

# **SEVERE DROUGHT SITUATION!** **YOUR COOPERATION NEEDED**

## **We are in the worst drought in Texas history.**

- We are further behind average rainfall than at any other time in Texas history.
- One of the locations the furthest behind in the entire state is Tomball.
- It was the hottest summer in this area with more days over 100 than any other year in history.
- It is projected that 10% of all trees in the area will die.

## **What is the outlook for the future?**

- La Nina is in place over Texas. This is the condition that forces El Nino northward and keeps the normal rainfall to the north of us. This condition is expected to continue until the summer of 2013.
- We are, therefore, expecting 50% less rain than in a normal winter.
- The lakes the supply surface water to the Houston area are expected to be lower going into the summer of 2012 than they are currently.
- While MUD #1 is not on surface water, these conditions cause the water districts who use surface water to use their wells more and this will draw down the aquifers that serve us. These lakes are Lake Houston, Lake Conroe and Lake Livingston.
- While we will not have an accurate measure of the aquifers serving MUD #1 until the end of the year, early indications are that the levels are dropping sharply.

## **What can we do?**

- Due to the growth of population in MUD #1, we are already moving forward with a 3<sup>rd</sup> well site, but this will not solve our immediate problem. It will also use the same aquifer as is being used presently, but will give us more capacity to meet future demand.
- **Please take the following steps at your home:**
  1. Do NOT water your vegetation more that twice per week. That is all that is needed for vegetation even in normal situations.
  2. Check your sprinkler system to see that there are no broken heads or heads that spray into the street or onto your driveway.
  3. Look to your sprinkler man to give you the best number of minutes to water each zone.
  4. Run you system at night so it is done by 4:00 a.m. This avoids evaporation and keeps the pressure up for home usage during peak usage hours.
  5. Don't leave faucets running any more than absolutely necessary.
  6. As you replace your shower heads, toilets and appliances such as washing machines, dish washers, etc.; get the most efficient replacements as possible that consume less water. Run them only with full loads.

7. Keep a bottle of water in the refrigerator for that cold drink instead of running the faucet until cold.
8. Check your toilets to make sure that none of them are running. Repair them if they are. Thousands of gallons per month can be lost in this manner.
9. Don't use your hose to wash the sidewalks and driveways. Use the broom.
10. Have your car washed at the car wash. They recycle their water which you cannot.

**If we all work together on water conservation, we can get through the drought without mandatory water restrictions or, worse, a true water shortage.**

**PLEASE CONSERVE WATER SO THAT VOLUNTARY MEASURES DO NOT BECOME MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS. IT ALSO SAVES YOU MONEY!**

Thanks for your help during this difficult situation.

Yours truly,

The Board of Directors of Harris County MUD #1