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## Water restrictions being scaled back slowly

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By **Joni Simon** - Contributing Writer/ Northeast Herald

Despite drenching rains, San Antonio water officials are cautious in lifting restrictions after a summer in which residents experienced a drought of record.

Effective since Saturday, the Bexar Metropolitan Water District cancelled Level 3 of the district's drought contingency plan and activated Stage 2 restrictions until further notice.

"That's because the average daily water use exceeds 85 percent of the system production capacity for three consecutive days," BexarMet representative Nathan Riggs told the Trinity-Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District board Oct. 8.

Riggs said the target now is to achieve a 10 percent reduction in overall water use.

Stage 2 restrictions apply to all BexarMet customers in Anaqua Springs, Timberwood Park, Canyon Springs and Lookout Canyon.

Despite the rainy weather, water restrictions remain for outdoor watering. Automatic or hose-end sprinklers, drip irrigation and soaker hoses are permitted based on the last digit of an address.

Sprinklers are allowed from 3 a.m. to 8 a.m., and from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on designated days.

"Watering with hand-held hoses or buckets are permitted any time, on any day," Riggs said. "Soaker hoses are allowed for use during hand watering hours around foundations to minimize shifting."

Sprinkler watering on weekends is still forbidden, Riggs said, and so is the operation of fountains and decorative water features unless they're used to support aquatic life.

All pools must be covered at least 25 percent when not in use. Don't have a cover? Inflatable toys will do the trick, Riggs said.

"Wash vehicles at home on the designated watering day, during sprinkler hours," Riggs said. "Use a shut off device on the hose to reduce runoff."

Irrigation variances are being issued beginning this week for installing new landscapes. Variances are good for three weeks from the date of the landscape installation, according to Riggs.

Sprinklers from aerobic septic systems are exempt from the current advisory.

Riggs warned that any water-related activity construed as wasteful is prohibited, including washing driveways and buildings, allowing runoff water and ignoring unrepaired leaks.

"Thank you for your cooperation during this extreme drought," Riggs said.

"During the past 30 days, well output in Timberwood Park has risen 10 percent while storage tank levels have remained full, providing ample water for indoor use and fire protection."

In other business, Clarence "Harris" Dickey was sworn in as a new Trinity-Glen Rose board member, representing District 3. He assumed the position as assistant secretary/treasurer.

Other board positions assigned during the meeting included Brad Groves as president, Jorge Gonzalez as vice president, Don Reddout as secretary and David Anderson as treasurer.

TGRGCD administrators are relocating their offices this week to suites 25 and 26 at the same location, 6335 Camp Bullis Road.

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