



## Council OKs drought rule changes – Here’s how that affects you

The times, they are a’ changin’ — lawn watering times, that is. In June, San Antonio City Council approved updates to the city’s drought ordinance, including new landscape watering rules.

The changes also include a new process for water waste violations and new rules for drip irrigation. The updates are part of the 2024 SAWS Water Conservation Plan and come after a long period of public input that began last summer.

“These changes create a more fair and efficient system for all of our customers — even those that reside outside of San Antonio city limits,” explained SAWS Vice President of Conservation Karen Guz. “San Antonio is in the fifth year of drought, and we are seeing Edwards Aquifer water levels continue to drop.”

The new rules became effective immediately upon City Council approval. Here’s a summary of the changes and how they could affect you.

### New Watering Hours

The new one-day-a-week watering times — 5 to 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. to midnight in Stages 2, 3 and 4 — give customers more time to water in the morning while shifting the evening hours later, to help offset peak energy demand. Your watering day is still determined by the last digit of your street address.

Drip irrigation watering hours will be the same as sprinklers, and allowed three times a week in

Stage 1, twice a week in Stages 2 and 3, and once a week in Stage 4.

### Non-Compliance Charge for Water Waste

Previously, water waste citations went through a municipal court process. Now, water waste non-compliance charges will appear on the customer’s bill, eliminating the need to appear in court.

Customers who disagree with the charge will still have an opportunity to appeal through a committee of non-SAWS employees.

### New Stage 3 and 4 Drought Surcharge

A new surcharge will encourage both residential and commercial customers with very high outdoor water use to conserve. This will only affect the top five percent 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 surcharge amounts will vary by meter size.

To learn more about the landscape watering changes and the reasons behind them, visit [wateringrules.com](http://wateringrules.com).

For weekly watering advice, water-saving tips, and money-saving coupons and rebates, visit [GardenStyleSA.com](http://GardenStyleSA.com).



### Highlights of Watering Rule Changes

Learn more at [wateringrules.com](http://wateringrules.com)

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

\*10-day rolling average

# The draft 2024 Water Management Plan is here

After two years of diligent work by SAWS staff, the draft 2024 Water Management Plan is available for public comment.

The Water Management Plan is SAWS' guiding supply-and-demand document that identifies existing and potential future water sources, to meet our customers' needs for the next 50 years. The plan is updated about every five years to include changes in population, water demand patterns, regulations, climate and water supply options.

The draft 2024 Water Management Plan can be viewed at **WaterCitySA.com**. Public comment will be accepted until 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 2 and will be reviewed before the plan is presented to the SAWS Board for approval.

The plan explains how SAWS will serve 617,000 more customers by 2040, continuing a legacy of water conservation and ensuring water supply security for generations to come.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NEW WATER AND IRRIGATION RATES AND NEW NON-COMPLIANCE CHARGES

**Implementation of the drought surcharge rates for high water use and non-compliance charges for water waste violations are effective on or after July 6, 2024 is hereby declared. If applicable, customers will begin receiving bills that reflect the proposed charges on or about Aug. 1, 2024.**

Subsequent to the San Antonio City Council's final decision on a rate change, San Antonio Water System is required by law to provide written notice to its customers regarding changes to its rates. These new water rates will be effective for consumption and drought rule violations, respectively, on or about July 6, 2024, as applicable.

**There were no changes adopted to the existing rates for water delivery, irrigation, water supply, recycled water, or wastewater services.**

If you would like more information or assistance on estimating your bill, contact SAWS at 210-704-7283 (SAVE) or visit one of SAWS' Customer Center locations.

An online calculator for SAWS rates is also available at **saws.org/calculator**.

*Para información en español, por favor lláme al 210-704-7297.*

**A copy of the ordinance passed by the City Council of the City of San Antonio is available in the City Clerk's Office.**

### Drought Surcharge

Drought Surcharges are not applied unless a customer's billed use achieves the volumetric thresholds shown. While the rate remains the same in Stage 3 and Stage 4, there are different thresholds in each stage such that the surcharge is incurred sooner in Stage 4 drought conditions than in Stage 3 drought conditions.

### Non-Compliance Charge

The application of a Non-Compliance Charge is strictly based on whether a customer violated the drought rules. Violations must be documented and observed by trained enforcement personnel. There are separate rates for large users and small users. Large users are characterized by having been billed one million gallons or greater in the previous year. Small users are those customers that have been billed for less than one million gallons of use in the previous year. There are also different rates depending on the number of violations incurred by the customer as repeated non-compliance with the rules impacts the community's water supply.

Drought Surcharge Rate Structure				
Customer Class	Rate Per Thousand Gallons	Meter Size (inches)	Stage 3 Threshold (gallons)	Stage 4 Threshold (gallons)
<b>Residential</b>	\$10.37	All Sizes	20,000	12,000
<b>Billed Commercial Irrigation</b>	\$10.37	5/8	12,000	7,200
		3/4	18,000	10,800
		1	30,000	18,000
		1.5	60,000	36,000
		2	96,000	57,600
		3	210,000	126,000
		4	360,000	216,000
		6	810,000	486,000
		8	1,080,000	648,000
10	1,440,000	864,000		

Non-Compliance Charge Rate Structure		
Violation Number	Small Users (less than million gallons)	Large Users (more than million gallons)
<b>1st Violation</b>	\$137.00	\$500.00
<b>2nd Violation</b>	\$225.00	\$625.00
<b>3rd+ Violation</b>	\$500.00	\$1,250.00