This administrative memorandum requests the Board of Directors authorize implementation of Stage 3 of the NTMWD's Water Conservation and Drought Contingency/Water Emergency Response Plan, 2008 (The Plan) seasonal watering restrictions, which limits landscape watering with sprinklers or irrigation systems at each service address between November 1 and March 31 to once every two weeks and only if needed to supplement natural rainfall. Implementation of Stage 3 seasonal watering by Member Cities and Customers is requested no later than November 1, 2014, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Effective September 1, 2014, NTMWD, NTMWD’s Member Cities, and Customers implemented the Stage 3 water management strategy, which limits landscape watering with sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems to once every seven days. The proposed implementation of seasonal watering, as written in Stage 3 of The Plan, limits landscape watering with sprinklers or irrigation systems at each service address between November 1 and March 31 to once every two weeks and only if needed to supplement natural rainfall. The implementation of seasonal watering is recommended since the months of November through March are times of the year when little to no supplemental watering is recommended. During this period, natural rainfall is sufficient to maintain a healthy lawn as warm season turf varieties become dormant.

NTMWD will continue to communicate, educate, and raise awareness of the best management practices for seasonal watering, which includes:

- Turning irrigation systems off and operating in the manual mode;
- Utilizing weather-based watering recommendations such as WaterMyYard.org, the Frisco WaterWise ET program, and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service ET Network;
- Watering lawns only if needed to supplement natural rainfall;
- Referring to city guidelines; and,
- Accepting more restrictive measures by the Member Cities and Customers than the measures identified in The Plan.

The proposed implementation of seasonal watering has been communicated with the NTMWD Member Cities’ and Customers’ staffs at the NTMWD Member Cities and Customer meetings held on August 20, 2014, and September 23, 2014, and with the NTMWD Member City Managers at the NTMWD Member City Managers’ meetings held on September 22, 2014, and October 20, 2014.
The Plan states:

- Require Member Cities and Customers to initiate mandatory water use restrictions as follows:
  - Require Member Cities and Customers to limit landscape watering with sprinklers or irrigation systems at each service address between November 1 and March 31 to once every two weeks

As the ongoing drought conditions remain, reservoir levels continue to decline as little to no rain inflow is being received in the NTMWD's water supply sources. As of October 15, 2014, Lavon Lake is down 12.52 feet, Lake Jim Chapman is down 11.33 feet, Lake Tawakoni is down 11.15 feet, and Lake Texoma is down 6.09 feet from normal conservation pool levels.

SUMMARY

Water models indicate that continuation of Stage 3 of The Plan will assist in extending water supplies and is critical in meeting projected water demands. NTMWD staff will continue to monitor the raw water supply and drought conditions and will update the Board monthly.

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Executive Director and NTMWD staff that the Board of Directors authorize: 1) Implementation of seasonal watering restrictions, which limits landscape watering with sprinklers or irrigation systems to once every two weeks and only if needed, as written in Stage 3 of the *NTMWD's Water Conservation and Drought Contingency/Water Emergency Response Plan, 2008* with implementation by the Member Cities and Customers, no later than November 1, 2014, or as soon as possible thereafter; and, 2) Continuing to raise awareness, educate, and communicate with the Member Cities, Customers, and general public to “turn off irrigation systems and only operate in the manual mode when needed”. This will be an item on the regular agenda of the October 2014 Board meeting.