



City of San Marcos

Conservation & Drought Contingency Plan Ordinance Update

March 19, 2024



City Council Work Session

Item 2 – Drought Ordinance

Receive a presentation from SMTXU summarizing proposed amendments to City Code Chapter 86, Article 2, Division 2, Conservation



City Council Work Session Drought Ordinance

- This relates drought stage implementation for the Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan.
- Long range planning has reduced reliance on the Edwards Aquifer and diversified water resources allowing for flexibility.
- Last ordinance revision was in 2015
 - Ordinance # 2015-15
- Updated Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plans required by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) & Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) every 5 years
 - Resolution #2019-70R

Conservation The primary objective of the San Marcos Utilities Conservation Department is to implement the City Council's goal of environmental stewardship through the promotion of energy and water efficiency programs such as school education, public outreach, and financial incentives. The long-term goal is to increase water and energy efficiency and reduce per capita usage.

Energy Rebate Programs

- Energy Efficient Home Rebate
- Solar PV Rebate
- Commercial Lighting Rebate
- Shade Tree Rebate

Water Rebate Programs

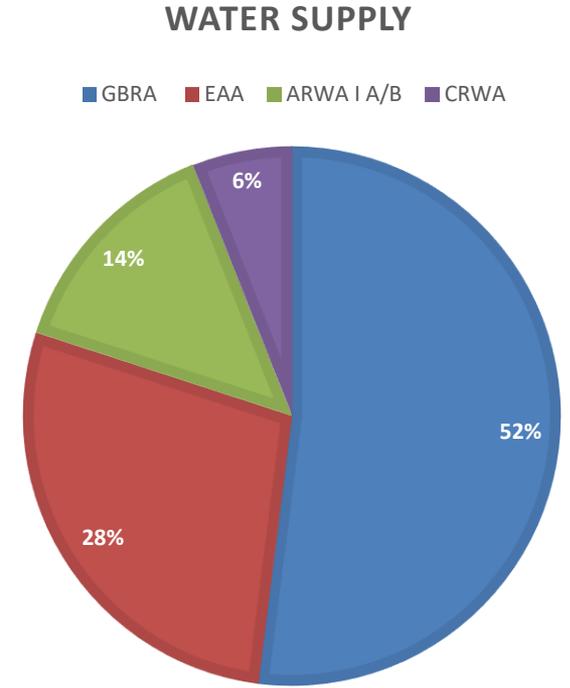
- Rainwater Harvesting Rebate
- Soil Saver Rebate
- Irrigation System Upgrade Rebate



