



TC MUD 10 WATER WISE

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

May 2024

STAGE III ONCE-PER-WEEK WATERING RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT

As a reminder, the District is still under a severe drought. The lakes that supply our water are dangerously low and will continue to remain low until we get substantial rainfall. Effective May 1st, LCRA requires cities, utilities and all lakeside property owners who draw water from the Highland lakes to **limit outdoor watering to NO MORE THAN ONCE A WEEK** until the ongoing severe drought eases. MUD 10 could face up to a \$10,000 penalty per occurrence, if not compliant with LCRA's new rules. MUD 10 has already enacted Stage III of their Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). Customers are only allowed to run irrigation **once-per-week**, on **the designated watering day**, and **during the designated watering hours** as shown below. In addition, monthly watering allowances are also listed for Stage III. Customers who exceed the monthly allowed gallons will pay a **200%** of the normal water rates for the gallons over the allowance.

Monthly Watering Allowance	Stage III - SEVERE
Single Family Homes	20,000 GAL
Multiple Family Homes	15,000 GAL
Sections 1 & 2 Common Areas	25,000 GAL
Section 3 Common Areas	15,000 GAL
Section 4 Common Areas	25,000 GAL
Section 6 Common Areas	15,000 GAL
Waterstone Common Areas	75,000 GAL
WATERING SCHEDULE	ONCE PER WEEK Addresses ending in even numbers - Friday only Addresses ending in odd numbers - Saturday only HOAs/POAs - Sunday only Midnight - 10am and 7pm - Midnight

To read the LCRA letter, or to find out more on their new efforts, go to www.lcra.org/drought.

Before you turn on your irrigation system, please perform an audit of your system, or hire a professional to do the audit. Verify your controller is set to run only on your designated day and during the designated hours. Look for leaks and broken sprinkler heads. Keep in mind when planting landscaping this spring to plant drought tolerant vegetation that can withstand Texas summers and minimal watering. We appreciate everyone's help to conserve our precious resource! Refer to the [Water Conservation tab](#) on the District's website for more



EyeOnWater®



Get Leak Alerts-Monitor Your Water Use

Customers in single family homes use electronic water meters and can monitor their hourly, daily, weekly, and monthly water use using the EyeOnWater app. In addition, you can set alerts to be notified when you use more water than planned, or if there is a continuous flow which is usually caused by a leak. [Click here](#) for easy directions, or visit the District's website under the "Documents" tab. You can also contact the District office at 512.402.1990 for assistance.

Summer is almost here, and Central Texas is still in a severe drought and is starting the summer with **17% less water** in the combined storage lake levels than the same time last year. **Lake Travis alone is down to 38% full**, so please think differently about how you approach the hotter months in terms of landscaping.

Before you turn on your irrigation system, please read some helpful tips below regarding drought tolerant plants and maintenance of your landscape. We all need to work together to get through the drought.



Mulch helps absorb moisture underground and prevents quick evaporation



Texas Firecracker plant loves the heat and is drought tolerant

Design a Waterwise Landscape

If you are installing new plants, be sure to choose native or drought tolerant plants. These plants require less water and maintenance. They also attract pollinators such as butterflies. Many of these plants offer colorful flowers, including but not limited to, Bat-Faced Cuphea, Desert Willow, Purple Hearts, Red Yucca and more. Search the web for expert sites that feature drought tolerant plants for Central Texas.

Consider Xeriscaping

Some of the most popular ways to have a xeriscape landscape include reducing your amount of turf space, installing drought-tolerant plants, and adding more shade elements to reduce the amount of water needed. You can also make your landscape more sustainable by mulching, updating your irrigation system, and using organic materials when possible. The xeriscape idea is all about helping your landscape thrive without much outside help, like supplemental water or maintenance.

Consider drought tolerant grasses. Ask the grass experts when choosing the type of sod you are purchasing. We also recommend planting new sod in cooler months such as October, November, and March. Never plant new plants or sod during the summer months.

Mulch is Key

Adding mulch around trees and flower/plant beds is one of the best ways to help keep the moisture underground with the roots. Mulch helps reduce the evaporation of water from irrigation and rainy days.



