

**ORDINANCE No. O-2026-08**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NOS: O-2024-18, O-2022-47 AND O-2019-26 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PHARR CHAPTER 130, UTILITIES, ARTICLE IV, WATER, DIVISION 1. EMERGENCY CONSERVATION, SECTION 232, ADOPTING THE AMENDED WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN, ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR INITIATION AND TERMINATION OF WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT RESPONSE STAGES; PROVIDING FOR WATER ALLOCATION DURING SHORTAGES; PROVIDING FOR PENALTY OF UP TO \$2,000.00; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; PROVIDING PROCEDURES FOR GRANTING VARIANCES; FOR SEVERABILITY; ORDAINING OTHER PROVISION RELATED TO THE SUBJECT MATTER; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF PHARR, TEXAS:**

**SECTION 1: City of Pharr, Texas Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Purpose

This document provides a revised and updated Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan for the City of Pharr, Texas, replacing the adopted 2019 Plan. The adoption of the new plan is to stay in compliance with TAC Title 30 Part 1 Chapter 288 Subchapter A (§288.2), B (§288.20) and C (§288.30). And maintain compliance with TAC Title 31 Part 10 Chapter 363 Subchapter A Division 2 (§363.15) to meet requirements for financial assistance with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

The current extended drought affecting the watershed of the middle and lower Rio Grande has underscored the importance of water conservation and drought contingency planning to the City of Pharr. Water conservation and drought preparedness are

essential if the City's to continue to meet its responsibility to provide adequate future water supplies for its citizens. The Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan will serve to extend the City's available water supply, decrease water losses and waste, and will provide procedures for responding to and coping with drought and other water supply emergencies.

### 1.2 Location and Size of City

The City of Pharr, Texas is located in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas at the intersection of US Highway 281 and 83. The current service area size is 23 square miles with 415.30 miles of water lines and 301.67 miles of sanitary sewer lines.

### 1.3 Population

The City of Pharr's current population is 79,715 as per the 2020 Decennial Census Data, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau. The projected population growth is shown below in Table 1.

Table 1. City of Pharr's Projected Growth

Year	2021 Regional Water Plan	2020 Water Master Plan
2020	89,220	79,714
2030	110,785	97,491
2040	132,436	116,545
2050	154,131	135,635
2060	175,826	154,727
2070	196,917	173,288

## 2.0 WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND

### 2.1 Raw Water Supply

The City of Pharr has a contract with the Hidalgo Irrigation County District No. 2 (HCID 2), at a cost of \$0.178 per 1000 gallons of water metered delivered. It delivers the raw water supply from the Rio Grande River via canal system to the City's owned reservoir, which has a 70 Million Gallons (MG) capacity. The raw water from the reservoir then flows through a 36" gravity line to the City of Pharr Water Treatment Plant intake wet well. The City currently has a total of 10,639.377 acre-feet of water rights available as of January 2024. Additionally, the City of Pharr Water Treatment Plant has a Gulf Aquifer Emergency Groundwater well, it averages a total of 900 gpm or approximately 1.3 MGD.

### 2.2 Description of Water Treatment, Storage and Distribution Facilities

The City owns and operates a Surface Water Treatment Plant originally built in 1984 at a 4 MGD capacity, in 1997 it was expanded to 10 MGD and lastly in 2014 it was

expanded and designed to treat 17.5 MGD of Surface Water and 1.5 MGD of Groundwater, setting a total production capacity of 19.0 MGD. It consists of a raw water pump station, 5-clarifiers, 1-rapid mix basin, 19 filters, one 1-MG clear well, two 2-MG ground storage tanks, and a high service pump station. The City of Pharr's Distribution System consists of approximately 415.30 miles of water lines ranging from 2"-30" and four elevated storage tanks, at a total of 3.25 MG elevated storage (one 0.5-MG, one 0.75-MG, and two-1.0 MG). The City of Pharr has enough storage capacity until the year 2035.

### 2.3 Water Demand

In the calendar year (CY) 2023, the water treatment plant treated approximately 2.913 billion gallons (8941.58 acre-feet) of raw water. It averaged 7.92 MGD and a maximum average use peak day of 11.70 MGD on August 17th, 2023. The City of Pharr has an approximate population of 79,715. The average residential gallons per capita per day (gpcd) used during the CY 2023 was approximately 97 gpcd, and for CY 2022, was 96 gpcd. Compared with an estimated statewide average municipal use of 134 gpcd in 2018 (TWDB, "2018 per Capita Water Use State Average"). The City's consistent average water use for the last three (3) years is in part due to continued mandatory conservation efforts implemented by the city, however with a continued population growth and economic development, water demand will increase especially during the summer. Based on historical data, a 2.46% projected growth will increase water demand to 3.058 billion gallons per year (9,387.4 acre-feet) in 2025, and 3.454 billion gallons per year (10,601.7 acre-feet) in 2030. At the City's current water rights standing at 10,639.377 acre-feet and projected water demand growth the City of Pharr will be challenged to meet future water demands.

