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ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

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Sec. 66-31. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Connection means a pipe in continuity between a private water system and the city water system. The existence of a valve does not constitute an interruption of the continuity of the pipe.

Pollution or contamination means any bacteriological or chemical alteration of underground water resources which exists, or might exist, to render the water unfit or unsafe for human use.

Well means any hole in the ground in excess of ten feet in depth, whether or not water is produced in the hole.

(Code 1978, § 26-56)

Cross reference— Definitions generally, § 1-2.

Sec. 66-32. Permit required to construct.

- (a) It shall be unlawful to construct a well within the city before a permit is granted by the city.
- (b) The fee for issuing the permit shall be \$25.00.

(Code 1978, § 26-57; Ord. No. 2001-2-2, 2-13-01)

Sec. 66-33. Construction standards.

Wells must be drilled and cased with steel casing, which must extend not less than 12 inches above ground level, which must be not less than one-fourth inch in thickness, which must be closed at the top to prevent pollution or contamination, and which must be sealed by concrete in the space between the casing and the earth to a depth not less than five feet below the surface of the ground.

(Code 1978, § 26-58)

Sec. 66-34. Dug wells prohibited.

Dug wells are not permitted.

(Code 1978, § 26-59)

Sec. 66-35. Registration required.

- (a) It shall be unlawful to own a well within the city without registering such well at the city office.
- (b) Registration of a well shall consist of giving the location of a well, addition, block and lot number.

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- (c) No fee shall be required for the registration of a well.

(Code 1978, § 26-60)

Sec. 66-36. Right of entry to inspect.

- (a) Under police authority, and for the purpose of protecting the health and safety of the people, the city or its agent may enter private property within the city for the purpose of making inspections to determine the existence, or possible existence, of conditions which might be conducive to pollution or contamination of underground water resources.
- (b) No fee shall be required for such inspection.

(Code 1978, § 26-61)

Sec. 66-37. Correction of defects.

- (a) Under police authority, and for the purpose of correcting an existing condition deemed hazardous to the health and safety of the people, the city or its agent may, at a time and place chosen by the city, enter private property and carry out construction deemed necessary to prevent pollution or contamination of underground water resources at the expense and effort of the city, if found necessary.
- (b) Plans and specifications for such correctional construction shall be made by the city engineer and shall be presented to the owner of the property not less than 30 days prior to beginning such construction.
- (c) Materials, equipment, labor and skill used for such construction shall be at city expense, and the owner shall not be required to bear any part of such expense, such construction being for the purpose of protecting the health and safety of all people.
- (d) When a question exists whether an existing well, whether dug or drilled, should or should not be abandoned, the owner shall have the privilege of making this decision. If it is decided to abandon a well, the city may, at its option, fill and seal such well according to specifications of the city engineer, using materials, equipment, labor and skill at the city's expense, and the owner shall not be required to bear any part of such expense, such construction being for the purpose of protecting the health and safety of all people.

(Code 1978, § 26-62)

Sec. 66-38. Prevention of pollution and contamination.

- (a) It shall be unlawful to put sewage, or any waste material whatsoever, into any well within the city.
- (b) No septic tank or cesspool may be more than ten feet in depth below the surface of the ground.
- (c) No septic tank or cesspool may be located nearer than 150 feet from any water well.

(Code 1978, § 26-63)

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Sec. 66-39. Connecting private system to city system.

- (a) It shall be unlawful to operate a private water system which is connected to the city water system before a permit is granted by the city.
- (b) Such permit will be granted only after the city engineer has inspected and approved the connection between the private water system and the city water system.
- (c) The fee for such inspection and permit shall be \$5.00.
- (d) Disconnection of a private water system from the city water system shall be effected only by removal of the water meter by the city. The city will provide a valve or closure of the private water system side of the meter connection when the meter is removed.
- (e) Connection of a private water system to the city water system shall be effected only by installation of the water meter by the city. The water meter will not be installed until there is an interruption in the continuity of the pipe between the private water well and the private water pipe between the private water well and the private water distribution system. One or more valves in a connected line does not constitute an interruption of continuity.
- (f) It shall be unlawful to connect a private water well to a private water distribution system which is connected to the city water system. When a private water well is to be connected to a private water distribution system, the city should be notified so that the meter can be removed, disconnecting the private distribution system from the city water system before the private well is connected.

