



TC MUD 10 WATER WISE

January 2022

<https://www.tcmud10.com/>



Congratulations to Jo Price!

Jo Price is our winner for naming the District's semi-annual Newsletter, **TC MUD 10 Water Wise**.

The Board received several great name choices, but unanimously voted for **Water Wise**. Jo received a \$50 Visa Gift Card for the winning name.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to submit names for the contest. We have some very clever residents.

Have you seen the new sign?

During a recent Board Meeting, it was decided that a permanent sign on Lohman's Ford, before you enter the Waterford community, would be beneficial. Under normal conditions, the Travis County MUD No.10 sign offers a **Drive Safely** message and reminds residents of the District's website address, tcmud10.com.

But during dry spells with limited rain, the District may go through various drought stages and this sign will be updated to communicate the current stage to residents. Currently, the District is in Stage I – Mild, as shown on the sign below. Mild stage is voluntary reduction of water consumption.

More information on the various drought stages can be viewed on the website, or [click here](#).



Drought Contingency Stages	Drought Contingency Levels (Acre-Feet)	WHERE ARE WE TODAY? (Acre-Feet) 01.21.2022	Drought Contingency Stages	Drought Contingency Action
Normal Conditions	> 1.6M	-	Normal Conditions	Normal - No Action
Stage I	> 1.1M and < 1.6M	WE ARE HERE! 1.55M	Mild	Voluntary reduce water consumption
Stage II	> 900K and < 1.1M	-	Moderate	2 day p/week watering schedule
Stage III	> 600K and < 900K	-	Sever	1 day p/week watering schedule
Stage IV	< 600K	-	Critical	No watering allowed

We hope you find this newsletter helpful and encourage any comments and suggestions.

Email: info@awrservices.net.

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Balancing the Budget and Revenue Stream



As anyone knows, balancing a budget means making sure your **out-going payments** are less than your **incoming revenue**. But managing the budget of a water district can have some challenges.

First, water is what the District buys and sells. We buy raw water from the LCRA out of Lake Travis. Our operators treat the water for drinking and then distribute it to the customers. Customer water consumption varies based on their needs. Showers, dishwashing, laundry, cooking, toilets, pools, and irrigation all play a factor in customer consumption.

Weather plays a role in consumer consumption. During extended periods without rain, more irrigation is used to water lawns, as an example.

Planning water revenue can be a little tricky when it comes to determining if we will have a rainy season or a dry season? For example, will the next year be an El Nino (wetter) or La Nina (drier) season?

Other considerations when setting a budget include the number of homes, new home construction, LCRA water rates, operator costs, bookkeeper fees, attorney fees, engineer fees, insurance, and the cost to maintain the current facilities and distribution lines. Inflation for parts and equipment also have to be considered.

The District has to have a reserve fund to cover any unplanned serious events that cannot be paid from the operations budget.

The Board of Directors works hard to keep an operating budget that will provide funds for the daily operations. They also have done a great job of keeping a reserve in the event of a catastrophe.

In addition, the Board considers the property tax values determined by Travis County when setting the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) tax rate each year.



District Facilities

Many people are unaware of what facilities are required to run a water and wastewater district.

TC MUD No.10 facilities are valued at \$7.5 million and includes a barge on Lake Travis where we collect water from the lake. The water is drawn in and pushed up hill through the raw water intake lines. Prior to the February freeze, the District had one metal line. This metal line ruptured during the freeze and was replaced with two poly water lines. If one were to break again, it is our intention to switch to the second one to draw water to the plant.

The District also owns a boat that is kept at the marina and is used for operators and contractors to get to and from the barge to make repairs and conduct inspections.

Once the water is drawn through the intake lines, it goes into our water treatment plant. Our operators treat the water to provide quality drinking water. The water then goes into our storage tanks. Customer demand causes the water in the tanks to travel through the distribution pipes, throughout the District, to reach each home.



The District also owns a wastewater treatment plant, three lift stations and drip fields.

Wastewater is a collection of water from your washing machines, dishwashers, sinks, showers, toilets, and bathtubs which travels to the wastewater plant, either directly or through the lift stations. Once at the plant, microorganisms are used to break down the waste, followed by chlorine at the end of the process. Many districts will repurpose the water to golf courses, but our treated water goes out to the fields where irrigation does not exist. This treated water meets the standards of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, (TCEQ), the state's agency that safeguards water quality and regulates the District's actions.

As you can imagine, pumping acidic waste, grease and other liquids causes damage to motors, pumps, pipes, etc., requiring ongoing maintenance and repair. This can be costly but necessary to keep the systems working properly.



LCRA Price Increase 2022

The LCRA announced an increase in water rates effective January 2022. The price will go from \$145 per acre-foot to \$155 per acre-foot. This is the first increase since 2016.

What does this mean to the District? Simply put, the District will now pay \$10 more per acre-foot of water drawn from Lake Travis. One acre-foot of water is equal to 325,851 gallons.

The District has used between 20 – 27 million gallons, (or 61 – 82 acre-feet), of water each year over the past years. With the growth in new homes, the Board anticipates this number to keep climbing. While \$10 more per acre-foot does not seem like much, over time with increased water usage, the cost adds up.