### 2.4 Water Rates and Revenues

The City of Pharr currently applies Inclining/Inverted Block Water Rates, as per June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, the following are the water rates Inside City Limits (ICL) and Outside City Limits (OCL):

Table 2.1. Water Base Fee

Meter Size	Residential ICL	Residential OCL	Senior	Commercial
5/8" or 3/4"	\$ 20.81	\$ 22.38	\$ 9.03	\$ 40.79
1"	\$ 20.91	\$ 22.50	-	\$ 46.91
1 1/2"	\$ 21.13	\$ 22.77	-	\$ 54.11
2"	\$ 33.98	\$ 36.57	-	\$ 80.54
3"	\$ 47.08	\$ 50.68	-	\$ 122.10
4"	\$ 72.16	\$ 77.70	-	\$ 208.18
6"	\$ 118.30	\$ 127.41	-	\$ 354.84
8"	-	-	-	\$ 528.00

Table 2.2. Water Consumption Rates

Inc./ Inv. Block Gallons	Residential ICL	Residential OCL	Senior	Commercial
1 – 3,000	\$ 1.84	\$ 2.63	\$ 1.66	\$ 2.46
3,001 – 6,000	\$ 2.02	\$ 2.89	\$ 1.66	\$ 2.46
6,001 – 20,000	\$ 2.39	\$3.42	\$ 1.66	\$ 2.46
20, 001+	\$ 2.77	\$ 3.96	\$ 1.66	\$ 2.68

*Rate for every 1,000 gallons*

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 - 2023 total water revenue was \$9.516 million dollars.

### 3.0 WASTEWATER FACILITIES

#### 3.1 Description of Wastewater Treatment Plant and Wastewater Collection System

The City of Pharr’s Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) began treatment operations in 1966 as a trickling filter plant. It was expanded in:

- 1974, addition of a second trickling filter train and sludge digester.
- 1986, addition of a 2.25 MGD carrousel extended aeration system, the trickling filter operation ceased.
- 1997, addition of a 2.75 MGD second carrousel extended aeration system.
- 2011, the following upgrades were done to increase permitted design flow to 8.0 MGD: addition of biological treatment train, with two Modified Ludzack-Ettinger (MLE bioreactors) and two clarifiers were constructed. Additionally, a new influent wastewater screen, effluent filtration system, ultra-violet (UV) disinfection system, and other plant improvements were included.

The Wastewater Collection System consists of 34 lift stations, and approximately 301.67 miles of sanitary sewer lines with pipes sizes ranging from 6” to 42”.

#### 3.2 Sewer Rates and Revenues

The City of Pharr current sewer rates, as per June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, are the following:

Table 3. Sewer Rates

Type	Residential	Senior	Commercial
Base Fee	\$18.91	\$9.03	\$40.39
Consumption Rate	\$1.23	\$0.77	\$2.22

*Rate for every 1,000 gallons*

During FY 2022-2023 total sanitary sewer revenue was \$6.751 million dollars.

**4.0 WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

**4.1 Water Conservation Goals**

The City of Pharr’s goals with respect to water conservation are to achieve the 5-year and 10-year targets for water savings listed in Table 4. It includes quantified 5-year and 10-year targets for total, residential and water loss in gallons per capita per day (GPCD). The 5-yr goals listed in this table were determined based on projected water demands, RWP projected population, and 8% total water loss of total system input volume for 2029 and 2034. These goals will be evaluated on the efforts and results of the 5-year targets.

Table 4. Water Conservation Goals

Description	Historic 5 yr Average	Baseline	5- yr target	10-yr target
Total GPCD	94	94	85	87
Residential GPCD	59	59	53	55
Water Loss GPCD	8	8	7	7

*GPCD: gallons per capita per day*

The goals listed above will be reached through improvement of water use accounting, replacement of old water lines, meter repair, meter efficiency testing, meter replacement, and record keeping (fire department, city’s street sweeper, and city’s vactor trucks use.) Additionally, increase beneficial reuse of effluent from City’s wastewater treatment plant, enhance public education on water conservation and continue enforcement of existing plumbing codes. The challenges facing these goals will be the hot weather conditions and rapidly increased population.

**4.2 Water Conservation Program**

The following actions will be taken by the City of Pharr to accomplish the goals mentioned above:

**A. Public Education and Awareness**

Public education and awareness are an essential component of the City’s water conservation program. The objective is to communicate to the City’s residents the need for and benefits of water conservation and to provide useful consumer-oriented information on water conservation practices and technologies. The City will obtain and disseminate such information through a variety of avenues including:

- Providing water conservation literature to new utility customers at the time they apply for service, to utility customers reporting high water use, and the utility sales office on continuing basis.

- Providing consumer tips on water conservation in Consumer Confidence Report to be made available on the Public Utilities website annually; notify residents via social platforms and through their monthly water bill.
- Providing literature on xeriscape landscaping and the use of native plants and grasses to reduce lawn water demands.
- Presentation at different civic organizations, city events, and schools.

