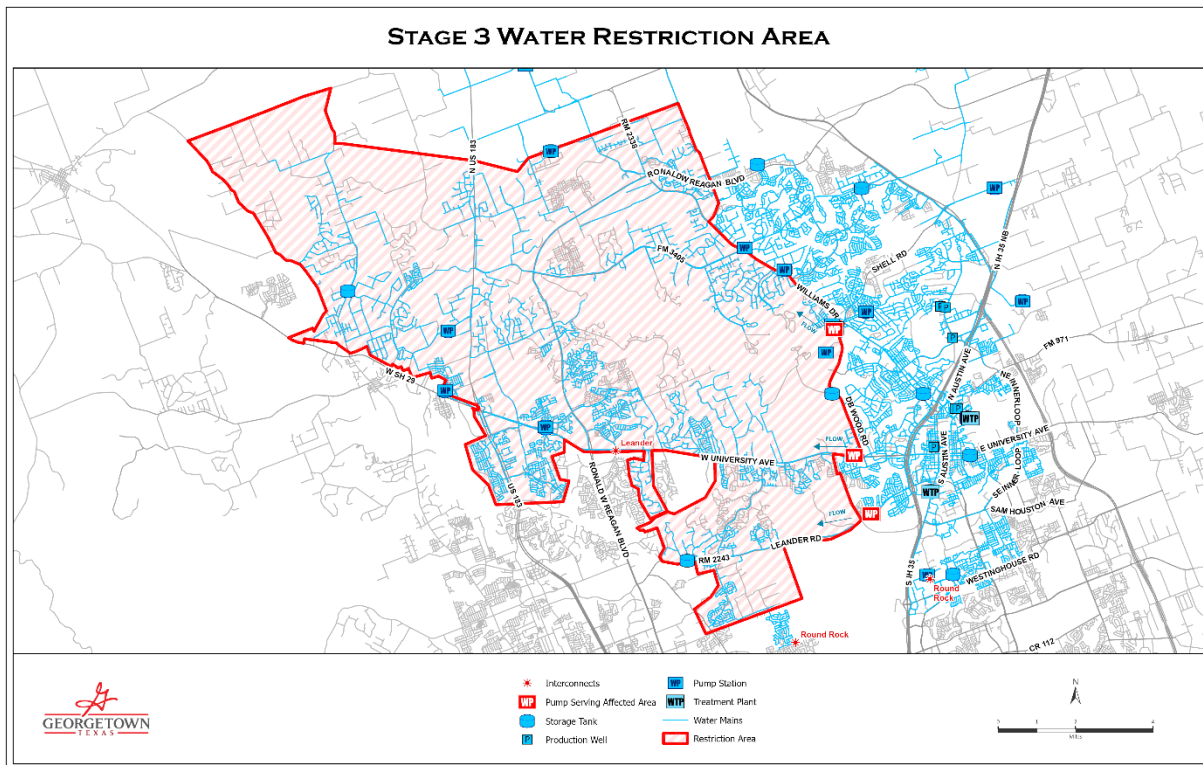


**Date: August 31, 2023**

**Memo: Order Continuing Stage 3 of the City’s Drought Contingency Plan for Portions of the Georgetown Water Service Area**

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 continue in 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 adequate water pressure within the western portions of our service area to continue providing safe drinking water for customers in this area.

A previous order was issued on July 14<sup>th</sup> to move a western portion of the Georgetown Water Service Area to Stage 3 of the City’s Drought Contingency Plan. The contributing factors that led to this order was: 1) high demand for water due to increased irrigation usage resulting from

extreme heat without rain; 2) the delayed completion of two water treatment projects; 3) low and inconsistent water delivery from the City of Leander not anticipated through the City's contract. The order on July 14<sup>th</sup> was set to end September 4<sup>th</sup>. Typically, the peak demand for water usage ends in the month of August due to cooler weather and rain events. September 4<sup>th</sup> was selected in anticipation water demand would be reduced.

The primary goal of our water system is to provide safe drinking water and maintain adequate fire flow for emergency response. To protect the stability of the City's water system, it is necessary to maintain the western portion of the Georgetown Water Service Area in Stage 3 of the City's Drought Contingency Plan. Below are the contributing factors for this critical step:

- Record setting, extreme heat without rain resulting in increased irrigation usage. Forecasts of 100-degree weather into September without any significant rain events anticipated.
- 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 delay of project delivery that would expand the City's water treatment capacity serving the western portion of the water district is delayed due to contractor failure. These two projects are the North Lake Treatment Plant expansion and the Southside Water Treatment Plant 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 Georgetown continues to receive inconsistent daily volumes much lower than this amount.

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 operational conditions allow the City to lower the affected area to Stage 2 of the City's Drought Contingency Plan. The City is working to increase the daily delivery of water from Leander through a temporary pumping system as well as expedite the completion of the Southside Water Treatment plant rehabilitation. The City is committed to taking the necessary steps within our power to remove the affected area from Stage 3 restrictions as soon as possible.

David Morgan  
City Manager