NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Stage 2 of the NTMWD Water Conservation and Drought Contingency and Water Emergency Response Plan Now in Effect

*Member Cities and customers requested to initiate Stage 2 no later than August 19th*


The goal of Stage 2 is a 5% reduction in water use and accelerated public awareness of water supply issues faced by NTMWD.

Stage 2 of the *Plan* is being implemented as a result of:

- The temporary loss of Lake Texoma raw water supply due to invasive zebra mussels. Lake Texoma accounts for roughly 25% of NTMWD’s raw water supply.
- NTMWD’s Lake Chapman capacity is at 47% due to the continued drought and lack of rain run-off to replenish water supply.
- NTMWD had a peak water usage of 554 million gallons per day, a new record for the district and approaching treatment plant capacity during the high consumption periods.

“The only perfect storm happening in North Texas is the drought affecting our water supply,” said Jim Parks, executive director of NTMWD. “Not only are we facing one of the driest summers in recent years, but with the zebra mussels cutting off our Texoma supply, the need for Stage 2 restrictions is immediate.”
“We’ve already exceeded last year’s peak which was not reached until August of 2010,” added Parks. “We have just entered what is traditionally the hottest month of the year so it is imperative to conserve every drop and limit watering your lawns to no more than two days a week.”

The NTMWD board action requests that Member Cities and Customers implement the following water conservation strategies no later than August 19, 2011:

- Initiate Stage 2 of the Member Cities and Customers drought contingency and water emergency response plans.
- Limit landscape watering with sprinklers or irrigation systems to no more than two day per week.
- Restrict landscape and lawn irrigation from 10 AM to 6 PM. and wait until the current drought has passed before establishing new landscaping.
- Accelerate public education efforts on ways to reduce water usage by 5%.
- Halt non-essential city government water use including street cleaning, vehicle washing, operation of ornamental fountains, etc.
- Initiate engineering studies to evaluate alternatives should conditions worsen.

Since Lake Texoma represents almost a quarter of the North Texas raw water supply, NTMWD continues to work with all state and federal agencies involved to safely restore the Texoma water supply while minimizing the transfer of zebra mussels into Lake Lavon and the Trinity River Basin. Although zebra mussels are not harmful to humans and do not contaminate the water, they do attach to water facilities and pipes that pump water causing increased operating and maintenance costs.

Extending the NTMWD’s water supply during Stage 2 through the efficient use of existing water resources is crucial to meeting the long-term water needs of the NTMWD’s Member Cities and Customers.

More information and tips on water conservation can be found at www.wateriq.org and www.ntmwd.com.

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