The City of Pharr will make educational resources available on their Public Utilities website from TCEQ, TWDB and EPA. It will also continue to utilize social platforms to make public service announcements. Provide water conservation literature to all education facilities in our community. Lastly, continue to educate the public during community events.

## **B. Plumbing Fixture Efficiency Standards**

In 1991, the Texas Legislature passed legislation requiring that plumbing fixtures sold in Texas after January 1, 1992, meet the following standards:

- Shower Heads: No more than 2.50 gallons per minute at 80 pounds per square inch of pressure.
- Laboratory/Sink Faucets and Aerators: No more than 2.2 gallons per minute at 60 pounds per square inch of pressure.
- Wall mounted, Flushometer Toilets: No more than 2.0 gallons per flush
- All other Toilets: No more than 1.6 gallons per flush
- Drinking Water Fountains: Must be self-closing

The City of Pharr adopted the International Plumbing Code, most recent edition excluding A, promulgated by the International Code Council as the City of Pharr Plumbing Code (*Ord. No. O-95-04, § 1, 1-3-95*). And the International Residential Code, most recent edition, with Appendixes A through Q, excluding L and I as the City of Pharr Residential Code (*Ord. No. O-2000-45, § 1, 10-3-00*). Additionally, it placed the following Building(s) regulations:

- Swimming Pools: Adoption of International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (*Ord. No. O-91-19, § 1, 6-18-91; Ord. No. O-2013-32, § 1, 9-3-13*).
- Irrigation System: Water conservation means the design, installation, service, and operation of an irrigation system in a manner that prevents the waste of water, promotes the most efficient use of water, and applies the least amount of water that is required to maintain healthy individual plant material or turf, reduce dust, and control erosion (*Ord. No. O-2009-24, § 1, 7-21-09*)

The use of water efficient plumbing fixtures in new construction is expected to significantly reduce per capita water use and wastewater flow over time. These savings will occur "passively" as a consequence of new development and as old inefficient plumbing fixtures continue to wear out and are replaced. Water savings

associated with high efficiency plumbing fixtures are not dependent on conscious effort by the customer to modify water use behaviors.

### **C. Plumbing Fixture Retrofit and Replacement**

The City will encourage the retrofit and/or replacement of older, inefficient plumbing fixtures and appliances through the public education and awareness activities described above. Emphasis will be placed on the expected cost saving and payback periods through reduced water, wastewater, and energy costs. Additionally, the City will continue to replace inefficient plumbing fixtures in all city-owned facilities.

### **D. Water Rate Structure**

The current Incline/Inverted Block Water Rate structure will continue to significantly encourage water conservation efforts from residential, commercial customers and thus resulting sustainability for future growth.

### **E. Metering and Repair**

Metering all water services is an effective means of improving and maintaining control of water system operations and provides the basis for efficient and equitable cost recovery. Metering provides a database for system performance monitoring, for planning future facilities, and for assessing the effects of water conservation measures. Metering also improves accountability for both water deliveries and for unaccounted for water losses. The City of Pharr meters all water accounts, including those serving city facilities.

In April 2010 the City conducted a Meter Management Audit by JBS Associates. The audit included recommendations that are now being implemented such as testing meters annually and every two years depending on usage and age of the meter. Rule of thumb, if a 5/8" -3/4" meter has over a 1,000,000-gallon usage or over 15 years that meter should be changed; however, the City of Pharr follows a 10-year replacement. Periodic testing will be conducted every year on approximate 0.5% of the 3/4" meter for efficiency verification. Meters found to be outside these parameters (+/- 5%) will be replaced. Master Meters (raw water meter and high service meters) at the Water Treatment Plant are tested annually by a third party and results are reported to staff in writing and are filed for at a period of five years. Master meters which are not within +/- 5% of standard will be repaired and/or replaced. The City will continue to follow the recommendations from Meter Management Audit.

### **F. Leak Detection, Repair, and Water Loss Record Keeping**

The 2018 City of Pharr Water System Master Plan recommended improvements are primarily driven by the need to replace mains within the City that are in poor conditions or asbestos cement (AC) pipes regardless of size. The replacement of AC mains should be automatically programmed to any street improvement project. It also recommends any street improvement work should include removing and replacing any AC Mains if they exist within the boundaries of the project.

When unaccounted water loss is greater than 15% annually, the City of Pharr will evaluate and determine if a systematic leak survey of the water distribution system is required and proceed accordingly. The City of Pharr Public Utilities has implemented recorded keeping of water usage of fire fighter department, street sweeper use, vactor truck use, and flushing of water mains. These accounting will allow the City of Pharr to better estimate actual water losses and will aid in evaluating the costs and benefits associated with leaks detection and the repair or replacements of main waterlines. Annual top-down audits will be conducted by the Public Utilities staff, they will utilize these records and their institutional knowledge to provide an overall picture of water loss during the year. Monthly tracking will allow for a more accurate unaccounted water loss.

