

Foreword

Kansas law provides that the Governor shall be responsible for meeting the dangers posed to the state and its people by drought and other disasters. The law also states that the Kansas Water Office shall advise the Governor when drought conditions exist within the State and recommend assembly of the Governor's Drought Response Team.

Kansas has been a national leader in developing and implementing programs for drought mitigation and response. These include programs promoting water conservation by the state's irrigators, municipalities and rural water districts; purchase of water supply storage in federal reservoirs for sale to municipal and industrial water users and to help assure flows adequate to meet water rights of water assurance district members; development of multipurpose small lakes to help assure small communities a reliable water source; and local leadership in forming public wholesale water supply districts.

Experience in 2000 and again in 2002 has shown the need for a plan to better coordinate the State's response to drought conditions. This Operations Plan is intended to provide the Governor's Drought Response Team with an effective and systematic means of monitoring drought conditions and implementing appropriate response actions to limit the adverse impacts of drought.

The Kansas Water Office developed this Operations Plan with input from other state and federal agencies. In doing so, much was learned by taking advantage of information and plans available from other states and organizations. Of particular value was the drought climatology, drought impact and drought planning information available from the National Drought Mitigation Center. Drought response plans from the states of Colorado, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma and Texas also proved valuable in preparing this plan.

All of the Governor's Drought Response Team members were given the opportunity to review and comment on this plan. Overall approval of the Operations Plan was made by Governor Kathleen Sebelius in Executive Order No. 03-17. In April 2003, the Kansas Water Authority approved the "guidelines as to when conditions indicative of drought exist" embodied within the Phased Drought Response and Drought Monitoring subsections as required by K.S.A. 74-2608.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 03-17

APPROVING AN OPERATIONS PLAN FOR THE GOVERNOR'S DROUGHT RESPONSE TEAM

WHEREAS, the Kansas Emergency Management Act (K.S.A. 48-901 et seq.) states that the Governor shall be responsible for meeting the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters, including drought; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas Water Office is charged by statute (K.S.A. 74-2608), with advising the Governor when drought conditions exist within the state and with recommending assembly of the Governor's Drought Response Team; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas Emergency Management Act authorizes the Governor, when advised that drought conditions exist within the state, to declare by proclamation that a state of drought exists; and

WHEREAS, there is no statutory or regulatory guidance regarding the operations of the Governor's Drought Response Team; and

WHEREAS, such guidance is needed to ensure that the State of Kansas responds in a timely and appropriate manner to the impacts of drought upon its people, resources and the environment;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Kansas, I hereby:

1. approve the Operations Plan for the Governor's Drought Response Team, and
2. order implementation of this Operations Plan by the various state agency members of the Governor's Drought Response Team as stated in the Operations Plan.

This document shall be filed with the Secretary of State as Executive Order No. 03-17 and shall become effective immediately.

Governor Kathleen Sebelius

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OPERATIONS PLAN GOVERNOR’S DROUGHT RESPONSE TEAM

INTRODUCTION

Drought differs from other natural disasters in that its onset is subtle and its impacts develop over time, rather than immediately as occurs with a tornado or a flood. This makes it more difficult for local and state officials and others to recognize and plan for drought than for other natural disasters.

There are many definitions of drought. For the purposes of this Operations Plan drought is defined as “A period of abnormally dry weather that persists long enough to produce serious economic, environmental or social impacts.”

While drought is a natural phenomenon, actions taken by individuals and by government at all levels can do much to reduce its impact. Kansas law requires that the Kansas Water Office notify the Governor when drought conditions are present in the state and recommend assembly of the Governor’s Drought Response Team. This Team is responsible for ensuring that adequate state resources are committed to drought response in a coordinated manner.

The Kansas approach to drought is proactive. While this Operations Plan focuses on drought response, other emergency management measures are addressed elsewhere. Mitigation measures are contained in the Kansas Hazard Mitigation Strategy and in the Kansas Water Plan. Many aspects of emergency preparedness and recovery are addressed in the State Emergency Operations Plan implemented by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management through local emergency management officials.

Objectives of this Operations Plan are to:

1. Identify Governor’s Drought Response Team membership and leadership.
2. Establish a phased response to the various stages of drought.
3. Provide guidance for drought monitoring and establish criteria for triggering assembly of the Governor’s Drought Response Team.
4. Define the duties and responsibilities of State agencies at each drought stage.
5. Identify responsibilities for providing public information regarding drought conditions and response actions.

Summarized immediately below are response actions associated with three drought stages: Drought Watch, Drought Warning and Drought Emergency. Counties may be declared to be in an appropriate drought stage through a proclamation issued by the Governor.

PART A – DROUGHT RESPONSE ACTIONS

Drought response actions may be taken by individuals or by local, state or federal government. As indicated elsewhere in this Operations Plan, response at earlier, less severe stages of drought emphasizes individual and local government actions. As drought intensifies, state and federal actions gain more emphasis.

DROUGHT STAGES

Several state government programs or actions applicable to drought response are ongoing and do not require a drought declaration to trigger their authorization or implementation. Other actions, such as administration of minimum desirable streamflows, have specific statutory requirements and rules and regulations governing their implementation regardless of a drought declaration. Federal disaster declarations also have specific statutory or administrative requirements that must be met in order for a declaration to be made. Tables 1, 2 and 3 provide a summary of actions associated with the Drought Watch, Drought Warning and Drought Emergency stages, respectively. These drought stages are explained further on page 9 of this Operations Plan. Response actions specifically triggered by a drought stage declaration are authorized for implementation only within those counties so declared.

TABLE 1 SUMMARY OF ACTIONS DROUGHT WATCH DECLARATION	
Entity - Program / Activity	Action
Kansas Water Office: Director	Notify Governor; recommend issuance of Drought Watch Declaration and recommend assembling of Governor's Drought Response Team.
Governor	Issue proclamation declaring Drought Watch in designated counties.
Governor's Office	Issue press release announcing Drought Watch declaration.
Kansas Water Office: Public Information	Provide stakeholder information regarding local actions/options to targeted audiences in designated counties.
Board of County Commissioners	Issue proclamation declaring outdoor burning ban if necessary.
City Commission / Council Rural Water District Board	Implement Stage 1 Water Watch public information campaign and request for voluntary reductions in water use per local water conservation plan.
Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Water Resources: Water Appropriations	Administers water rights on streams not meeting minimum desirable streamflow targets. Protects senior water rights and water releases from reservoir storage against unauthorized use.
Kansas Department. of Administration: Facilities Operations	Implement applicable Stage 1 Water Watch reductions in water use at state owned or leased facilities per local water conservation plan.
USDA Farm Service Agency: Flash Reports	Coordinate with county emergency boards to

TABLE 1 SUMMARY OF ACTIONS DROUGHT WATCH DECLARATION	
Entity - Program / Activity	Action
	develop Flash Reports. Monitor drought condition in county and submit a USDA Flash Situation Report to the USDA State Emergency Board (SEB) during a period of prolonged dryness and when the prospects of moisture are not imminent.
Kansas State University: Public Information and Education Hay and Pasture Exchange	Provides drought management information to farmers and ranchers through local Extension service offices. State Climatologist, based at K-State, records and interprets weather data and forecasts. Cooperates with Kansas Farm Bureau on hay and pasture exchange.

