



For Immediate Release  
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## **As drought continues, Kyle initiates Stage 2 water conservation**

**Kyle, TX** – The city of Kyle is headed into Stage 2 of its water conservation program, which is effective immediately.

Despite recent rain in the area, several factors contributed to the city's decision to bump up the conservation efforts. According to Kyle Utility Coordinator Jason Biemer, the drought steadily continues even as demand, defined as water consumption, is on the rise.

"Customer demand is 33 percent higher than during the same period in 2014," he said. "We've seen an increase in consumption this summer compared to last year," he said.

Biemer also cited two primary factors for his recommendation to move to Stage 2.

"The Barton Springs Pool of the Edwards Aquifer is steadily dropping," he said. "In addition, the San Antonio Pool of the Edwards Aquifer is in Stage II. We expect both to elevate their respective drought status in the coming weeks."

Biemer noted that the Barton Springs and Edwards Aquifer authorities use different triggers for their drought stages, as well as different levels of curtailment for each stage.

The permitting requirements for the various sources of water that comprise Kyle's supply are a driver in the consideration factors. For example, the city's monthly allotment with Barton Springs will be reduced to seven percent of the annual total under the permit. As a comparison, in August the city has access to 12 percent of the total water permitted.

"During the fall and winter, the proportion of our access goes down to provide more access during the hot dry months," Biemer said. "We are currently producing one million gallons a day out of the Barton Springs Aquifer, but that value will be cut to just over 500,000 gallons per day by November."

He said past experience with conservation efforts indicate it will take approximately six weeks to get Kyle water customers back on track for conservation under Stage 2.

“On the plus side, residents understand water conservation much better than they did even four or five years ago,” Biemer said. “That being said, we need to start that move now to ensure we’re able to meet our long-term obligations.”

How about El Niño?

Biemer said he reviewed recent data on current rainfall prediction models and believes Texas will see the effects of the El Nino weather pattern in the south and along coastal areas.

“We don’t base our water conservation strategy on rain predictions,” he said. “We base it on the data we have in hand.”

Kyle water customers are advised that Stage 2 water conservation rules are now in place and will remain in effect until further notice. According to Kyle City Ordinance 569, Sections 5 and 12, failure to comply can result in a fine of up to \$2,000 and not less than \$50 per violation.

The Stage 2 rules are available at [www.cityofkyle.com](http://www.cityofkyle.com). In general, watering is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Odd-numbered residential addresses can water on Wednesday and/or Saturday. Even-numbered residential addresses can water on Thursday and/or Sunday. Commercial and multi-family establishments can water on Tuesday and/or Friday.

Public Works Director Harper Wilder said, “I’ve been very pleased with the conservation efforts of our citizens during past drought stage events. The message is out there and Kyle water customers understand why these stages exist. It’s this city-wide effort that allows Kyle to continue to be good stewards of our water supply.”

Biemer said he will recommend staying at Stage 2 until he see data that indicates conditions that warrant going back to Stage 1.

“I’ll recommend Stage 2 for as long as it’s the right thing to do,” he said.

## Additional Water Consumption and Rate Data

Supporting data for Stage 2 water conservation plan:

### Gallons/day water usage by city of Kyle customers

	<u>Average</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum /Peak</u>
2014	2.9 g/d	2.3 g/d	3.8 g/d
2015	3.5 g/d	2.6 g/d	3.9 g/d

### Kyle water rate structure

Water volume rate monthly use (per 1,000 gallons) - Inside city limits

Single-family residential

<b>Gallons</b>	<b>Rate</b>
0 to 4,000	\$4.40
4,001 to 8,000	\$5.50
8,001 to 12,000	\$6.61
12,001 to 16,000	\$7.69
16,001 to 20,000	\$8.80
20,001 to 30,000	\$9.90
30,001 to 50,000	\$11.01
50,001 or more	\$13.20

*Full rate structure available at [www.cityofkyle.com/utilitybilling/utility-rate-information](http://www.cityofkyle.com/utilitybilling/utility-rate-information).*

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