

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., *Chairman*
Buddy Garcia, *Commissioner*
Carlos Rubinstein, *Commissioner*
Mark R. Vickery, P.G., *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

November 16, 2011

Re: Water Availability

Dear Public Water System:

Texas continues to experience widespread drought conditions which are expected to not only continue, but to intensify. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) continues to closely monitor this evolving situation, and is concerned about known and potential water shortages in areas where drought conditions are significant. The TCEQ is strongly encouraging systems statewide to implement their drought contingency plans. Even though portions of Texas have experienced recent rain events, drought conditions persist and thus the TCEQ is also strongly encouraging systems statewide that have enacted some form of their drought contingency plan to continue to implement these restrictions. These actions will aid in the preservation of a necessary precious resource and help extend the water availability in Texas.

Please remember that preparing a drought contingency plan for your water system is required. Additionally, you are required to notify the TCEQ when you implement mandatory provisions of your drought contingency plan, pursuant to 30 Texas Administrative Code Section 288.20(b). The TCEQ has made reporting quick and easy for you by creating an online form. Please remember to submit updates as conditions change.

A link to the online form is available on the agency's drought page <<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/drought>>. Additionally, information concerning the drought, and the weekly United States Drought Monitor map which shows current drought conditions, may be found there as well. If you don't have reliable Internet access and need help completing the form, or if you have questions, please feel free to contact our Small Business and Local Government Assistance hotline at 1.800.447.2827.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zak Covar".

Zak Covar
Deputy Executive Director

Enclosure