#### **G. Water Conserving Landscaping**

At this time the City does not have landscaping restrictions for the purpose of water conservation, however, it will continue to encourage its residents to adopt water efficient landscaping practices through its public information program. The City encourages and supports the use of xeriscape landscaping techniques. The Public Utilities staff distribute xeriscape literature and lawn watering methods at community events.

#### **H. Water Reuse**

The City uses non-potable reclaimed wastewater effluent for facility wash-downs and chlorination at the wastewater treatment plant. The effluent basin accommodates 6" pump that provides non-potable reuse water to the City's golf course for irrigation purpose. The City is also looking at potential use of non-potable reuse water for various city services such as city street sweepers, city vactor truck and construction water tanks trucks.

#### **I. Means of Implementation and Enforcement**

An ordinance by the City Commission has been approved adopting this water conservation plan (Appendix D). The City's Public Utilities Department and City Manager will have primary responsibility for implementing the plan. The Public Utilities Department will be responsibility for keeping records of the implementation to verify water loss annually through top-down audits. (See 4.2F and 4.2K). These records will be compared to the goals stated above. The City's Police Department, Fire Department, Code Compliance, and Public Utilities staff will have enforcement powers in accordance with the Drought Contingency Plan Ordinance.

#### **J. Wholesale Water Contracts**

The City of Pharr will require, through contractual agreement, that any political subdivision or public water supplies contracting with City for wholesale water supply or wastewater services either (1) adopt the provisions of the City's water conservation and drought contingency plan; or (2) develop and adopt a plan which meets the

requirements of the TWDB or TCEQ. Currently the City of Pharr does not service continued wholesale water, only as needed.

#### **K. Record Management System**

The City of Pharr record of management includes purchased water, treated water and billed water. It classifies its water services by residential customers, residential senior, commercial, and institutional (church, school, and city). Based on the type of record keeping the system as established would allow us to keep track of the effectiveness of our annual goals. As mentioned on Section 4.2 F top-down audit will give us general knowledge if we meet our annual goal. Even though no monthly goals are established, we believe setting the annual goal will set the margin to meet a monthly goal. With better record keeping as mentioned above we can continue to track our progress in meeting our goals in Section 4.1 annually.

#### **4.3 Reporting**

The City of Pharr will continue its water conservation programs indefinitely and will report to the Executive Administrator of the TWDB on the implementation and status of the City's water conservation programs. The City is obligated to the TWDB under TAC Title 31 Part 10 Chapter 363 Subchapter A, Division 2 (§363.15) to submit an annual report. The annual report will be completed and submitted as required by the TWDB to determine the City's compliance with the Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan.

#### **Drought Contingency Plan**

City of Pharr

P.O Box 1729 Pharr 78577

CCN# 11918

PWS # 1080009

September 18, 2025

The City of Pharr Drought Contingency Plan ("Plan" or "DCP") has been developed and adopted to establish a protocol for conserving water supply during emergency drought conditions and water shortages.

#### **Section I: Declaration of Policy, Purpose, and Intent**

In compliance with Texas Water Code Chapter 11 and Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 288, the Plan is to be adopted with the intent of preserving the reliability and stability of public water facilities while mitigating impacts of an emergency water shortage. The Plan prioritizes the protection of public health, welfare, and safety through

maintaining domestic water usage, sanitation services, and fire protection. The City of Pharr hereby adopts the following regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water.

## **Section II: Public Involvement**

The City of Pharr provided an opportunity for the public to provide input during the Plan development through public meetings, bill inserts, and public notices posted on City of Pharr website and physically at official buildings.

## **Section III: Public Education**

Following adoption, continued education to inform customers of any changes to the Plan and to continuously increase awareness of triggers, response measures, and importance of the plan will be conducted through:

- *Social media posts*
- *Bill inserts*
- *Public notices*
- *Press releases*
- *Public Events*
- *Other: Public service announcements and public utilities website.*

## **Section IV: Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups**

The City of Pharr is located within the Region M Water Planning Group. A copy of the approved City of Pharr Drought Contingency Plan will be shared with Region M upon adoption.

## **Section V: Authorization**

The City Manager of the City of Pharr is authorized to determine the appropriate water conservation stage and implement the corresponding provisions as outlined in this Plan. Similarly, the City Manager of the City of Pharr is authorized to initiate or terminate the drought or other water supply emergency response measures as outlined in this Plan.

The provisions of this Plan may be amended, supplemented, changed, or repealed at any time during a duly called, noticed, and convened meeting of the City Manager of the City of Pharr.

## **Section VI: Application**

The provisions of the City of Pharr DCP apply to all persons, customers, and property utilizing water services provided by City of Pharr. The terms "person" and "customer" as used in the Plan include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

The highest priority for water usage during all stages is the protection of public health, welfare, and safety by providing water for human consumption, sanitation services, fire protection, and when alternative water sources are not available, the watering of livestock.

## **Section VII: Definitions**

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

Aesthetic water use: water use for ornamental or decorative purposes such as fountains, reflecting pools, and water gardens.

