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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Stage 1 water conservation measure on tap for mid-April

Invasive mussels the cause of water shortage

PROSPER (March 25, 2011) Officials of the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) announced recently that customers of the Town of Prosper water system will be required to comply with Stage 1 conservation starting April 19 and continuing indefinitely. Under Stage 1, the Town will increase education efforts to reduce water use and urge residents to detect and repair water leaks around the house, according to Town Manager Mike Land.

The Town's water supplier initiated Stage 1 because, since August 2009, it has ceased pumping raw water supplies from Lake Texoma and has not resumed doing so, diminishing the available supply. The voluntary stoppage was the result of the discovery of invasive zebra mussels in the lake.

"The loss of the Texoma supply has resulted in a 22.5% reduction in the overall inventory of raw water that NTMWD processes and uses to provide Prosper residents, so we're looking at a significant reduction. Conservation is essential for us," said Land.

The discovery of zebra mussels in Sister Grove Creek, a tributary of the East Fork of the Trinity River, which was, until then, the way NTMWD transferred water from Lake Texoma has resulted in the diminished supply. At this point, the NTMWD does not have a firm date for the resumption of pumping from Lake Texoma, but they're hopeful of resuming later this year.

NTMWD has said it will continue to collaborate with the federal and state agencies on possible solutions for zebra mussels, which were first discovered in North America near the Great Lakes in 1988.

While zebra mussels are not harmful to humans, they do attach to water facilities and pipes causing millions of dollars in maintenance costs. The NTMWD is the only water supplier transferring water from Lake Texoma to the Trinity River basin. The mussels are typically transferred from one river basin to another by boaters and anglers.

"Water conservation should be a constant way of life for anyone in Texas, but because of the invasion of the mussels, it's far more urgent this spring," concluded Land.

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ABOUT THE TOWN OF PROSPER – The Town of Prosper is a fast-growing suburb with small town charm, located 30 miles north of Dallas at the crossroads of U.S. 380, Preston Road and the Dallas North Tollway in Collin and Denton Counties. Prosper sits on 27 square miles and is home to more than 9,000 people. A home-rule municipality, governed by a council-manager form of government, the town has full-time fire and police departments, including its own dispatch service. As the Town grows to its projected build-out population of 90,000 residents, Prosper's vision is to remain a "Place Where Everyone Matters."