

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JENNIFER BURKE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, WATER AND
ENGINEERING RESOURCES, WATER DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT: RESCINDING STAGE 1 – MANDATORY OF THE CITY OF
SANTA ROSA URBAN WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY
PLAN

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Board of Public Utilities and the Water Department that the Council, by resolution, rescind Stage 1 – Mandatory of the City’s Urban Water Shortage Contingency Plan effective June 14, 2016.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to the drought, the Governor’s Executive Orders related to the drought, and Emergency Conservation Regulation issued by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) in 2014, the Council, by Resolution No. 28536, adopted Stage 1 – Mandatory of the City’s Urban Water Shortage Contingency Plan on August 5, 2014, imposing mandatory restrictions on outdoor irrigation with potable water and requiring customers to reduce community-wide water use by 20%. Due to above average precipitation in our area for the winter of 2015-16, water supply conditions in Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino are at capacity. On May 18, 2016, the State Water Board adopted an updated Emergency Conservation Regulation (May 2016 Regulation) which eases drought restrictions based on local supply, allowing local water agencies to self-certify water supply availability and reliability. The May 2016 Regulation replaces the existing mandatory conservation standard and allows local water agencies to analyze their supply and demand for the next three years to determine if any conservation standard is required based on a shortfall of supply. Working closely with Sonoma County Water Agency, the water supply analysis shows that there is more than adequate supply to meet demands for the next three years. Therefore, under the May 2016 Regulation, there is no longer a conservation target for the City of Santa Rosa.

This item is related to Council Goal #3: Provide Leadership for Environmental Initiatives.

BACKGROUND

On January 17, 2014, the Governor of the State of California declared a state-wide drought emergency and asked Californians to voluntarily reduce water use by 20%. On April 25, 2014, the Governor issued an Executive Order directing local water suppliers to redouble efforts to implement water conservation activities. On July 15, 2014, the State Water Board adopted Drought Emergency Water Conservation Regulations (July 2014 Regulation) prohibiting certain water using activities and requiring urban water suppliers to implement their Urban Water Shortage Contingency Plans (Shortage Plan) to a level that imposes mandatory restrictions on outdoor irrigation with potable water. On August 5, 2014, the Council, by Resolution No. 28536, adopted Stage 1 – Mandatory of the City’s Shortage Plan imposing mandatory restrictions on outdoor irrigation with potable water and requiring customers to reduce community-wide water use by 20%.

On April 1, 2015, the Governor issued an Executive Order directing the State Water Board to impose restrictions to achieve an aggregate statewide 25% reduction in urban water use through February 28, 2016. The Executive Order also directed that relative per capita water usage of each water suppliers’ service area be taken into account and those areas with high per capita use must achieve proportionally greater reductions than those with low use. On May 5, 2015, the State Water Board adopted an Emergency Conservation Regulation (May 2015 Regulation) in accordance with the Governor’s April 1, 2015 Executive Order. To reach the statewide 25% reduction, the May 2015 Regulation assigned each urban water supplier a conservation standard that ranged between 4% and 36% based on their residential gallons per capita per day for the months of July – September 2014. The citizens of Santa Rosa have demonstrated a commitment to conserving water and continue to be responsive to the conservation message. Due to our community’s water conservation efforts, the City was assigned a conservation standard of 16%.

On November 13, 2015, the Governor issued an Executive Order directing the State Water Board to extend the May 2015 Regulation through October 2016 should drought conditions persist through January 2016. On February 2, 2016, the State Water Board adopted a revised Emergency Conservation Regulation (February 2016 Regulation) that took into account the variability in climate and population growth and provided credit for drought-proof supplies. The February 2016 Regulation did not change the City’s conservation standard.

