

CSWR- South Carolina Drought Management and Response Plan

Template Provided by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources as required by the South Carolina Drought Response Act of 2000.

Utility Name:	
PWSID	
Location:	
County:	
Telephone Number:	



Completed by:

11/5/2024





Drought Management Plan

Section I: Declaration of Purpose and Intent

The _____ is one a CSWR – South Carolina owned facility. CSWR – South Carolina understands the fundamental need to make efficient use of the limited and valuable water resources under its stewardship to protect the public’s health and safety and environmental integrity. The purpose of this document is to establish a plan and procedures for managing water demand and evaluating supply options before and during a drought- related water shortage. The intent is to satisfy the requirements of the Drought Response Act of 2000 (Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, Section 49-23-10, et seq., as amended) with the goal of achieving the greatest public benefit from domestic water use, sanitation, and fire protection and to provide water for other purposes in an equitable manner. Therefore, CSWR - SC has adopted this Drought Management and Response Plan to provide the policies to fulfill this obligation. The Drought Management Plan outlines the framework by which CSWR - SC will internally prepare for water shortages.

Section II: Definition of Terms

For the purposes of this Plan, the following definitions will apply:

Aesthetic Water Use: Water use for ornamental or decorative purposes such as fountains, reflecting pools and waterfalls.

Commercial and Industrial Use: Water use integral to the production of goods and/or services by any establishment having profit as its primary aim.

Conservation: Reduction in water use to prevent depletion or waste of the resource.

Customer: Any person, company or organization using finished water owned or supplied by the CSWR - SC.

Domestic Water Use: Water used for personal needs or for household purposes such as drinking, bathing, heating, cooking, sanitation or for cleaning a residence, business, industry or institution.

Drought Alert Phases: There are four drought alert phases to be determined by the Drought Response Committee for the State of South Carolina. The four phases are:

- 1) Incipient Drought
- 2) Moderate Drought
- 3) Severe Drought
- 4) Extreme Drought



Drought Response Management Areas: There are four drought management areas corresponding to the major river basins in South Carolina. The four areas are:

- 1) West or Savannah
- 2) Central or Santee
- 3) Northeast or Pee Dee
- 4) Southern or Ashepoo, Combahee, and Edisto.

CSWR - SC is located in the **Central or Santee** drought management area.

To prevent overly broad response to drought conditions, drought response measures shall be considered within individual drought management areas or within individual counties, as applicable.

Drought Response Committee: A committee composed of State and local representatives created for the purpose of coordinating responses to water supply shortages within Drought Management Areas and making recommendations for action to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and/or the Governor. The Committee is composed of State agency representatives from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division of the Office of the Adjutant General, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, South Carolina Department of Agriculture, South Carolina Forestry Commission, and South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, as well as local committees representing counties, municipalities, public service districts, private water suppliers, agriculture, industry, domestic users, regional councils of government, commissions of public works, power generation facilities, special purpose districts and Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Essential Water Use: Water used specifically for firefighting, maintaining in-stream flow requirements and satisfying Federal, State or local public health and safety requirements.

Finished Water: Water distributed for use after treatment. The terms “water use,” “water user,” and “water customer” refer to finished water use unless otherwise defined.

Institutional Water Use: Water used by government, public and private educational institutions, churches and places of worship, water utilities, and organizations within the public domain.

Irrigation Water Use: Water used to maintain gardens, trees, lawns, shrubs, flowers, athletic fields, rights-of-way and medians.

Non-essential Water Use: Categories of water use other than Essential Water Use. Examples of non-essential water use include landscape irrigation and the washing of buildings, parking lots, automobiles, etc.

Residential Equivalent Unit (REU): An equivalency unit defined to be equal to one single- family residence.

SC Dept. of Natural Resources: The State agency with primacy to implement the provisions of the Drought Response Act.

Water Supply Shortage: Lack of adequate, available water caused by drought to meet normal demands.



