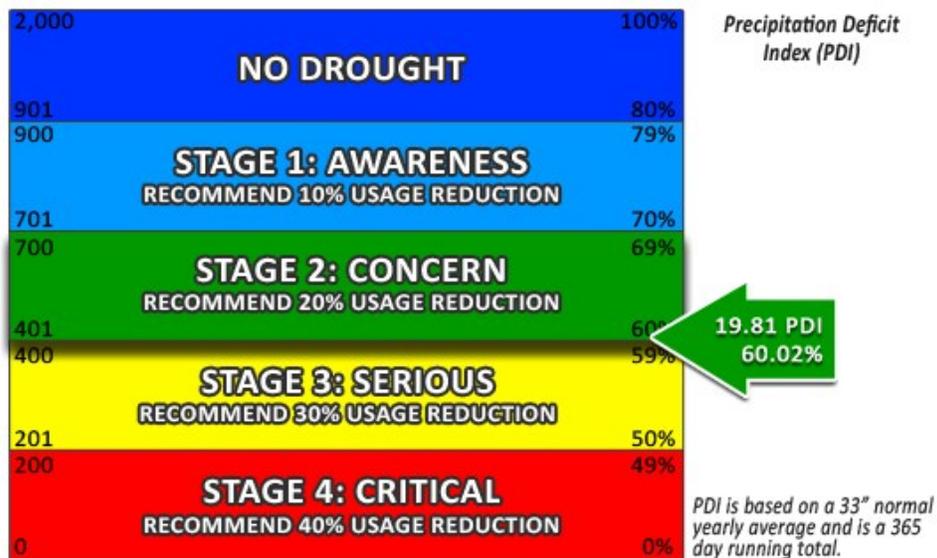


# Trinity Aquifer—Drought Status Report

## STAGE 2—CONCERN



“Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District has taken a very cautious position on moving to Stage 2: Concern,” says Dirk Aaron, General Manager. Aaron stressed, “The District wants those businesses and utilities that have permitted wells to be supportive of this very conservative position”. The permit holders and exempt well owners of wells in the Trinity Aquifer are encouraged to conserve under the “Concern” Stage 2 Declaration Level.

The Trinity Aquifer’s ability to respond to rainfall is a much more complex and slow process. The District’s drought trigger is only the rainfall deficit measurement based on the very specific rainfall over the identified recharge region of the Trinity Aquifer. The recorded rainfall data and average deficit over the Trinity Aquifer region is currently -13.19 inches. This simply means we expect 33 inches of rain over a running 12 month period, but the District’s data measurement system says that only 19.81 inches of rain has fallen in the Trinity Recharge Region. “Going into the driest season,” states Aaron, “It is prudent to declare Stage 2 at this time. Trinity well owners in west Bell County should support this after experiencing severe draw-down in their wells during the last few summers.”

“The need for continuing to ask well owners (both permitted and exempt well users) not to utilize this precious resource inappropriately and excessively for landscape purposes is the best way to conserve for a possible repeat of last year’s drought. We have a job to do and this is to protect water quantity for the future,” states Aaron.

- *Continue or increase voluntary reduction in various uses.*
- *Check for and correct all plumbing leaks.*
- *Re-use or re-circulate water whenever possible.*
- *No filling of ponds, lakes, tanks, reservoirs, swimming pools or other surface impoundments for holding water that have a total capacity of more than 50,000 gallons, except for public water supply systems. Public water supply systems are encouraged to implement measures to achieve a 20% reduction in water usage.*
- *Limit watering of landscape (lawns, trees, shrubs, etc.) to only once every 5 to 7 days. Agriculture and horticulture operations are exempted from this measure but are encouraged to reduce tree, plant, and crop watering by 20%.*
- *Only water landscape at night between the hours of 7 pm and 7 am.*
- *Keep swimming pools, landscape or decorative ponds and fountains covered (where possible), re-circulate water, and wait 5 to 7 days to refill.*
- *Wash vehicles at car wash only as needed.*
- *Do not wash buildings, driveways, streets, patios, or other outdoor surfaces except as required for human or animal health and safety needs, or for fire prevention.*
- *Water livestock in leak-proof troughs as much as practical.*

### Initiation and Termination of Drought Stages

The District Board or the Board's designee shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the plan and shall take appropriate action. The Board's designee is authorized to monitor the drought indices and take appropriate action to initiate or terminate the drought stages as needed and inform the Board President at the time the action is considered. The Board shall be informed of the action taken and justification for such action at the monthly Board meeting at which time the Board may confirm or revise the action taken.

Public notification of the initiation or termination of drought stages shall be by means of either notification on the District's website, in a newspaper(s) of general circulation, radio announcement, or District mailing, fax, or email to owners/operators of permitted wells.

**Initiation of Stages:** The Precipitation Deficit Index (PDI) shall be monitored and presented to the District Board at the monthly Board meeting. Drought stages shall be triggered when the PDI value is less than a drought stage trigger condition for the period described below:

***PDI:** Monitored daily on a running-year basis over a defined area consisting generally of the area of Bell County with a buffer zone of approximately 10 miles around the County-line as truncated by the down-dip extent of the Trinity aquifer and based on NEX-RAD rainfall data provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The PDI trigger condition must be exceeded for a period of 28 consecutive days.*

**Termination of Stages:** Drought stage in effect shall be reduced or terminated when the PDI is greater than the trigger conditions of the drought stage in effect for the periods described below:

***PDI:** Monitored daily on a running-year basis over a defined area consisting generally of the area of Bell County with a buffer zone of approximately 10 miles around the County-line as truncated by the down-dip extent of the Trinity aquifer and based on NEX-RAD rainfall data provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The PDI trigger condition must be exceeded for a period of 42 consecutive days.*