On May 9, 2016, the Governor issued an Executive Order directing the State Water Board to update the Emergency Drought Regulation considering local water supply reliability. The Governor’s Order also provides direction related to long term water use efficiency, focusing on developing new long term water use efficiency targets, making permanent state-wide prohibitions on water waste, and requiring updated requirements related to drought planning. On May 18, 2016, the State Water Board adopted a revised Emergency Conservation Regulation (May 2016 Regulation) that takes into account local water supply reliability. The May 2016 Regulation replaces the existing mandatory conservation standard and allows local water agencies to analyze their

supply and demand for the next three years to determine if any conservation standard is required based on a shortfall of supply. The May 2016 Regulation goes into effect June 1, 2016 and will remain in effect through January 2017.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

On February 11, 2014, the City Council requested, by Resolution No. 28427, a voluntary 20% reduction in water use from customers to support the Governor's declaration. In addition, the City Council increased appropriations for drought outreach and education by \$75,000 from the unappropriated balance in the Water Utility Fund.

On July 15, 2014, the City Council increased, by Resolution No. 28514, appropriations for drought outreach and education by \$75,000 from the unappropriated balance in the Water Utility Fund.

On August 5, 2014, the Council adopted, by Resolution No. 28536, Stage 1 – Mandatory of the City's Shortage Plan imposing mandatory restrictions on outdoor irrigation with potable water and requiring customers to reduce community-wide water use by 20%.

On November 10, 2015, the City Council increased, by Resolution No. 28710, appropriations for drought outreach and education by \$75,000 from the unappropriated balance in the Water Utility Fund.

ANALYSIS

1. The City of Santa Rosa has had a long-standing commitment to water conservation achieving sustained savings of over 4,500 acre-feet per year.
2. The City's Urban Water Shortage Plan is designed to achieve additional, short-term water savings in response to a specific water shortage.
3. In response to the State Emergency Regulations, the City of Santa Rosa has been successful in the implementation of Stage 1 - Mandatory of our Urban Water Shortage Contingency Plan. Santa Rosa customers have reduced their water use by 25% for the months of June 2015 through April 2016 when compared to the same months in 2013.
4. The May 2016 Regulation requires water agencies to project supply availability for the next three years based on current supply conditions and using a three-year hydrology that mirrors the hydrology for 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15. Demand is based on the average of water production for 2013 and 2014. The analysis then compares the average demand and the supply availability in year 3 to determine if a shortfall in supply exists. Any projected shortfall would be reflected in the new water conservation standard.
5. Working closely with the Water Agency and using the May 2016 Regulation self-certification analysis, the Water Agency has determined that there is more than three years of supply available. Using the May 2016 Regulation self-certification analysis, the City's average demand is 19,933 acre-feet per year and there is

supply available to meet or exceed the average demand in year 3. Therefore, Santa Rosa's conservation standard is zero.

6. The May 2016 Regulation also keeps the following state-wide water waste prohibitions in place through January 2017:
 - No runoff allowed from outdoor irrigation
 - No washing down of hardscapes, unless required for public health and safety
 - Must use shut-off hose nozzle on all garden and utility hoses to wash cars
 - Restaurants must participate in the "water-on-request" program
 - Hotels and motels must allow guests the option of not having linens and towels laundered daily
 - Fountains may only operate if water is recirculating
 - No irrigation allowed during and up to 48 hours after measurable rainfall
 - No irrigation of ornamental turf in public street medians
7. Water use for public health and safety purposes, such as using water for fire fighter training purposes, is allowed.
8. The Water Department will continue to offer and promote our numerous water use efficiency programs, and water saving tips, tools and support to help our community eliminate water waste and improve water use efficiency.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of this action does not have a fiscal impact on the General Fund or the Water Enterprise Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On June 2, 2016, the Board of Public Utilities adopted a resolution recommending that the City Council, by resolution, rescind Stage 1 – Mandatory of the City's Urban Water Shortage Contingency Plan effective June 14, 2016.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 - City Council Resolution No. 28427
- Attachment 2 - City Council Resolution No. 28514

- Attachment 3 - City Council Resolution No. 28536
- Attachment 4 - City Council Resolution No. 28710
- Resolution

CONTACT

Jennifer Burke, jburke@srcity.org, 707-543-3359.