



# News Release

Austin Water Public Affairs Office

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 1, 2009

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jill Mayfield, Public Affairs Office  
City of Austin Water Utility  
(512) 972-0150; pager 802-8956

## **Austin Water Utility to Continue Stage 2 Mandatory Watering Restrictions**

Stage 2 Mandatory Outdoor Watering Restrictions will remain in place for Austin Water Utility (AWU) customers in spite of cooler temperatures and recent rains, AWU officials announced today.

In accordance with the Water Waste ordinance, October 1 is the day that Stage 1 residential watering restrictions—which begin every year on May 1—would have been lifted. However, because of the severe drought in Central Texas, Stage 2 restrictions will stay in place until further notice for both residential and commercial/multifamily customers.

Stage 2 restrictions began on August 24 in response to recommendations made by the Lower Colorado River Authority because the combined lake storage levels of Lakes Travis and Buchanan dropped below the trigger point of 900,000 acre-feet.

“To lift restrictions we will need to see lake volumes rise above that trigger point, and continue in that direction,” said Daryl Slusher, AWU Assistant Director for Environmental Affairs and Conservation.

Since the restrictions started 131 citations have been issued and the 3-1-1 Call Center has received over 4,000 water-related calls. Violating mandatory watering restrictions is a Class C misdemeanor with fines up to \$500. To report water waste, residents should call 3-1-1.

“Citizens have responded to the restrictions and reduced their water use by over 20 percent. I am confident that they will continue to follow the Stage 2 restrictions,” said Slusher.

RESIDENTIAL ODD ADDRESS	RESIDENTIAL EVEN ADDRESS	COMMERCIAL, MULTIFAMILY ODD ADDRESS	COMMERCIAL, MULTIFAMILY EVEN ADDRESS
AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION SYSTEMS: BEFORE 10 A.M. HOSE-END SPRINKLERS, SOAKERS: BEFORE 10 A.M. or AFTER 7 P.M.			
Saturday	Sunday	Tuesday	Friday

### **Stage 2 Mandatory Water Restrictions**

- Requires residential and commercial water customers to follow a once-per-week watering schedule.
- Limits automatic irrigation systems to operation between the hours of midnight and 10 a.m. on designated days.
- Limits residential vehicle washing to designated days and times and prohibits charity car washes.
- Automatic fill valves for pools or ponds should be turned off.
- No outdoor fountains should be used except to provide aeration for aquatic life.
- No water to be served at restaurants unless requested by the customer.
- No washing of sidewalks, driveways, parking areas or other paved areas except to alleviate an immediate health or safety hazard.

For more information on water conservation visit [www.WaterWiseAustin.com](http://www.WaterWiseAustin.com).