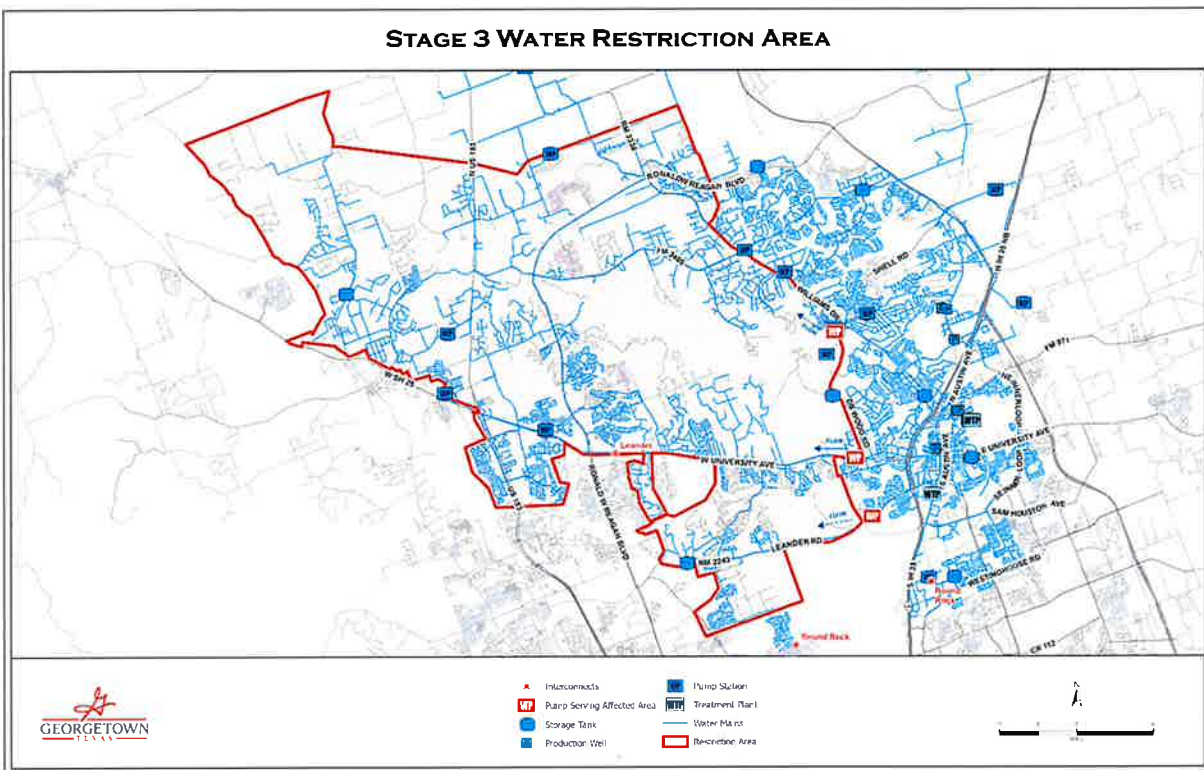


Date: July 17, 2023

Memo: Order Moving Portions of the Georgetown Water Service Area to Stage 3 of the City's Drought Contingency Plan

In accordance with Section 13.16.020 of the City of Georgetown Code of Ordinances, I hereby order that the portions of the Georgetown Water Service Area highlighted in red below move to Stage 3 of the City's Drought Contingency Plan.



According to Section 13.16.020, “the City Manager is authorized to order that the water use regulations for drought response stage 1, drought response stage 2, drought response stage 3, or emergency drought response stage 4 shall take effect upon the City Manager's determination that the order is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. The City Manager may base a drought stage or emergency stage declaration or termination on any relevant condition, occurrence, factor, or an assessment of all relevant circumstances that, in the judgment of the City Manager, support such action for any lawful purpose.”

This order is directly related to ensuring that the City can maintain adequate pressure within the western portions of our service area to continue providing safe drinking water for customers in this area.

Beginning the morning of Friday, July 14, the City experienced significant drops in tank levels at the Carriage Oaks, Braun, Daniels and Escalera elevated storage tanks. To ensure the entire

system could adequately recover, including the clearwells at the City's primary water treatment facility, the City temporarily moved to Stage 3 restrictions. These restrictions did allow the system to recover over the weekend.

During this period, the City evaluated the water system and confirmed that the challenges with tank levels were isolated to the western portion of the service area. Without adequate re-filling of the elevated storage tanks, pressure in this area of the system is at risk, which puts the safety of drinking water in this area at risk. The City continues to explore additional reasons for the drop in tank levels, but below is a list of contributing factors known to-date:

- Demand for water, which is currently high due to increased irrigation usage, is above levels that can be met by the water supply capabilities in the western portions of the service area.
- Extreme heat and an extended period without rain has led to an increase in irrigation usage.
- The water distributed to the western portion of the service area to fill the elevated storage tanks and maintain pressure has been met with several challenges:
 - The primary pumping of water from the City's North Lake Water Treatment Plant to this area is along D.B. Wood Road and those pump stations are at their maximum capacity.
 - Typically, additional water is distributed to this area from the Southside Water Treatment Plant, but that plant is currently down for rehabilitation.
 - The City's system in this western area is designed to be supported by up to 3 million gallons per day of water from Leander, but as of July 13 the City was receiving less than 300,000 gallons per day.

These are the contributing factors in determining the boundaries of the Stage 3 area and why a system-wide move to Stage 3 was unnecessary. Again, the primary goal is maintaining adequate system pressure in this western portion of the service area to ensure safe drinking water is available to customers. This area includes a combination of customers within City limits, within the City's ETJ and outside of the City's ETJ. Approximately 35% of the City's water customers are within this service area.

Although the majority of the City's parks and facilities are not within the area being ordered into Stage 3, I am ordering all City parks and facilities not utilizing reclaimed water to adhere to the same restrictions as if they were in Stage 3.

I am ordering these Stage 3 restrictions to remain in place until September 4, 2023, but reserve the option to reduce the area if operational conditions allow, modify restrictions or to end Stage 3 restrictions prior to September 4, if operational conditions allow and the City can ensure that the water system can keep up with the demand in this area to the point that safe drinking water is ensured.



Nick Woolery
Acting City Manager