**Jackson County Water Company**

**Water Use Restriction Policy**

Temporary or periodic restrictions on water usage.

Enacting restrictions.

1. Since part of our water supply comes from the City of Altus, we will follow their water restrictions. This means that we will automatically be on whatever Water Restriction Stage the City of Altus is on.
2. The decision to initiate water use restrictions differing from The City of Altus shall be made by the Board President under the advisement of the JCWC Manager.
3. The Board President shall formally report the enacting of water use restrictions to the Board at the next regular board meeting.
4. The levels of restriction can be progressive, but need not be. There is no requirement to initiate level 2 restrictions before elevating to level 3 or any other level. Following a disaster, the Board President may enact level 5 restrictions, skipping levels 2 through 4.
5. Water use restrictions do not apply to the watering of livestock, however, watering of livestock may not produce runoff (ie., overfilling water tanks or troughs) and incorporate water efficient conservation practices.

Rescinding restrictions.

1. JCWC will follow the water use restrictions of the City of Altus.
2. The decision to rescind water use restrictions differing from the City of Altus shall be made by the Board President.
3. The Board President shall have the authority to rescind water use restrictions. When conditions have improved such that none of the triggers are met for the current level of restrictions, the Board President shall consider a reduction of water use restrictions.
4. When deemed in the best interest of Jackson County Water Company and it’s members, the Board President may rescind restrictions one level at a time in a cautious manner.

Exceptions. High priority use of water may still be allowed during mandatory restrictions, especially if such use incorporates water efficient conservation practices. The JCWC manager shall have the authority to grant exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

1. Commercial use. Where restriction would be a significant hardship for a business, commercial use of water may be exempt from restriction until level 4.
2. Hand watering. Home gardens and community gardens that grow food for human consumption and are watering by hand may remain exempt from restriction until level 5. Hand watering of trees and landscaping may also be exempt until level 5. Hand watering must be done with a water can, drip hose or a garden hose equipped with a shut off spray nozzle.
3. Watering of foundations. Some parts of Jackson County have expansive soils that swell when wet and shrink when dry. Drying of these soils can cause shifting of foundations under homes and buildings, resulting in structure damage. Property owners or renters may water foundations during all levels of restrictions, only if needed to prevent structure damage. Watering shall be done with water efficient methods such as slow drip irrigation or hand watering.

Non-potable water. The water use restrictions herein shall apply only to water produced &/or distributed by the JCWC. Property owners may use other water resources, such as a private well or captured rainwater, without restriction throughout all levels of restriction.

Appeals. A property owner, resident or business may appeal any decision of the JCWC manager regarding exceptions to water use restrictions. Appeals shall be filed by delivering or sending a letter to the JCWC office within 21 days of the decision to be appealed. Appeals shall be heard by the Board of Directors at the next regular board meeting.

**Stage 1; everyday conservation.**

Stage 1 is considered the minimum level of conservation. These measures are necessary for the community to maintain a basic level of drought resistance.

1. Triggers. None.
2. Outdoor water use. There are no restrictions on water use however water conservation practices should be used and no watering shall produce runoff.
3. JCWC will post basic information on their website regarding water conservation practices.

**Stage 2; moderate conservation.**

Stage 2 is an elevated level of conservation intended for use during moderate drought conditions. Outdoor use is restricted to reduce the demand caused by outdoor use.

Triggers. The board president may implement stage 2 water use restrictions when one or more of the following criteria are met:

1. City of Altus goes to stage 2 water use restrictions.
2. Water demand. Unable to maintain water levels at or above 50% in water towers for two or more consecutive days.
3. Water supply. A reduction in the primary or secondary water supply (ie, low supply, power outage, pumps down, main break, contamination, etc.) or City of Altus otherwise restrict the supply.
4. Drought reports. An indication that Southwest Oklahoma is in a moderate drought as reported by the U.S. Drought Monitor produced jointly by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Drought information may also be obtained from the National Integrated Drought Information System ((NIDIS).
5. Climatological forecasts. An indication that significant drought conditions are expected to occur or continue as reported in reputable reports, such as, but not limited to, seasonal outlooks from the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center, the Oklahoma Climatological Survey, or the NIDIS Drought Early Warning System.
6. Outdoor water use. All outdoor watering will be limited to **two** days per week from **4AM to 9AM**.

All outdoor watering or irrigation shall be permitted at any time if hand watering with a hose or watering can. Hose must be equipped with a shut-off nozzle.

3. Public education and enforcement. The media may be used to promote water conservation and discourage car washing and new landscaping projects until we return to stage 1. Violators will receive a verbal warning. Chronic violators, 3 or more separate violations, may be charged a surcharge on their next water bill.

**Stage 3; severe conservation.**

 Stage 3 presents substantial limitations to non-potable uses of water intended to conserve water for its highest use, human (and livestock) consumption. Stage 3 is intended for periods of severe drought. Stage 1 and 2 restrictions remain in force except where made more stringent by stage 3 restrictions.

1. Triggers. The Board President may implement stage 3 water use restrictions when one or more of the following criteria are met:

a. City of Altus goes to stage 3 water restrictions.

b. Water demand. Unable to maintain water levels at or above 50% in the water towers for two consecutive or more days.

c. Water supply. A reduction in the primary or secondary water supply (ie, low supply, power outage, pumps down, main break, contamination, etc.) or City of Altus otherwise restrict the supply.

d. Drought reports. An indication that Southwest Oklahoma is in a severe drought as reported by the U.S. drought monitor produced jointly by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Drought information may also be obtained from the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS).

e. Climatological forecasts. An indication that severe drought conditions are expected to occur or continue as reported in reputable reports, such as, but not limited to, seasonal outlooks from the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center, the Oklahoma Climatological Survey, or the NIDIS Drought Early Warning System.

f. Other. In the event of a large scale failure of the water treatment plant or water distribution system.

2. Outdoor water use. All outdoor water shall be limited to **one** day per week from **4AM to 9AM**, except for hand watering using hoses or water cans. Hoses must be equipped with shut-off nozzles. This applies to residential and nonresidential property.

a. Outdoor watering. The day allotted for watering and irrigation shall be on locations as follows:

 1. South of Highway 62 – Mondays

 2. West of US Highway 283 and North of Highway 62 – Tuesdays

 3. East of US Hwy 283 and between Hwy 62 and County Road 158 – Wednesdays

 4. East of US Highway 283 and North of County Road 158 – Thursdays

 5. No watering or irrigation shall be allowed on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays, except for hand watering with a hose or watering can. Drip hoses are allowed for landscaping and vegetable gardens, except that watering may not produce runoff.

b. Other outdoor uses.

 1. Washing of vehicles is prohibited except at commercial car wash facilities that recycle water, as is allowed by the City of Altus.

 2. Residential swimming pools may not be filled. Pools already in use may use potable water to maintain operational levels.

3. Public education and enforcement. The media may be used to promote water conservation and discourage car washing and new landscaping projects until we return to stage 1. Violators will receive a verbal warning. Chronic violators, 3 or more separate violations, may be charged a surcharge on their next water bill.

**Stage 4; extreme conservation.**

 Stage 4 adopts extreme restrictions in response to an extreme situation. Stages 1 through 3 restrictions remain in force except where made more stringent by stage 4 restrictions.

1. Triggers. The board president may implement stage 4 water use restrictions when one or more of the following criteria are met.

 a. City of Altus goes to stage 4 water use restrictions.

 b. Water demand. Unable to maintain water levels at or above 45% in the water towers for two or more consecutive days.

 c. Water supply. A reduction of the primary or secondary water supply (ie., low supply, power outage, pumps down, main break, contamination, etc.) or City of Altus otherwise restrict the supply.

 d. Drought reports. An indication that Southwest Oklahoma is in a extreme drought as reported by the U.S. Drought Monitor produced jointly by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Drought information may also be obtained from the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS).

 e. Climatological forecasts. An indication that extreme drought conditions are expected to occur or continue as reported in reputable reports, such as, but not limited to, seasonal outlooks from the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center, the Oklahoma Climatological Survey, or the NIDIS Drought Early Warning System.

 f. Other. In the event of a large-scale failure of the water treatment plant or water distribution system.

2. Outdoor water use.

 a. Outdoor watering. All outdoor watering is prohibited except for hand watering using hoses with shut off nozzles, water cans or drip hoses.

 b. Other outdoor use.

1. Residential swimming pools may not be filled. Pools already in use may use potable water to maintain operational levels.

3. Public education and enforcement. The media may be used to inform the public of the severity of the drought and increased restrictions and penalties. In Stage 4 water restrictions a surcharge of $6.85 per 1000 gallons will be billed for water usage over 10,000 gallons.

**Stage 5; emergency conservation.**

 Stage 5 is reserved for emergency situations where there is a significant threat to public health and safety. This is intended for periods of exceptional drought and for disaster recovery periods. Stages 1 through 4 restrictions remain in force except where made more stringent by stage 5 restrictions. The board president may implement stage 5 water use restrictions.

 1. Trigger. The JCWC Board may implement stage 5 use restrictions when one or more of the following criteria are met. The board president may initiate a short-term stage advancement to stage 5, but in order for such restrictions to continue, the board must ratify the same at the next board meeting, whether regular or emergency.

 a. City of Altus goes to stage 5 water use restriction.

 b. Water demand. Unable to maintain water levels at or above 40% in the water towers for two or more consecutive days.

 c. Water supply. A reduction of the primary or secondary water supply (ie., low supply, power outage, pumps down, main break, contamination, etc.) or City of Altus otherwise restrict the supply.

 d. Drought reports. An indication that Southwest Oklahoma is in an exceptional drought as reported by the U.S. Drought Monitor produced jointly by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Drought information may also be obtained from the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS).

 e. Climatological forecasts. An indication that exceptional drought conditions are expected to occur or continue as reported in reputable reports, such as, but not limited to, seasonal outlooks from the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center, the Oklahoma Climatological Survey, or the NIDIS Drought Early Warning System.

 f. Disaster. In the event of a large scale disaster that jeopardizes the functionality of the water treatment plant, City of Altus Water treatment plant or distribution system or JCWC distribution system.

2. Outdoor water use.

 a. All outdoor watering is prohibited, including hand watering.

 b. No car washing.

 c. Pools already in use may not add water, even where desired to maintain operational use.

3. Public education and enforcement. Public education and enforcement. The media may be used to inform the public of the severity of the drought and increased restrictions and penalties. In Stage 5 water restrictions a surcharge of $6.85 per 1000 gallons will be billed for water usage over 10,000 gallons.

In Stage 5 water restrictions the Board reserves the right to limit or halt all non-residential water use.