

**DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN  
FOR THE  
PORT O’CONNOR IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT  
(A Retail Public Water Supplier)**

**Adopted by the Port O’Connor Improvement District  
Board of Directors during a posted meeting on**

March 19, 2026

Month, Day, and Year

**A copy of the Board of Directors Authorization Resolution of Adoption is attached to this plan.**

**SECTION I: DECLARATION OF POLICY, PURPOSE, AND INTENT**

In order to conserve the available water supply and 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 Port O’Connor Improvement District hereby adopts the following regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water.

Water uses regulated or prohibited under this Drought Contingency Plan (the Plan) are considered to be non-essential and continuation of such uses during times of water shortage or other emergency water supply condition are deemed to constitute a waste of water which subjects the offender(s) to penalties as defined in Section X of this Plan.

**SECTION II: PUBLIC WATER CUSTOMER INVOLVEMENT**

Opportunity for the public water customers to provide input into the preparation of the Plan may be provided by the Port O’Connor Improvement District by one or more of the following means: utility bill insert, direct mail/email, posting on the District website ([www.pocid.org](http://www.pocid.org)), press release in the “Dolphin Talk” or “Port Lavaca Wave”; or by scheduling and providing public notice of a public meeting to accept input on the plan.

**SECTION III: PUBLIC WATER CUSTOMER EDUCATION**

The Port O’Connor Improvement District will periodically provide the public 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 one or more of the following methods: utility bill inserts, direct mail/email, posting on the District website ([www.pocid.org](http://www.pocid.org)), press releases in the “Dolphin Talk” or the “Port Lavaca Wave” or other communication methods as approved by the Board and/or the Board’s designee.

**SECTION IV: COORDINATION WITH REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUPS**

The service area of the Port O’Connor Improvement District is located within the South Central Texas Region L. The Port O’Connor Improvement District will provide a copy of this Plan to the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group.

**SECTION V: AUTHORIZATION**

The President of the Board of the Port O’Connor Improvement District, or his/her designee 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 President of the Board of the Port O’Connor Improvement District, or his/her designee, 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 persons, customers, and property utilizing water provided by the Port O’Connor Improvement District. The terms “person” and “customer” as used in the Plan include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

**SECTION VII: DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this Plan, the following definitions shall apply:

Aesthetic water use: water use for ornamental or decorative purposes such as fountains, reflecting pools, and water gardens.

**Average daily water demand: (gal/day):** The total system input volume of the District as documented on the TWDB 2024 Water Audit Report over a period of one year, divided by 365 days (364,132,964,287 gallons / 365 days = 364,286 average gallons per day).

<b>16. Total System Input Volume</b>	132,964,286 gallons
Line 13b + Line 14b - Line 15b	<u>132,964,286</u> gallons

Call: customers request the release of water purchased from storage in Canyon Reservoir on an as-needed basis to meet periodic or drastic low-flow conditions.

Commercial and institutional water use: water use which is integral to the operations of commercial and non-profit establishments and governmental entities such as retail establishments, hotels and motels, restaurants, and office buildings.

Conservation: those practices, techniques, and technologies that reduce the consumption of water, reduce the loss or waste of water, improve the efficiency in the use of water or increase the recycling and reuse of water so that a supply is conserved and made available for future or alternative uses.

Customer: any person, company, organization, or entity using water supplied by the Port O'Connor Improvement District.

District: The Port O'Connor Improvement District

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

Drought of Record: the worst recorded drought since compilation of meteorologic and hydrologic data began. In terms of severity and duration, the drought of the 1950's is considered the drought of record in the Guadalupe River Basin.

Even number address: 9-1-1 street addresses ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8 and locations without addresses.

Industrial water use: the use of water in processes designed to convert materials of lower value into forms having greater usability and value.

Landscape irrigation use: water used for the irrigation and maintenance of landscaped areas, whether publicly or privately owned, including residential and commercial lawns, gardens, golf courses, parks, and rights-of-way and medians.

Non-essential water use: water uses that are neither essential nor required for the protection of public, health, safety, and welfare, including:

- (a) irrigation of landscape areas, including parks, athletic fields, and golf courses, except otherwise provided under this Plan;
- (b) use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle;
- (c) use of water to wash down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
- (d) use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
- (e) flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
- (f) use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools or Jacuzzi-type pools;
- (g) use of water in a fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes except where necessary to support aquatic life;
- (h) failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a ten (10) day period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and
- (i) use of water from hydrants for construction purposes or any other purposes other than fire fighting.

Normal Operating Conditions: Conditions during which no part of the Drought Contingency Plan has been initiated.

Odd numbered address: 9-1-1 street addresses ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9.

