

ADDRESSING WATER SHORTAGES DROUGHTS AND OTHER EMERGENCIES



Recommended Revisions to
Chapter 47, Article VII

June 12, 2012






BACKGROUND

- State of Texas requirements
- Current Ordinance enacted August 2001
- Drought of 2011
 - Stage 1 declared June 17, 2011
 - Based on lack of rainfall and stress on delivery system
 - Stage 2 declared August 15, 2011
 - Based on combined reservoir storage
 - Stage 2 and 1 rescinded January 11, 2012
 - Based on replenishment of storage and repaired condition of delivery system


Objectives

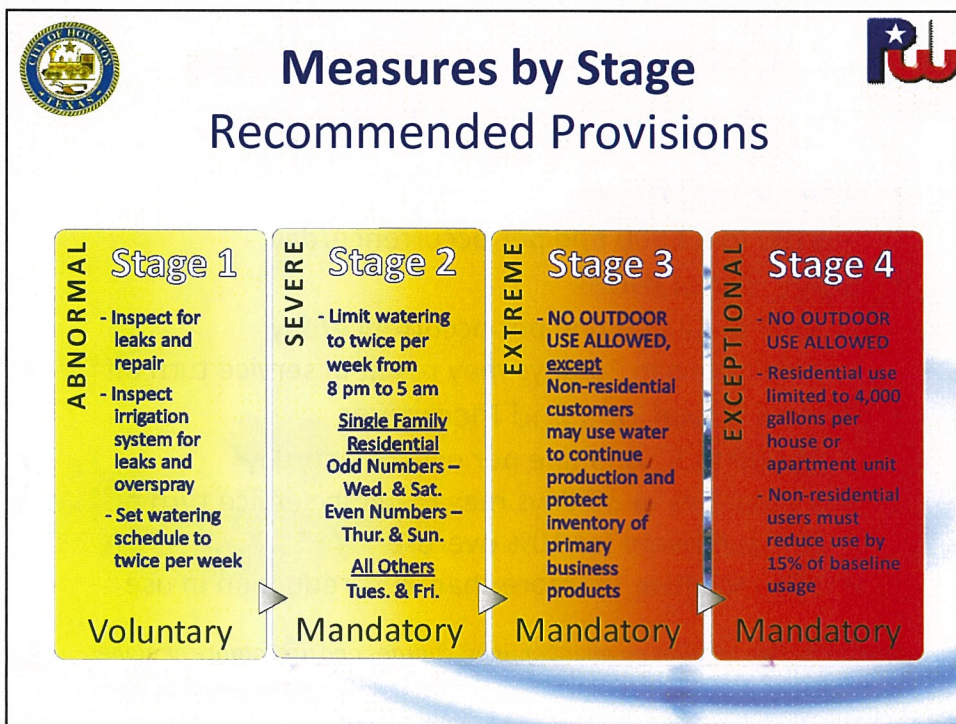
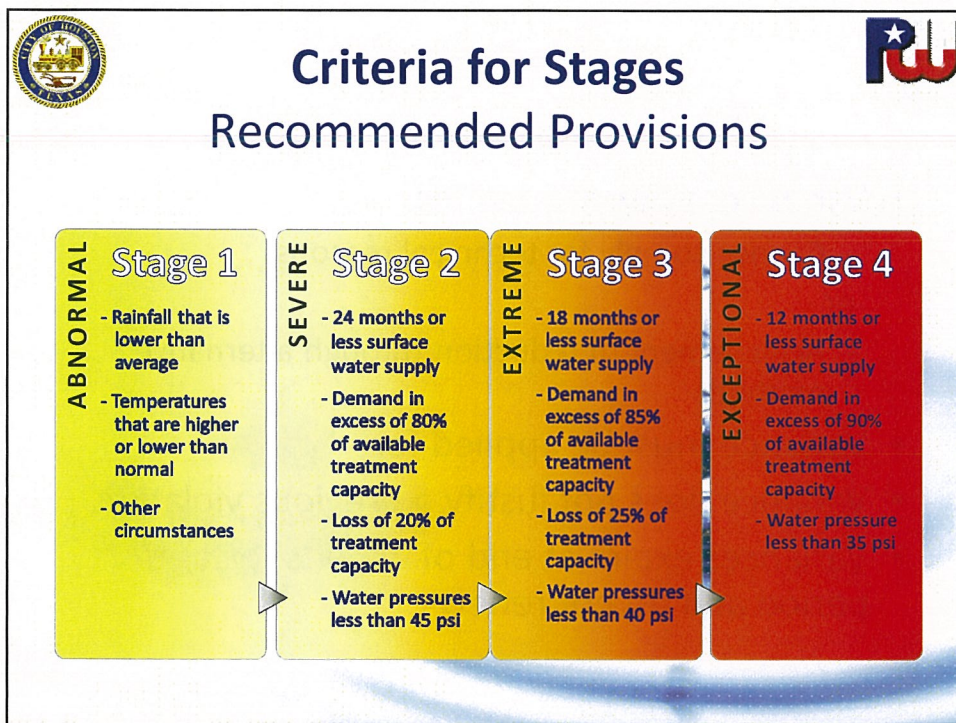
- Improve stages as management framework
- Clarify criteria for stages
- Establish measurable goals for reductions within each Stage
 - Decrease system peaking due to irrigation restrictions
 - Establish rationing to reduce use across all customer types
- Clarify steps to declare, progress and rescind stages
- Clarify violations, enforcement and affirmative defenses

Stages and Conditions Recommended Provisions

ABNORMAL Stage 1 Goal of 5% Overall Reduction Voluntary Restrictions	SEVERE Stage 2 Goal of 10% Overall Reduction Mandatory Restrictions	EXTREME Stage 3 Goal of 20% Overall Reduction Mandatory Reductions	EXCEPTIONAL Stage 4 Goal of 35% Overall Reduction Rationing
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Variations



Recommended Provisions

- Variations only granted for:
 - Cannot comply for technical reasons
 - or
 - Achievement of reduction through alternative methods
- Variation must be applied for
- Variation does not justify a previous violation
- Variations expire at end of water shortage period and do not renew



Enforcement and Penalties



Recommended Provisions

- Stage 2 Violations
 - \$100 to \$2,000 fine per occurrence/day
- Stage 3 Violations
 - \$500 to \$2,000 fine per occurrence/day
 - 3 violations in 30-days may result in service turn off*
- Stage 4 Violations and Incentives
 - \$1,000 to \$2,000 fine per occurrence/day
 - 3 violations in 30-days may result in service turn off*
 - 20% surcharge for 10% overuse
 - 10% incentive for more than 20% reduction in use

**Reconnection requires payment of fines, charges and acceptance of higher per gallon rate for 12 months*



Moving Forward

- **6/8** – draft Ordinance posted to website

Linked from City's main web page and directly linked at:

<http://pweapps.houstontx.gov/Chapter47>

- **6/12** – presentation to Transportation, Technology and Infrastructure Committee
- **6/18** – presentation to SN Alliance
- **6/21** – (net) end of public input period
- **6/27** – (net) Council consideration



Summary of Improvements

- Consistency of definitions
- Progressive response stages
- Strengthened enforcement tools
- Established priority for reduction in use
 - Outdoor Use is first (non-essential)
 - Indoor/production uses not impacted until Stage 4
- Better provides for contract customer reductions at Stage 3

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