

**MUD 18 Newsletter**  
**September 2011**  
[www.mcmud18.com](http://www.mcmud18.com)

**Update on Moderate Drought Conditions:** On Tuesday, August 23, we experienced the operating conditions that trigger Stage 2 Drought conditions in the District's Drought Contingency Plan. Beginning on the previous weekend, the District's water plant exceeded 90% of safe operating conditions for 3 consecutive days as determined by Hays Utility, the District's operator. The previous average daily pumpage during the summer was an average of 1,876,000 per day. As reported in the August Newsletter, our wells were averaging 13 hours of run time per day. Over that weekend, pumpage jumped up almost 500,000 gallons per day and the average run time for the wells exceeded the 16 hours of "safe" run time trigger. This represented a 40% increase in pumpage levels over July usage. All customers were notified by US Mail and E-Blast of the shift to Stage 2 and that the voluntary restrictions of Stage 1 were now mandatory. **RED MANDATORY** signs were added to the top of all the existing signs.



On Wednesday, August 24, customers experienced loss of water pressure. Hays identified the problem at the plant and determined it was caused by an exceptional surge of demand at the end of the 6AM irrigation window. It appears most irrigation systems are set to operate between 4 and 6 AM. Although the problem has not reoccurred, to help smooth system demand, some homeowners may want to shift their irrigation schedule earlier in the irrigation window. We regret any inconvenience this pressure loss caused any of our customers.

As a reminder, the following are mandatory restrictions for irrigation system operation:

1. Even-numbered addresses run irrigation systems only on Thursdays and Sundays.
2. Odd-numbered addresses run irrigation systems only on Wednesdays and Saturdays.
3. Refrain from outdoor use between the hours of 6AM and 10AM and between 6PM and midnight.
4. Outdoor use by a hand held hose or bucket may be done at any time on any day of the week.
5. Refrain from driveway washing and filling of swimming pools.

Use of these restrictions help smooth the demand for water over the 24 hour day. Not using irrigation systems on Mondays and Tuesdays allows the system to recover from higher weekend usage. The District's facilities are more than adequate to serve the community if everyone follows these restrictions. *Thanks to those homeowners who are in compliance.* **If you have not reviewed/ revised your irrigation schedule, we urge you to do your part in conserving water use.**

***We need everyone's continued attention to good water conservation practices to avoid even more restricted water use.***

**Landscape Replacement and Redesign:** The extended drought has stressed our lawns and landscapes. Climatologists are predicting the drought to continue for one or two more years based on the persistent La Nina patterns. As you consider landscape replacement plants and changes to your landscape design, choose mainly native varieties that are drought hardy and require less watering during dry periods. You can find a table of Drought Resistant Shrubs on our web site [www.mcmud18.com](http://www.mcmud18.com) under the "documents" tab.



Very importantly, consider having your irrigation system performance improved by a licensed irrigation specialist. Beginning January 1, 2010, a section was added to the Texas Water Code which set new requirements that support healthy landscapes AND conserve water. One of these requirements stipulated that irrigation systems be installed by a licensed irrigation specialist. These licensed installers have the knowledge and experience to design, alter, repair and service irrigation systems in a manner to promote water conservation. Many of the irrigation systems in Bentwater were installed prior to the new code which was driven by a growing realization that inefficient irrigation systems are a major waste of our

precious water supply. If you have not checked with a licensed specialist whether your system is in good working order, please do so. It will save you money and it will help conserve the precious water supply to our region.

**Status of New Water Plant:** The Catahoula well is complete. The construction of the District's second water plant, adjacent to the new well, is underway and will include a 25,000 gallon pressure storage tank and a 400,000 gallon ground storage tank. Also included will be two – 2000 gallons per minute cooling towers and a motor control center to operate the plant and well. The water transfer line, which will connect the new plant to the existing distribution system, will extend parallel with FM 1097 to the Bentwood Entrance. This project will not only satisfy the requirement for a 30% reduction in our use of the Jasper region of the Gulf Coast Aquifer, but will also increase water storage capacity that will help the District manage supply if the drought conditions persist into next year. The new plant should be operating by early 2012.

**Sign-up for E-Blasts:** If you are not receiving our E-Blasts, you are missing out on timely information. Go to our website [www.mcmud18.com](http://www.mcmud18.com) and give us your email address. Your address will not be shared with anyone and you can unsubscribe at any time.

**Need to report a Problem?** Don't assume the problem has already been identified or reported. If you observe a water leak, sewer odor, discolored water, open manholes, alarms are sounding, or other problems, please help us by calling:

**Hays Utility Service @ 936-588-1166.**

Hays has someone in Bentwater every day, seven days a week. They can and will respond 24 hours a day. Their general office hours are from 8:00AM to 4:30PM Monday through Friday.

**Meetings Open to the Public:** Our regularly scheduled monthly meetings are the ***2nd Tuesdays at 2:30PM*** in the Country Club Board Room. Meetings are open to the public. The agenda is posted on our web site and the message board in the breezeway entrance to the Country Club Grill near the Golf Pro-shop.

Sincerely,

Your MUD Board:

Lou Tichacek	President	597-7010
Linda Pierce	Vice President	597-5463
Roy Champagne	Treasurer	597-8786
Joe Constantino	Secretary	597-8029
Chris Uzelmeier	Assistant Secretary	449-5198