

## **NEWS RELEASE**

North Texas Municipal Water District For Immediate Release Contact: Rick Ericson-214.706.6000

## North Texas Municipal Water District Continues month-to-month Stage 3 water restrictions allowing once every two weeks landscape watering

Recent rains have not significantly impacted lake levels but have reduced the need for landscape watering

(Wylie, Texas-April 25, 2014) The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) Board of Directors has approved continuation of Stage 3 landscape watering of once every two weeks for the month of May 2014. Customers should check with their city for specific details.

Despite recent rainfall, Stage 3 water restrictions are necessary due to below average rainfall, lower than normal water levels of NTMWD reservoirs, and the temporary loss of the Lake Texoma raw water supply due to the zebra mussel infestation.

"Recent rainfall has not significantly impacted lake levels but has temporarily reduced the need this week for landscape watering," said Jim Parks, executive director of NTMWD. "Our customers can help us conserve our water supplies by using rain sensors or temporarily turning off automatic sprinkler systems during periods of rainfall," Parks added.

NTMWD, in partnership with Texas A&M Agrilife Extension is offering residential and business water customers a new tool, Water My Yard, that computes proper landscape watering needs based on recent weather conditions. Water My Yard, found at <a href="http://watermyyard.org">http://watermyyard.org</a> takes into account the type of irrigation system and weather conditions. By signing up for a weekly email, residential and business water customers receive a notification of how long to run their irrigation system.

"It's important to remember that when watering your landscape that your sprinkler system is meant to supplement rainfall and not the other way around," states Clint Wolfe, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Urban Water Program Manager. "With moderate daytime temperatures and recent rains you may not need to be irrigating at all. Take advantage of the weather and let's save that water for our drier summer months. If you do need to provide supplemental water to your landscape remember to utilize the cycle and soak method of irrigation. This is where you run each zone for shorter periods of time to prevent runoff and to allow water to more easily penetrate and absorb into our heavy clay soils," Wolfe added.

Lavon Lake, the NTMWD's primary water supply, is currently 11.68 feet below conservation pool level; Jim Chapman Lake is 10.61 feet low; Lake Tawakoni is 9.79 feet low; and Lake Texoma is 8.22 feet low.

For water conservation tips, visit <u>www.northtexaswateriq.org</u> or <u>www.ntmwd.com</u>