

October 2022



A semi-annual publication from Wolf Creek Water & Sewer Improvement District to promote water conservation and to keep customers aware of issues in our District.

Message from the Water & Sewer Utility Management

WE WILL BEGIN SHUTTING DOWN THE IRRIGATION SYSTEM THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 24th THROUGH OCTOBER 28th
WEATHER PERMITTING

THE ANNUAL OPEN BOARD MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 8, 2022, AT 6:00 P.M. IT WILL BE VIA ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5021736475?pwd=VW5FTDdPbUhpODdHS3hydKpHVjE2UT09>

Meeting ID: 502 173 6475

Passcode: 8017453435

One tap mobile

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5021736475?pwd=VW5FTDdPbUhpODdHS3hydKpHVjE2UT09>

After several years of below-average snowpack, mindful use of water has been a priority request from our District to our customers. We are proud and appreciative of our residents and business owners for their efforts and want to say, **“THANK YOU FOR CONSERVING WATER!”** It is evident in our capacities and production that we are using less water as a whole. And once again, we have enough water to reach the end of the season.

We have recently launched a **Facebook** page for Wolf Creek Water and Sewer Improvement District. Feel free to follow us to get the quickest updates/notifications regarding our company.

This page is to be utilized **ONLY** as a tool to get information out to the public. No comments will be addressed on the page. If problems arise, please call our office at 801-745-3435, for after-hour issues please call Cole Vincent at 801-791-4128 or Rob Thomas at 801-430-4647.

Get your update here: www.facebook.com/wcwsid

As members of the Board of Trustees and Staff Members, we would like to wish you a happy and safe Winter Season.

Miranda Menzies – Chairperson	Rob Thomas – Gen. Manager
Jon Bingham – Vice Chair	Cole Vincent – Asst. Manager
Bud Huchel – Sec./Tres.	Annette Ames – Controller
Don Stefanik – Board Member	Shyanna Chambers – Office Assistant
Pam Young – Board Member	

THE MORATORIUM

On July 27, 2021, the Board of Trustees unfortunately found it necessary to impose a Moratorium on additional connections to the District’s water systems. We sympathize with lot owners who were planning to build, and now find their dream home on hold. There has been a similar block on development of new building lots since April 2019. All the new development residents have seen has been supported by the Developer bringing water capacity to the District, often by water share transfers.

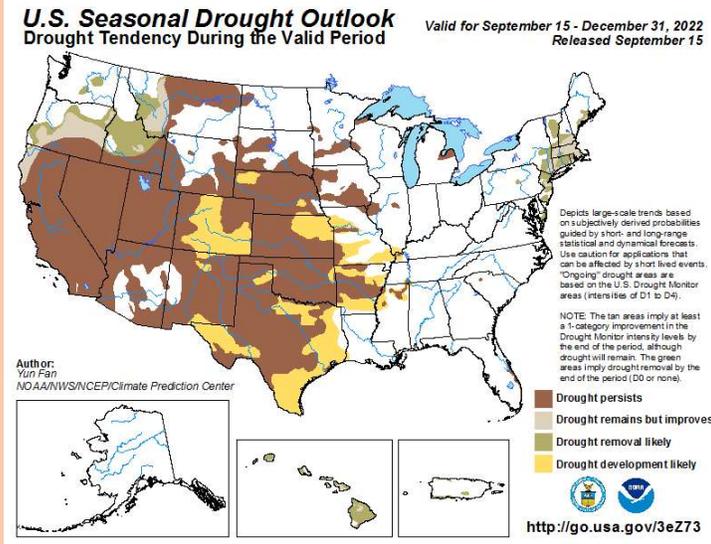
The causes of the July Moratorium are complex and based upon the requirements of the Division of Drinking Water’s Peak Day Demand standard.

The Board re-evaluated the flow capacity that we had in March 2022. The Moratorium was extended indefinitely. We have been working to bring the Crooked Spring and the Eden Hills Well back online but have had very little success with those sources. We also, began developing a new source by drilling a new well. However, our new well interfered with the Eden Water Works, Burnett Spring.

The Boards from both water companies have been meeting together, to find an acceptable arrangement for the use of the well. We have now come to an agreement, and it is in the hands of the Attorneys, to make sure all issues have been adequately addressed. **We keep you posted.**

The Drought In The Western U.S.