## **SECTION VIII: CRITERIA FOR INITIATION/TERMINATION OF DROUGHT RESPONSE STAGES**

The President of the Board of the Port O'Connor Improvement District, or his/her designee shall **monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis** and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the Plan, that is, when the specified “triggers” are reached.

**Therefore, the triggering criteria, described below, is based upon those triggering criteria relating to the daily average water demand.**

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

#### **Requirements for initiation**

Customers shall be requested to **VOLUNTARILY** conserve water and adhere to the prescribed restrictions on certain water uses, defined in Section VII when the **total daily water demand equals or exceeds 382,500 gallons for five (5) consecutive days or 400,000 gallons on a single day**. The District may provide water conservation information and tips to the customers at the discretion of the District.

#### **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 five (5) consecutive days or at the discretion of the Board President or his/her designee.

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

#### **Requirements for initiation**

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain non-essential water uses defined in Section VII of this Plan when Stage 1 conditions are active and the **total daily water demand equals or exceeds 401,626 gallons for five (5) consecutive days or 420,000 gallons on a single day**.

#### **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 five (5) consecutive days or at the discretion of the Board President or his/her designee. Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1 becomes operative.

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

#### **Requirements for initiation**

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain non-essential water uses defined in Section VII of this Plan when Stage 1 conditions are active and the **total daily water demand equals or exceeds 421,706 gallons for five (5) consecutive days or 441,000 gallons on a single day**.

### **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 five (5) consecutive days or at the discretion of the Board President or his/her designee. Upon termination of Stage 3, Stage 2 becomes operative.

#### **➤ Stage 4 Triggers -- CRITICAL Water Shortage Conditions**

### **Requirements for initiation**

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain non-essential water uses defined in Section VII of this Plan when Stage 1 conditions are active and the **total daily water demand equals or exceeds 442,791 gallons for five (5) consecutive days or 463,050 gallons on a single day**

### **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 five (5) consecutive days or at the discretion of the Board President or his/her designee. Upon termination of Stage 4, Stage 3 becomes operative.

#### **➤ Stage 5 Triggers -- EMERGENCY Water Shortage Conditions**

### **Requirements for initiation**

Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions for Stage 5 of this Plan when the Board President or his/her designee determine that Stage 5 Emergency Water Shortage conditions are warranted.

AND / OR when:

1. Major line breaks, or pump or system failures occur within the District's water transmission and/or distribution system, which cause unprecedented loss of capability for the District to provide water service and meet customer demands
2. Natural or man-made contamination of the water supply within the District's transmission and/or distribution system.

The triggers for Stage 5 Emergency Water Shortage Conditions may occur at any time and are not dependent on being preceded by Stage 1 through 4.

### **Requirements for termination**

Stage 5 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist at the discretion of the Board President or his/her designee. Upon termination of Stage 5, Stage 4 becomes operative. Provided however if the triggering event was attributable to a major waterline break, pump failure or other system failure, Stage 5 of the Plan may be rescinded upon successful completion of the required facility repairs.

## **SECTION IX: DROUGHT RESPONSE STAGES**

The President of the Board of the Port O'Connor Improvement District, or his/her designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis and, in accordance with the triggering criteria set forth in Section VIII of this Plan, shall determine that a mild, moderate, severe, critical, or emergency condition exists and shall implement the following notification actions:

### **Notification**

#### **Notification of the Public:**

The President of the Board of the Port O'Connor Improvement District, or his/ her designee, shall notify the public water customers by means of one or more of the following: *direct mail/email, publication in a newspaper of general circulation, public service announcements, use of the District's Code Red call out system, and/or signs posted in public places as well as any other communication methods that the District deems appropriate.*

#### **Additional Regulatory and Courtesy Notifications:**

The President of the Board of the Port O'Connor Improvement District, or his/ her designee, shall notify directly, or cause to be notified directly, the following individuals and entities:

*Other POC ID Board members*

*TCEQ HQ and Corpus Christi Regional office (required for Stages 2, 3, 4, and 5)*

*Calhoun County Emergency Management Coordinator*

*Calhoun County Judge & Commissioner(s)*

*Calhoun County I.S.D.*

*Other POCID Major water users*

*Any others the District deems appropriate*

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

Goal: Achieve a ***voluntary 5 percent reduction*** in the average daily water demand, based upon the average daily water demand calculated for that time period of the calendar year.

District Management Measures: Reduced flushing of water mains to a minimum to meet regulatory requirements.

#### Voluntary Water Use Restrictions:

- (a) Water customers are requested to ***VOLUNTARILY*** limit the irrigation of landscaped areas to between the hours of 8:00 am to 10:00 am, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, and/or 10:00 pm to 6:00 a.m. and to avoid watering during high winds.