TABLE 2 SUMMARY OF ACTIONS DROUGHT WARNING DECLARATION	
Entity - Program / Activity	Action
Kansas Water Office: Director	Notify Governor; recommend issuance of Drought Warning Declaration.
Governor	Issue proclamation declaring Drought Warning in designated counties.
Governor's Office	Issue press release announcing Drought Warning declaration.
Kansas Water Office: Public Information	Provide stakeholder information regarding local actions/options to targeted audiences in designated counties.
Kansas Water Office: Water Marketing	Urgent Surplus Water Contracts authorized in designated counties.
Board of County Commissioners	Issue proclamation declaring outdoor burning ban if necessary.
City Commission / Council Rural Water District Board	Implementation of Stage 2 Water Warning water use restrictions per local water conservation plan.
Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Water Resources: Water Appropriations	Grants temporary permits to appropriate water for emergency use. Administers water rights on streams not meeting minimum desirable streamflow targets. Protects senior water rights and water releases from reservoir storage against unauthorized use.
Kansas Department. of Administration : Facilities Operations	Implement applicable Stage 2 Water Warning reductions in water use at state owned or leased facilities per local water conservation plan.
Kansas State University: Public Information and Education Hay and Pasture Exchange	Provides drought management information to farmers and ranchers through local Extension service offices. State Climatologist, based at K-State, records and interprets weather data and forecasts. Cooperates with Kansas Farm Bureau on hay and pasture exchange.

**TABLE 3
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
DROUGHT EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

Entity - Program / Activity	Action
Kansas Water Office: Director	Notify Governor; recommend issuance of Drought Emergency Declaration.
Governor	Issue proclamation declaring Drought Emergency in designated counties.
Governor's Office	Issue press release announcing Drought Emergency declaration.
KWO: Public Information	Provides stakeholder information regarding local actions/options to targeted audiences in designated counties.
Governor	Request federal drought assistance from the President, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and/or the U.S. Secretary of the Interior for designated counties
Governor's Office	Issue press release announcing request(s) for federal drought assistance.
Governor	On advice of the Adjutant General, issue Executive Order declaring outdoor burning ban in designated counties.
Governor's Office	Issue press release announcing burning ban declaration.
Adjutant General	Advise the Governor regarding the need for outdoor burning bans.
State Fire Marshal	With the State Forester, advise the Adjutant General regarding need for outdoor burning bans.
State Forester	With the State Fire Marshal, advise the Adjutant General regarding need for outdoor burning bans.
Board of County Commissioners	Issue proclamation declaring a state of local disaster emergency due to drought, if necessary.
City Commission / Council Rural Water District Board	Implement Stage 3 Water Emergency mandatory water use restrictions per local water conservation plan.
Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Water Resources: Water Appropriations	Grants temporary permits to appropriate water for emergency use. Administers water rights on streams not meeting minimum desirable streamflow targets. Protects senior water rights and water releases from reservoir storage against unauthorized use.
Kansas Department. of Administration : Facilities Operations	Implement applicable Stage 3 Water Emergency reductions in water use at state owned or leased facilities per local water conservation plan.
Kansas State University: Public information and education Hay and Pasture Exchange	Provides drought management information to farmers and ranchers through local Extension service offices. State Climatologist, based at K-State, records and interprets weather data and forecasts. Cooperates with Kansas Farm Bureau on hay and pasture exchange.

TABLE 3 SUMMARY OF ACTIONS DROUGHT EMERGENCY DECLARATION	
Entity - Program / Activity	Action
Kansas Water Office: Water Marketing	Emergency Surplus Water Contracts authorized in designated counties.
Kansas Water Office: Memoranda of Understanding with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Emergency water withdrawals from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reservoirs under terms of MOU's between the Corps and the State of Kansas authorized.
Kansas Water Office: Memorandum of Understanding with Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks	Emergency water withdrawals from state fishing lakes under terms of MOU between the KWO and KDWP authorized.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Emergency Water Assistance	Requires written request from Governor or authorized representative. Also should have state or local drought emergency declaration.

FEDERAL DISASTER DECLARATIONS

Federal drought assistance may be authorized through a disaster declaration by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. The Secretary of the Interior is also authorized to provide temporary assistance upon finding that such assistance is merited.

The Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003 provides assistance to producers who suffered losses due to weather-related disasters or other emergency conditions. Three disaster assistance programs authorized for Kansas included the Crop Disaster Program, the Livestock Compensation Program and the Livestock Assistance Program. All Kansas counties were eligible for these programs; however, individual producer eligibility would depend on the level of loss. Although the Livestock Compensation Program and the Livestock Assistance Program required a designation of a primary disaster by the President or the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, the Crop Disaster Program did not require such a declaration.

The Livestock Compensation Program provides payments based on the number of head of eligible livestock owned by a producer in a designated eligible county during 2002. The Livestock Assistance Program reimburses livestock producers for grazing losses in either 2001 or 2002. Because the Livestock Compensation Program and the Livestock Assistance Program provide assistance for the same loss, producers are not allowed to receive benefits under both programs.

The Crop Disaster Program provides payments to producers of qualifying agricultural commodities who suffered losses in excess of 35 percent due to damaging weather or related conditions. Producers have a choice of receiving payments for the 2001 or 2002 crops, but not both.

Proposed federal legislation (National Drought Preparedness Act of 2003) would eliminate the need for disaster-specific assistance legislation such as the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003. This proposed legislation (S.1454, introduced July 24, 2003) would provide for a consistent federal policy regarding drought mitigation and response

similar to that provided for other natural disasters through the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-288 as amended).

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Actions taken to document conditions and request assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) shall continue to be coordinated as previously. Local conditions are documented (Flash Report) by a County Emergency Board coordinated by the local USDA Farm Service Agency office. Flash Reports are forwarded to the Farm Service Agency State Office which coordinates with the Adjutant General's Department – Division of Emergency Management in informing the Governor. Requests for assistance or declarations are made by the Governor.

A county disaster declaration by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture makes the following assistance available:

1. Livestock Compensation Program (2001 and 2002 only)
2. Emergency Loan Assistance

Small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives that have suffered substantial economic injury resulting from a physical disaster or an agricultural production disaster designated by the Secretary of Agriculture may be eligible for the Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL). An EIDL can help businesses meet necessary financial obligations that the business could have met had the disaster not occurred.

U.S. Department of the Interior - The Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 provides broad authority to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to utilize the facilities of the Bureau of Reclamation and the resources of the Department of the Interior to provide drought assistance. There are seven Bureau of Reclamation projects in Kansas.

In order for a state to receive assistance, the Governor must submit a letter to the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation or the Secretary of the Interior requesting drought assistance. A new request must be submitted each year.

PART B – THE GOVERNOR’S DROUGHT RESPONSE TEAM

The Governor is statutorily responsible (K.S.A. 48-924) for meeting the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters, including drought. Assembly of the Governor’s Drought Response Team is recommended by the Kansas Water Office when drought conditions are present. There is no statutory or regulatory guidance regarding the structure or function of the Governor’s Drought Response Team.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Statutory authority assigning the responsibility for drought response is contained in the Kansas Emergency Management Act (K.S.A. 48-901 *et seq.*) and in the Kansas Water Office / Kansas Water Authority enabling statute (K.S.A. 74-2608).

