North Texas Municipal Water District to consider relaxation of Stage 3 water restrictions; vote may allow return of once-a-week outdoor watering

Recent record rains, drought relief, updated weather projections, and successful conservation efforts help reduce pressure on district's water supplies

(Wylie, Texas-March 26, 2012)    The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) Board of Directors will hold a special meeting On Thursday, March 29, 2012 at 4 p.m. to consider a relaxation of the current enhanced Stage 3 water restrictions. Stage 3 Enhanced of the NTMWD Plan allows outdoor watering once every two weeks. If the NTMWD board approves the staff recommendation, the district would return to regular Stage 3 water management measures that would allow landscape irrigation once per week. The 10 percent water reduction goal for NTMWD Member Cities and Customers would remain.

NTMWD officials say a combination of positive factors helped reduce pressure on the district’s raw water supplies. While Lake Texoma, which typically fulfills 28 percent of the district’s water supply, remains offline because of the zebra mussel infestation, Lakes Lavon and Jim Chapman are near or above normal conservation pool levels due to recent rains. In addition, changing weather patterns and successful conservation efforts put available supplies in a more favorable position than just a few months ago.

“In December 2011, we faced the likelihood of impending Stage 4 water restrictions because of critically low lake levels and projections of a drier than normal winter and spring. Now, Mother Nature has blessed us with a badly needed break in the La Nina weather pattern that caused the drought conditions,” said Jim Parks, Executive Director of NTMWD. “Although the recent storms have helped fill Lakes Lavon and Chapman, the NTMWD must remain in Stage 3 to ensure an adequate water supply is available for essential needs through the next two summers while a new pipeline is being constructed that will allow NTMWD to resume using Lake Texoma” Parks added.

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