Commercial and institutional water use: water use which is integral to the operations of commercial and non-profit establishments and governmental entities such as retail establishments, hotels and motels, restaurants, and office buildings.

Conservation: those practices, techniques, and technologies that reduce the consumption of water, reduce the loss or waste of water, improve the efficiency in the use of water or increase the recycling and reuse of water so that a supply is conserved and made available for future or alternative uses.

Customer: any person, company, or organization using water supplied by the City of Pharr.

Domestic water use: water use for personal needs or for household or sanitary purposes such as drinking, bathing, heating, cooking, sanitation, or for cleaning a residence, business, industry, or institution.

Even number address: street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8 and locations without addresses.

Foundation watering: an application of water to the soils directly abutting (within 2 feet) the foundation of a building, structure.

Industrial water use: the use of water in processes designed to convert materials of lower value into forms having greater usability and value.

Landscape irrigation use: water used for the irrigation and maintenance of landscaped areas, whether publicly or privately owned, including residential and commercial lawns, gardens, golf courses, parks, and rights-of-way and medians.

Non-essential water use: water uses that are not essential nor required for the protection of public, health, safety, and welfare, including:

- a) irrigation of landscape areas, including parks, athletic fields, and golf courses, except otherwise provided under this Plan;
- b) use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle;

- c) use of water to wash down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
- d) use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
- e) flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
- f) use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools or Jacuzzi-type pools;
- g) use of water in a fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes except where necessary to support aquatic life;
- h) failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and
- i) use of water from hydrants for construction purposes or any other purposes other than firefighting.

Odd numbered address: street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9.

### **Section VIII: Criteria for Initiation and Termination of Drought Response Stages**

The City Manager or his or her designee shall monitor water supply and demand conditions on a monthly basis and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the plan. Notification will be made through major media outlets and mailings. The designated City of Pharr representative will notify water users when water use restrictions have been eased due to lessening of drought conditions.

The triggering criteria described below are based on the level of the United States share of water in the Falcon-Amistad Reservoirs as reported by the TCEQ Rio Grande Watermaster, and demand on the municipal system capacity. The stages of the drought plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased for a period of three (3) consecutive days. Any one of the triggers listed below may cause the utility to initiate water restrictions. Please refer to Table 1: Demand, Supply and Emergency Triggers.

As of September 2025, the City of Pharr Water Treatment Plant Total System Treatment Capacity: 19.0 MGD, rated/rerated in 2019.

Table 1: Demand, Supply and Emergency Triggers

TYPE	TRIGGER	ACTION
<b>DEMAND TRIGGERS</b>	Water demand reaches or exceeds sixty-eight percent (68%) of delivery capacity for three (3) consecutive days ( <i>currently 13 MGD</i> )	City of Pharr may enact Stage Two water restrictions
	Water demand reaches or exceeds seventy-four percent (74%) of delivery capacity for three (3) consecutive days ( <i>currently 14 MGD</i> )	City of Pharr may enact Stage Three water restrictions
	Water demand reaches or exceeds seventy-nine percent (79%) of delivery capacity for three (3) consecutive days ( <i>currently 15 MGD</i> )	City of Pharr may enact Stage Four water restrictions
	Water demand reaches or exceeds eighty-four percent (84%) of delivery capacity at any time ( <i>currently 16 MGD</i> )	City of Pharr may enact Stage Five water restrictions
<b>STAGE ONE WATER RESTRICTIONS AT ALL TIMES UNLESS:</b>		
<b>SUPPLY TRIGGERS</b>	Reservoir levels of Amistad/Falcon reach forty percent (40%) of capacity	City of Pharr may enact Stage Two water restrictions
	Reservoir levels of Amistad/Falcon reach thirty percent (30%) of capacity	City of Pharr may enact Stage Three water restrictions
	Reservoir levels of Amistad/Falcon reach twenty percent (20%) of capacity	City of Pharr may enact Stage Four water restrictions
	Reservoir levels of Amistad/Falcon reach fifteen percent (15%) of capacity	City of Pharr may enact Stage Five water restrictions
<b>EMERGENCY TRIGGER</b>	As determined by City Manager, including but not limited to system outage, equipment failure, or supply source contamination	Reduce water use to levels deemed necessary

**Section IX: Drought Response Stages**

The City Manager, or his/her designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis and, in accordance with the triggering criteria set forth in Section VIII of this Plan, shall determine that a mild, moderate, severe, critical,

emergency or water shortage condition exists and shall implement the following notification procedures:

### **Notification**

#### Notification of the Public:

The City Manager or his/ her designee shall notify the public by means of:

- a) City Website/Social Media
- b) publication in a newspaper of general circulation, direct mail to each customer,
- c) public service announcements,
- d) signs posted in public places

#### Additional Notification:

The City Manager or his/ her designee shall notify directly, or cause to be notified directly, the following individuals and entities:

- 1) Mayor / Chairman and members of the City Council
- 2) Fire Chief (s)
- 3) City and/or County Emergency Management Coordinator(s)
- 4) County Judge & Commissioner(s)
- 5) State Disaster District / Department of Public Safety
- 6) TCEQ (required when mandatory restrictions are imposed)
- 7) Major water users
- 8) Critical water users, i.e. hospitals
- 9) Parks /street superintendents & public facilities managers

### **Stage One: Voluntary Conservation**

Voluntary conservation is the first stage of the conservation program and is always in force unless a higher stage is required and enacted. During Stage One, City of Pharr will aim to reduce per capita consumption by one percent (1%). The public is requested to voluntarily limit the amount of water used and only use the amount absolutely necessary for health, business, and irrigation. Notice of such request shall be given by the City Manager through appropriate circulars, television, radio, and newspaper media at his or her discretion.

Water customers are requested to voluntarily limit the amount of water used for all activities, including but not limited to the following water uses:

- a. Designated irrigation days: Sundays and Thursdays for customers with a street address ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6, or 8). And Saturdays and Wednesdays for water customers with a street address ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7, or 9). Landscape irrigation by means of a hand-held hose or using drip irrigation system is exempt from these requirements.
- b. Washing of automobiles, trucks, trailers, motorbikes, boats, airplanes, and other types of mobile equipment on designated irrigation days.

- c. Filling or refilling of residential swimming and/or wading pools;
- d. Irrigation of golf course tee boxes, greens, and fairways;
- e. Operation of ornamental fountains;
- f. Use of water from fire hydrants for activities unrelated to firefighting;
- g. Wash down of any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
- h. Wash down of buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection; and
- i. Flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street.

### **Stage Two: Mandatory Compliance Water Alerts**

During Stage Two, City of Pharr will aim to reduce per capita consumption by three percent (3%). The following restrictions shall apply to all persons:

Irrigation of outdoor vegetation shall be limited except for during the days and times as provided in this section and in such zones as designated herein. Irrigation by drip method or hand-held buckets is permitted at any time in any zone.

#### **Schedule:**

- a. Landscape Irrigation is only to be conducted during the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. on designated irrigation days.
- b. The washing or sprinkling of foundations is only to be conducted on designated irrigation days, as those for landscape irrigation between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- c. The washing of automobiles, trucks, trailers boats, airplanes and other types of mobile equipment is only to be conducted on designated irrigation days between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. Such washing, when allowed, shall be done with a handheld bucket or a handheld hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle for quick rinses.

Exception: Washing may be done at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial carwash or commercial service station. Further, such washing may be exempted from this recommendation if the health, safety and welfare of the public is contingent upon frequent vehicle cleaning, such as garbage trucks and vehicles to transport food and perishables.

d. The refilling or adding of water to residential swimming and/or wading pools is only to be conducted on designated irrigation days between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m.

e. The operation of any ornamental fountain, pond, or other structure making similar use of water for scenic or aesthetic purposes is only to be conducted between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. Fountains or structures with a recirculation system, as well as water use to support aquatic life, are exempt from this recommendation.

f. The use of water for irrigation for golf greens, fairways, and tee boxes is only to be conducted on designated irrigation days between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. Provided, however, any golf course utilizing wastewater effluent or raw water is exempted from this provision.

g. Use of water from fire hydrants shall be limited to firefighting and related activities, and/or other governmental use activities necessary to maintain the health, safety, and welfare of the City of Pharr.

h. Use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection is only to be conducted between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m.

The following uses of water are defined as waste of water and are prohibited:

1. Flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
2. Failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s);
3. Washing sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts or other paved areas, except to alleviate immediate fire hazards; and
4. Use of water for dust control.

In addition to the above restrictions, all water customers are requested to voluntarily limit any other water use to only the amount which is absolutely necessary for health or business purposes.

### **Stage Three: Mandatory Compliance Water Warning**

During Stage Three, the following restrictions apply. In this stage, City of Pharr will aim to reduce per capita consumption by five percent (5%), or two percent (2%) greater than Stage Two. All elements of Stage Two, shall remain in effect in Stage Three except that:

- a. Irrigation of any outdoor vegetation is only to be conducted on the designated irrigation days and only during the hours of 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. on such designated days. Irrigation by drip or hand-held buckets is permitted at any time.

b. The operation of any ornamental fountain, pond, or other structure making similar use of water for scenic or aesthetic purposes is prohibited. Fountains or structures with a recirculation system, as well as water use to support aquatic life, are exempt from this restriction.

c. Use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection is prohibited.

d. All other water restrictions listed under Stage Two's schedule remain in effect with a reduced designated watering period between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. on designated irrigation days. Water use for those purposes outside of this period is prohibited.

Any person who violates this Plan is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50.00 dollars and not more than \$2,000.00 dollars.