Section III: Drought Management Plan

A. Introduction

To ensure that CSWR - SC adequately manages its water system during drought-related conditions, an organized plan is necessary for system operation and reliability, proper communications, effective coordination and ultimate allocation of water use. Prior planning will complement CSWR - SC ability to respond to drought conditions.

B. Designation of Water System Drought Response Representative

Administering a Drought Plan requires the skills needed to undertake a comprehensive public information program and the judgement required to deal with equity issues arising from implementation of a mandatory program. Someone who has these skills will be selected by the water system to manage the water system’s program and serve as the principal contact for the news media as the water system’s Drought Response Representative. The Drought Response Representative for CSWR - SC is:

Joe Johnson

EHS – Compliance Coordinator

Email: jjohnson@cswrgroup.com

O: (314) 380 – 9498 ext. 148

1630 Des Peres Rd., Ste. 140, Des Peres, MO 63131

www.centralstateswaterresources.com

C. Description of Water System Layout, Water Sources, Capacities and Yields

Rockford Place is located in the Central Drought Response Management Area of South Carolina.

The system serves: _____ (include general description of service area and number of active customers).

Briefly, describe the layout of the water system:

_____ (include pumping capability, elevated and ground storage capacity, reservoir capacity, aquifer storage and recovery capability, main transmission piping and plant capacity).

The water supply sources available to the system are: _____ (e.g. river, reservoir, 2 wells 250 feet deep).

The SCDHEC total permitted capacity of the water system operated by _____ (water system) is _____ gallons per day.



If the system produces drinking water from various sources, provide the SCDHEC permitted capacity for each source:_____.

D. Identification of Water System Specific Drought or Water Shortage Indicators

Operators of every water system must develop historical trends that are valuable indicators of a system’s ability to meet demand when demand begins to outpace supply. Rockford Place has developed triggers for use during drought or demand water shortages that describe when specific phases of the Drought Response Plan implemented.

All CSWR – South Carolina systems, including Rockford Place will utilize the maps and resources provided by the SC State Climate Office and the Drought Committee to determine the current drought phase triggers. CSWR – South Carolina will convene an internal Drought Committee meeting each April to determine roles and responsibilities for the next 12 months. CSWR-South Carolina will designate someone to regularly monitor drought conditions on the website. South Carolina Drought Response Committee uses these seven indices and indicators to determine the current drought status.

<http://www.scdrought.com/>

Unless there is an immediate and extreme reduction in water production, or other absolute necessity to declare an emergency or severe condition, the utility will initially declare Stage 1 restrictions. If, after a reasonable period of time, demand is not reduced enough to alleviate outages, reduce the risk of outages, or comply with restrictions required by a court, government agency or other authority, Stage 2 may be implemented with Stage 3 to follow if necessary.

Stage 1: Moderate Drought Phase

The Moderate Drought Phase response actions will be initiated when the Drought Response Committee publishes or otherwise notifies CSWR – South Carolina that Lexington County has entered this status in accordance with the seven indices and indicators used to determine Drought Phases.

Severe Drought Phase (include the relevant following examples:)

The Severe drought Drought Phase phase response actions will be initiated when the Drought Response Committee publishes or otherwise notifies CSWR – South Carolina that Lexington county has entered this status in accordance with the seven indices and indicators used to determine Drought Phases.

Extreme Drought Phase (include the relevant following examples:)

The Extreme Drought Phase response actions will be initiated when the Drought Response Committee publishes or otherwise notifies CSWR – South Carolina that Lexington county has entered this status in accordance with the seven indices and indicators used to determine Drought Phases.



E. Cooperative Agreements and Alternative Water Supply Sources

Successful drought management requires a comprehensive program by the water utility. In many situations administrative agreements are required with other agencies to fully implement the Plan. Agreements with other water purveyors may be necessary for alternative water supply sources. Other agreements that strengthen conservation efforts by large users may be necessary. Rockford Place will pursue Alternative Water Supply Agreements when the system enters the Moderate Drought Phase.