- The Kansas Emergency Management Act (K.S.A. 48-924) states that the Governor shall be responsible for meeting the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters. Drought is included in the definition of a disaster (K.S.A. 49-904).
- The Kansas Water Office enabling statute (K.S.A. 74-2608) states that the Kansas Water Office, with Kansas Water Authority approval, has the responsibility for establishing guidelines to identify drought conditions. When drought conditions exist, the Kansas Water Office shall so advise the Governor and shall recommend assembling of the Governor’s Drought Response Team.
- When advised that drought conditions exist, the Governor shall be authorized to declare by proclamation that a state of drought exists (K.S.A. 48-924). This declaration can be for specific areas or communities, can be statewide, or for specific water sources. This declaration shall effect immediate implementation of drought contingency plans contained in state approved conservation plans including those for state facilities.

DROUGHT RESPONSE TEAM STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS

As stated, Kansas statutes (K.S.A. 74-2608) require that the Kansas Water Office notify the Governor and recommend assembling the Governor’s Drought Response Team when drought conditions exist within the State. The Governor’s Drought Response Team is responsible for implementing an interagency State Government response to drought that is properly coordinated with local and federal response activities at all drought stages.

No guidance regarding Team membership or structure is provided in the statutes and no bylaws or other guidance regarding Team operations have been previously developed.

Governor’s Drought Response Team members shall be management-level representatives from agencies and organizations with primary drought response duties.

They must have the authority to commit agency staff and resources to drought response activities. The Governor's Drought Response Team is chaired by the Director of the Kansas Water Office.

Once assembled, the Governor's Drought Response Team shall meet on a regular basis to ensure that response activities remain coordinated and that changes in drought conditions are properly addressed.

Governor's Drought Response Team members are:

1. Kansas Water Office (Chair)
2. Governor's Office
3. Adjutant General's Department – Division of Emergency Management
4. Kansas Department of Agriculture
5. Kansas Department of Administration
6. Kansas Department of Health and Environment
7. Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
8. Kansas State Fire Marshal
9. Kansas State University – Research & Extension
10. United States Army Corps of Engineers
11. United States Department of Agriculture – Farm Service Agency

Administrative Support - The Kansas Water Office shall provide primary staff support to the Governor's Drought Response Team. Included is scheduling of meetings, preparation and distribution of meeting materials, preparation of meeting summaries and preparation of reports. Other Governor's Drought Response Team members may be called upon for help in providing staff support as necessary.

Drought Monitoring – Monitoring is an on-going activity that is the statutory responsibility (K.S.A. 74-2608) of the Kansas Water Office. This Operations Plan contains guidelines which identify drought indicators to be used and river basins by which monitoring information will be summarized. In carrying-out its drought monitoring responsibilities, the Kansas Water Office shall consult with the State Climatologist, the Kansas Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, the U.S. Geological Survey and others, as appropriate.

When monitoring reveals that drought conditions have developed or changed within any river basin, the Kansas Water Office shall so advise the Governor. This advice shall include the appropriate drought stage for all affected river basins.

Public Information - Providing the public with accurate, timely information on drought conditions in Kansas and response activities that are planned or underway is essential to meeting the purpose of this Operations Plan.

Preparation and distribution of press releases or other information announcing drought stage declarations by the Governor, drought related Executive Orders or requests for federal drought assistance by the Governor shall be the responsibility of the Governor's Office.

While Governor's Drought Response Team members may produce agency specific drought-related public information materials, development and maintenance of a Governor's Drought Response Team home page on the internet shall be the responsibility of the Kansas Water Office. This home page shall be maintained regardless of drought conditions and updated as appropriate. Home page content shall include maps: 1.) summarizing basin drought conditions; 2.) showing county drought declarations by the Governor; and 3.) showing county drought/disaster declarations by the President or the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Links to other web sites providing drought information should also be included.

Additional information regarding drought, drought impacts, drought management in Kansas, specific drought response actions, local responsibilities or other applicable topics may also be developed.

PART C – DROUGHT RESPONSE STAGES AND MONITORING

The rationale supporting a phased response to drought is presented here along with a description of the three response stages. A drought monitoring methodology keyed to these stages is presented as is climatic information pertinent to drought in Kansas.

PHASED DROUGHT RESPONSE

Drought can be of long duration and varying severity. As a result, drought impacts at a given location may vary over time, requiring different response actions. Because of this, a phased approach to drought response is appropriate.

As drought conditions become more severe and prolonged, those impacted may become less able to respond and need help from local, state or federal governments. The stages identified in Table 4 take this into consideration. Drought response transitions from primarily local response during a Drought Watch through increasing state and federal response as local response capability is exceeded at the Drought Warning and Drought Emergency stages.

Kansas law (K.S.A. 74-2608) requires the Kansas Water Office, with Kansas Water Authority approval, to establish guidelines for identifying when drought conditions exist within the State. The initial guidelines, approved in 1992, were keyed to threshold values of the Palmer Drought Severity Index. No drought response stages were identified. Because of this, when the threshold values were met in 2000 and 2002, the Drought / Emergency Stages used in the *Kansas 1990 Municipal Water Conservation Plan Guidelines* were used as *de facto* drought response stages. No response activities other than those contained in local municipal water conservation plans were directly tied to these stages. This created uncertainty and confusion when communicating with the public and attempting to coordinate drought response activities.

Revised drought identification guidelines were approved by the Kansas Water Authority on April 10, 2003. These guidelines are contained within this Phased Drought Response subsection and the following Drought Monitoring subsection.

The Kansas Emergency Management Act (K.S.A. 48-924e) states that the Governor may declare a state of drought for specific areas or communities, for specific water sources, or statewide. Since drought conditions may vary widely within a short distance and emergency management responsibilities begin at the municipal and county levels, it is recommended that declarations of drought stages identified in this Operations Plan be made by county.

Drought Stages – This Operations Plan identifies three drought stages to be used in a phased response to drought in Kansas. These stages are: Drought Watch, Drought Warning and Drought Emergency. In order to prevent confusion, these stages mirror the Water Watch, Water Warning and Water Emergency stages used in the *Kansas 1990*

Municipal Water Conservation Plan Guidelines (e.g. Drought Watch is equivalent to Water Watch in the Guidelines).

The descriptions in Table 4 are from the U.S. Drought Monitor while the possible impacts are derived from both sources. Impacts are shown for illustrative purposes only and may vary throughout the state or from time-to-time.

TABLE 4 KANSAS PHASED DROUGHT RESPONSE SUMMARY				
Stage	Description	Declared by	Possible Impacts	Response Summary ¹
Drought Watch	Moderate Drought	Governor	Some damage to crops and pastures. High rangeland fire danger. Serious public water system water shortages not imminent, but likelihood of shortages growing.	Governor notified by Kansas Water Office and Governor's Drought Response Team activated. County, municipal and public water system officials notified. Outdoor burning bans may be imposed. Public water systems may implement Stage 1 Water Watch phase of municipal water conservation plan.
Drought Warning	Severe Drought	Governor	Crop or pasture losses likely. Some stock water shortages. Very high rangeland fire danger. Public water system water shortages present. Some streamflow targets not met.	Public water systems may implement Stage 2 Water Warning phase of municipal water conservation plan. Hay and Pasture Exchange activated. Urgent surplus water contracts from state controlled storage authorized. Governor may request authorization for haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program acres.
Drought Emergency	Extreme/ Exceptional Drought	Governor	Widespread major crop and pasture losses. Extreme rangeland fire danger. Widespread stock water shortages. Widespread severe public water system water shortages. Many streamflow targets not met.	Governor may declare outdoor burning ban upon advice of Adjutant General. Public water systems may implement Stage 3 Water Emergency phase of municipal water conservation plans triggered. Emergency surplus water contracts from state controlled storage authorized. Emergency water withdrawals from USACE reservoirs and state fishing lakes per MOU's authorized. USACE emergency water assistance if needed. Governor may request Presidential disaster declaration and/or USDA disaster declaration for drought.
<p>1. See Tables 1-3 for a comprehensive listing of response actions. USACE – United States Army Corps of Engineers USDA – United States Department of Agriculture Adopted from U.S. Drought Monitor (2001) and Kansas 1990 Municipal Water Conservation Plan Guidelines.</p>				

The U.S. Drought Monitor includes an Abnormally Dry category that is not included as a drought stage in this Operations Plan. Abnormally Dry is analogous to mild drought under the Palmer Drought Severity Index classification (PDSI -1.00 to -1.99). This category occurs quite frequently and the impacts associated with it are generally well within the capability for individual or local response. Nevertheless, this category

indicates that a drought may be developing or that impacts may be lingering following a drought.

Likewise, the Exceptional Drought category from the U.S. Drought Monitor is not included. It is assumed that those responses appropriate to this level may start to be needed at the Drought Emergency Stage, thus this category is covered under the Drought Emergency Stage.

The Kansas Emergency Management Act (K.S.A. 48-901 *et seq.*) defines a disaster as the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or manmade cause, including drought. This Act provides that the Governor, upon finding that a disaster has occurred or that such occurrence is imminent, shall issue a proclamation declaring a State of Disaster Emergency.

Because of this specific statutory language regarding a “disaster,” a Drought Disaster stage is not included in this Operations Plan. It is assumed that response to a drought-related disaster such as failure of a water supply source would be handled through the established disaster management process of the Adjutant General’s Department – Kansas Division of Emergency Management. Likewise, it is assumed that the Rationing Stage of municipal water conservation plans would most likely be invoked during such a declared State of Disaster Emergency.

It is important to note that a State of Disaster Emergency could be declared by the Governor or local water use restrictions imposed due to local circumstances regardless of the state-declared drought stage in effect in a particular county.

The Kansas Emergency Management Act (K.S.A. 48-924e) states that the Governor, when advised pursuant to K.S.A. 74-2608 and amendments thereto, that conditions indicative of drought exist, shall be authorized to declare by proclamation that a State of Drought exists. The Drought Emergency Stage in this Operations Plan shall constitute a “State of Drought” as used in K.S.A. 48-924(e).

Term of Declarations – Drought stage declarations shall remain in effect until rescinded by Executive Order of the Governor or superseded by a subsequent proclamation revising the drought stage status of those counties affected.

DROUGHT MONITORING

In recent years, many advances in drought monitoring and documentation have been made. Of particular significance has been the introduction of the U.S. Drought Monitor.

U.S. Drought Monitor – The U.S. Drought Monitor is produced weekly through a joint effort of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, The U.S. Department of Commerce – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Drought Mitigation Center. Advice from local experts throughout the nation, including the Kansas State Climatologist, is used in producing the Monitor.

The Monitor, reflecting a composite of several drought indicators, was introduced in 1999 and has gained wide exposure through the press since that time. Several states (e.g. Texas) pattern their drought response stages after the Monitor drought categories.

The weekly summary map shows general drought conditions, including abnormally dry areas and areas included in four drought intensity categories: moderate, severe, extreme and exceptional drought.

The key indicators used are the Palmer Drought Severity Index, soil moisture, weekly streamflow percentile, percent of normal precipitation (varying periods), the Standardized Precipitation Index (varying periods) and the Satellite Vegetation Health Index.

Unlike the previous drought identification guidelines, the monitoring concept used in this Operations Plan incorporates several drought indicators consistent with those used in the U.S. Drought Monitor. Additional indicators are also identified. The objective is to be able to “fine-tune” the U.S. Drought Monitor to more precisely reflect Kansas conditions.

Monitoring Basins - Monitoring information is commonly reported as point data or as an average for a climate division or crop reporting district. There are nine climate divisions and crop reporting districts in Kansas which are comprised of identical multi-county regions as shown in Figure 1.

Initial drought monitoring and reporting will conform to the 12 river basins used in the Kansas Water Planning Process with four exceptions. Because of their geographic extent and the fact that an average condition could mask greatly varying conditions, the Kansas-Lower Republican, Neosho, Smoky Hill-Saline and Solomon river basins have been divided to better reflect drought conditions throughout the state (see Figure 2).

Climate division or crop reporting district data will be prorated to the monitoring basins based upon an area-weighted mean. Basin-level monitoring provides a synthesis of available information; county data may be used as necessary and available to delineate counties for drought stage declarations.

Figure 1 – Kansas Climatologic Divisions and Crop Reporting Districts

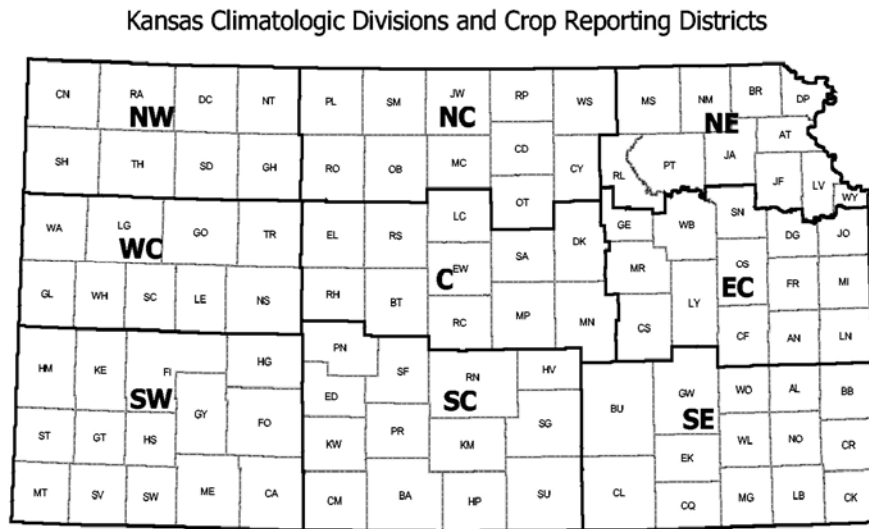
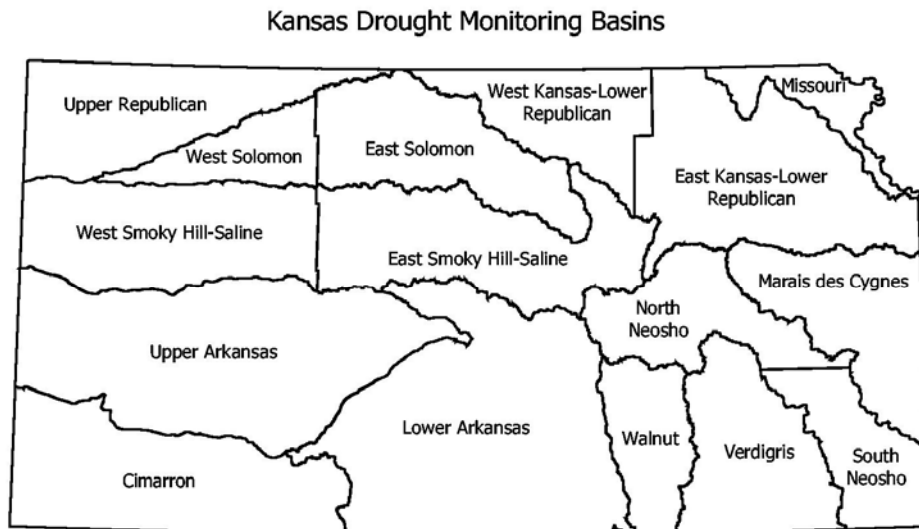


Figure 2 – Kansas Drought Monitoring Basins



Drought Indicators – Table 5 shows the primary drought indicator values associated with the drought response stages used in this Operations Plan. Other available information may also be considered in determination of drought stages. This information includes, but is not limited to the soil moisture, crop condition, pasture and range condition, and stock water supplies information contained in the weekly Kansas Crop and Weather Report; minimum desirable stream flow status; and inflows, pool levels and water storage in federal and other reservoirs. Trends in indicator values and the season of the year are also important factors to consider in drought monitoring.

TABLE 5 DROUGHT STAGE INDICATOR VALUES							
Drought Stage	Indicator						
	Palmer Drought Severity Index	Standardized Precipitation Index	Percent Normal Precipitation	Soil Moisture Percentile	Crop Moisture Index	Satellite Vegetative Health Index	7-Day Median Flow Percentile
Watch	-2.00 to -2.99	-0.80 to -1.29 (3 months)	70 % or below (3 months)	11 to 20	-2.0 to -2.99	26 to 35	11 to 20
Warning	-3.00 to -3.99	-1.30 to -1.59 (6 months)	65 % or below (6 months)	6 to 10	-3.0 to -3.99	16 to 25	6 to 10
Emergency	-4.00 or below	-1.60 or below (6 months)	60 % or below (6 months)	5 or below	-4.0 and below	15 or below	5 or below

All indicators will not point to the same drought stage at one time. The indicators should be considered as that, indicators, rather than as a hard and fast trigger, in deciding when to recommend declaration of a particular drought stage. The Director of the Kansas Water Office shall have discretionary authority to decide when to advise the Governor of the existence of drought conditions based upon these or other indicators, impacts, area of the state affected, season or other factors.

CLIMATIC PERSPECTIVE ON DROUGHT

Knowledge of some basic features of the climate of Kansas such as the normal precipitation pattern across the state and its seasonal distribution is useful in understanding drought occurrence, drought impacts and the prospects for improvement.

Average annual total precipitation varies greatly across Kansas, increasing from less than 16 inches in the far west to more than 40 inches in the southeast corner as shown in Figure 3. Great variation around the average is common.

Approximately 70 percent of the annual precipitation in Kansas occurs during the growing season from April through September. On average, western Kansas receives measurable precipitation (0.01 inch or more) on about 70 days per year, while the southeast has about 100 days per year with measurable precipitation. Significantly, the wettest 8 to 12 days account for 50 percent of the total annual precipitation. This illustrates the great contribution of thunderstorms to the total amount of precipitation received in Kansas.

Figure 3 – Average Annual Total Precipitation

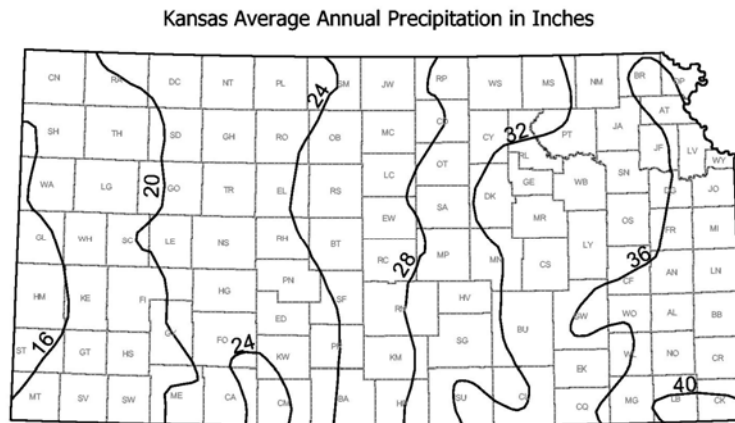


Table 6 shows the normal monthly precipitation at several locations throughout Kansas. These values illustrate the seasonal variability in precipitation across Kansas and the fact that mitigation of hydrologic drought impacts such as lowered reservoir levels or decreased stream flow is unlikely to occur during the winter.

TABLE 6 1971-2000 NORMAL MONTHLY AND ANNUAL PRECIPITATION SELECTED KANSAS LOCATIONS						
	Location					
Month	Goodland	Dodge City	Concordia	Wichita	Topeka	Chanute
January	0.41	0.62	0.66	0.84	0.95	1.28
February	0.39	0.66	0.73	1.02	1.18	1.90
March	1.18	1.84	2.35	2.71	2.56	3.47
April	1.30	2.25	2.45	2.57	3.14	3.83
May	3.49	3.00	4.20	4.16	4.86	5.29
June	3.19	3.15	3.95	4.25	4.88	5.05
July	2.87	3.17	4.20	3.31	3.83	4.24
August	1.80	2.73	3.24	2.94	3.81	3.96
September	1.57	1.70	2.50	2.96	3.71	3.95
October	0.90	1.45	1.84	2.45	2.99	4.03
November	0.69	1.01	1.45	1.82	2.31	3.06
December	0.41	0.77	0.86	1.35	1.42	1.89
Year	18.20	22.35	28.43	30.38	35.64	41.95
Values are in inches						
Source: NOAA National Climatic Data Center						

While the amount of precipitation received is vital, drought should also be considered relative to the timing of precipitation and its effectiveness. Timing is related to water needs such as critical crop development stages, peak times for municipal water use, boating needs and fish and wildlife habitat. Factors such as rainfall intensity and the number of rainstorms influence precipitation effectiveness. Excessive heat, high winds and low relative humidity are often associated with drought and can significantly increase its severity.

Drought Occurrence – Drought is a recurring feature of the Kansas climate. Flora, in *Climate of Kansas* (1948), noted drought occurrences in the 1860's, the early 1870's, the early 1890's, 1901, 1910-1917 and the 1930's. In *Drought in Kansas*, Brown and Bark (1971) analyzed the occurrence of drought in Kansas from 1931 through 1968, a period of 456 months. The Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) was used for this analysis, which compared the nine climate divisions covering the state (see Figure 2, p. 13). For all drought categories (monthly PDSI -0.50 or lower) the total number of months included varied from 163 in east central Kansas to 222 in the southwest. The frequency of severe to extreme drought (PDSI -3.00 or lower) ranged from 92 months in northwest Kansas to 52 months in the northeast.

