWSD.

If it becomes necessary to conserve water in its service area due to drought, LCWSD is authorized to issue a proclamation (media release) that existing conditions prevent fulfillment of the usual water-use demands. The proclamation is an attempt to prevent depleting the water supply to the extent that water-use for human consumption, sanitation, fire protection, and other essential needs becomes endangered.

Immediately upon issuance of such a proclamation, regulations and restrictions set forth under this Plan shall become effective and remain in effect until the water supply shortage has ended and the proclamation is rescinded.

Water uses that are regulated or prohibited under this Plan are considered to be non-essential and the continuation of such uses during times of water supply shortages is deemed to constitute a waste of water, subjecting the offender(s) to penalties. LCWSD reserves the right to modify the particular requirements established within each stage of this Drought Management Plan based on the current water supply situation.

The Drought Management and Response Plan as outlined in Section I - IV is hereby approved.

B. Drought Watch / CW DMAG Stage 0: Upon notification by the CW DMAG that a drought watch condition is present and is expected to persist and/or upon determination by LCWSD that a drought watch condition exists based on trigger points as outlined in LIP Stage 0, LCWSD will attend meetings and monitor the drought situation with continued updates from the CW DMAG.

C. Incipient Drought Phase / CW DMAG Stage 1: Upon notification by the CW DMAG that an Incipient drought condition is present and is expected to persist and/or upon determination by LCWSD that an incipient water supply shortage exists based on trigger points as outlined in LIP Stage 1, LCWSD will seek voluntary reductions from its customers in the use of water for all purposes and/or voluntary reductions on using water during certain peak water demand periods. Specifically, the goal during this phase is to achieve a reduction of 3-5% in residential water use and 5% in other water uses such as commercial, industrial, institutional, and irrigation; and a reduction in overall water use of 3-5% (or more). To accomplish this, LCWSD will take the following actions:

- 1) LCWSD will notify customers of the Stage 1 conditions through public outreach and communication efforts. LCWSD may issue a proclamation to be released to local media. LCWSD will notify customers by mailer or contact software, as well as the LCWSD website and email to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Drought Information Center drought@dnr.sc.gov that Incipient/Stage 1 drought conditions are present. LCWSD employee notice may be accomplished through email, contact software, or other communication efforts.
- 2) LCWSD may routinely publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the service area of the water system and will post to the LCWSD website the following voluntary conservation measures that the customers are requested to follow during Incipient/Stage 1 drought conditions, including:
 - a. Avoid lawn, garden or other heavy irrigation if at all possible. If you must water, and your address is an even number you can water on Tuesday and Saturday from 2AM until 10AM. If your address is an odd number or un-numbered you can water on Wednesday and Sunday from 2 AM until 10AM. Watering should not occur during other peak usage.
 - b. Avoid other non-essential uses such as refilling of pools and residential vehicle washing .
 - c. Running clothes and dishwashers when you go to bed.
- 3) Provide CW DMAG a monthly status update on actual water withdrawal trends.

D. Moderate Drought Phase / CW DMAG Stage 2: Upon notification by the CW DMAG that a Moderate drought condition is present and is expected to persist and/or upon determination by LCWSD that a moderate water supply shortage exists based on trigger points as outlined in LIP Stage 2, LCWSD will seek mandatory reductions from its customers in the use of water for all purposes and mandatory reductions on using water during certain peak water demand periods. Specifically, the goal during this phase is to achieve a reduction of 5-10% in residential water use and 10% in other water uses such as commercial, industrial, institutional and irrigation; and a reduction in overall

water use of 5-10% (or more). To accomplish this, LCWSD will take the following actions:

- 1) LCWSD will notify customers of the Stage 2 conditions through public outreach and communication efforts. LCWSD will issue a proclamation to be released to local media. LCWSD will notify customers by mailer or contact software, as well as the LCWSD website and email to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Drought Information Center drought@dnr.sc.gov that Moderate drought conditions are present. LCWSD employee notice may be accomplished through email, contact software, or other communication efforts.
- 2) LCWSD may routinely publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the service area of the water system and will post to the LCWSD website the following mandatory conservation measures that the customers are recommended to follow during Moderate/Stage 2 drought conditions, including:
 - a. Avoid lawn, garden or other irrigation if at all possible. Reduce watering of lawns, plants, trees, gardens, shrubbery and flora on private or public property to the minimum necessary. If you must water, and your address is an even number you can water on Tuesday and Saturday from 2AM until 10AM. If your address is an odd number or un-numbered you can water on Wednesday and Sunday from 2 AM until 10AM. Watering should not occur during other peak usage.
 - b. Eliminate the use of water to maintain fountains, reflection ponds and decorative water bodies for aesthetic or scenic purposes, except where necessary to support aquatic life.
 - c. Eliminate other non-essential uses such as flushing of gutters, domestic vehicle/motorbike/boat washing.
 - d. Eliminate the washing down of sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts and other hard surfaced areas except as required to maintain safety or regulatory compliance.
 - e. Eliminate the washing down of buildings for purposes other than immediate fire protection.
 - f. Running clothes and dishwashers when you go to bed.
 - g. Eliminate filling empty pools; topping off or maintaining public or private swimming pools is allowed.
 - h. Encourage reduction of residential water use to 65 gallons per person per day and a maximum of 200 gallons per household or REU per day;
 - i. Reduce the amount of water obtained from fire hydrants for construction purposes, fire drills, or for any purpose other than fire-fighting or flushing necessary to maintain water quality
 - j. Limit normal water use by commercial and individual customers including, but not limited to, the following:
 - i. Stop serving water in addition to another beverage routinely in restaurants;
 - ii. Stop maintaining water levels in scenic and recreational ponds and lakes, except for the minimum amount required to support aquatic life;

- 3) Intensify maintenance efforts to identify and correct water leaks in the distribution system.
- 4) Cease water service to customers who have been given a ten (10) day notice to repair one or more leaks and have failed to do so.
- 5) Continue to encourage and educate customers to comply with water conservation measures listed above.
- 6) Provide CW DMAG a monthly status update on actual water withdrawal trends.
- 7) LCWSD will implement an excessive use surcharge for water to be published on the LCWSD website. This will impose a drought surcharge per thousand gallons of water that increases with higher usage. General water use in excess of 90% of normal average monthly usage will be billed at a higher rate. This is a temporary charge imposed during the water supply shortage and is not a cost-based rate. The drought surcharge is temporary and will be terminated at such time as the LCWSD determines the water supply is above the Stage 2 trigger levels.

E. Severe Drought Phase / CW DMAG Stage 3: Upon notification by the CW DMAG that a Severe drought condition is present and is expected to persist and/or upon determination by LCWSD that a severe water supply shortage exists based on trigger points as outlined in LIP Stage 3, LCWSD will seek mandatory reduction in the use of water for all purposes and mandatory restrictions on non-essential usage and restrictions on times when certain water usage is allowed. Specifically, the goal during this phase is to achieve a reduction of 10-20% in residential water use, 20% in all other water use categories, and a reduction in overall water use of 20% (or more). To accomplish these goals, the LCWSD will take the following actions:

- 1) LCWSD will notify customers of the Stage 3 conditions and movement to more stringent mandatory restrictions through public outreach and communication efforts. LCWSD will issue a proclamation to be released to local media. LCWSD will notify customers by mailer or contact software, as well as the LCWSD website and email to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Drought Information Center drought@dnr.sc.gov that Severe/Stage 3 drought conditions are present. LCWSD employee notice may be accomplished through email, contact software, or other communication efforts.
- 2) LCWSD may routinely publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the service area of the water system and will post to the LCWSD website the following mandatory conservation measures that the customers are recommended to follow during Severe/Stage 3 drought conditions, including:
 - a. Avoid lawn, garden or other irrigation if at all possible. Reduce watering of lawns, plants, trees, gardens, shrubbery and flora on private or public property to one day per week. If you must water, and your address is an even number you can water on Saturday from 2AM until 10AM. If your address is an odd number or un-numbered you can water on Sunday from 2 AM until 10AM. Watering should not occur during other peak usage.

