

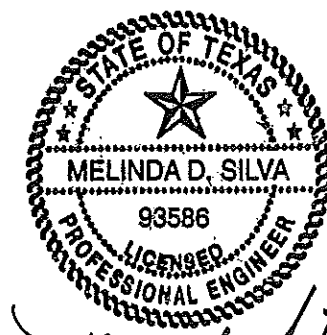
# North Fort Bend Water Authority



## Drought Contingency Plan

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**BROWN  
& GAY**  
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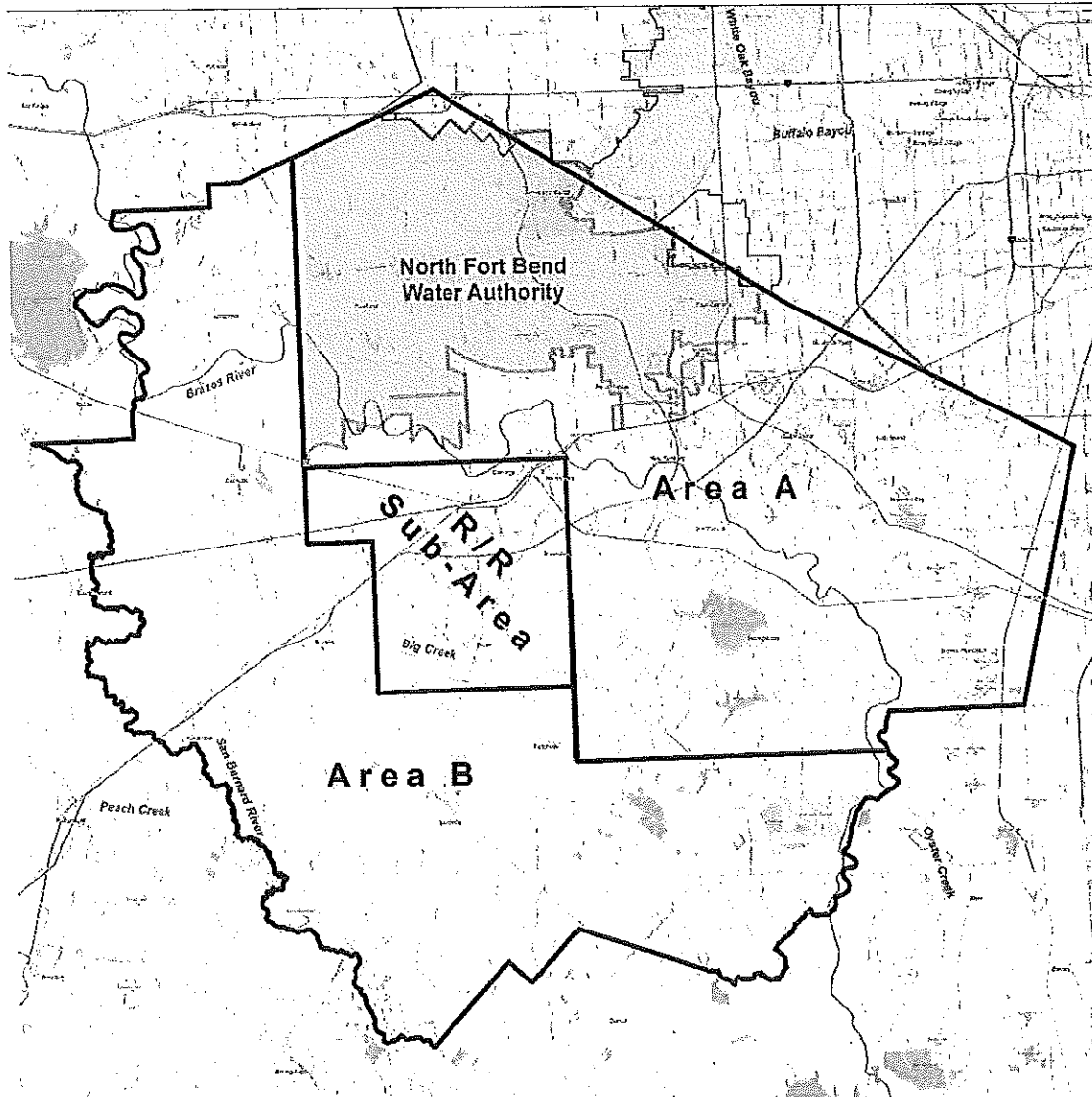
Figure 1 FBSD Regulatory Areas

# Section 1

## Declaration of Purpose and Intent

The service area of the North Fort Bend Water Authority (the Authority) is located in the northern portion of Fort Bend County. The Fort Bend Subsidence District (FBSD) divided Fort Bend County into three distinct areas in the 2003 District Regulatory Plan (DRP). These areas have different conversion goals and requirements. The Authority is located in Area A.

**Figure 1**  
**FBSD Regulatory Areas**



Entities within Regulatory Area A are required to submit a Groundwater Reduction Plan (GRP) beginning in 2008 in anticipation of regulations requiring the reduction of groundwater use starting in 2013. Beginning in 2013, groundwater use will be limited to 70% of the producer's total water demand. This amount will decrease to 40% by 2025. Regulation within the Richmond/Rosenberg Sub-Area will be delayed until 2015 but will follow the same patterns outlined for Area A. There are currently no regulations on groundwater use in Area B except that this water cannot be transferred into Area A. As shown in *Figure 1*, The Authority is contained within Area A, meaning that a water source other than groundwater will be required to meet 30% and 60% of the total water demand beginning in 2013 and 2025, respectively. These restrictions are intended to decrease permittee's dependence on groundwater in order to eliminate subsidence.