The severity of a drought depends upon the degree of the moisture deficiency, its duration and the size of the affected area (Young and Buddemeier, 2002). In terms of duration and spatial extent, the 1930's Dust Bowl drought is considered to be the most severe of the 20th Century. The Palmer Index analysis by Brown and Bark confirms this for Kansas. The 1950's drought is referred-to as the "drought-of-record" because several Kansas statutes (K.S.A. 82a-928; K.S.A. 82a-1301 *et seq.*) refer to it as the benchmark against which planning is to be conducted.

Woodhouse and Overpeck in *2000 Years of Drought Variability in the Central United States* (1998) used paleoclimatic indicators such as tree rings and lake sediments to reconstruct the drought history of the central United States over the past two millennia. Their conclusion was that a 1930's magnitude drought occurred once or twice per century over the past 300-400 years, and that a decadal-length drought occurred once every 500 years.

The underlying conclusion to be drawn from Woodhouse and Overpeck's research is that the climate variability, including drought, experienced in the 20th Century was but a part of variability to be expected. Severe multiple-year droughts have occurred in the past and are certain to occur again.

PART D – PLAN APPROVAL AND REVISION

The Governor shall be responsible for approval of the overall Operations Plan. As provided by statute (K.S.A. 74-2608d), the Kansas Water Authority must approve the guidelines for determining when conditions indicative of drought exist. These guidelines are embodied within the Phased Drought Response and Drought Monitoring subsections of this Operations Plan.

Plan Revision and Updating - Agencies and organizations that are members of the Governor's Drought Response Team are responsible for reviewing this Operations Plan to ensure that it accurately and completely reflects their responsibilities and for providing revisions as appropriate. Recommended changes should be provided to the Chair of the Governor's Drought Response Team.

Editorial changes and minor revisions that do not represent a substantive change from the approved Operations Plan may be made with the approval of the Governor's Drought Response Team Chair.

The Governor's Drought Response Team should review the entire Operations Plan at the beginning of each new Governor's term of office and update the Plan, as necessary, to ensure that it adequately reflects the agency organizational structure and administrative policies then in effect. Such an updated Operations Plan shall be approved by the Governor.

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Woodhouse, Connie A. and Overpeck, Jonathan T. *2000 Years of Drought Variability in the Central United States*. Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, Vol. 79, No. 12, December 1998.

Young, D.P. and Buddemeir, R.W. *Climate Variation: Implications of Long-Term Records and Recent Observations*. Kansas Geological Survey Open File Report 2002-25E, 2002.

**Governor's Drought Response Team
April 2005**

<p>Tracy Streeter, Director (Chair) Kansas Water Office 901 S Kansas Ave. Topeka, KS 66612-1249 (785) 296-3185 tstreeter@kwo.state.ks.us</p>	<p>Dr. Fred A. Cholick, Director Research and Extension Service Kansas State University 115 Waters Hall Manhattan, KS 66506-4008 (785) 532-7137 fcholick@oznet.ksu.edu</p>
<p>Jeremy Anderson Governmental Affairs Director Governor's Office Capitol Building, Room 263 E 300 SW 10th Ave. Topeka, KS 66612-1590 (785) 368-8500 jeremy.anderson@gov.state.ks.us</p>	<p>Mike Hayden, Secretary Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks 1020 S Kansas Ave., Room 200 Topeka, KS 66612-1327 (785) 296-2281 mike.hayden@wp.state.ks.us</p>
<p>Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment Curtis State Office Building 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 540 Topeka, KS 66612 (785) 296-0461 rbremby@kdhe.state.ks.us</p>	<p>Major General Tod M. Bunting Kansas Adjutant General State Defense Building 2800 SW Topeka Blvd. Topeka, KS 66611-1287 (785) 274-1000 tod.bunting@ks.ngb.army.mil</p>
<p>Paul K. Flamm Chief of Emergency Management US Army Corps of Engineers, K.C. District Federal Building 601 E 12th St., Room 700 Kansas City, MO 64106-2896 (816) 983-3282 Paul.K.Flamm@nwk02.usace.army.mil</p>	<p>Jack Alexander Kansas State Fire Marshal 700 SW Jackson St., Suite 600 Topeka, KS 66603-3714 (785) 296-0654 alexandj@ksfm.state.ks.us</p>
<p>Duane Goossen, Secretary Kansas Department of Administration Curtis State Office Building 1000 SW Jackson St., Suite 500 Topeka, KS 66612-1300 (785) 296-3011 duane.goossen@da.state.ks.us</p>	<p>Adrian J. Polansky, Secretary Kansas Department of Agriculture 109 SW Ninth St, 4th Floor. Topeka, KS 66612-1280 (785) 296-3556 apolansky@kda.state.ks.us</p>
<p>Bill R. Fuller, State Executive Director USDA Farm Service Agency 3600 Anderson Ave. Manhattan, KS 66503-2511 (785) 539-3531 bill.fuller@ks.usda.gov</p>	<p>Peter Navesky Kansas Area Manager U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District 1565 Embankment Road SW Burlington, KS 66839 (620) 364-8613 peter.navesky@swt03.usace.army.mil</p>

September 29, 2005

DROUGHT MONITORING AND RESPONSE CONTACTS

ASSISTANCE / INFORMATION NEEDED	NAME / ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
Emergency Assistance		
Equipment for pumping, hauling and treating water for public water systems. Corps of Engineers' emergency assistance to public water systems.	Ida Kirmse Operations Officer KS Div. of Emergency Mgm't.	(785) 274-1406 1-800-905-7521 (24-hours) ilkirmse@agtop.state.ks.us
Drought Monitoring		
Climate and weather information, outlook	Mary Knapp State Climatologist Kansas State University	(785) 532-7019 mknapp@oznet.ksu.edu
Weekly Crop-Weather Report	Eldon Thiessen Director USDA – KS Agricultural Statistics Office	(785) 233-2230 nass-ks@nass.usda.gov
Kansas Drought Report	Susan Lee Kansas Water Office	(785) 296-1007 slee@kwo.state.ks.us
Environmental Impacts		
Fish kills, habitat loss, state fishing lakes	Steve Adams Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks	(785) 296-2281 stevea@wp.state.ks.us
Federal Declarations		
Presidential and USDA county disaster declarations, emergency haying and grazing	Dennis Gaschler USDA Farm Service Agency	(785) 539-3534 dennis.gaschler@ks.usda.gov
	Gene Krase Administrator KS Div. of Emergency Mgm't.	(785) 274-1401 lekrase@agtop.state.ks.us
Governor's Drought Response Team		
Team Chair	Tracy Streeeter Director Kansas Water Office	(785) 296-4094 tstreeeter@kwo.state.ks.us
Staff Support	Tom Lowe Kansas Water Office	(785) 296-0874 tlowe@kwo.state.ks.us
Hay and Pasture		
Hay and Pasture Exchange	Warren Parker Kansas Farm Bureau	(785) 587-6195 www.kfb.org/hayandpasture.htm