- b. Eliminate the use of water to maintain fountains, reflection ponds and decorative water bodies for aesthetic or scenic purposes, except where necessary to support aquatic life.
 - c. Eliminate other non-essential uses such as flushing of gutters, domestic vehicle/motorbike/boat washing.
 - d. Eliminate the washing down of sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts and other hard surfaced areas except as required to maintain safety or regulatory compliance.
 - e. Eliminate the washing down of buildings for purposes other than immediate fire protection. Preparation for painting to complete construction is allowed.
 - f. Running clothes and dishwashers when you go to bed.
 - g. Eliminate filling empty pools; topping off or maintaining public or private swimming pools is allowed.
 - h. Encourage reduction of residential water use to 50 gallons per person per day and a maximum of 133 gallons per household or REU per day;
 - i. Reduce the amount of water obtained from fire hydrants for construction purposes, fire drills, or for any purpose other than fire-fighting or flushing necessary to maintain water quality. Pause hydrant testing programs.
 - j. Limit normal water use by commercial and individual customers including, but not limited to, the following:
 - i. Stop serving water in addition to another beverage routinely in restaurants;
 - ii. Stop maintaining water levels in scenic and recreational ponds and lakes, except for the minimum amount required to support aquatic life;
 - iii. Limit irrigating golf courses and any portion of its grounds;
 - iv. Limit expanding commercial nursery facilities, placing new irrigated agricultural land in production or planting or landscaping when required by site design review process.
- 3) Intensify maintenance efforts to identify and correct water leaks in the distribution system.
 - 4) Cease water service to customers who have been given a ten (10) day notice to repair one or more leaks and have failed to do so.
 - 5) Expand the use of education and public relations efforts and emphasize the penalties associated with violating the mandatory restrictions.
 - 6) Publicize widely the penalties to be imposed for violations of mandatory restrictions and the procedures to be followed if a variance in the restrictions is requested.
 - 7) Provide CW DMAG a monthly status update on actual water withdrawal trends.
 - 8) LCWSD will implement an excessive use surcharge for water to be published on the LCWSD website. This will impose a drought surcharge per thousand gallons of water that increases with higher usage. General water use in excess of 80% of normal average monthly usage will be billed at a higher rate. This

is a temporary charge imposed during the water supply shortage and is not a cost-based rate. The drought surcharge is temporary and will be terminated at such time as the LCWSD determines the water supply is above the Stage 3 trigger levels.

F. Extreme Drought Phase / CW DMAG Stage 4: Upon notification by the CW DMAG or Drought Response Committee that an Extreme drought condition is present and is expected to persist and/or upon determination by LCWSD that an extreme water supply shortage exists based on the trigger points as outlined in LIP Stage 4, the LCWSD will impose mandatory restrictions in the use of water for all purposes and on the times when certain water usage is allowed. Specifically, the goal during this phase is to achieve a reduction of 30% in residential water use, 25% in all other categories of water uses and a reduction in overall water use of 25% (or more). To accomplish these goals, the LCWSD will take the following actions:

- 1) LCWSD will notify customers of the Stage 4 conditions and movement to **emergency** water use restrictions through public outreach and communication efforts. LCWSD will issue a Proclamation to be released to local media LCWSD will notify customers by mailer or contact software, as well as the LCWSD website and email to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Drought Information Center drought@dnr.sc.gov that Extreme/Stage 4 drought conditions are present. LCWSD employee notice may be accomplished through email, contact software, or other communication efforts.
- 2) LCWSD will routinely publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the service area of the water system and post to the LCWSD website the following mandatory conservation measures that the customers are required to follow during Extreme/Stage 4 drought conditions, including:
 - a. Eliminate landscape irrigation. No watering of lawns, plants, trees, gardens, shrubbery and flora on private or public property is allowed.
 - b. Eliminate the use of water to maintain fountains, reflection ponds and decorative water bodies for aesthetic or scenic purposes, except where necessary to support aquatic life.
 - c. Eliminate other non-essential uses such as flushing of gutters, domestic vehicle/motorbike/boat washing.
 - d. Eliminate the washing down of sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts and other hard surfaced areas except as required to maintain safety or regulatory compliance.
 - e. Eliminate the washing down of buildings for purposes other than immediate fire protection. Preparation for painting to complete construction is not allowed.
 - f. Running clothes and dishwashers when you go to bed.
 - g. Eliminate filling or maintaining public or private swimming pools.
 - h. Reduce residential water use to 40 gallons per person per day and a maximum of 120 gallons per household or REU per day;
 - i. Eliminate obtaining water from fire hydrants for construction purposes, fire drills, or for any purpose other than fire-fighting or flushing necessary to maintain water quality. Pause hydrant testing programs.

