



DATE: June 14, 2016

CATEGORY: Public Hearing

DEPT.: Public Works

TITLE: **Adopt a Resolution Declaring the Existence of a Stage 1 Water Shortage Emergency Condition and Directing Implementation of Stage 1 Water Demand Reduction Measure**

RECOMMENDATION

1. Modify the current Stage 2 water shortage to a Stage 1 water shortage.
2. Adopt a Resolution Declaring the Existence of a Stage 1 Water Shortage Emergency Condition and Directing Implementation of Stage 1 Water Demand Reduction Measures, to be read in title only, further reading waived (Attachment 1 to the Council report).

BACKGROUND

The City of Mountain View operates a municipal water system serving approximately 18,000 customer connections. Mountain View purchases the majority of its water (86 percent) from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). Smaller volumes of water are purchased from the Santa Clara Valley Water District's (SCVWD) treated water system (7 percent), pumped from local groundwater wells (2 percent), and produced as recycled water by the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant (RWQCP—5 percent).

A Statewide drought began in 2012, and Governor Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency in January 2014 as drought conditions persisted into a third dry year. Over the subsequent three months, the City's wholesale suppliers, SFPUC and SCVWD, also declared drought emergencies and requested 10 percent and 20 percent water-use reductions, respectively. In April 2014, the City Council codified Mountain View's Water Shortage Contingency Plan and declared a Stage 1 water shortage. Staff increased drought response efforts and Citywide water use decreased by 13 percent (compared to 2013). In September 2014, the City Council declared a Stage 2 water shortage, responding to the Governor's mandate that urban water suppliers implement the stage of their shortage plan that limits landscape irrigation. Outdoor watering in

Mountain View was limited to between 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., 15 minutes per day, three days per week.

As drought conditions continued to worsen through the spring of 2015, Governor Brown ordered the State Water Board to issue mandatory water-use reductions for all urban water suppliers in California. Mountain View's State-mandated reduction was 16 percent. SFPUC maintained a voluntary 10 percent reduction and SCVWD increased its call for reduction from 20 percent to 30 percent. In response to these actions, Mountain View implemented a mandatory two-day-per-week watering schedule (with an optional 20 percent budget-based reduction alternative for irrigation customers) and appropriated nearly \$300,000 for drought response programs. Citywide water use during 2015 was 28 percent less than 2013 and the City met all water-use reduction targets. Water use by the City's operations (e.g., buildings, parks, golf course) was reduced 46 percent and a list of the actions the City has taken related to the drought can be found in Attachment 2.

Following the 2016 rainy season, water supply conditions have improved and the State Water Board recently adopted a new methodology for calculating mandatory reductions, using local water supply information. Urban water suppliers, including Mountain View, may "self-certify" a new reduction and submit relevant information to the State Water Board by June 22. The State Water Board's updated methodology sets each supplier's new reduction at the level of conservation necessary in 2019 if drought conditions persist for three additional years. Updated reductions are calculated relative to average water use in 2013 and 2014; however, percentages are presented herein relative to 2013 water use to maintain consistency with prior actions. As wholesale water agencies, SFPUC and SCVWD are required to publish the volume of water available to Mountain View over the next three years by June 15, for use in calculating the City's new mandatory reduction. If Mountain View does not self-certify a reduction by June 22, the State Water Board's existing 16 percent reduction will remain in place.

ANALYSIS

Based on preliminary information provided by SFPUC and SCVWD, staff expects the City's new mandatory reduction to be between 3 percent and 10 percent (compared to 2013).¹ At their meeting on May 24, SFPUC stated that they have sufficient water to meet three more years of system demand even if the drought continues through 2019, but that they will continue to request 10 percent voluntary conservation as a prudent response to continued, albeit improved, drought conditions. The SCVWD Board of Directors is scheduled to discuss water-use reductions at their June 14 meeting. The City understands SCVWD staff has recommended a Countywide reduction target of 20 percent and proposed the following three-day-per-week watering schedule:

- Odd-addressed properties may water Monday, Thursday, and Saturday.
- Even-addressed properties may water Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday.

The City expects to receive notice from SCVWD immediately following their June 14 meeting, enabling staff to finalize the City's self-certified mandatory reduction for submittal to the State Water Board by June 22.

In setting local drought reduction targets, the City has historically weighed reduction requests from SFPUC and SCVWD proportional to the City's supply portfolio ratios, and committed to reduce use of each specific supply by the percent requested. Applying this proportional allocation, staff anticipates a reduction between 3 percent and 10 percent and recommends the City Council move from a Stage 2 water shortage (11 percent to 25 percent reduction) into a Stage 1 water shortage (up to 10 percent reduction) and direct staff to implement Stage 1 demand reduction measures—including promotion of a voluntary three-day-per-week watering schedule as a good practice for conserving water. Modifying to a Stage 1 shortage would lift several water-use restrictions currently in effect, including:

- Cleaning hard surfaces (except by bucket or for health and safety needs).
- Vehicle washing (except by bucket or for health and safety needs).

¹ Although the State Water Board's new methodology uses average 2013-14 water use, percentages presented herein are relative to 2013 to maintain consistency with prior actions.

- Landscape watering between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., more than one to three days per week (pursuant to a schedule posted by the City), more than 15 minutes per day, or during a rain event. Irrigation customers below a specified percentage of their budget (currently 20 percent) are exempt from schedule and duration limits.
- Decorative water features (except to maintain aquatic life).

Other Stage 2 restrictions that would be lifted are summarized in Attachment 3, related to leaks, restaurant spray-valves, hotel linens, commercial car washes, commercial laundry systems, and construction projects.

Moving back into a Stage 1 shortage would eliminate the mandatory watering schedule and offer relief to customers while recognizing that the drought is not yet over. During a Stage 1 shortage, the City would continue to promote conservation, and the following restrictions would be maintained:

- Leaks must be repaired in 10 days;
- Runoff into gutters, sidewalks, driveways, and streets is prohibited;
- Hard surfaces and vehicles may not be cleaned with a hose that does not have an automatic shutoff (sprayer);
- Restaurants shall only serve water upon request;
- Single-pass cooling systems are prohibited.

FISCAL IMPACT

Water Fund revenue would likely increase with increased water use, as would the City's costs for purchase of additional water.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Remain in a Stage 2 water shortage, establish a three-day-per-week watering schedule, and reduce the budget-based alternative reduction to 10 percent.

2. Remain in a Stage 2 water shortage and maintain the current two-day-per-week watering schedule.
3. Seek additional research or provide other direction.

PUBLIC NOTICING – Agenda posting and publication in the *San Jose Post Record*.

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- Attachments:
1. Resolution
 2. Summary of Key Conservation and Drought Response Programs During the Current Drought
 3. Potable Water Use Prohibitions for Stage 1 and Stage 2 Water Shortages