Soaker hoses are a good for flower and plant beds while using less water than an irrigation system

Install Water Efficient Irrigation Controllers



Smart irrigation controllers allow you to monitor your programming and water use with your phone. Most controllers now come with soil and weather sensors so the system will not come on if it detects there is enough moisture or rain in the air. No need to waste water on days that it rains.

Install Soaker Hoses in Flower/Plant Beds

While grasses need an irrigation system, the flowers, plants and trees can do well with soaker hoses. Soaker hoses target areas better and use less water. And, if the drought worsens and irrigation systems are no longer allowed, the soaker hose is a good way to help keep plants fed.

Facilities Update

We are excited to announce four major projects in the works.

1. The new emergency generator has arrived and is now connected to the water distribution system. When there is a power outage at the water plant, the generator will automatically turn on and help pump water from the storage tanks to our customers' homes. This will help prevent low water pressure during the power outage. 
2. We are in the process of drilling a new emergency water well. Currently, all of our potable water is drawn from Lake Travis. The barge on Lake Travis may get strained if the water level continues to decline and surpasses the worst drought on record. The expectation is that the District could use the emergency well to help draw additional water should the barge not have full range to draw water. The well, however, will only be able to supply enough water for an emergency. If this situation were to occur, there would be no outside watering allowed of any kind. 
3. We recently signed an Emergency Water Supply Agreement with WCID-Point Venture. In the agreement, if either District has a temporary emergency and it needs to purchase potable water for their customers, the other District may sell such water to assist. This would only include emergencies where one District needs the assistance, and the other District is in normal operations. ***The District will not sell water that would put its own customers at risk.***
4. Our District continues to grow resulting in the need to expand our facilities to accommodate the growth. The District is in the process of installing a second wastewater treatment facility at the plant. Once this new facility is operational, the current treatment facility will be shut down to be rehabbed. Ultimately, we will have two wastewater facilities operating in the future. The estimated time for both treatment facilities to be fully functional is 2026.



There were three Director positions up for election May 4, 2024.

Insufficient applications were received, which means the election is uncontested and thus canceled.

Directors Andrew Fawthrop and Andi Tasset will remain on the Board, and one new Director will be sworn in at the May 7, 2024 Board meeting.



Grinder Pump Care

The District continues to see a lot of grease build up and wipes in customer grinder pump tanks. In case you are not aware, this causes your grinder pump to malfunction and can be costly to you and the District. *See image of grease buildup and 'flushable' wipes to the left.*

Each home has been provided with a grinder pump system by the District. Each system includes a tank, the pumping system, and a control panel with alarm light.

If your grinder pump panel alarm activates, or you are having trouble with your grinder pump, please call the District's office at 512 402-1990 and a technician will respond.

Please do not call a plumber or try to repair or modify your grinder pump. Any changes or alterations to a grinder pump could result in the homeowner being responsible for damages or the cost to convert the grinder pump back to the District's specifications.

Unauthorized Practices:

- Never pour grease down the drains. Grease clogs the system and the floats, so they do not work properly. The grease will travel to the main sewer plant and causes more expensive damage.
- Never flush anything, including marketed disposable wipes, other than waste and toilet paper.
- Do not install driveways, sidewalks or slabs of any kind over grinder pump tanks and their discharge lines.
- Do not try to relocate the grinder pump panel. The grinder pump tank cannot be more than three (3) feet from the control panel.
- No retaining walls may be constructed within a five (5) feet radius of the grinder pump.
- No landscaping such as rock, may be installed within a three (3) feet radius of the grinder pump. Sod is allowed up to the grinder pump, as long as it does not cover the grinder pump and sits a minimum of 3" below the grinder pump.
- In the event of a grinder pump issue, the District's technician will need quick access to the system. Any earth or vegetation removal work that would require excavation, will be at the homeowner's expense. **If the repair technician is unable to access the grinder pump system due to obstacles such as trailers, cars, landscaping, etc., the homeowner will be charged for any additional trips made to the site to complete the repair.** The District will not be responsible for replacing any items that are damaged during this excavation.

Please watch a [short video on protecting your pipes](#) located on the District's website under the Grinder Pump Care tab.