(Code 1978, § 26-64)

Secs. 66-40—66-60. Reserved.

ARTICLE III. WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

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Sec. 66-61. Introduction.

In accordance with the guidelines of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), the City of Alpine, (hereafter referred to as "the City"), has prepared this Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-62. Water conservation plan goals.

The purpose of this water conservation plan is intended to comply with TWDB loan requirements and achieve:

- Long-term reductions in overall water demands five percent per capita over the next ten years;
- Reductions in the magnitude of seasonal water demands by two percent over the next five years;
- Reductions in wastewater flow volumes by one percent over the next five years; and
- Reductions in percent unaccounted for water by seven percent over the next ten years.

Given current and projected water and wastewater service requirements and issues, specific water conservation objectives are:

- To reduce waste and influence conservation habits of the residents of the city;
- To reduce seasonal water demands such that future expansions of water treatment facilities can be deferred; and
- To continue to investigate the feasibility of reusing wastewater for suitable non-potable uses (i.e., irrigation of public green space and private landscaping).

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-63. Background information.

The city provides water, wastewater, recycling, fire, police, and garbage collection services for its residents. Analysis of water production data from the city's wells provides an indication of water use patterns. Peak water demand occurs in the summer months, reflecting both seasonal population influx and increased water demand utilized for landscape irrigation. Consequently, the city's peak to average ratio of 2.5 times is slightly higher than most West Texas communities with more stable populations.

Population in the city is expected to grow from an estimated year 2000 Census population of 5,786 to a projected 6,172 by 2010, to an estimated population of 6,677 in 2030. In addition, the city provides water service to Sul Ross State University. According to the Sul Ross State University Office of

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Institutional Research, the university current enrollment of 2,110 is expected to grow to 3,326 in the year 2030 at a rate of annual rate of 1.7 percent.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-64. Water utility system profile.

A completed water conservation utility profile, TWDB Form WRD-264 for the city is provided in Appendix A. The city had 2,309 active water connections in 2004. The 20 largest water commercial customers account for approximately 28 percent of the total water sold.

In 2002, the per capita per day water use ranged from 98 gallons per day, January 2002, to 440 gallons per day, June 2002, with an annual average of 176 gallons per day. A high volume of vacationing population influenced the peak month of June 2002.

The city's current water well and treatment facilities capacity is rated at 2,705 gallons per minute (gpm) or 3.9 million gallons per day (mgd). Total water storage capacity is 3.6 million gallons, of which 1.8 million gallons are elevated storage. The 2002 average daily water demand for the city was 1.4 mgd. The peak daily water demand for 2002 was 3.5 mgd. The distribution capacity is 3,975 gpm and provides potable water to four pressure zones within the city. In areas of the distribution system high pressure, pressure reducing/sustaining valves have been installed. The city uses a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system to monitor water system operations and performance.

The city has initiated a water meter testing and replacement program where older meters are tested and replaced as necessary. As part of the city's proposed water system improvements, old and undersized water mains will be replaced which should result in lower water loss rates and improved system water pressures. The city is also installing a drip irrigation system to serve new trees in public areas.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-65. Wastewater system profile.

Ninety-three percent of the city's water customers are also served by the city's wastewater system. The remaining seven percent utilize private on-site wastewater disposal systems (i.e., septic tank systems).

The city operates its activated sludge wastewater treatment facility with a final permitted capacity of 1.48 mgd. The average daily flow for 2003-2004 was 0.45 mgd. The peak daily wastewater flow for the 2003-2004 period was 1.04 mgd.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-66. Public education.

The city will promote water conservation issues by informing the public in a variety of ways including:

- New customers will receive conservation information;
- Information will be available upon request;
- Community educational program / school demonstrations and presentations;

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- Film productions and lectures presentations available for civic groups; and
- Articles will be published in the newsletter.

