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Kelly Keel, *Executive Director*



**TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
*Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution*

May 31, 2024

Re: Drought Response for Public Water Systems in the Guadalupe, Nueces, and San Antonio River Basins

Dear Public Water System Official:

The Water Supply Division continues to closely monitor drought conditions and forecasts in the Guadalupe, Nueces, and San Antonio River basins. Drought conditions have heavily impacted these basins and recent forecasts indicate that drought conditions will persist or intensify in the coming months. Please take immediate actions to prevent the loss of drinking water, increase conservation efforts and identify and secure alternative water supplies to meet potable water needs. Conservation and alternative water supply measures include the following:

- Implement your Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) at the appropriate stages to reduce consumption
- Encourage water conservation
- Implement public education and outreach strategies
- Measure and track existing water supplies
- Repair leaks in the distribution system to limit water loss
- Develop a plan to provide adequate and safe drinking water supplies
- Report to TCEQ the amount of water supply if it is approaching less than 180 days
- Evaluate infrastructure and develop plans to meet needs (*e.g.* extending intake structures to deeper waters, drilling new wells, etc.)
- Timely seek authorizations and funding resources to extend existing supply or obtain new sources

Your DCP is an important tool in conserving and managing your water supply during difficult times. Please review your DCP and start implementing water use restrictions as appropriate. If the water system you purchase water from has implemented restrictions, review your purchase contract and be prepared to implement restrictions, if necessary.

In accordance with TCEQ's rules in 30 Texas Administrative Code §288.20(b), you are required to notify the TCEQ of any changes to the implementation of water use restrictions. TCEQ has recently updated the on-line form to facilitate faster reporting of these changes. Information is collected and is used to focus State resources and assistance:

[https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/homeland\\_security/security\\_pws](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/homeland_security/security_pws)

This form should also be used for water supply shortage reporting. Please note that state law also requires water utilities to determine available water supply and report to TCEQ when supply is less than 180 days. This assessment should be based on all current sources (*i.e.* surface water, groundwater, and purchased treated water through an interconnection). Additional drought information is available at:

<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/drought>

If you don't have reliable internet access, need help completing the form, or if you have questions, please call the Water Supply Division at 512-239-4691 and ask to speak with a Drought Program Representative. The collective cooperation of all public water systems is vital to ensuring public drinking water needs can be sustained during this persistent drought.

**Where can you go for more assistance and information?**

TCEQ has a **free** assistance program to help your water system address drought or other financial, managerial or technical issues.

For more information about available free assistance, the drought in Texas, and how to report water use restrictions or concerns in your area, please contact the TCEQ'S drought- information hotline at 1-800-447-2827.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Risko". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Michele Risko  
Deputy Director, Water Supply Division  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality