

WATER BULLETIN

JUNE 28, 2007

During the week of June 17th through the 22nd, 2007, the Cherokee Metropolitan District experienced a series of events which resulted in a rapidly developing emergency situation for the District's water supply, resulting in the declaration of a Stage 4 water restriction.

A Stage 4 water restriction means that all outside watering of lawns is suspended until such time as there are adequate supplies available to relax the restrictions. The purpose of this Special Bulletin is to provide our customers with an explanation of the circumstances which resulted in this drastic step.

Why was it necessary to go to Stage 4? Earlier this year the District developed the currently established lawn watering schedule, based upon the daily averages of watering days and non-watering days. Calculations were made as to the amount of water which was required for lawn watering and how much water would be needed to refill the District's water tanks after each two days of watering during the week. The week of June 17-22, the weather turned hot and the rains stopped. On Wednesday, the District monitored a substantial drop in the water tank levels due to an increase in the incidence of lawn watering as a result of the hot weather. Normally, the water level in the tanks would be replaced on Thursday and Friday, which would have been non-watering days. However, higher than average water consumption continued on Thursday resulting in less than anticipated replenishment of the water tanks. The District continued to monitor the water levels throughout the day and evening. As of Friday morning, it became evident that the District faced the very real potential of exhausting the water in the storage tanks by Sunday evening. The District's first priority is to insure that each home and business has an adequate water supply for domestic use. On Friday morning, the determination was made to go to Stage 4 restrictions to insure that the District did not run out of water.

Why weren't the residents notified, directly, by the District? The timing of this emergency was unfortunate and due to the upcoming weekend, immediate action had to be taken. Press releases were sent out to as many television and radio stations as possible. Our goal was to let as many residents as know about the situation, in anticipation that enough residents would receive word of the additional restrictions to reduce the water demand during the weekend. Additionally, the District has been working with the City of Colorado Springs, since January, to provide an additional source of water, and that contract was scheduled for approval by the City Council on Tuesday, June 26, 2007. The District did not want to send a special mailing out, which would not be received by the residents until Monday, at the earliest, with a possible solution being reached on Tuesday. Enough residents did receive word that the District was able to get through the weekend without running out of water. The District realizes that this is an area that must be improved, and we are in the process of investigating what options are available including

the potential of a reverse 911 system which would automatically dial all the residents with a recorded message. Currently the District out sources the maintenance of our web site and we will examine the requirements to update the site in house.

Why didn't the District request water from Colorado Springs under the Emergency Water Agreement currently in place? Under the terms of the agreement, the District could call upon Colorado Springs to provide drinking water, only under the condition that we were in a Stage 4 emergency. If the District had not gone to a Stage 4 level, the City would not provide the necessary water. It was necessary to go to Stage 4 to insure that everyone had enough water for inside use.

What has the District done to resolve this problem? After several months of negotiations, the District and the City of Colorado Springs came to agreement terms to deliver the District up to 500 acre feet of water for the next two years. This contract was approved by the City Council on June 26th. Additionally, the District is in the process of laying pipeline to connect a new source of water to the system, which is anticipated to be online by early August. Several other acquisitions are under contract at this time, and the District is conducting the necessary diligence to insure that these purchases will produce the appropriate amount of water. Drilling of the well adjacent to the Golf Course has been completed and pump testing is underway to determine pump and piping requirements.

When will the District go off of Stage 4? As soon as all the necessary metering and final administrative activities are completed for the delivery of the Colorado Springs contract water, and the water is actually flowing into the District's system, the restriction will be lifted and the District will revert back to a Stage 2 level. This could happen as early as Friday, June 29th. As soon as the restriction is lifted, the District will contact all the media outlets to ask for their help in getting the word out. We will update the website and a special mailing will be provided once the Stage 4 is lifted.

The District's website may be found at <http://www.cherokeemetro.org>.