- (b) Water customers are requested to schedule with the District, at least 3 days in advance, the use of water to fill, re-fill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pool, wading pool, or Jacuzzi-type pool, by submitting a written request to the District office. The approved date and time for the fill operations will be determined by the District Manager.
- (c) All operations of the Port O'Connor Improvement District shall adhere to water use restrictions prescribed for Stage 1 of the Plan.
- (d) Water customers are requested to practice water conservation and to minimize or discontinue water use for non-essential purposes. Water conservation material is available at the District office and is provided on the utility bills on a periodic basis.

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

Goal: Achieve a **10 percent reduction** in the average daily water demand, based upon the average daily water demand calculated for that time period of the calendar year.

District Management Measures: Reduced flushing of water mains to a minimum to meet regulatory requirements; reduced or discontinued irrigation of public landscaped areas; reduced or discontinued washing of District vehicles; and monitor systems to ensure time response to leak repair.

Water Use Restrictions. **UNDER THREAT OF DISCONNECTION OF WATER SERVICE FOR VIOLATION**, the following mandatory water use restrictions shall apply to all persons and/or legal entities:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems shall be limited to Mondays and Thursdays for customers with a 9-1-1 street address ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6 or 8), and Tuesdays and Fridays for water customers with a 9-1-1 street address ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7 or 9), and irrigation of landscaped areas is further limited to the hours of 12:00 midnight until 8:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight on designated watering days. However, irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at anytime if it is by means of a hand-held hose, a faucet filled bucket or watering can of five (5) gallons or less, or drip irrigation system.
- (b) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 8:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. Such washing, when allowed, shall be done with a hand-held bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle for quick rises. Vehicle washing may be done at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service station. Further, such washing may be exempted from these

regulations if the health, safety, and welfare of the public is contingent upon frequent vehicle cleansing, such as garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.

- (c) Water customers must schedule with the District, at least 3 days in advance, the use of water to fill, re-fill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pool, wading pool, or Jacuzzi-type pool, by submitting a written request to the District office. The approved date and time for the fill operations will be determined by the District Manager.
- (d) 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.
- (e) Use of water from hydrants shall be limited to firefighting, related activities, or other activities necessary to maintain public health, safety, and welfare, except that use of water from designated fire hydrants for construction purposes may be allowed under special permit from the Port O'Connor Improvement District.
- (f) Use of water for the irrigation of golf course greens, tees, and fairways is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours 12:00 midnight and 8:00 a.m. and between 8 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. However, if the golf course utilizes a water source other than that provided by the Port O'Connor Improvement District, the facility shall not be subject to these regulations.
- (g) All restaurants are prohibited from serving water to patrons except upon request of the patron.
- (h) Non-essential water use as defined in Section VII are prohibited, except as may otherwise be stated herein.

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

Goal: Achieve a **15 percent reduction** in the average daily water demand, based upon the average daily water demand calculated for that time period of the calendar year.

District Management Measures: Discontinue the flushing of water mains except for decontamination purposes, or to maintain required disinfectant residuals; discontinue irrigation of public landscaped areas; discontinue washing of District vehicles.

Water Use Restrictions . All requirements of Stage 2 shall remain in effect during Stage 3 with the following additions and modifications:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas shall be limited to designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 8:00 a.m. and between 8 p.m. and 12:00 midnight and shall be by means of hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets or drip irrigation only. The use of hose-end sprinklers or permanently installed automatic sprinkler system is prohibited at all times.
- (b) The use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer airplane or other vehicle not occurring on the premises of a commercial car wash and commercial service stations and not in the immediate interest of public health, safety, and welfare is prohibited. Further, such vehicle washing at commercial car washes and commercial service stations shall occur only between the hours of 6:00 am and 10:00 am and 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm.
- (c) The filling, refilling, or adding of water to swimming pools, wading pools, and Jacuzzi-type pools is absolutely prohibited.
- (d) The use of water for construction purposes from designated fire hydrants under special permit is to be discontinued.
- (e) Use of water for the irrigation of golf course greens, tees, and fairways is prohibited except where the golf course utilizes a water source other than that provided by the Port O'Connor Improvement District.
- (f) Non-essential water use, as defined in Section VII, remain prohibited. The following non-essential water uses definition is modified as follows:
  - 1. failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a five (5) day period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s).

➤ **Stage 4 Response -- CRITICAL Water Shortage Conditions**

Goal: Achieve a **20 percent reduction** in the average daily water demand, based upon the average daily water demand calculated for that time period of the calendar year.

District Management Measures: Upon implementation of Stage 4, the Port O'Connor Improvement District, upon having issued written notice, may disconnect the water services of willful violators to prevent the deliberate wasting of water.