Facilities and Asset Aging

One of the most important roles of the Board of Directors is to ensure that our facilities are maintained and operating at their fullest capacity.

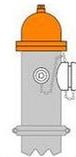
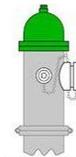
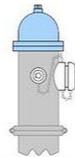
Over time, equipment can erode and slow down. Creating a budget with enough funds to maintain the facilities and equipment is critical for performance. The cost of water is not the biggest threat to the budget. The real cost is the aging of equipment and the maintenance required to keep the facilities running. With the cost of labor and inflation rising, expenses will increase.

Directors work closely with the District’s engineers and operators to identify Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). These are projects that involve the District’s assets, such as the plants, the storage tanks, and the raw water lines. CIP projects are generally expensive, so it is important they be included in a 5-year plan, to grow the reserve fund so the funds are available when necessary. You can view the current 5-year CIP plan on the website, or by [clicking here](#).

Fire Hydrant Testing

You may have noticed AWR technicians testing our District’s fire hydrants recently. It is recommended that these be tested every four to five years to verify hydrant capacities and mark them accordingly.

Once the testing was completed, AWR technicians painted the caps of the fire hydrants the appropriate color to let the fire response team know the pressure and flow, (gallons per minute), at each hydrant. This is extremely helpful information for the fire response team in the event of an actual fire.



Light Blue

Green

Orange

Red

Class AA
1500 GPM or More

Class A
1000-1499 GPM

Class B
500-999 GPM

Class C
499 GPM or Less

WASTECONNECT™ MOBILE APP

Never Miss Your COLLECTION DAY Again!

With our new WasteConnect™ Mobile App you can:

- ✓ Sign-up for waste collection Reminders
- ✓ Receive Service Alerts for collection delays
- ✓ Search how to properly dispose of materials

The 2022 Travis County MUD No.10 Trash & Recycle calendar is now available. Please see the [District’s website](#), under “Trash and Recycling Services” for the calendar and contact information for Waste Connections.

As a reminder, Waste Connections requires each homeowner to use the trash bin it has provided for trash.



DON'T BE LEFT OUT IN THE COLD!

If you missed important notifications last February, be sure to sign up for IRIS now. The District will send communication during emergency situations. The IRIS notification form is located on the District's website under the "Notifications" tab or by [clicking Here](#).

During the February winter freeze, the District sent a number of IRIS alerts asking owners to help with water conservation. While many residents did their part to conserve water usage, we did not receive 100% compliance. We hope all residents will participate as requested with any future emergency needs.

Due to last year's unprecedented winter storm, the Board authorized additional winterization of our plants. It is critical that you act now to protect your property before, during and after a freeze. Please, make sure you are prepared for the next freeze.

Below is a list of basic items necessary to be prepared for and survive a freeze:

- Know how to locate your water shut off valve outside your home.
- Place a marker near your shut off valve so you can find it later, if under snow.
- Purchase bottled water for drinking and fill up your bathtubs with tap water for flushing toilets and hand washing dishes.
- Gather pitchers or buckets to help carry water for flushing and/or hand washing dishes.
- Purchase non-perishable food and a manual can opener to open cans.
- Purchase firewood for real wood fireplaces.
- Wrap outdoor pipes; remove garden hoses from faucets.
- Turn off irrigation systems.
- Turn off auto pool filling systems.
- Purchase a battery or crank operated radio.
- Purchase flashlights and battery-operated lighting.
- Purchase batteries for flashlights and radios.
- Charge your cell phones, battery packs for cell phones and purchase a car charger for cell phones.
- Purchase a fire extinguisher.
- Gas up all vehicles (gas shortages often occur after a disaster).
- Consider a generator, fuel, plenty of outdoor power cords, surge protector and learn how to use the generator well before a disaster.
- Purchase electric space heaters.
- Warm clothing.
- Blankets.
- Toiletries.
- First aid kit.
- Keep emergency cash on hand.

For additional tips, <https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather> is another great resource for winter preparations.

Board of Directors Elections

The next directors election is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2022. The District anticipates contracting with Travis County to conduct the election and to use the regular County polling places for the election.

Applications for a place on the ballot may be filed from January 19, 2022, to 5:00 p.m. local time on February 18, 2022. For information about the requirements for filing for candidacy for a position on the Board, please visit the Texas Secretary of State's candidate website, at <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/candidates/index.shtml>.

Elecciones de la Junta Directiva

La próxima elección de directores está programada para el sábado 7 de mayo de 2022. El Distrito anticipa celebrar un contrato con el Condado de Travis para la conducción de la elección y para utilizar los lugares de votación regulares del Condado para la elección.

Las solicitudes para un lugar en la boleta de votación pueden presentarse desde el 19 de enero de 2022 hasta las 5:00 p.m. hora local del 18 de febrero de 2022. Para obtener información acerca de los requisitos para presentar la candidatura para una posición en la Junta, sírvase visitar el sitio web del candidato del Secretario de Estado de Texas en

<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/candidates/index.shtml>.