



# **Drought Contingency Plan for a Wholesale Public Water Supplier**

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

October 30, 2024

Name: Central Texas Regional Water Supply Corp. (Vista Ridge)  
(CTRWSC)

Address: 11010 Coachlight Street, Suite 202  
San Antonio, Texas 78216

Telephone Number: (512) 718-9298 Fax: (623) 587-1044

Public Water System No.(s): TX0260051

Regional Water Planning Group: South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group  
(Region L)

Form Completed by: Stefan Schuster

Title: Director of Operations

Person responsible for  
implementation: Stefan Schuster  
Director of  
Operations Phone: (512) 718-9298

Signature: Date: 11/01/2024

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

In order to conserve the available water supply and/or to protect the integrity of water supply facilities, with particular regard for domestic water use, sanitation, and fire protection, and to protect and preserve public health, welfare, and safety and minimize the adverse impacts of water supply shortage or other water supply emergency conditions, Central Texas Regional Water Supply-Vista Ridge, adopts the following Drought Contingency Plan (the Plan).

### **System Description:**

CTRWSC-VISTA RIDGE PWS: (TX0260051) consisting of eighteen wells (up to two additional planned) with 975-3,300 gpm capacity (each), pumping from nine wellfields in the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer in far-western Burleson County. Treatment includes six cooling towers and prior injection of sodium hypochlorite for disinfection. CTRWSC-VISTA RIDGE (TX0260051) consists of three 4 million-gallon storage tanks, additional sodium hypochlorite injection, three high service pump stations, and a 143-mile transmission pipeline. The pipeline begins at the High Service Pump Station (HSPS), and crosses portions of Burleson, Lee, Bastrop, Caldwell, Guadalupe, and Bexar counties- terminating in San Antonio, Texas. Existing well capacity is 48.6 million gallons per day (pumps alternated). Groundwater withdrawal is based on an agreement between CTRWSC-VISTA RIDGE and Blue Water Vista Ridge, LLC, which holds leased water rights limited to 44.6 million gallons per day (approximately 50,000 acre-feet/year). It should be noted that the water supply is derived from groundwater, which is not readily impacted by drought. Furthermore, the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer is one of the largest and best-producing in the State and, at the maximum withdrawal allowed by the leased water rights, the system production would only be a small fraction of the annual recharge to the aquifer. At present, CTRWSC-VISTA RIDGE has one wholesale customer: (i) San Antonio Water System(SAWS) (see attached system diagram & regional site map)

## **Section II: Public Involvement**

Opportunity for the wholesale water customer to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by CTRWSC-VISTA RIDGE by sending a draft to the wholesale customer inviting comment.

## **Section III: Wholesale Water Customer Education**

CTRWSC-VISTA RIDGE will periodically provide the wholesale water customer 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. This information will be provided by means of providing a copy of this plan to the wholesale water customer.

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

The water service area of CTRWSC-VISTA RIDGE is located within the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region L). The water source is located within the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District and Groundwater Management Area 12 (GMA 12) all of whom have been provided a copy of this Plan.

## **Section V: Authorization**

The Operations Director or his/her designee, is hereby authorized and directed to implement the applicable provisions of this Plan upon determination that such implementation is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. The Operations Director, or his/her designee, shall have the authority to initiate or terminate drought or other water supply emergency response measures as described in this Plan.

## **Section VI: Application**

The provisions of this Plan shall apply to all customers utilizing water provided by CTRWSC-VISTA RIDGE Project Inc. The terms “person” and “customer” as used in the Plan include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

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

The Operations Director, or his/her designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a monthly basis and shall determine if and when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the Plan. Customer notification of the initiation or termination of drought response stages will be made by email with at least 48 hours in advance of any announcement.

### **Stage 1 Trigger -- MODERATE Water Shortage Conditions**

Requirements for initiation – CTRWSC-VISTA RIDGE will recognize that a moderate water shortage condition exists when water production and/or conveyance is reduced as a result of inadequate groundwater supply subject to Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District management recommendations.

Requirements for termination - Stage 1 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist. CTRWSC-VISTA RIDGE will notify its wholesale customer of the termination of Stage 1 per the criteria stated in Section VII.

### **Stage 2 Trigger -- SEVERE Water Shortage Conditions**

Requirements for initiation – CTRWSC-VISTA RIDGE will recognize that a severe water shortage condition exists when water production and/or conveyance is reduced as a result of inadequate groundwater supply subject to Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District management recommendations.

Requirements for termination - Stage 2 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist. CTRWSC-VISTA RIDGE will notify its wholesale customer of the termination of Stage 2 per the criteria stated in Section VII.

### **Stage 3 Trigger -- CRITICAL Water Shortage Conditions**

Requirements for initiation - CTRWSC-VISTA RIDGE will recognize that a critical water shortage condition exists when major water line breaks, extreme drought declaration, pump and/or system failures occur, which cause unprecedented loss of capability to provide water service; or natural or man-made contamination of the water supply source occurs, rendering it unsafe for use.

Requirements for termination - Stage 3 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist. CTRWSC-VISTA RIDGE will notify its wholesale customers and the

media of the termination of Stage 3 per the criteria stated in Section VII.

### **Section VIII: Drought Response Stages**

The Operations Director, or his/her designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions and, in accordance with the triggering criteria set forth in Section VII, shall determine that a moderate, severe or critical water shortage condition exists and shall implement the following actions:

#### **Stage 1 Response -- MODERATE Water Shortage Conditions**

**Target: Adhere to Threshold Level 1 curtailment schedule as set forth by the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District. .**

**Best Management Practices for Supply Management:**

Request that the wholesale water customer initiate voluntary measures to reduce non-essential water use by implementing the appropriate stage of the wholesale customer's drought contingency plan.

**Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:**

(a) The Operations Director, or his/her designee(s), will contact the wholesale water customer to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions and will request that the wholesale water customer initiate voluntary measures to reduce non-essential water use by implementing the appropriate stage of the wholesale customer's drought contingency plan.

(b) The Operations Director, or his/her designee(s), will provide a weekly report to the wholesale water customer with information regarding current water supply and/or demand conditions, projected water supply and demand conditions if shortage conditions persist, and consumer information on water conservation measures and practices.

#### **Stage 2 Response -- SEVERE Water Shortage Conditions**

**Target: Adhere to Threshold Level 2 curtailment schedule as set forth by the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District. .**

**Best Management Practices for Supply Management:**

Request that wholesale water customer initiate mandatory measures to reduce non-essential water use by implementing the appropriate stage of the wholesale customer's drought contingency plan.

**Water Use Restrictions for Reducing Demand:**

(a) The Operations Director, or his/her designee(s), will contact wholesale water customers to discuss water supply and/or demand conditions and will request that wholesale water customers initiate mandatory measures to reduce non-essential water use by implementing the appropriate stage of the wholesale customer's drought contingency plan.

(b) The Operations Director, or his/her designee(s), will provide a weekly report to the wholesale

customer with information regarding current water supply and/or demand conditions, projected water supply and demand conditions if shortage conditions persist, and consumer information on water conservation measures and practices.

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### **Stage 3 Response -- CRITICAL Water Shortage Conditions**

**Target: Adhere to Threshold Level 3 curtailment schedule as set forth by the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District. .**

Whenever critical water shortage conditions exist as defined in Section VII of the Plan, the Operations Director shall:

1. Assess the severity of the problem and identify the actions needed and time required to solve the problem.
2. Inform the utility director or other responsible official of each wholesale water customer by telephone or in person and suggest actions, as appropriate, to alleviate problems (e.g., notification of the public to reduce water use until service is restored).
3. If appropriate, notify city, county, and/or state emergency response officials for assistance.
4. Undertake necessary actions, including repairs and/or clean-up as needed.
5. Prepare a post-event assessment report on the incident and critique of emergency response procedures and actions.

#### **Section IX: Pro Rata Water Allocation**

In the event that the triggering criteria specified in Section VII of the Plan for Stage 3 – Critical Water Shortage Conditions have been met, the Operations Director is hereby authorized to initiate allocation of water supplies on a pro rata basis in accordance with Texas Water Code, §11.039.

#### **Section X: Contract Provisions**

CTRWSC-VISTA RIDGE will include a provision in every wholesale water contract entered into or renewed after adoption of this Plan, including contract extensions, that in case of a shortage of water resulting from drought, the water to be distributed shall be divided in accordance with Texas Water Code, §11.039.

#### **Section XI: Enforcement**

Mandatory water use restrictions or pro rata allocation of available water supplies may be imposed during drought stages and emergency water management actions. CTRWSC-VISTA RIDGE, by virtue of controlling deliveries to its wholesale customers, may reduce deliveries on a pro-rata basis per Texas Water Code §11.039, and cease delivery of water completely if the situation requires.

#### **Section XI: Variances**

The Operations Director, or his/her designee, may, in writing, grant a temporary variance to the pro rata water allocation policies provided by this Plan if it is determined that failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the public health, welfare, or safety 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 Plan shall file a petition for variance with the Operations Director within 5 days after pro rata allocation has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the President of CTRWSC-VISTA RIDGE, and shall include the following:

- (a) Name and address of the petitioner(s).
- (b) Detailed statement with supporting data and information as to how the pro rata allocation of water under the policies and procedures established in the Plan adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with this Ordinance.
- (c) Description of the relief requested.
- (d) Period of time for which the variance is sought.
- (e) Alternative measures the petitioner is taking or proposes to take to meet the intent of this Plan and the compliance date.
- (f) Other pertinent information.

Variances granted by the President of CTRWSC-Vista Ridge shall be subject to the following conditions, unless waived or modified by the President of CTRWSC-Vista Ridge or their designee:

- (a) Variances granted shall include a timetable for compliance.
- (b) Variances granted shall expire when the Plan is no longer in effect unless the petitioner has failed to meet specified requirements.

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

## **Section XII: Severability**

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the President of CTRWSC-Vista Ridge that the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Plan are severable and, if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Plan shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this Plan, since the same would not have been enacted by the President of CTRWSC-Vista Ridge without the incorporation into this Plan of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section.

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Approved by President of CTRWSC-Vista Ridge on:  
November 14, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_ (title)

Copies of this Plan sent to the following via US Mail:

Steven Siebert, Manager Water Resources  
San Antonio Water System  
2800 U.S. Hwy. 281 North  
San Antonio, TX 78212

Mark Rose  
General Manger  
Central Texas Regional Water Supply Corporation  
11010 Coachlight Street, Suite 202  
San Antonio, Texas 78216

South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group  
c/o San Antonio River Authority  
100 East Guenther St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78283-9980

Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group  
c/o Lower Colorado River Authority  
3700 Lake Austin Blvd.  
Austin, TX 78703

Groundwater Management Area 12  
c/o Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District  
Gary Westbrook, General Manager  
P.O. Box 92  
Milano, TX 76556

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District  
Gary Westbrook, General Manager  
P.O. Box 92  
Milano, TX 76556



# Attachment 1 – System Diagram

