



Revised 12/2021

## **DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS PLAN**

**(including Conservation Measures and Emergency Curtailment Plan)**

### **PURPOSE:**

To encourage efficient use of Carefree's water resources, reduce waste, and help prevent and/or manage water shortages in times of drought or periods of diminished water supply due to emergency situations.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF DROUGHT OR CURTAILMENT STAGES:**

Drought or curtailment stages and requirements will be recommended by the Carefree Water Company General Manager and approved by the presiding officer of the Water Company's Board of Directors.

### **DROUGHT OR CURTAILMENT INDICATORS:**

The Carefree Water Company General Manager will monitor the following indicators to assist in the determination of drought or curtailment stages:

#### **Drought Indicators**

1. Drought and Shortage Determinations on the Colorado River (CAP Supply)
2. Groundwater levels within the Carefree Subbasin
3. Long-Term Weather and Precipitation Forecasts
4. Regional Drought and Shortage Conditions (SRP and other regional agencies)
5. Customer Per Capita Water Usage and Growth in Customer Base

#### **Emergency Curtailment Indicators**

1. Declared emergencies by governmental officials mandating reductions in water usage
2. Water supply availability from CAP connections (Scottsdale and Cave Creek)
3. Water production availability from wells (CWC Well Nos. 2, 4, 6 (blending required), 7, and DFGC #2)
4. Supply available in water storage reservoirs (1 MG, 500 Kgal, 50 Kgal, 150 Kgal (2), 10 Kgal)
5. Historic and current water demand levels
6. Infrastructure conditions/capabilities/challenges (emergency infrastructure situations such as pipeline breaks, well failures, pump failures, etc.)

### **DROUGHT (CURTAILMENT) STAGES (MANAGEMENT MEASURES):**

**Drought (Curtailment) Stage 0 – Normal Drought and Water Supply Conditions** – The Carefree Water Company will provide the following conservation focused programs for our customers:

- Metering of all water accounts, regular water meter maintenance, and verification of water meter readings including:
  - Monthly manual "zero" read verifications
  - Monthly high read customer notifications
  - Meter replacement program for old and worn-out meters
  - Voluntary cellular water usage data access

- Tiered conservation-based water rates
- Leak detection and management program
- Water conservation public education and outreach program
  - Water conservation flyers and bill notes
  - Water conservation publications

The Carefree Water Company will also perform water supply monitoring and maintain backup water supply plans for periods of drought and/or periods of reduced water supply due to emergency situations.

**Drought (Curtailment) Stage 1 – Precautionary Drought and Water Supply Conditions** – In addition to continuing Drought (Curtailment) Stage 0 Management Measures, the Carefree Water Company will supplement those programs with the following:

- Increased water conservation public education and outreach effort
- Encourage voluntary reductions in water use for all classes of customers with the focus on outdoor water use
- Expand the high read customer notification program

**Drought (Curtailment) Stage 2 – Intermediate Drought and Water Supply Conditions** – In addition to continuing Drought (Curtailment) Stages 0 and 1 Management Measures, the Carefree Water Company will supplement those programs with the following:

- Implement numeric based voluntary reductions in water use (e.g. 5 to 25%) for all classes of customers based upon drought/water supply conditions
  - Provide recommendations and guidance to customers on how to achieve these reduction goals
  - Monitor customer usage history to assess participation
- Implement day-of-week and time-of-day outdoor water use schedules
- Prohibit winter turf overseeding

**Drought (Curtailment) Stage 3 – Emergency Drought and Water Supply Conditions** – In addition to continuing Drought (Curtailment) Stages 0 thru 2 Management Measures, the Carefree Water Company will supplement those programs with the following:

- Implement mandatory numeric based reductions in water use (e.g. 5 to 25%) for all classes of customers based upon drought/water supply conditions
  - Provide recommendations and guidance to customers on how to achieve these required reductions
  - Monitor customer usage history to determine compliance
- Implement Drought (Curtailment) Water Rates as detailed below
- Reduce or eliminate all non-essential water use including:
  - Turf irrigation
  - Decorative water fountains
  - Pool draining and refilling
  - Vehicle washing
- Suspend all interruptible water customers including:
  - Construction
  - Standpipe users

**NOTIFICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT**

Drought (Curtailment) Stage 1 & 2 Levels – General Town newsletter notice (email). Water bill inserts or bill notes. Door hanger notices or phone communications for high usage customers.

Drought (Curtailment) Stage 3 Level – General Town newsletter notice (email). Water bill inserts. Local media press release. Other means as determined by regulatory agencies. Enforcement will be done by Water Company and Town staff as appropriate.

**DROUGHT (CURTAILMENT) WATER RATES (All Meter Classifications)**

Special Base Fee Emergency Curtailment Surcharge: \$ 20.00

Tier 1 rates will increase by 5%

Tier 2 rates will increase by 10%

Tier 3 rates will increase by 15%

Tier 4 rates will increase by 20%

Tier 5 rates will increase by 20%

**EMERGENCY CURTAILMENT PLAN**

Emergency situations such as pipe breakage, well failure, pump failure, etc. may justify immediate implementation of higher levels of Curtailment Stages (e.g. immediately moving from Curtailment Stage 0 to Curtailment Stage 3, bypassing Stages 1 and 2). These types of emergencies could affect all Water Company customers or only a portion of Water Company customers depending upon the extent of the emergency situation.

Emergency Curtailment Stages will be recommended by the Carefree Water Company General Manager and approved by the presiding officer of the Water Company's Board of Directors.