THEEWATERSKLOOF MUNICIPALITY

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Water is the most basic and essential resource needed to sustain life, and lack of water can lead to serious sanitation and health risk:

As per the Disaster Management Act, 57 of 2002:

“Disaster” means a progressive or sudden, widespread of localized, natural or human occurrence which causes or threatens to cause:

- Death, injury or disease;
- Damage to property, infrastructure or the environment; or
- Disruption to the life of a community; and
- Is of a magnitude that exceeds the ability of those affected by the disaster to cope with its effects using only their own resources.

Natural disaster occurs when a natural hazard or event affects the environment, including humans and human settlements.

Vulnerability of humans during a disaster, caused by lack of appropriate emergency management, leads to social/human, economic and environmental impact.

A disaster is an unforeseen event and cannot be planned for, but how these events are managed can be planned for.

**Water Services Act (Act No. 108 of 1997)**

i) The Water Services Act defines the following:

**Water Services Authority:**

Means a Municipality, including a District or Rural Council as defined in the Local Government Transition Act, 1993, responsible for ensuring access to water services.
Where, water services:
Means water supply services and sanitation services

**Water Services Provider**

Means any person who provides water services to consumers or to another Water Services Institution, but does not include a Water Service Intermediary.
**Water Services Institution**

Means a Water Services Authority, a water services provider, a Water Board and a Water Services Committee.

A water service delivery area is any area being serviced by a single source or combination of sources essentially through the same treatment facility and the same distribution network

ii) A Water Services Authority has, amongst others, the following obligations in terms of the Act.

Duty to provide access to water services, which includes:

- A duty to all consumers or potential consumers in its area of jurisdiction to progressively ensure efficient, affordable, economical, sustainable access to water services.
- In emergency situations a Water Services Authority must take reasonable steps to provide basic water supply and basic sanitation services to any person within its area of jurisdiction and may do so at the cost of that authority.
- A Water Services Authority may impose reasonable limitations on the use of water services.

iii) Norms and standards for tariffs in terms of the Act:

In prescribing the norms and standards, the Minister must consider, among other factors-

- the financial sustainability of the water services in the geographic area in question;
- The recovery of costs reasonably associated with providing the water services;
- The redemption period of any loans for the provision of water services;
- The need to provide for drought and excess water availability

iv) **Offences in terms of the Act**

No person may continue the wasteful use of water after being called upon to stop by the Minister, a Province or any Water Services Authority, and any person who contravenes this stipulation is guilty of an offence and liable, on conviction, to a fine or to imprisonment or to both such fine an imprisonment.

v) **Right of access to basic water supply and sanitation**

Everyone has a right of access to basic water supply and basic sanitation.
Every Water Services Institution must take reasonable measures to realise these rights.

Every Water Services Authority must, in its Water Services Development Plan, provide for measures to realise these rights.

vi) **Basic water supply**

The minimum standard for basic water supply services is.

- The provision of appropriate education in respect of water use; and
- A minimum quantity of potable water of 25 litres per person per day or 6 kilolitres per household per month-
- At a minimum flow rate of not less than 10 litres per minute;
- Within 200 meters of a household; and
- With an effectiveness such that no consumer is without a supply for more than seven full days in any year

vii) **Provision of basic water supply and basic sanitation to have preference**

If the water services provided by a Water Services Institution are unable to meet the requirements of all its existing consumers, it must give preference to the provision of basic water supply and basic sanitation to them.

*Where*

“basic water supply” means the prescribed minimum standard of water supply services necessary for the reliable supply of a sufficient quantity and quality of water to households, including informal households, to support life and personal hygiene

Theewaterskloof Municipality is the Water Services Authority and the Water Services Provider and thus has a “catchment to consumer” responsibility to the residents of TWK’s Jurisdiction to:

- Ensure sufficient raw water resources to accommodate current and future needs;
- To deliver safe drinking water at the point of consumption;
- Ensure basic water to sustain life and prevent sanitation and health risk;
- To discharge effluent of an acceptable standard back to rivers.

It is essential that Theewaterskloof Municipality has a Drought Management Policy in place to implement emergency measures when required to do so.
This policy addresses the state of the raw water resources that supply the Theewaterskloof Municipal area, and the action to be taken when certain milestones are reached.

2. STATUS OF RAW WATER RESOURCES AND ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

2.1 Emergency measures Phase 1 - Resource < 55%
2.2 Emergency measures Phase 2 – Resource < 45%
2.3 Emergency measures Phase 3 – Resource < 25%
2.4 Emergency measures Phase 4 – Resource < 15%
2.5 Emergency measures Phase 5 – Resource < 10%

2.1 EMERGENCY MEASURES PHASE 1

a) Gardens may be watered during the following period ONLY, i.e. between 05:00 and 07:00 in the mornings and between 19:00 to 21:00 in the evenings

Even numbered households ONLY Mondays and Thursdays,
Uneven numbered households ONLY Tuesdays and Fridays,
Unnumbered households ONLY Mondays and Thursdays,
If a garden hose is used, it must be hand-held.

The irrigation or watering of all sport fields is prohibited. Exemption from restrictions in the following instances only: golf course greens, bowling greens and cricket pitches which may only be watered between 19:00 and 21:00;

b) The washing of vehicles with a garden hose, except by a commercial enterprise whose business it is to wash cars, is prohibited.

c) The cleaning of ANY area by means of water is prohibited;

d) The filling of swimming pools is prohibited;

e) Water restrictions become effective immediately after being advertised in the media, and in public places, for a period of two weeks;

f) Maintenance teams must be made available to address leakages on erven of indigent households. If sufficient fund are available indigent funding may be used for repairs of leakages;

g) A service must be made available where contraventions are reported and followed up immediately by Law Enforcement;
h) Any person who contravenes these restrictions is guilty of an offence and is, upon conviction, liable to a fine as published in the annual tariffs list, or six months imprisonment;

i) Secondary offenders will be fined double the amount referred to in (i) above;

j) Where own water from a registered borehole or reservoir is used, the appropriate notice shall be clearly displayed on the premises with the registration number of the said borehole, e.g. “OWN WATER: BOREHOLE, REGISTRATION NUMBER 12345”;

k) Applications for exemptions are to be submitted to the Department: Technical Services for approval. Once approved, a written exemption shall be provided, and individual applications assessed;

l) Public awareness campaigns shall be initiated by the Department: Technical Services;

m) Additional temporary water law enforcement officers shall be appointed to enforce the water restrictions;

n) The necessary finances shall be made available on the operational budget to finance all measures that must be implemented;

o) Large water consumers shall be identified and approached to reduce consumption;

p) Technical Services shall inform the Municipal Manager of the situation and weekly meetings shall be held to co-ordinate and exchange information;

q) An Internal drought Management Task Team shall be initiated, under the chairmanship of the Dept. Technical Services, with representatives for all Municipal departments, to meet as determined at that time. Meetings will be minuted;

r) Council shall convene to take cognizance of the situation and discuss the appropriate actions.

2.2 **EMERGENCY MEASURES PHASE 2**

Measures as in 2.1 above and in addition the following:
1. Emergency tariffs shall be implemented immediately, as published in the annual tariffs list, and as follows:

   a. All residential consumers and businesses will be charged at the water tariff as published in the annual tariffs list;
   b. All other users will be charged at the water tariff as published in the annual tariffs list.

2. Emergency tariffs shall become effective after notice thereof for a period not exceeding two weeks prior to the effective date has been published in the media and at public places;

3. Each household shall be limited to 15kl/month;

4. Other users, businesses and the entertainment industries shall reduce consumption by 15% of the average use over the previous 6 months. Failure to comply will result in a fine as published in the annual tariffs list;

5. Industries shall reduce consumption by 10% of the average use over the previous 6 months. Failure to comply will result in a fine as published in the annual tariffs list;

6. Flow reducing devices shall be installed where the above limits are exceeded. Except for a registered indigent household, the offender will be charged for the cost of the installation;

7. The public awareness campaign shall be intensified. A specific official, with the relevant marketing experience, will be identified to fulfill this function;

8. Consumers shall be closely monitored and those that do not heed the restrictions identified. A specific official, with the relevant technical experience, will be identified to fulfill this function;

9. Gardens may be watered using only watering cans or buckets, any time of the day, properties with registered boreholes and the correct display of the borehole information is exempted from this measure;

10. Any person who contravenes these restrictions is guilty of an offence and is, upon conviction, liable to a fine as published in the annual tariffs list, or six months imprisonment;

11. Secondary offenders will be liable to an additional fine as published in the annual tariffs list;

12. Manager of Disaster Management shall be approached, and requested to inform Provincial Disaster Management to take note of the situation and provide support where required;
13. A technical task meeting shall be formed with representation on a local district and provincial level;

14. The options available to augment raw water supplies shall be carefully considered and the necessary planning will commence immediately to implement these as an emergency measure, as and if required. The financial implications will be assessed and cost estimations compiled;

15. Emergency procedures shall be followed, where legislation permits it e.g. with the procurement of goods and services, appointment of personnel/ service providers;

16. A Finance task team shall be formed with representation on a local district and provincial level. All possible sources of funding will be investigated and applications submitted;

17. Additional water law enforcers must be identified, stricter policing applied and a 24 hour complaint line implemented with a whistle blowers facility.

18. Council will be requested to convene to take full cognizance of the situation and provide political support.

2.3 **EMERGENCY MEASURES PHASE 3**

Measures as in 2.2 above and in addition the following:

1. Additional maintenance teams shall address leakages and complaints;

2. The irrigation or watering of sport fields with potable water as indicated in A(3) is prohibited;

3. No filling of public swimming pools with potable water;

4. The use of hoses by car wash business is prohibited and vehicles shall only be washed using buckets, unless water is supplied from an alternate source than municipal potable water. This is applicable to all commercial entities;

5. No hosing of structures, roofs or any other object with Municipal water;

6. Media to be utilized extensively for public awareness;
7. Other users, businesses and the entertainment industries shall reduce consumption by 25% of the average use over the previous 6 months. Failure to comply will result in a fine as published in the annual tariffs list;

8. Industries shall reduce consumption by 15% of the average use over the previous 6 months. Failure to comply will result in a fine as published in the annual tariffs list;

9. Flow reducing devices shall be installed where the above limits are exceeded. Except for a registered indigent household, the offender will be charged with the cost of the installation.

10. Any person who contravenes restrictions imposed by the Municipality shall be guilty of an offence and will, upon conviction, be liable to the penalty as provided for in the Act or the Water Services bylaw to limit or restrict the use of Water, published in Provincial Gazette 6689 dated 22 January 2010 and the annual tariffs list.

11. Secondary offenders will be liable for a fine as published in the annual tariffs list;

12. The Municipal Manager shall submit a written request to Overberg District Municipality to be declared a disaster area;

13. Monthly meetings shall be held with the Overberg Disaster Management Centre, MDMC, to monitor the situation and to alert the Provincial Disaster Management Centre, PDMC;

14. Augmentation schemes will be implemented, if not already in progress.

15. The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) shall request that a Provincial Financial task team be initiated to address financial needs and compile a financial recovery plan if necessary;

16. The CFO shall request that a Provincial Technical team be initiated to assist with technical aspects and the augmentation of resources;

17. The budget shall be reprioritized if necessary to enable emergency measures to be implemented, and to provide bridging finance if needed;

18. The Council shall convene and take cognizance of the situation and provide political support;
2.4 EMERGENCY MEASURES PHASE 4

Measures as in 2.3 above and in addition the following:

1. Emergency tariffs will be adjusted as follows:
   a. All residential consumers and businesses will be charged the emergency water tariff as published in the annual tariffs list.
   b. All other users will be charged the emergency water tariff as published in the annual tariffs list.

2. The maximum allowable residential use shall be reduced to 10kl/month, and the tariffs and penalties shall be adjusted accordingly;

3. Other users, businesses and the entertainment industries shall reduce consumption by 40% of the average use over the previous 6 months. Failure to comply will result in a fine as published in the annual tariffs list;

4. Industries shall reduce consumption by 25% of the average use over the previous 6 months. Failure to comply will result in a fine as published in the annual tariffs list;

5. Flow reducing devices shall be installed in all residential meters. Where the above limits are exceeded consumers will be charged for the installation of the device, except for a registered indigent household;

6. Flow reducing devices shall be installed for all other users where the above limits are exceeded, and the cost of the installation will be charged to the offender.

7. Via the MDMC the Provincial- and National Disaster Management Centers shall be alerted and requested to prepare for possible intervention if an augmentation scheme is not at implementation readiness.

8. Mr. Johan Viljoen as Disaster Manger shall be requested to act as the primary responsible authority responsible for the co-ordination and management of the local disaster, refer A:54(1) (b) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002, (Act 57 of 2002).

9. A formal joint operations committee (JOC) shall be established at the Caledon Offices, weekly meetings with all the relevant stakeholders to coordinate emergency intervention actions needed;

10. District Disaster Manager Mr. R Geldenhuys shall alert the national Defense Force as well as the South African Police Services.
2.5 EMERGENCY MEASURES PHASE 5

Measures as in 2.4 above and in addition the following:

1. The emergency tariffs
   a. All residential consumers and businesses shall be charged the emergency water tariff as published in the annual tariffs list.
   b. All other users shall be charged the emergency water tariff as published in the annual tariffs list.
   c. The maximum allowable residential use shall be reduced to the basic Constitutional right of 6kl/household per month, and the tariffs and penalties adjusted accordingly.

2. Other users, businesses and the entertainment industries shall reduce consumption by 50% if the average use over the previous 6 months. Failure to comply will result in a fine as published in the annual tariffs list;

3. Industries shall reduce consumption by 30% of the average use over the previous 6 months. Failure to comply will result in a fine as published in the annual tariffs list;

4. The Technical Task Team shall consider all available options and implement immediately;

5. Flow reducing devices shall be installed in all meters. Where the above limits are exceeded consumers will be charged for the installation of the device;

6. Formal joint operations committee (JOC) meetings shall be held daily with all the relevant stakeholders;

7. Emergency water schemes, the placement of water tanks in specific areas as well as the installation of mobile sanitation installations shall be implemented were possible.

8. If a reliable augmentation scheme is not in place. MDMC shall coordinate with the PDMC as well as the MDMC for the release of Provincial as well as National resources to assist in providing immediate relief and to transport water into the area. Areas that will be problematic to supply will have to be evacuated.
The above measures are not exhaustive, and shall be implemented together with any other measures required to adequately address the situation. Factors such as the reliability of alternate water resources shall also be taken into account during the implementation of drought management actions.

These measures may be applied to individual water service delivery areas, a combination of any water service delivery areas or the entire municipality as needed at any point in time. It is also possible that different measures will be applicable to different water service delivery areas.