The city will also proclaim "National Drinking Water Week" and provide residents with information and demonstrations related to water conservation and environmental issues that effect our water.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-67. Plumbing codes.

The city has adopted the Uniform Plumbing Code, which requires the use of water saving fixtures to be installed in new construction and in the replacement of plumbing in existing structures.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-68. Retrofit programs.

The city shall educate the residents, plumbers, and contractors on the benefits of retrofitting existing facilities with water saving devices. This program will be encompassed in the educational and informational programs utilized by the city. The city will contact all plumbing companies and hardware stores in the area to encourage them to stock water conserving fixtures including retrofit devices.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-69. Universal metering.

Most treatment facilities, pumping stations, and municipal structures operated by the city are now being metered. The city plans to install meters at public parks and golf course to improve water accountability.

The city will continue to provide a water meter preventive maintenance program, wherein testing, repairs, and replacement are performed in accordance with AWWA standards.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-70. Water conserving landscape.

The city will provide information, through the public education program, to homeowners, business owners, landscape architects, and irrigation contractors about the methods and benefits of water conserving landscaping practices and devices. The city is also installing a drip irrigation system to serve new trees in public areas. The following methods will be encouraged.

- The use of low water consuming plants and grasses for landscaping new homes and commercial areas.
- The use of drip irrigation systems when possible or other water conserving irrigation systems that utilize efficient sprinklers and considerations given to prevailing winds.
- The use of ornamental fountains that recycle water and use a minimum amount of water.

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- Business and nurseries to offer for sale low water consuming plants and grasses along with efficient irrigation systems and to promote their use through demonstrations and advertisements.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-71. Rate structures of water and wastewater.

The city's water and wastewater connection fees are based of the requirements of the "cost of services" the utility provides.

Water connection fees are based on the size of the meter required: Three-quarter inch connections at \$80.00; one-inch connections at \$110.00; one and one-half inch connections at \$200.00; and two-inch connections at \$500.00. Wastewater connection fee is a set rate of \$65.00 per connection for residential and commercial connections.

The city employs a water and wastewater usage rate structure based on customer type and a uniform service charge. Current water rates and monthly meter charges for residential and commercial accounts are presented in Tables 1-1 and 1-2 below:

Table 1-1
City of Alpine Water Rate Structure

Usage Gal. per Month)	Cost (per 1,000 gal.)
0—1,000	4.32
2,000—5,000	2.20
6,000—12,000	2.25
13,000—25,000	2.30
26,000—100,000	2.40
Over 100,000	2.50

Table 1-2
City of Alpine Monthly Meter Charge

Meter Size	Residential	Commercial
0.75"	6.00	7.00

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1.00"	9.00	10.00
1.50"	14.00	15.00
2.00"	18.00	19.00
3.00"	32.00	32.00
4.00"	41.00	41.00
6.00"	56.00	56.00
8.00"	67.00	67.00

Current wastewater rates are \$14.13 service fee (0—4,000 gal.) and \$2.20 per 1,000 gallons thereafter.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-72. Leak detection and water audits.

The city has aggressively pursued leak detection and repair program and has in inventory all necessary repair materials needed to ensure prompt repairs of all leaks detected or reported.

A monthly water loss report provides an effective tracking system of metered production, metered consumption, accounted water losses, and unaccountable water loss.

The city maintains an annual unaccountable rate of 17.4 percent, which is greater than the AWWA recommended rate (10 percent). However, the city has plans to initiate a universal metering program to account for water used for irrigation of public parks and golf course that are currently unmetered.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-73. Recycling and reuse.

The city has studied the additional possibility of using its wastewater effluent for other recycling and reuses, but has determined that at this time it is not economically feasible. The city will continue to study alternative uses for its wastewater effluent.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

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Sec. 66-74. Implementation and enforcement.

The resolution adopting the Water Conservation Plan shall authorize the City to implement, enforce, and administer the program.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-75. Contracts with other political subdivisions.