The Authority has identified the City of Houston (COH) as its source of water for long-term surface water supply. The Authority will receive all of its water from the COH and transmit the supply to its participants to meet the above mentioned conversion requirements. The Authority only provides a portion of the participant's water demands. The participant's water demands that are not met by the Authority's supply will be made up by the participant's groundwater supply wells.

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 adverse impacts of water supply or other water supply emergence condition, the Authority proposes the following Drought Contingency Plan (the DCP).

## Section 2 Application and Authorization

### **2.1 Application**

The provisions of this DCP shall apply to all participants within the boundary of the Authority and all contract participants.

### **2.2 Authorization**

The Authority's Operator shall monitor water supply on a daily basis and shall inform the Authority's Engineer if conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the DCP. The Engineer will notify the Authority's Board of Directors and all participants by mail or email of initiation.

### **2.3 Public Involvement and Education**

The Authority's Engineer will post the DCP on the Authority's website. Participants will have the opportunity to make comments regarding the plan on an annual basis.

## Section 3

# Criteria for Initiation and Termination of Drought Response Stages

The Operator for the Authority shall monitor water supply on a daily basis and report to the Authority's Engineer when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the DCP. Participant notification of the initiation or termination of drought response stages will be made by mail or email.

The triggering criteria described below are based on the relationship between the Authority and their participants and the COH. As mentioned earlier, the Authority receives all of their water supply from the COH and is therefore dependent upon their ability to supply water. The Authority in turn supplies their participants with a portion of the participants' demands. The Authority is not the sole source of water for their participants therefore the amount of water that the Authority provides to the participants is not based on water demand but based upon a set amount that is delivered daily. The Authority's contract with the COH allows them an initial water supply amount of 19.5 MGD which is then supplied to various participants based on FBSD conversion requirements. The majority of the Authority's participants are Municipal Utility Districts that have their own drought contingency plans.

Initial startup situation will be exempt from the following triggers. The startup between the COH and the Authority will have a six month exemption period from the following triggers. This will allow the Authority to correct any initial problems that might occur during their startup period. New MUDs and water plants will also be given a exemption period of sixty days from startup to correct any issues that occur while connecting to the Authority's system.

### **3.1 Stage 1 Triggers – MILD Water Shortage Conditions**

#### ***3.1.1 Requirements for Initiation***

The Authority will recognize that a mild shortage condition exists when the COH reduces the amount of water delivered to the Authority by 10% for a period of three consecutive days.

#### ***3.1.2 Requirements for Termination***

Stage 1 of the DCP may be rescinded when the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 15 consecutive days. The Authority will notify the participants of the termination of Stage 1 in the same manner as the notification of initiation of Stage 1 of the DCP.

## **3.2 Stage 2 Triggers – EMERGENCY Water Shortage Conditions**

### ***3.2.1 Requirements for Initiation***

The Authority will recognize that an emergency water shortage condition exists when either the COH cuts off 100% of the water supply to the Authority or if there is a complete pump system failure and the Authority is unable to pump water to the participants. One or the other of these situations must occur for a period of three consecutive days to qualify as an emergency water shortage condition and initiate Stage 2 of the DCP.

### ***3.2.2 Requirements for Termination***

Stage 2 of the DCP may be rescinded when the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 30 consecutive days. The Authority will notify the participants of the termination of Stage 2 in the same manner as the notification of initiation of Stage 2 of the DCP.

## Section 4 Drought Response Stages

If the water supply conditions warrant initiation of Stage 1 or Stage 2 conditions, then the Authority's Engineer shall implement the following actions.

### **4.1 Stage 1 Response – MILD Water Shortage Conditions**

The target for this stage will be to achieve a voluntary 10% reduction in daily water demand from the participants.

The Authority will contact the participants to discuss water supply and will request that the participants initiate voluntary measures to reduce water usage. The Authority will request that the Participants provide weekly reports that provide information on their water reduction while Stage 1 conditions exist.

### **4.2 Stage 2 Response – EMERGENCY Water Shortage Conditions**

#### **4.2.1 Response**

In the event that an Emergency Water Shortage Condition occurs the Authority will be forced to reduce the amount of water delivered to the Participants by 100%. The Authority will contact all the Participants and require that they initiate their existing DCP. The Participants will be required to make weekly reports to the Authority on the status of their DCP.

If Stage 2 is initiated due to a pump system failure then the Authority will assess the severity of the problem and identify the actions needed to rectify the problem in a timely manner.

After Stage 2 is terminated, the Authority will prepare a post-event assessment report and critique emergency procedures and actions. The assessment report shall provide recommendations to the emergency procedures and actions in future events.

#### **4.2.2 Enforcement**

If any participant fails to either initiate their existing DCP or make weekly reports to the Authority then the Authority will fine the participant \$1,000 and then \$500 for each additional week Stage 2 is implemented and the Participant fails to comply with the DCP.

### **4.2.3**     *Variances*

The Participants may, in writing, request a temporary variance to initiate their DCP. The Authority may grant the variance if it is determined that the Participant cannot initiate their DCP due to lack of funds or initiating their DCP might adversely affect public health, welfare, or safety.

Participants requesting an exemption shall file a petition for variance with the Authority's Engineer within 5 days after Stage 2 is initiated. The variance petition should include the following:

1. Name and address of the petitioner.
2. Detailed statement with supporting data and information for the reason of the petition.
3. Period of time for which the variance is sought.
4. Other pertinent information.