



Proposed drought rule changes: Top 5 things you need to know

Don't let the spring rains and green grass fool you: San Antonio is in the fifth year of a drought.

While landscape watering rules have helped us weather droughts in the past, our per-person water use has been inching higher. That's why SAWS is proposing reasonable adjustments to our drought plan – to save water now and reduce the chance of stricter rules in the future.

New rules are expected to take effect as early as mid-July, pending City Council approval. Here are five things you need to know.

1. NEW WATERING HOURS

SAWS watering hours have been the same for years. So why change now? One reason is many people have asked for more time to water early in the morning.

The evening watering hours are also a time of peak power demand. CPS Energy has asked energy-intensive customers like SAWS to help shift power use later. (Note: Hose-end sprinkler users can request a variance from SAWS to water earlier.)

2. NON-COMPLIANCE CHARGE

To make drought rule enforcement more fair, SAWS will no longer issue municipal court citations. Instead, a water waste non-compliance charge will appear on the customer's bill. This means the rules will apply to all SAWS customers, not just those inside San Antonio city limits.

The first charge for a single family or small commercial site will be \$137. This fee can be waived by taking a one-hour course online. Subsequent charges are higher to discourage repeat violations. Charges will also be higher for high use commercial irrigation customers.

As before, violations will need to be witnessed and documented in-person by SAWS-trained staff. On request, the customer can review the evidence and, if desired, appeal the enforcement decision to a Board-appointed committee of non-SAWS employees.

3. NEW STAGE 3 AND 4 SURCHARGE

In deeper stages of drought, a new surcharge will encourage both residential and commercial customers with very high outdoor use to conserve. This will only affect the top 5% of water users.

For single family accounts, the Stage 3 surcharge of \$10.37 per thousand gallons will take effect for water use above 20,000 gallon a month. In Stage 4, that threshold drops to 12,000 gallons.

Commercial irrigation surcharge rates will vary based on water use and meter size.

4. NEW DRIP IRRIGATION RULES

Even though drip irrigation makes more efficient use of water than spray nozzles, the amount of water used per hour tends to be about the same for both.

The revised rules for drip will help save more water by better aligning the scheduled watering hours with the severity of the drought stage.

5. IRRIGATION INSPECTIONS

The lack of inspections for newly installed irrigation systems means state standards are not always followed. And systems that are poorly constructed will continue to waste water for years to come.

To fill this gap, SAWS will begin reviewing irrigation plans prior to construction, and then inspecting the installed system for proper operation before it is approved.

Highlights of Proposed Watering Rule Changes

Learn more at wateringrules.com

Drought Stage	Edwards Aquifer	Watering Days	Watering Times	Water Waste Enforcement	Drought Surcharge
Year Round	Above 660 ft.	Any day	midnight - 10 a.m. 9 p.m. - midnight	Non-compliance charge for water waste violation – all stages	-
Stage 1	660 ft.	Once a week on your day	midnight - 10 a.m. 9 p.m. - midnight		-
Stage 2	650 ft.	Once a week on your day	5-10 a.m. 9 p.m. - midnight		-
Stage 3	640 ft.	Once a week on your day	5-10 a.m. 9 p.m. - midnight		High use surcharge 20,000 gallons or more
Stage 4	630 ft. or as needed	Once EVERY OTHER week	5-10 a.m. 9 p.m. - midnight		High use surcharge 12,000 gallons or more



Gather the family and get ready to splash around No Name Creek and explore all things wet and whimsical during **Celebrate Water** at San Antonio Botanical Garden, Saturday, July 13. Tickets at sabot.org/events.