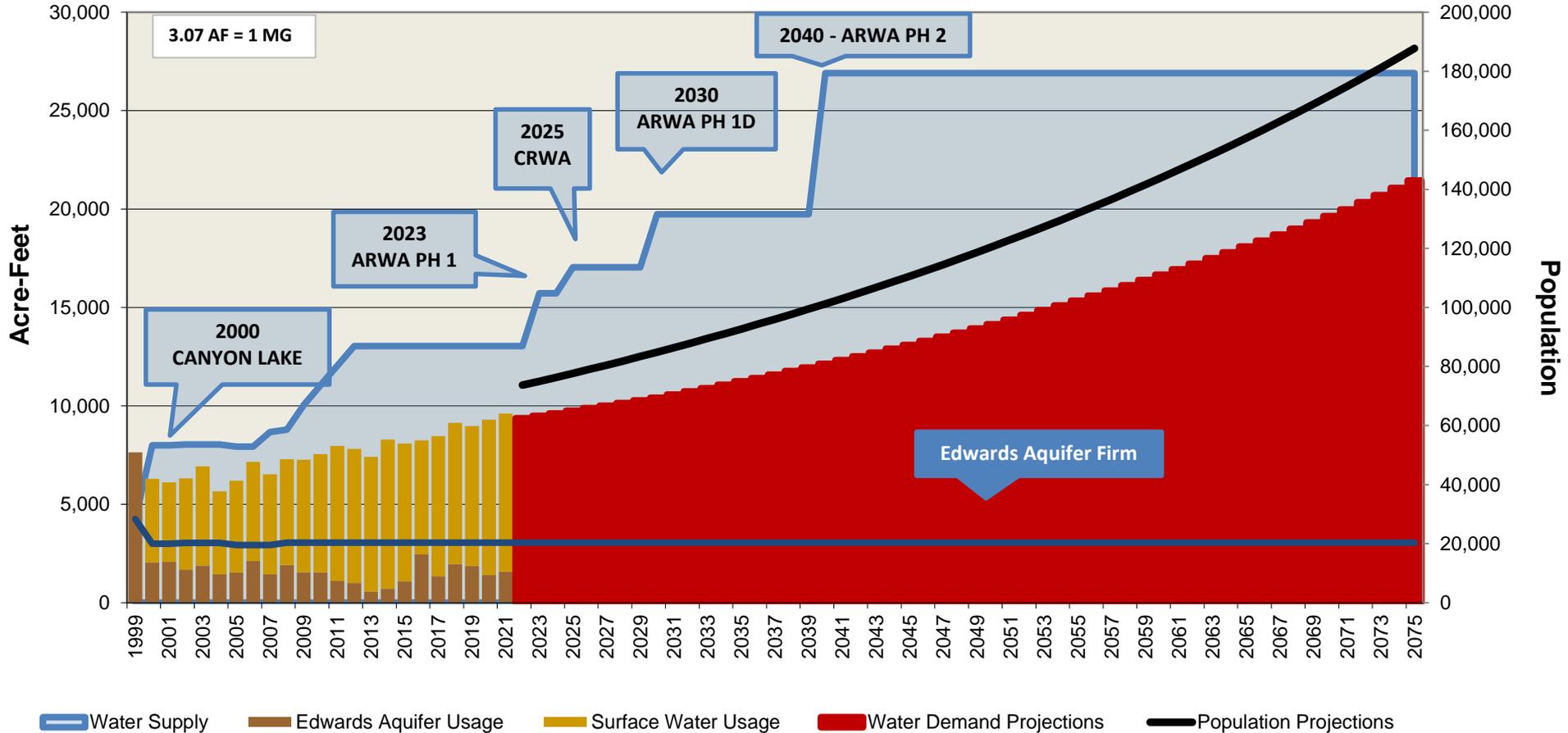


Water Supply Diversification

- **Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA)**
- **Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA)**
- **Alliance Regional Water Authority (ARWA)**
- **Canyon Regional Water Authority (CRWA)**
- **17.25 million gallons daily maximum capacity**
- **9.5 million gallons daily average for 2023**



City of San Marcos Water Supply vs Demand



Current Drought Stages

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
Irrigation with hose sprinklers	1 day/week	1 day/week	1 day every other week	1 day every other week	Prohibited
Irrigation with auto sprinklers	1 day/week	1 day/week	1 day every other week	1 day every other week	Prohibited
Irrigation with drip or soaker	Any day and time	Any day, designated times	Any day, designated times	1 day/week, designated hours	1 day every other week
Hand watering	Any day and time	Any day and time	Any day and time	Any day, designated times	1 day/week, designated hours
Home car washing	1 day/week	1 day/week	1 day/week	1 day/week	Prohibited
Swimming pools	Required covering	Required covering	Required covering	No drain and refill of existing	No filling of new and no drain and refill of existing

Implementation of Drought Stages



Currently based solely on Edwards Aquifer levels; proposed rules are based on any one or more of the following:

- **Availability of various supplies (EAA and GBRA reductions)**
- **Drought and weather conditions (NOAA Drought Monitor)**
- **Water system demands and usage (consumption vs capacity)**
- **Production or distribution system limitations (major main breaks)**
- **Water quality or distribution system emergencies (pump failures)**

Drought Stages



Current rules have 5 stages, proposed rules reduce to 3 stages

- **Stage 1 – Sprinklers 2 days per week; added weekend watering day**
- **Stage 2 – Sprinklers still 1 day per week**
- **Stage 3 – Sprinklers still 1 day every other week**
- **Remove Stage 2 from current ordinance**
- **Remove Stage 4 from current ordinance**

Drought Stages (proposed)



	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Irrigation with sprinklers	2 days/week	1 day/week	1 day every other week
Irrigation with drip or soaker	Any day and time	Any day, designated times	1 day/week, designated times
Hand watering	Any day and time	Any day and time	Any day, designated times
Home car washing	1 day/week	1 day/week	Prohibited
Swimming pools	Should be covered	No drain and refill of existing	No filling of new and no drain and refill of existing sanmarcostx.gov

Implementation of drought stages



Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
EAA and/or GBRA triggers included in total capacity	EAA and/or GBRA triggers included in total capacity	EAA and/or GBRA triggers included in total capacity
Weather conditions indicate high use likely to continue	Weather conditions indicate water shortage will exist for 7 or more days	Extreme weather conditions indicate water shortage will exist for 7 or more days
Average daily consumption exceeds 70% of available production capacity for 7 days	Average daily consumption exceeds 75% of available production capacity for 7 days	Average daily consumption exceeds 80% of available production capacity for 7 days
Minor issue with capacity of well or pump	Major issue with capacity of well or pumps	Storage levels can't be maintained; demands exceed high service pump capacity

Proposed Updates



- **Definitions – add, remove, cleanup, clarification**
- **Hose-end vs automatic sprinklers – same times for both**
- **Weekday variance - Remove**
- **Drought notices – Updated methods to include press release and website**
- **CIP projects if it affects the health or safety of the public may be approved by the Engineering/CIP Director**



Next steps

- **March 19 – Work Session**
- **Today – First reading**
- **April 16 – Second reading and adoption of revised Water Conservation and Drought Response Plans**
- **May 1 – submittal of approved plans due to TCEQ/TWDB**

Questions