#### **Stage Four: Mandatory Compliance Water Shortages**

During Stage Four, the following restrictions apply. In this stage, City of Pharr will aim to reduce per capita consumption by ten percent (10%), or five percent (5%) greater than Stage Three. All elements of Stages Two and Three shall remain in effect in Stage Four with the following additional restrictions:

##### **Schedule:**

a. All outdoor irrigation of vegetation shall be allowed only between the hours of 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. on designated irrigation days and shall be by means of hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, or drip irrigation only. The use of hose-end sprinklers or permanently installed automatic sprinkler systems are prohibited at all times.

b. The washing of automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats, airplanes, and other types of mobile equipment not occurring upon the immediate premises of commercial carwashes and commercial service stations and not in the immediate interest of the public health, safety and welfare is prohibited.

c. Car washes and commercial service stations in the immediate interest of public health, safety and welfare shall be limited to ninety percent (90.0%) of their monthly average usage based on the last twelve (12) billing periods for each of such customer.

d. Commercial nurseries, commercial sod farmers, and similarly situated establishments shall water only on designated irrigation days between the hours of 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. and shall use only handheld hoses, drip irrigation systems, or handheld buckets.

e. The filling refilling, or adding of water, except to maintain the structure integrity of the pool, to swimming and/or wading pools is prohibited.

f. All watering of golf course fairways, greens, and tee boxes is prohibited unless done with treated wastewater, reclaimed water, or well water.

Any person who violates this Plan is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50.00 dollars and not more than \$2,000.00 dollars.

### **Stage Five: Mandatory Compliance Water Shortage Emergency**

During Stage Five, the following restrictions shall apply. All elements of Stages Two through Four, including the goal of ten percent reduction (12%) of water use per capita, shall remain in effect in Stage Five except that:

- a. No applications for new, additional, further expanded, or increased-in-size water service connections, meters, service lines, pipeline extensions, mains, or other water service facilities of any kind shall be allowed, approved or installed except as approved by the City of Pharr.
- b. All allocations of water use to non-essential industrial and commercial customers, such as restaurant water service and misters, shall be reduced to amounts as established by the City of Pharr.
- c. No bulk water sales shall be made from the City of Pharr or other sources for any purpose when such water will be transported by a tanker truck or similar type vehicle.
- d. All filling, refilling, and adding water to residential swimming and/or wading pools is absolutely prohibited.
- e. The maximum monthly water use allocation for residential customers may be established with revised rate schedules and penalties by the City Commissioners on recommendation by the City Manager. Irrigation is permitted only by:
  - i. Handheld or faucet filled bucket;
  - ii. Continuously handheld hoses;
  - iii. Drip irrigation during the hours from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., once every ten (10) days, by a schedule established by the City Manager.
- f. The washing of automobiles, trucks, trailers boats, airplanes, and other types of mobile equipment not occurring upon the immediate premises of commercial carwashes and commercial service stations and not in the immediate interest of the public health, safety and welfare shall be prohibited.

Any person who violates this Plan is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50.00 dollars and not more than \$2,000.00 dollars.

## **Stage Six: Water Allocation**

During Stage Six, the following restrictions shall apply, in addition to all elements of Stages Two through Five. In the event that water shortage conditions threaten public health, safety, and welfare, the City Manager is hereby authorized to allocate water according to the following priorities so that the remaining water is available for essential health- and safety-related uses. The priority list for water use during severe drought will be the following:

- Priority 1 – Hospitals and Medical Facilities, including Dialysis Centers
- Priority 2 – Emergency Water Facilities
- Priority 3 – Fire Protection
- Priority 4 – Residential
- Priority 5 – Schools
- Priority 6 – Industrial
- Priority 7 – Commercial
- Priority 8 – Recreation/Aesthetics

## **Section X: Additional Water Sources**

The City of Pharr will take necessary measures to acquire an additional water source such as adjoining water suppliers and reservoirs.

## **Section XI: Review Committee – Formation, Powers and Duties**

Upon approval of this Drought Contingency Plan, the City Manager will establish a **Review Committee** to review hardship and special cases involving customers, persons, or property utilizing the City of Pharr's water that cannot abide by the provisions of this plan. The Review Committee will consist of the City Manager, Public Utilities Director, and a member/ customer chosen by the City Commissioners. The Public Utilities will be the Chairman of the Review Committee, and the designee will be the Vice-Chairman.

All requests for a variance to the provisions of this Plan must be submitted to the Review Committee in writing and must state the circumstances supporting the request. The Review Committee is authorized to grant variances from the provisions of this Plan if, owing to peculiar circumstances, an undue hardship will result, and the granting of the variance will not be contrary to the public interest.

All decisions of the Review Committee will be reported to the City Commissioners at the next regularly scheduled Meeting. If the Review Committee denies a request for a variance, an appeal can be made to the City Commissioners at the next regularly scheduled meeting. If a protest is received after the granting of a variance, the Review Committee will refer the protest to the City Commissioners at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The decisions of the City Commissioners are final.

