

Watering notices, bans lifted in Waco, Hewitt

By Jessica Chia

Tribune-Herald staff writer

A boil-water notice for residents in West Waco was lifted Friday.

Outdoor watering bans also were lifted in Waco and Hewitt.

The water level in the water tower near Ritchie Road returned to normal Friday. A construction crew broke a water line on Ritchie Road on Wednesday that helped drain the tower to critical levels.

"We were very impressed by the voluntary compliance when we asked people to curtail water use. That allowed the water tower to fill quickly and bring the water pressure back to normal a good 24 hours before expected," city of Waco spokesman Larry Holze said.

Holze made it clear that al-

though there are no restrictions on water use, city officials still encourage wise water usage, in compliance with the state of Texas' request that all areas conserve water.

"People can do whatever they need to do now," Holze said. "We have an ample supply of water. But at the same time, respect the resource. Water the grass, but do it during the evening, rather than during the day when 50 percent of it will evaporate."

Hewitt water utilities superintendent James Black said that the city still is asking for voluntary water curtailment.

"Be aware, don't use excessive water outside," he said. "We're still in a drought situation."

jchia@wacotrib.com
757-5734