On September 15, 2022, the US Drought Monitor, predicted that the drought will persist at least through the end of the year and into 2023. However, an article in the National Geographic from February 2022, stated that this is the worst “megadrought” in 1,200 years and could last until 2030.



A Newsweek article on October 4, 2022, reported that droughts are periods characterized by abnormally dry conditions. But what are megadroughts, and how bad is the one affecting us right now? While there are no clear definitions of what a megadrought is, in general, it means droughts that last for multiple decades, i.e. two or more. Although there may be a few wet spells, most periods remained dry. This megadrought started in 2000 and is almost in its twenty-third year. Recent research has suggested that this ranks as the driest 22-year period in southwestern North America since at least 800 A.D.

How Long Will the Megadrought Last? Like most droughts, it is difficult to predict how long the current event is going to last. Megadroughts are relatively rare, scientists have only documented eight megadroughts in the past 1,200 years. These megadroughts have lasted 20-30 years suggesting there may be an end to the current drought in the coming years. But, don't expect to see much, if any, relief for several years because, even when the dry conditions abate, it is going to take several years of above-average rainfall for there to be a significant recovery.

What Impacts has the Megadrought Had? The biggest impact has been on water resources, the environment, and multiple socio-economic factors. These impacts are already seen in Lake Mead and Lake Powell, where the water level reached the lowest level on record. Groundwater is most vulnerable during megadrought due to limited recharge associated with reduced rainfall and an increase in temperatures.

This megadrought is causing drinking water shortages in some areas as well as reducing the amount of water available for crops, industries, and households. This drought has had huge negative effects, not only on reduced agricultural outputs, resulting in increased food costs. It has also affected the economy in terms of lost jobs, not to mention impacts on human nutrition.

The impacts on wildlife are also pervasive, from the salmon migration to the many plants, migratory water birds, and animals that rely on lakes and streams to survive.

The longer the drought persists, the more our resources will have to be restricted and prioritized in how it gets allocated.

Landscape and Water Conservation Standards

On September 24, 2022, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District approved new Landscape and Conservation Standards for the area it has authority over.

In the Open Board Meeting on October 20, 2022, our Board will review and discuss the new standards and will consider adopting similar standards for our District.

We want to make it clear; this is for **NEW CONSTRUCTION** by both **Developers and Individual Lot owners**. These standards do not apply to existing landscapes, at this time. But they may be helpful for future conservation planning.

Secondary Water/ Landscaping Standards:

The Owner/Builder agrees to provide a landscaping plan(s) to District for approval by District at least 90 days prior to commencement of the landscape installation (“plan”). Said approved plan shall be kept on file by the District, and landscape installation shall be consistent with the plan. This basis for approval by the District of the plan is that the property has a landscape design goal for irrigation water use of less than 10,000 gals/month for the property achieved by design elements as follows:

1. Irrigation valves should irrigate landscaping with similar site, slope, soil conditions, and plant materials with similar needs. Drip irrigation and overhead sprinklers should be placed on separate irrigation valves.
2. All shrubs, perennials, and trees shall be watered by drip-irrigation lines with controlling emitters to establish flow rates for different plant types.
3. Maximum total amount of turf grass shall be no more than 20 percent (**20%**) of the total building footprints, excluding detached garages and accessory buildings. No turf shall be installed in areas with slopes greater than 20 percent (**20%**), or in areas narrower than eight feet.
4. All turf grass shall be on separate irrigation zones from the drip irrigation system. All spray irrigation shall be head-to-head design, with low-pressure irrigation heads, properly maintained to minimize watering of pavement areas. No overhead spray irrigation system shall be used except on turf areas.
5. EPS “Watersense” labeled irrigation controllers shall be used.
6. No landscape water features such as artificial streams and waterfalls, shall be constructed.
7. Every home shall be equipped with at least one identified secondary water hose bib, such that all landscaping can be reached by a 100 ft house connection.

Culinary Water Conservation:

1. It is the policy of the District that no culinary water shall be used for landscape watering or any other outside use, other than spas. The owner shall acknowledge that requirement.
2. All homes (all types—single family homes, townhomes, condos, and multifamily units) shall provide dual-flush or equivalent low flow toilets, and low flow lavatory and shower fixtures for all bathrooms in residential units and common area facilities, All bathroom fixtures shall have “Watersense” labeling.
3. No swimming pools over 20,000 gallons shall be installed in single-family homes. The fill rate of pools shall not exceed 5 gpm.