

## Explanation of Current MUD261 Drought Contingency Plan

### **Where do we get our water?**

MUD No. 261 and Windfern Utility District customers receive water from two sources: the primary source is two groundwater wells owned and operated by WFUD. In addition, we have an interconnect with the City of Houston by which we receive treated surface water.

Today, customers of our districts obtain about two-thirds of their water from the WFUD groundwater wells. The remainder is provided by the City of Houston.

MUD261 and WFUD contracted with the City of Houston to purchase treated water to meet Harris / Galveston County Subsidence District requirements to gradually migrate from groundwater sources to surface water sources. The City of Houston water qualifies as a surface water source.

Cost for City of Houston treated water is about triple the cost of pumping groundwater.

### **What is the MUD No. 261 Drought Contingency Plan and What is its Purpose?**

The Plan was created to conserve available water supply and protect the integrity of the water supply facilities with particular regard for household use, sanitation, and fire protection. The Directors of MUD No. 261 adopted a Drought Contingency Plan that is essentially the same as Windfern Utility District since we purchase most of our water via their facilities.

The Plan is triggered by the run time of WFUD's well pumps over a three-day period. The triggers are numerical versus discretionary. Excessive run time for well pumps risk the mechanical integrity of the system and could lead to pump failure; thereby creating a critical scenario.

A sequential move from one stage of the Plan to another is not required. It is determined by the run time of the well pumps and the corresponding increase (or decreased) in these figures.

The District customer action / requirements of the Plan are designed to reduce well pump run time.

There are three stages in the Plan.

Once the stress on the water system is mitigated, the Plan Stage actions are rolled back.

### **What are the Three Stages of the Plan?**

A general description of the Plan triggers and requirements are found below. A copy of the full plan is found on the HCMUD No. 261 website or may be requested via our District attorney.

***The first stage of the Plan is voluntary.*** Irrigation is prohibited during high-demand household hours: between 6 am and 10am in the morning and 6pm and midnight. The expectation is to reduce well pump run time by 10 percent. Odd-even addresses are encouraged to restrict watering to the corresponding odd-even dates.

***The second stage is mandatory. Only hand-held hoses are permitted for irrigation.*** A 16-percent reduction in pump run time is targeted.

***The third stage is mandatory. All outdoor water use is prohibited.*** The District may impose a 200 percent surcharge on customers who use more than 10000 gallons of water a month. Commercial customers may be asked to stop use of water not determined to be essential to the health and safety of the community. A 25-percent reduction in pump run time is targeted.

**Are there “Water Police?”**

No. There are no water police. It is expected that customers will follow the requirements of the Plan for the good of the community. Neighbors are encouraged to remind others to follow the actions if they are not doing so.

**What about the HOA Deed Restrictions indicating that I must maintain my lawn and landscaping?**

The HOA Deed Restrictions are written for normal climatic conditions. The homeowner is responsible for using reasonable judgment during extraordinary times. Should restrictions be imposed by the MUD, the homeowner is expected to comply with the restrictions. Should the homeowner receive a violation notice from the management company, they should reply that the condition exist due to the restrictions imposed by the MUD. This does not mean that the yards should be totally ignored. Taller grass will be permitted, however weeds and dead plants should be removed. Once restrictions are eased, homeowner should expect that the normal maintenance standards will return.