

## **Summary of Proposed Changes to Water Conservation Code**

The proposals on watering restrictions are built on the principle that irrigation methods that apply water more efficiently are allowed greater frequency of use.

### **Irrigation Methods with No Restrictions**

- Several watering methods are currently unrestricted in Conservation Stage and Drought Stages 1 through 3. This remains unchanged in the proposed code:
  - Drip irrigation
  - Hand-held watering
  - Tree and foundation watering with bubblers, irrigation bags or soaker hoses

### **Two-Days-Per-Week**

- Under both current and proposed codes, hose-end sprinklers would be allowed to water two days per week until Stage 2 and then would be limited to one day per week.

### **One-Day-Per-Week**

- Automatic irrigation systems would now be limited to one-day-per-week in all stages (except the emergency Stage 4 where all outdoor irrigation is prohibited), with hours narrowing as the stages progress. Automatic systems can use up to 15 gallons per minute (gpm) compared to 3 gpm for hose-end. People with automatic systems could water a second day with a hose-end sprinkler during Conservation Stage and Stage 1.

### **New Landscape Variance**

- Currently Austin Water allows a variance for any new landscape during Conservation Stage and Stage 1, and only for /drought tolerant landscapes in Stages 2 and 3. In the new proposed code, only drought tolerant landscapes are eligible for variances.

### **Home Car Wash**

- Currently home car washing is only allowed in the Conservation Stage, the stage at which the lakes are the most full. Under the proposal, home car washing with a positive shut-off nozzle or bucket would now be allowed in both Conservation Stage and Stage 1. Home car washing would be allowed in Stage 2 with a bucket, and be prohibited in Stage 3.

## **Summary of Proposed Changes to Drought Contingency Plan**

A revised Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) is required due to the proposed code changes. The DCP is updated to reflect proposed code changes, and update demand triggers for Stage 2 based on additional treatment capacity since the prior DCP submittal.