- j. Limit normal water use by commercial and individual customers including, but not limited to, the following:
 - i. Stop serving water in addition to another beverage routinely in restaurants;
 - ii. Stop maintaining water levels in scenic and recreational ponds and lakes, except for the minimum amount required to support aquatic life and wildlife;
 - iii. Limit irrigating golf courses and any portion of its grounds;
 - iv. Limit expanding commercial nursery facilities, placing new irrigated agricultural land in production or planting or landscaping when required by site design review process.
- 3) Intensify maintenance efforts to identify and correct water leaks in the distribution system.
- 4) Cease water service to customers who have been given a ten (10) day notice to repair one or more leaks and have failed to do so.
- 5) Cease installation of new irrigation taps on the water system.
- 6) Consider a moratorium on the issuance of all new water service contracts and contracts for all new water main extensions. As part of the public information process, provide notice to developers of the moratorium.
- 7) Expand the use of education and public relations efforts and emphasize the penalties associated with violating the mandatory restrictions.
- 8) Publicize widely the penalties to be imposed for violations of mandatory restrictions and the procedures to be followed if a variance in the restrictions is requested.
- 9) LCWSD will implement an excessive use surcharge for water to be published on the LCWSD website. This will impose a drought surcharge per thousand gallons of water that increases with higher usage. General water use in excess of 75% of normal average monthly usage will be billed at a higher rate. This is a temporary charge imposed during the water supply shortage and is not a cost-based rate. The drought surcharge is temporary and will be terminated at such time as LCWSD determines the water supply is above the Stage 3 trigger levels.

If the conservation measures of the Plan prove inadequate to mitigate the effects of the drought conditions or water supply availability, LCWSD may take additional actions including, but not limited to:

- a. Decreasing the gallon/REU limits in the different tiers; and
 - b. Reduction of water system pressure as needed.
- 10) Provide CW DMAG a monthly status update on actual water withdrawal trends.
 - 11) Provide written notification monthly to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Drought Information Center regarding the success of the mandatory restrictions.

G. Rationing

If a drought threatens the protection of public health and safety, LCWSD is hereby authorized to ration water.

H. Enforcement of Restrictions

LCWSD can monitor water use through meter reading technology. Recorded use through meter readings shall be deemed proof of failure to comply with restrictions imposed at the current LIP stage. If any customer of LCWSD fails to comply with the mandatory water use restrictions of this Plan, the customer may be given a written notice of such failure to comply, which cites the date of said violation, and may be assessed surcharges in accordance with the following schedule:

First violation – customer is given a written notice of such failure;

Second violation - customer is given a written notice of such failure;

Third violation - the customer's water service shall be terminated and restored only after payment of a surcharge of \$500.00.

Law enforcement agencies and other authorized agencies or designated employees in the respective jurisdiction which is being supplied water by LCWSD shall diligently enforce the provisions of the Drought Response Plan.

I. Variances

Customers, who believe they are unable to comply with the mandatory water use restrictions of this Drought Response Plan, may petition for a variance from restrictions by filing a petition with the LCWSD within ten (10) business days after the issuance of the Proclamation requiring water use restrictions.

All petitions for variance shall contain the following information:

- A. Name and address of the petitioner;
- B. Purpose of water usage;
- C. Special provision from which the petitioner is requesting relief;
- D. Detailed statement as to how the curtailment declaration adversely affects the petitioner;
- E. Description of the relief desired;
- F. Period of time for which the variance is sought;
- G. Economic value of the water use;
- H. Damage or harm to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with the Ordinance;
- I. Restrictions with which the petitioner is expected to comply and the compliance date;
- J. Steps the petitioner is taking to meet the restrictions from which the variance is sought and the expected date of compliance; and
- K. Other information as needed.

In order for the variance to be granted, the petitioner must demonstrate clearly that compliance with the Plan cannot be technically accomplished during the duration of the

water supply shortage without having an adverse impact upon the best interests of the community. LCWSD is authorized to grant the request for variance.

In addition, LCWSD is authorized to grant temporary variances for existing water uses otherwise prohibited under the Plan if it is determined that failure to grant such variances could cause an emergency condition adversely impacting health, sanitation and fire protection for the public. No such variance shall be retroactive or otherwise justify any violation of this Plan occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.

Variances granted by LCWSD shall include a timetable for compliance and shall expire when the water supply shortage no longer exists. If the petitioner has failed to meet specified requirements the variance may be rescinded by LCWSD.

J. Status of the Plan

- 1) If any portion of this Plan is held to be unconstitutional for any reason, the remaining portions of the Drought Response Plan shall not be affected.
- 2) The provisions of this Plan shall prevail and control in the event of any inconsistency between this Plan and other rules and regulations of the LCWSD.
- 3) Nothing in this Plan shall be deemed to invalidate or be interpreted in a manner inconsistent with any covenants now in effect and given as security to holders of bonds secured by revenues of the system.