F. Description of Pre-Drought Planning Efforts

Before the occurrence of a water supply shortage and the need to implement emergency provisions, it is important that certain pre-response measures be taken with the aim of conserving the system's source water, as well as the water distributed to the customer. In regard to the conservation measures listed below, Rockford Place will take the following actions:

1. Identification of all major water users of the system.
2. Identification of those users with whom Rockford Place may develop conservation agreements.
3. A vigorous public education program is critical for achieving substantial water use reductions. An effective public outreach program will keep the public informed about the water supply situation, what actions will mitigate drought emergency problems, and how well the public is doing in terms of meeting the program goals. Keeping the public involved, informed, and participating in the decision-making process is key to implementing an effective Drought Management Plan.

Rockford Place will periodically provide the public with information about the Plan, including information about the conditions under which each stage of the Plan is to be initiated or terminated and the drought response measures to be implemented in each stage. Drought plan information will be provided directly to the customer via notification letters that include a link to the Drought Management Plan on CSWR – South Carolina's webpage and specific conservation measure required based on the current Drought Phase.

G. Description of Capital Planning and Investment for System Reliability and Demand Forecasting

Water utilities routinely find that capital improvements to the system strongly enhance their ability to get through times of drought. It is important that every water utility aggressively plan and build for future needs. The utility must continue to provide system operation flexibility, improved pumping and storage capacity and new technologies to meet the demands of tomorrow.

Capital improvements planned for CSWR - SC focus on water conservation through distribution system improvements to eliminate leaks. CSWR - SC conservation will also benefit from the planned installation of automated smart meter technology to better track customer water use.



Drought Response Plan

A. Moderate Drought Phase

Upon notification by the Drought Response Committee that a Moderate drought condition is present and is expected to persist, CSWR - SC will seek voluntary reductions from its customers in the use of water for all purposes and voluntary reductions on using water during certain peak water demand periods. Specifically, the goal during this phase is to achieve a reduction of 20% in residential water use and 15% in other water uses such as commercial, industrial, institutional and irrigation; and a reduction in overall water use of 15%. To accomplish this, CSWR - SC will take the following actions:

- 1) Issue a Proclamation to be released to local media, CSWR - SC customers and to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Drought Information Center that Moderate drought conditions are present.
- 2) Provide written notification to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Drought Information Center and direct notification to customers in the service area requesting to follow during Moderate drought conditions conservation measures, including:
 - **Restricted Hours:** Outside watering is allowed daily, but only during periods specifically described in the customer notice; between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. for example.
 - **Restricted Days/Hours:** Water customers are requested to voluntarily limit the irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems. Customers are requested to limit outdoor water use to **Mondays for water customers with a street address ending with the numbers 1, 2, or 3, Wednesdays for water customers with a street address ending with the numbers 4, 5, or 6, and Fridays for water customers with a street address ending with the numbers 7, 8, 9, or 0.** Irrigation of landscaped areas is further limited to the hours of 12:00 midnight until 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight on designated watering days.
- 3) Intensify maintenance efforts to identify and correct water leaks in the distribution system.
- 4) Cease to install new irrigation taps on the water system.
- 5) Continue to encourage and educate customers to comply with voluntary water conservation. Upon initiation and termination of Stage 2, the utility will mail a public announcement to its customers encouraging the following voluntary water use restrictions.



B. Severe Drought Phase

Upon notification by the Drought Response Committee that a Severe drought condition is present and is expected to Rockford Water Supply will seek voluntary reduction in the use of water for all purposes and restrictions on non-essential usage and restrictions on times when certain water usage is allowed. Specifically, the goal during this phase is to achieve a reduction of 25% in residential water use, 20% in all other water use categories, and a reduction in overall water use of 20%. To accomplish these goals, Rockford Place will take the following actions:

- 1) Issue a Proclamation to be released to the local media, Rockford Place's customers and to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Drought Information Center that Severe drought conditions are present.
- 2) Provide written notification to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Drought Information Center and direct notification to customers in the service area requesting them to follow Severe drought conditions conservation measures, including:
 - Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems **shall be limited to Mondays for water customers with a street address ending with the numbers 1, 2, or 3, Wednesdays for water customers with a street address ending with the numbers 4, 5, or 6, and Fridays for water customers with a street address ending with the numbers 7, 8, 9, or 0.** Irrigation of landscaped areas is further limited to the hours of 12:00 midnight until 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight on designated watering days. However, irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at any time if it is by means of a hand-held hose, a faucet-filled bucket or watering can of five (5) gallons or less, or drip irrigation system.
 - Eliminate the use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. Such washing, when allowed, shall be done with a hand-held bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle for quick rinses. Vehicle washing may be done at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service station. Further, such washing may be exempted from these regulations if the health, safety, and welfare of the public are contingent upon frequent vehicle cleansing, such as garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.
 - Eliminate the use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or a Jacuzzi type pool are prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight.
 - Cease operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a recirculation system.
 - Limit the use of water for the irrigation of golf courses, parks, and green belt areas are prohibited except by hand-held hose and only on designated watering days between the hours 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight.



C. Extreme Drought Phase

- 1) Issue a Proclamation to be released to the local media, Rockford Place's customers and to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Drought Information Center that Severe drought conditions are present.
- 2) Provide written notification to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Drought Information Center and direct notification to customers in the service area requesting them to follow Severe drought conditions conservation measures, including:
 - Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems **shall be limited to Mondays for water customers with a street address ending with the numbers 1, 2, or 3, Wednesdays for water customers with a street address ending with the numbers 4, 5, or 6, and Fridays for water customers with a street address ending with the numbers 7, 8, 9, or 0.** Irrigation of landscaped areas is further limited to the hours of 12:00 midnight until 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight on designated watering days. However, irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at any time if it is by means of a hand-held hose, a faucet-filled bucket or watering can of five (5) gallons or less, or drip irrigation system.
 - Eliminate the use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. Such washing, when allowed, shall be done with a hand-held bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle for quick rinses. Vehicle washing may be done at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service station. Further, such washing may be exempted from these regulations if the health, safety, and welfare of the public are contingent upon frequent vehicle cleansing, such as garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.
 - Eliminate the use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or a Jacuzzi type pool are prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight.
 - Cease operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a recirculation system.
 - Limit the use of water for the irrigation of golf courses, parks, and green belt areas are prohibited except by hand-held hose and only on designated watering days between the hours 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight.
 - Eliminate the following uses of water are defined as non-essential:
 - i. wash down of any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
 - ii. use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than



- immediate fire protection;
 - iii. use of water for dust control;
 - iv. flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
 - v. Failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s).
- Reduce use of water by commercial and individual customers including, but not limited to, the following:
 - i. Stop serving water in addition to another beverage routinely in restaurants;
 - ii. Stop maintaining water levels in scenic and recreational ponds and lakes, except for the minimum amount required to support aquatic life;
 - iii. Limit irrigating golf courses and any portion of its grounds;
 - iv. Cease water service to customers who have been given a 10-day notice to repair one or more leaks and have failed to do so; and
 - v. Limit expanding commercial nursery facilities, placing new irrigated agricultural land in production or planting or landscaping when required by site design review process.
- 3) Intensify maintenance efforts to identify and correct water leaks in the distribution system.
- 4) Expand the use of education and public relations efforts and emphasize the potential for penalties associated with violating the mandatory restrictions.
- 5) Provide written notification monthly to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Drought Information Center regarding the success of the conservation measures.

D. Rationing

If a drought threatens the protection of public health and safety, Rockford Place will pursue option to ration customer water use.

E. Enforcement of Restrictions

CSWR – South Carolina and Rockford Place is a privately held, investor-owned utility governed by the South Carolina Public Service Commission that does not possess the authority to pass a local Ordinance governing water use restrictions and penalties. Rockford Place was acquired by CSWR – South Carolina in 2023 and currently operates under the authority of the tariff that existed at that time (issued to previous owner). That tariff does not provide the authority to impose mandatory restrictions or penalties. When the tariff is amended CSWR – South Carolina will include reference to this Drought Management and Response Plan, which may be amended to include the mandatory restrictions and penalties.