Event Calendar

Heart of Texas Concert Band

July 4

Trinity Baptist Church
319 E. Mulberry Ave.
heartoftexasconcertband.org

Storytime Flow

July 5

McNay Art Museum
6000 N. New Braunfels Ave.
mcnayart.org/events

Wellness at the Tobin: Yoga

July 13

Tobin Center
100 Auditorium Circle
tobincenter.org/wellness

Night Crawlers

July 20

Government Canyon State Natural Area
12861 Galm Road
tpwd.texas.gov/calendar

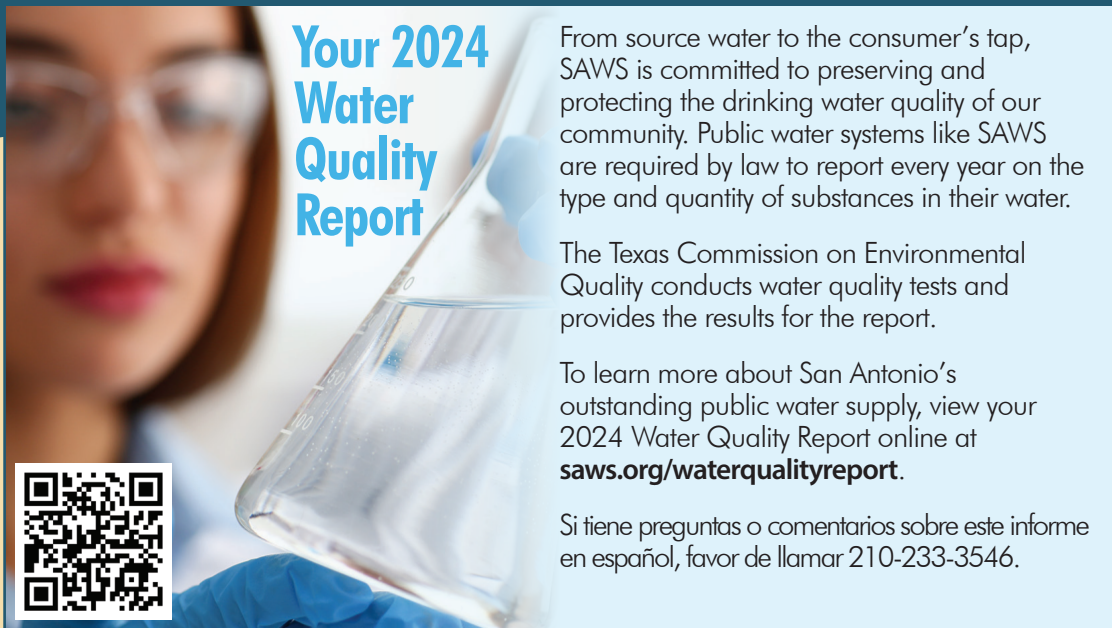
Little Sprouts Hike

July 30

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org/events

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

210-704-SAWS (7297)
saws.org/waternews




Your 2024 Water Quality Report

From source water to the consumer's tap, SAWS is committed to preserving and protecting the drinking water quality of our community. Public water systems like SAWS are required by law to report every year on the type and quantity of substances in their water.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality conducts water quality tests and provides the results for the report.

To learn more about San Antonio's outstanding public water supply, view your 2024 Water Quality Report online at saws.org/waterqualityreport.

Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre este informe en español, favor de llamar 210-233-3546.



SAWS continues to lead on the global water stage

San Antonio Water System is proud to be part of the Leading Utilities of the World, an exclusive global network of water and wastewater service providers.

Members represent the gold standard of utility innovation and performance and include representatives from Denmark, Norway, Scotland, The Netherlands, Budapest, Japan, Australia and Singapore.

Initially selected in 2017, SAWS' membership was recently renewed.

To be selected, a utility must demonstrate outstanding innovation in at least three areas of water management. Known in the

industry for expertise in drought response, resource development and wastewater recycling, SAWS continues to lend its experience and know-how at a time when temperatures and the need for water continue to rise.

"Now more than ever, it is important to prepare to meet the challenges of the future," said Robert Puente, SAWS president/CEO, who accepted the honor during the Global Water Summit 2024 in London in April.



LEADING UTILITIES OF THE WORLD

SAWS is one of just a handful of U.S. utilities selected for membership.

Get paid to kick your irrigation system to the curb

Did you know your irrigation system can use more water in one week than your entire family uses in a month?

In fact, SAWS customers with irrigation systems use 70% more water on average in the summer and 50% more annually than those without. And since most modern South Texas landscapes use native plants that require very little irrigation, that extra water (and money) goes to waste.

SAWS can help you kick the irrigation system habit once and for all — and earn a nice cash reward in the process.

Whether you're ready to make small changes like capping a spray zone or you want to ditch the entire system, an irrigation consultation will determine how much of a rebate you can get.

Call 210-704-SAVE (7283) to request your free consultation.