The city will, as part of contract for sale of water to any other entity re-selling water, require that entity to adopt applicable provisions of the city's water conservation and drought contingency plan or have a plan in effect previously adopted by TCEQ or TWDB. These provisions will be through contractual agreement prior to the sale of any water to the entity.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-76. Coordination with the regional water planning group.

The service area of the city is located within the Regional Water Planning Area (E-Far West Texas and has provided a copy of this Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan to the Regional Water Planning Group (E)-Far West Texas.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-77. Annual reporting to Texas Water Development Board.

The city manager shall be responsible for providing the required annual report to the Texas Water Development Board for at least three years after the date of loan/grant closing. The content and format for the annual reporting is included in the form: Water Conservation Program Annual Report, WRD-265 (Appendix B).

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Secs. 66-78—66-90. Reserved.

ARTICLE IV. DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN (EMERGENCY WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT PLAN)

[Sec. 66-91. Introduction.](#)

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Sec. 66-91. Introduction.

It is necessary for the city to have in place a plan that will deal with emergency water demand situations. There are a number of scenarios where the public water supply could be adversely affected and the public's health jeopardized. Normal service can be interrupted by such uncontrollable circumstances as drought, hurricanes, tornadoes, vandalism, floods, or equipment failure. Water demand is usually significantly higher than normal when drought conditions are in effect causing maximum stress on the public water system.

This plan will provide the necessary indicators and control measures to temporarily abate water demand in emergency situations. These provisions are designed to be in place only as long as an emergency situation exists. To be effective the plan must have the following elements:

- Trigger conditions that will signal the existence of an emergency situation;
- Emergency control measures;
- Methods to relay information and notify the public;
- Enforcement procedures;
- Method of implementation of plan; and
- Procedure for plan termination notification.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-92. System description.

The city's current water well and treatment facilities capacity is rated at 2,705 gallons per minute (gpm) or 3.9 million gallons per day (mgd). Total water storage capacity is 3.8 million gallons, of which 1.8 million gallons are elevated storage. The 2002 average daily water demand for the city was 1.4 mgd. The peak daily water demand for 2002 was 3.5 mgd. The distribution capacity is 3,975 gpm and provides potable water to four pressure zones within the city. In areas of the distribution system high pressure, pressure reducing/sustaining valves have been installed. The city uses a SCADA system to monitor water system operations and performance.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-93. Trigger conditions.

Daily water demand will be monitored for impending emergency conditions by city staff. Trigger conditions will be based on an emergency situation caused by a natural disaster, equipment, or system failure, or extended high daily water demands.

- (1) Mild conditions.

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- a. Water demand reaches 90 percent of firm production capacity, or,
 - b. A disruption due to equipment or distribution system failure that would limit the capacity of the water system below 85 percent of capacity during high demand periods.
- (2) Moderate conditions.
- a. Water demand exceeds 95 percent of the firm production capacity, or,
 - b. A disruption due to equipment or distribution system failure that would limit the capacity of the water system below 75 percent of capacity during high demand periods.
- (3) Severe conditions.
- a. Water demand reaches 100 percent of firm production capacity, or,
 - b. A disruption due to equipment or distribution system failure that would limit the capacity of the water system below 70 percent of capacity during high demand periods.
- (4) Critical conditions. In the event of an extended period of the severe condition or any natural catastrophic situations that interrupt or have the potential to interrupt the city's potable water supply, the city is authorized to take all reasonable measures as deemed necessary to provide for the public's safety.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-94. Emergency drought contingency measures.

The city will institute the following measures when trigger conditions have occurred:

- (1) Mild conditions.
 - a. The public shall be informed, by local news media, that a trigger condition has been reached and they should look for ways to voluntarily reduce water demand. The specific recommendations shall be provided by the city.
 - b. There shall be reduced watering of public parks, public facilities and esplanades to minimum levels to avoid loss of vegetation.
 - c. Publish a voluntary lawn-watering schedule through local media.
 - d. Request voluntary water reductions of major commercial water users.
- (2) Moderate conditions.
 - a. Notify customers that all preceding measures that are in place due to mild trigger conditions will be continued.
 - b. Mandatory lawn watering schedule will be instated as follows:
 1. Customers with even numbered street addresses will be allowed to water on even number days of the months.
 2. Customers with odd numbered street addresses will be allowed to water on odd number days of the months.
 3. Watering shall only occur between 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 - c. Water for public use shall be limited to essential practices to protect the health or safety of the community. Non-essential uses shall be prohibited, (i.e., filling of pools, hydrant flushing, street washing, etc...).