## **Section XII: Variances**

The City Manager, or his/her designee, may, in writing, grant temporary variance for existing water uses otherwise prohibited under this Plan if it is determined that failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the health, sanitation, or fire protection for the public or the person requesting such variance and if one or more of the following conditions are met:

- a. Compliance with this Plan cannot be technically accomplished during the duration of the water supply shortage or other condition for which the Plan is in effect.
- b. Alternative methods can be implemented which will achieve the same level of reduction in water use.

Persons requesting an exemption from the provisions of this Ordinance shall file a petition for variance with the City of Pharr within 5 days after the Plan or a particular drought response stage has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the City Manager, or his/her designee, and shall include the following:

1. Name and address of the petitioner(s).
2. Purpose of water use.
3. Specific provision(s) of the Plan from which the petitioner is requesting relief.
4. Detailed statement as to how the specific provision of the Plan adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with this Ordinance.
5. Description of the relief requested.
6. Period of time for which the variance is sought.
7. Alternative water use restrictions or other measures the petitioner is taking or proposes to take to meet the intent of this Plan and the compliance date.
8. Other pertinent information.

No variance shall be retroactive or otherwise justify any violation of this Plan occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.

All decisions of the Review Committee will be reported to the City Commissioners at the next regularly scheduled meeting. If the Review Committee denies a request for a variance, an appeal can be made at the next regularly scheduled meeting. If a protest is received after the granting of a variance, the Review Committee will refer the protest to the City Commissioners at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The decisions of the Commissioners are final.

## **Section XIII: Violations, Penalties, and Enforcement**

- a. No person shall knowingly or intentionally allow the use of water from the City of Pharr's system for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, governmental, or any other purpose in a manner contrary to any provisions of this Plan.

b. Any person who violates this Plan will be issued a warning on the first offense, any person who violates this Plan thereafter is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50.00 dollars and not more than \$2,000.00 dollars. Each day that anyone or more of the provisions of this Plan are violated will constitute a separate offense. Upon receiving a notice of violation on the second offense, the customer's meter is subject to being locked. If a customer receives a notice of violation for two or more distinct violations in any one-day period, the City Manager will, upon due notice, be authorized to discontinue water service to premises where the violations occurred, and a fee will be required to be paid before service is restored. Should any person or customer receive a third notice of violation, water service will be discontinued, and a flow restriction device will be installed at the customer's meter at the customer's expense, and a second fee will be required to be paid before service is restored. Should a customer's water service be discontinued for a third time, then the fee for restoring water service shall be doubled.

1. For any customer whose meter equivalent is 1, water service will be restored after the first disconnection for a fee of \$30.00. For any customer whose meter equivalent is more than 1, water service will be restored after the first disconnection for a fee of \$30.00 per meter equivalent. After the second disconnection, water service will be restored only after a second fee of \$30.00 per meter equivalent has been paid and a flow restriction device has been installed at the customer's meter at the customer's expense. This device will remain connected to the customer's meter until the Corporation returns to Stage 2 or less. After the third disconnection, water service will be restored only after a third fee of \$30.00 per meter equivalent has been paid.

2. The above surcharges and termination provisions will not apply if the water used resulted from a loss of water (i.e., water leak) through no fault of the customer. The customer will have to prove that immediate steps were taken to correct the leak after its discovery and that the customer was not in any way negligent in causing or permitting the loss of water.

c. Any City of Pharr employee from Police Department, Fire Department, Code Compliance or Public Utilities Department may issue a notice of violation to a person he/she reasonably believes to have committed a violation of this Plan. The notice of violation will be prepared in duplicate and will contain the name of the member and the tenant, if any, the address, the alleged violation, and the date.

d. The customer in apparent control of the property where a violation occurs or originates will be presumed to be the violator, but the customer will have the right to show that he/she did not commit the violation. The customer will be presumed to be responsible for minor children and for anyone residing in the customer's household who commits a violation.

## **SECTION 2 – CUMULATIVE**

That except as herein amended, this Ordinance shall be cumulative of all other

ordinances and said Ordinances shall remain in full force and effect, unimpaired hereby.

**SECTION 3 – EFFECTIVE DATE; PUBLICATION**

The Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval on three (3) separate readings in accordance with Section 8, Article 3 of the Charter of the City of Pharr, Texas. Publication, if necessary, may also be in caption form as allowed under Section 9 of the Pharr City Charter.

**SECTION 4 – PROPER NOTICE AND MEETING**

It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this Ordinance was passed was open to the public and that public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

**PASSED AND APPROVED ON THE FIRST READING BY THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF PHARR, TEXAS, on this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2026.**



CITY OF PHARR

\_\_\_\_\_  
AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
IMELDA PEREZ, CITY CLERK

**PASSED AND APPROVED ON THE SECOND READING BY THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF PHARR, TEXAS, on this the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.**



CITY OF PHARR

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AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
IMELDA PEREZ, CITY CLERK

**PASSED AND APPROVED ON THE THIRD AND FINAL READING BY THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF PHARR, TEXAS, on this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.**



CITY OF PHARR



AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
IMELDA PEREZ, CITY CLERK