News Media Enquiries		
	Nicole Corcoran Governor's Office	(785) 368-8500 nicole.corcoran@gov.state.ks.us
	Hank Ernst Kansas Water Office	(785) 296-0877 hernst@kwo.state.ks.us
	Joy Moser Adjutant General's Dept.	(785) 274-1192 jdmoser@agtop.state.ks.us
	Lisa Taylor Kansas Dept. of Agriculture	(785) 296-2653 ltaylor@kda.state.ks.us
Water Conservation		
Conservation plans and practices	Tina Rajala Kansas Water Office	(785) 296-0875 trajala@kwo.state.ks.us
Water from Reservoirs		
Surplus Water Marketing Program contracts, emergency use of federal reservoirs and state fishing lakes	Earl Lewis Manager Hydrology and Evaluation Kansas Water Office	(785) 296-0867 elewis@kwo.state.ks.us
Permit for public water supply system to use different source of water	Dave Waldo Chief Public Water Supply Section Bureau of Water Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment	(785) 296-5503 dwaldo@kdhe.state.ks.us
Water Rights		
Temporary permits, minimum desirable streamflows, protection of reservoir releases	Tom Huntzinger Water Appropriations Program Manager Division of Water Resources Kansas Department of Agriculture	(785) 296-4621 waterrights@kda.state.ks.us
Wildfire		
Rangeland fire danger, rural fire	Ross Hauck Kansas Forest Service	(785) 532-3300 rhauck@oznet.ksu.edu
Open Burning	Karl McNorton State Fire Marshall's Office	(785) 296-4290 mcnortok@ksfm.state.ks.us

September 29, 2005

LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Drought response must take place within the established legal and institutional framework for doing so. An overview of this framework, including related plans is presented here. Some of the more significant statutes in this regard follow.

- The Kansas Emergency Management Act (K.S.A. 48-901 *et seq.*) addresses the preparation for and the carrying out of all emergency functions other than those functions for which military forces or other federal agencies are primarily responsible, to prevent, minimize and repair injury and damage resulting from disasters. Drought is included in the disaster definition.
- The State Water Resources Planning Act establishes long-range goals (K.S.A. 82a-927) for the management, conservation and development of the waters of the state. Drought-related goals pertaining to sound management of water, prevention of the waste of water and water conservation are included. Policies for achieving these long-range goals (K.S.A. 82a-928) are also included.
- The Kansas Water Appropriation Act (K.S.A. 82a-701 *et seq.*) provides the statutory guidance for the appropriation of the waters of the state for beneficial use. Issues covered include waste of water, water conservation plans and minimum desirable stream flows.

The Chief Engineer may (K.S.A. 82a-733) require water right holders to adopt and implement a water conservation plan upon finding that such plans will assure public benefit and promote the public interest. Priority should be given to: 1) Users that share a common drought vulnerable source; 2) users whose use is significantly higher than their peers; and 3) users who apply for state administered grants, loans or cost-share moneys for water related projects.

The Chief Engineer may (K.S.A. 82a-733) delegate to any city which has conservation plans meeting state guideline the authority to require domestic users within the city to adopt and implement conservation plans and practices.

- Water conservation plans are required for anyone: 1) Purchasing water from the State Water Marketing Program (K.S.A. 82a-1311a); 2) participating in the Water Assurance District Program (K.S.A. 82a-1348); 3) sponsoring or purchasing the public water supply portion of a Multipurpose Small Lakes Program project (K.S.A. 82a-1608); transferring water under the Water Transfers Act (K.S.A. 82a-1502); or applying for a loan from the State Revolving Fund (K.S.A. 65-163g).
- K.S.A. 82a-1305b gives the Kansas Water Authority power to authorize the Director of the Kansas Water Office to dispose of surplus waters from state-owned water supply storage in federal reservoirs. Surplus contracts may not exceed a period of one year, nor shall they be in excess of 10% of the yield capability from the

conservation water supply capacity of the reservoir, unless the Governor has declared that an emergency exists.

- Regarding weather modification, K.S.A. 82a-1406 gives the Kansas Water Authority discretionary authority to exempt weather modification activities from fee requirements where the activities are of an emergency nature for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare due to drought. Also, K.S.A. 82a-1414 gives the Director of the Kansas Water Office power to grant a weather modification permit on an emergency basis without prior publication of any required notice in instances of drought creating an emergency condition.
- K.S.A. 12-16, 117 provides for municipalities (city, county or township) to establish a policy regarding provision of assistance to other municipalities and public safety agencies located in other municipalities within Kansas or outside Kansas. Ordinances must include a procedure for provision of assistance during times of disaster. Drought is included in the definition of disaster.

When the Board of County Commissioners declare by resolution that a drought emergency exists, they are authorized (K.S.A. 19-3001) to spend such amount as necessary for the purchase of pumping equipment for operation of drought relief wells or for pumping from streams. Spending for other machinery equipment and materials necessary for the construction of drought relief water supply projects is also authorized, as is the activity itself (K.S.A. 19-3003).

The majority of the Board of County Commissioners of any county may by resolution declare that a drought emergency exists (K.S.A. 82a-408) and shall determine the location of surplus waters within the county and prescribe rules and regulations for obtaining this water. Land owners, upon notice, shall allow entry to obtain water.

AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

While the primary responsibility for drought response rests with the Governor, the Adjutant General's Department – Division of Emergency Management and the Kansas Water Office, several state and federal agencies as well as stakeholder organizations may be involved.

Water management in Kansas is accomplished through several decentralized agencies rather than through an umbrella agency with broad responsibilities and authority. Necessary coordination among these agencies takes place through the Kansas Water Planning Process as reflected in the *Kansas Water Plan*.

The *Kansas Water Plan* is approved by the Kansas Water Authority, a 23 member entity. Thirteen voting members represent various water users, while heads of state

agencies with water-related duties serve in an *ex officio* capacity. The Governor appoints 11 voting members, including the Chair.

The Kansas Emergency Management Act established the Commission on Emergency Planning and Response to facilitate a coordinated effort for mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from emergencies and disasters in Kansas. This 13-member Commission consists of six state agency head members and seven members appointed by the Governor to represent cities, counties, and business and industry.

RELATED DROUGHT PLANNING

The following state and local plans complement this Governor's Drought Response Team Operations Plan.

State Hazard Mitigation Strategy – This document is a comprehensive strategy to create an effective, long-term approach to eliminate or reduce the vulnerability of Kansas communities to the human, economic and environmental impacts of disasters. The document was developed under the guidance of the Kansas Hazard Mitigation Team with coordination by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.

Kansas Water Plan – The *Kansas Water Plan*, updated annually, is prepared by the Kansas Water Office and approved by the Kansas Water Authority. This Plan documents how the state intends to best achieve the proper utilization and control of the water resources of the state. The Plan is prepared in accordance with and under authority of K.S.A. 82a-901 *et seq.*, the State Water Resources Planning Act. An annual planning process that includes ample opportunity for public review and comment is followed in developing the Plan.

Past policy recommendations have been vital to the development and implementation of several key drought mitigation programs in Kansas. Where necessary, future drought mitigation or response issues will be addressed in the *Kansas Water Plan*.