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- (3) Severe conditions.
 - a. Notify customers that all preceding measures that are in place due to moderate trigger conditions will be continued.
 - b. Prohibit the use of water for specific outdoor activities such as watering of yards or car washing. The city shall have the authorization to grant variations for specific types businesses, such as nurseries, for limited outdoor watering. Fire protection, sewer maintenance, or other related outdoor uses that provide health and safety measures shall not be restricted.
 - c. Set limits on water consumption for both commercial and residential customers.
 - d. Establish monetary fines for noncompliance of water consumption limits or violation of the drought contingency plan.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-95. Information and education.

The severity of the trigger conditions shall dictate the procedures for informing the public as follows:

- (1) Mild conditions.
 - a. The publication of an article in the local newspaper informing the public that a trigger condition has been reached and that there is a need to conserve water. A statement shall be issued announcing the possibility of further measures instated.
 - b. An article or notice, including control measures published in the city's newsletter or utility bill.
- (2) Moderate conditions.
 - a. Public notices of moderate control measures will be published through local news media, including enforcement measures and penalties.
 - b. Distribution of mandatory water schedules including a description of enforcement measures and penalties.
 - c. Public notification of the situation published through local news media daily.
- (3) Severe conditions.
 - a. Daily advisors to the public published through local news media of the severe situation and of sever control measures and penalties.
 - b. Public announcements on local television and radio stations advising of the severe situation and of sever control measures and penalties.
 - c. In the event that severe conditions persist for an extended period of time the city may ration water usage or terminate service to selected users of the system in accordance with the following sequence:

First: Industrial users

Second: Commercial users

Third: Residential users

Last: Public health and safety facilities

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(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-96. Enforcement.

No person shall knowingly or intentionally allow the use of water from the city for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, governmental, or any other purpose in a manner contrary to any provisions of this plan.

Any person violating any provisions of this plan shall be deemed guilty of a Class C misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not to exceed two thousand dollars per violation. Any employee of the city designated by the city manager may issue a citation to a person they reasonably believe to be in violation of this order.

The city will enforce this plan consistent with other rules adopted by the city in accordance to the Texas Water Code.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-97. Variances.

The city council may consider granting customer specific variances from the provisions of this plan in cases of hardship or special conditions. All requests for variances must be submitted in writing to the city manager. After recommendation by the city manager, the city council shall consider hardship or special cases to determine whether a particular circumstance warrants a variance. A variance shall be granted only for reasons of severe economic hardship, medical hardship or for a legitimate public health concern. Such findings of the city council together with the specific facts upon which such findings are based shall be incorporated into the official minutes of the city council meeting at which such variance is recommended. A fee of \$25.00 shall be assessed per application to defray administrative costs. The fee may be waived upon the execution of an affidavit stating that applicant for variance is unable to pay the fee.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-98. Initiation procedures.

Monitoring of the water demand, as well as the utility system condition, will be performed by city staff. As trigger conditions are exceeded, the city manager or his designee will notify the council members, fire and police department of the situation. The city manager will then initiate the drought contingency plan. TCEQ will be contacted within five working days of the initiation of drought contingency measures.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-99. Termination notification.

Upon the elimination of the emergency situation or when the trigger condition no longer exists, the city will notify the public of the downgrading or termination of the prescribed measures. An article published in the local newspaper will be utilized for the notification of the revised status of the prescribed measures.

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(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)

Sec. 66-100. Annual evaluation and revisions.

The trigger conditions shall be evaluated at least once a year for overall effectiveness and trigger conditions will be revised if necessary. This plan will be updated at least every five years to provide revisions and updates as appropriately required.

(Ord. No. 2005-7-23, § 1, 8-2-05)