Water Use Restrictions. All requirements of Stage 3 shall remain in effect during Stage 4 with the following additions and modifications:

- (a) Non-essential water use, as defined in Section VII, remains prohibited. The following non-essential water uses definition is modified as follows:
  - 1. failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a three (3) day period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s).
- (b) The District may suspend approval of all applications for new, additional, expanded, or increased-in-size water service connections, installation of meters, service lines, pipeline extensions, mains, or water service facilities of any kind, during such time as this Critical drought response stage 4 is in effect.

➤ **Stage 5 Response -- EMERGENCY Water Shortage Conditions**

Goal: Achieve a **50 percent reduction** in the average daily water demand, based upon the average daily water demand calculated for that time period of the calendar year.

Supply Management Measures: Discontinue flushing of water mains, except for decontamination purposes, discontinue irrigation of public landscaped areas; discontinue washing of District vehicles. Upon implementation of Stage 5, the Port O'Connor Improvement District, upon having issued written notice, may disconnect the water services of willful violators to prevent the deliberate wasting of water.

Water Use Restrictions. All requirements of Stage 4 shall be in effect during Stage 5 with the following additions and modifications:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas is absolutely prohibited.

**SECTION X: PRO-RATA WATER ALLOCATION**

In the event that the triggering criteria specified in Section VIII of this Plan for Stage 3 – Severe Water Shortage Conditions, have been met, the President of the POCID, or his/her designee, is hereby authorized to initiate allocation of water supplies on a pro rata basis in accordance with Texas Water Code Section 11.039.

## **SECTION XI: ENFORCEMENT**

The provisions of this Plan shall apply to all contracts and amendments for commitment of retail water executed after the date of approval of this Plan.

- (a) No person shall knowingly or intentionally allow the use of water, supplied by the Port O'Connor Improvement District, for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, governmental, or any other purpose at a time or in a manner contrary to any provision of this Plan.
- (b) At the initiation of each stage of the plan which includes mandatory provisions, (Stages 2, 3, 4, and 5), no warning citations shall be issued nor fines assessed to a district Customer without the prior approval of the Board of Directors. When authorization is granted, the warning citation shall be in duplicate and shall contain the name and address of the alleged violator, if known, a description of the offense charged and shall direct them to contact the District Manager with any questions, to request a variance, or to contest the warning citation.
- (c) Any person, including a person classified as a water customer of the Port O'Connor Improvement District, in apparent control of the property where a violation occurs or originates shall be presumed to be the violator, unless clear evidence is presented to the Port O'Connor Improvement District Board which shows that he/she did not commit the violation.
- (d) If a person is issued three or more distinct warning citations for violations of the mandatory provisions of this Plan (Stages 2, 3, 4, and/or 5), the District Manager reserves the right, upon due notice to the customer, to disconnect water service to the premises where such violations occurred. Services discontinued under such circumstances shall be restored only upon payment of a re-connection charge as established in the District's most current Code of Rules and Regulations, (currently set at \$ 100.00), and any other costs incurred by the District in disconnection of such service, plus a 17.5% fee. In addition, suitable assurance shall be provided to the District that the same action shall not be repeated while the Plan is in effect. If such suitable assurance is not provided, restoration of service will not occur until Stage 1 of the Plan or normal operating conditions is restored.
- (e) After being issued three (3) warning citations, a person who violates this Plan may be fined an amount up to, but not to exceed \$10,000 per violation. Each day that one or more of the provisions of this Plan is violated shall constitute a separate offense.

## **SECTION XII: VARIANCES**

The President of the Board of the Port O'Connor Improvement District, or his/her designee, may, in writing, grant temporary variance for existing water uses otherwise prohibited under this Plan if it is determined that failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the health, sanitation, or fire protection for the public or the person requesting such variance 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 Ordinance shall file a petition for variance with the District within 5 days after the Plan or a particular drought response stage has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the President of the Board of the Port O'Connor Improvement District, or his/her designee, and shall include the following:

- (a) Name and address of the petitioner(s).
- (b) Purpose of water use.
- (c) Specific provision(s) of the Plan from which the petitioner is requesting relief.
- (d) Detailed statement as to how the specific provision of the Plan adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with this Ordinance.
- (e) Description of the relief requested.
- (f) Period of time for which the variance is sought.
- (g) Alternative water use restrictions or other measures the petitioner is taking or proposes to take to meet the intent of this Plan and the compliance date.
- (h) Other pertinent information.

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

- (a) Variances granted shall include a timetable for compliance.
- (b) Variances granted shall expire when the Plan or a particular drought response stage, as applicable, 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 XIII: SEVERABILITY**

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Port O'Connor Improvement District 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 Port O'Connor Improvement District without the incorporation into this Plan of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section.