Municipal Water Conservation Plans – Guidelines for the development of water conservation plans by municipalities and rural water districts were approved by the Kansas Water Authority in 1990. The Kansas Water Office provides free technical assistance for plan development through a contract with the Kansas Rural Water Association. Plan development is optional except as required by law or order of the Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture. Over 500 municipal water conservation plans have been developed pursuant to the state guidelines and approved by either the Division of Water Resources or the Kansas Water Office.

Public Water System Emergency Water Supply Plans – Emergency Water Supply Plans assist public water systems to provide an adequate supply of potable water during emergency conditions, including inadequacy of source of supply due to drought. All public water systems are required to develop these plans to satisfy requirements of

K.A.R. 28-15-18 as authorized by K.S.A. 65-171m. Plans are approved by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Local Emergency Operations Plan – Kansas law requires that each county maintain a disaster agency responsible for emergency preparedness and coordination of response to disasters. Each county is also required to maintain an Emergency Operations Plan that has been approved by the Division of Emergency Management. Kansas Planning Standards have been developed by the Division of Emergency Management to aid in the development and review of Local Emergency Operations Plans. One section of the Kansas Planning Standards focuses on services and infrastructure that may be affected as a consequence of a disaster, including public water supply.

State Emergency Operations Plan – The purpose of this plan is to coordinate emergency response among state agencies. The plan is a requirement for receiving federal disaster assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (PL 93-288 as amended). The Federal Emergency Management Agency approves the State Emergency Operations Plan following sign-off by the Governor and the affected agency heads. The plan is updated every five years.



Sample

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER 03-16

WHEREAS, the Director of the Kansas Water Office has informed me, pursuant to K.S.A. 74-2608, of the existence of moderate drought conditions within the state and recommended assembly of the Governor's Drought Response Team, and

WHEREAS, there is every indication that the present drought conditions will not abate in the near future; and

WHEREAS, these drought conditions may in fact become more severe; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas Emergency Management Act (K.S.A. 48-924) states that the Governor shall be responsible for meeting the dangers to the state and its people from disasters, including drought.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Kansas, I hereby:

1. order assembly of the Governor's Drought Response Team;
2. declare a Drought Watch for the counties indicated below; and
3. authorize and direct all agencies under the jurisdiction of the Governor to implement those Drought Watch-level drought response actions assigned to them in the Operations Plan of the Governor's Drought Response Team.

Drought Watch Counties by Climate/Crop Reporting District

Central: Barton, Dickinson, Ellis, Ellsworth, Lincoln, McPherson, Marion, Rice, Rush, Russell, Saline

South Central: Barber, Comanche, Edwards, Harper, Harvey, Kingman, Kiowa, Pawnee, Pratt, Reno, Sedgwick, Stafford, Sumner

East Central: Anderson, Chase, Coffey, Douglas, Franklin, Geary, Johnson, Linn, Lyon, Miami, Morris, Osage, Shawnee, Wabaunsee

Southeast: Allen, Bourbon, Butler, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Cowley, Crawford, Elk, Greenwood, Labette, Montgomery, Neosho, Wilson, Woodson

This document shall be filed with the Secretary of State as Executive Order No. 03-16 and shall become effective immediately.

This Executive Order shall remain in effect for those counties so identified until rescinded by Executive Order or superseded by a subsequent Executive Order revising the drought stage status of those counties affected.

Governor Kathleen Sebelius



EXECUTIVE ORDER 03-15

WHEREAS, the Director of the Kansas Water Office has informed me, pursuant to K.S.A. 74-2608, of the existence of severe drought conditions within the state, and

WHEREAS, there is every indication that the present drought conditions will not abate in the near future; and

WHEREAS, these drought conditions may in fact become more severe; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas Emergency Management Act (K.S.A. 48-924) states that the Governor shall be responsible for meeting the dangers to the state and its people from disasters, including drought.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Kansas, I hereby:

1. declare a Drought Warning for the counties identified below; and
2. authorize and direct all agencies under the jurisdiction of the Governor to implement those Drought Warning-level drought response actions assigned to them in the Operations Plan of the Governor's Drought Response Team.

Drought Warning Counties by Climate/Crop Reporting District

Northwest: Cheyenne, Decatur, Graham, Norton, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas

West Central: Gove, Greeley, Lane, Logan, Ness, Scott, Trego, Wallace and Wichita

Southwest: Clark, Finney, Ford, Grant, Gray, Hamilton, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Meade, Morton, Seward, Stanton, Stevens

North Central: Clay, Cloud, Jewell, Mitchell, Osborne, Ottawa, Philips, Republic, Rooks, Smith, Washington

Northeast: Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, Jefferson, Leavenworth, Marshall, Nemaha, Pottawatomie, Riley, Wyandotte

This document shall be filed with the Secretary of State as Executive Order No. 03-15 and shall become effective immediately.

This Executive Order shall remain in effect for those counties so identified until rescinded by Executive Order or superceded by a subsequent Executive Order revising the drought stage status of those counties affected.

Governor Kathleen Sebelius



EXECUTIVE ORDER 03-19

WHEREAS, the Director of the Kansas Water Office has informed me, pursuant to K.S.A. 74-2608, of the existence of extreme drought conditions within the state, and

WHEREAS, there is every indication that the present drought conditions will not abate in the near future; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas Emergency Management Act (K.S.A. 48-924) states that the Governor shall be responsible for meeting the dangers to the state and its people from disasters, including drought.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Kansas, I hereby:

1. declare a Drought Emergency for the counties identified below; and
2. authorize and direct all agencies under the jurisdiction of the Governor to implement those Drought Emergency-level drought response actions assigned to them in the Operations Plan of the Governor's Drought Response Team.

Drought Emergency counties by Climate/Crop Reporting District

Northeast: Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, Jefferson, Leavenworth, Marshall, Nemaha, Pottawatomie, Riley, Wyandotte

This document shall be filed with the Secretary of State as Executive Order No. 03-19 and shall become effective immediately.

This Executive Order shall remain in effect for those counties so identified until rescinded by Executive Order or superseded by a subsequent Executive Order revising the drought stage status of those counties affected.

Governor Kathleen Sebelius

RESOLUTION DECLARING DROUGHT EMERGENCY

Whereas _____ County, Kansas has been suffering from prolonged drought, and

Whereas these drought conditions have adversely affected the safety and welfare of the residents of _____ County, and

Whereas state law (K.S.A. 19-3001 *et seq.*, and amendments thereto.; K.S.A. 19-3003 *et seq.*, and amendments thereto; K.S.A. 82a- 408 *et seq.*, and amendments thereto) gives the Board of County Commissioners additional powers to respond to drought during a declared emergency, therefore

We, the Board of County Commissions of _____ County, Kansas do hereby declare by the authority granted to us in K.S.A. 82a-408 *et seq.* and amendments thereto, that a state of drought emergency exists in _____ County.

This declaration shall remain in force until withdrawn by the Board of County Commissioners of _____ County.

This action taken by majority vote of the Board of County Commissioners of _____ County on (date).

Attest _____
Chairman, Board of County Commissioners
Date _____

Witness _____
County Clerk
Date _____