

Drought Contingency Plan

Mesquite Groundwater Conservation District

Revised June 23, 2016

Reviewed July 22, 2017

Reviewed July 12, 2018

Reviewed August 1, 2019

Reviewed July 30, 2020

Reviewed July 8, 2021

Drought triggers for groundwater resources will be based upon precipitation recorded at the Mesonet Station in Memphis, Texas.

Precipitation at less than 50 percent of the 30-year average for the month and 55 percent of the 30-year average of the preceding twelve months triggers the Alert Stage of drought response.

Precipitation at less than 25 percent of the 30-year average for the month and 45 percent of the 30-year average of the preceding twelve months triggers the Warning Stage of drought response.

When the Alert Stage and/or Warning Stage drought conditions have been triggered as described above, the District will notify all affected entities in the District. Those entities then exercise their authority to implement their own drought contingency plans as they deem appropriate.

Drought is a normal, recurrent feature of climate. It is temporary aberration, and differs from aridity, which is a permanent feature of climate in low rainfall regions. Mesquite Groundwater Conservation District is located in an arid region that also experiences drought.

Drought response conservation measures typically used in other regions (i.e. rationing) cannot be applied to agriculture uses in this region due to their extreme economic impact potential. The District Board recognizes that irrigated agriculture provides primary economic stability to the communities within the District. Periods of precipitation shortage are the periods when agriculture has the greatest need for groundwater. Therefore, the District Board adopts the official position that, in times of precipitation shortage, irrigated agricultural producers will not be limited to any less usage of groundwater than is provided by District rules.

The District stresses groundwater conservation measures at all times. During times of drought, the District will encourage more stringent conservation measures, where practical, but will not limit groundwater use in any way not already provided in the District rules.