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NEWS RELEASE

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Stage 1 Watering Restrictions Ending

FORT WORTH – Fort Worth is lifting Stage 1 watering restrictions effective tomorrow. Tarrant Regional Water District notified the city of its intent to lift the restrictions on Friday because water supply levels are at 97 percent.

Watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on any day with hose-end or automatic irrigation systems is still prohibited because this requirement is part of the water conservation ordinance. Other conservation measures that remain in effect are prohibitions on the wasting of water by watering hard surfaces or allowing runoff down the street.

Residents and businesses are urged to be efficient with their outdoor watering and are reminded drought restrictions will return when lake levels reach 75 percent. The use of drip irrigation, soaker hoses and hand watering are the most efficient methods of watering. For information on efficient water use and ways to save water or to request a free irrigation system check-up, visit www.saveFortWorthwater.org.

“It is not a matter of if but when we return to Stage 1. It may be one year it may be four years. While we cannot control the amount of rainfall in our watershed, we can control how much we use and how much we stretch our supplies,” said Mary Gugliuzza with the Fort Worth Water Department. “Remember irrigation should only be done to supplement rainfall, and lawns don’t need more than one-inch of water every week to two weeks at this time of year.”

The Stage 1 restrictions took effect Aug. 29 and this was the first time Fort Worth implemented water restrictions because of declining water supply levels.

The end of Stage 1 applies to all 220,000 Fort Worth retail accounts, including those outside the city limits. Fort Worth has notified its wholesale customers, the other entities that purchase treated water and resell it, of the lifting of Stage 1. Each of those entities is responsible for taking the appropriate action in their community. Residents and businesses in these other communities should consult with their local water utility’s website to see if it is lifting the restrictions.

Gugliuzza said by Fort Worth ending Stage 1, all wholesale customers are free to do the same, but not required to do so. She notes water use limitations can be enacted for emergency reasons other than drought and some communities had implemented restrictions prior to Aug. 29 because of other water system factors. She urges residents and businesses in other communities to check their water utility’s website for information.

The wholesale customers that regularly purchase water include Bethesda Water Supply Corp., Burleson, Crowley, Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, Dalworthington Gardens, Edgecliff Village, Everman, Forest Hill, Grand Prairie, Haltom City, Haslet, Hurst, Keller, Kennedale, Lake Worth, Northlake, North Richland Hills, Richland Hills, Roanoke, Saginaw, Southlake, Trophy Club Municipal Utility District, Westlake, Westover Hills, Westworth Village and White Settlement.