

CITY OF YUBA CITY
STAFF REPORT

Date: July 20, 2021
To: Honorable Mayor & Members of the City Council
From: Public Works Department
Presentation by: Diana Langley, Public Works Director

Summary

Subject: Emergency Water Restrictions to Achieve 15% Voluntary Conservation
Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution declaring that water supply conditions are such that they dictate and justify the need for the implementation of voluntary conservation measures to achieve 15% conservation, which aligns with the implementation of State 2 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan
Fiscal Impact: Conservation will result in a reduction in water revenues.

Purpose:

To provide an update on the City’s current water supply outlook and encourage customers to voluntarily conserve water to equate to a 15% reduction in consumption as compared to 2020.

Background:

The City of Yuba City obtains water for its water system through four different permits/contracts from the Feather River (Table A). The City also has access to one groundwater well located at the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) for use in drought or emergency conditions. With the current drought, the City’s water supplies have been curtailed and reduced. The projected allocation/utilization for 2021 can also be found in Table A.

Table A: Yuba City Water Sources (Acre-Feet)

Water Source	Annual Allotment	Projected 2021 Allocation/Utilization	Time of Use
SWRCB License 13855	6,500	1,037	September - June
SWRCB Permit 18558	9,000	5,565	October - June
North Yuba Water District	4,500	4,370	Summer
DWR State Water Project	9,600	480	Year Round
DWR State Water Project - Carryover		2,918	Year Round
Backup Groundwater Well (WTP)	1,200	1,000	As Needed
Total:	30,800	15,370	

Historically, SWRCB License 13855 (License 13855) and the North Yuba Water District (NYWD) have been reliable sources of water. During below normal runoff years, SWRCB Permit 18558 (Permit 18558) is typically restricted so that no water can be drawn under the permit starting May through September. In 2021, SWRCB Permit 18558 was curtailed on April 29th. The DWR State Water Project Contract (SWP Contract) is typically subject to restrictions, with the most severe restrictions occurring in 2014 with a 5% allotment. For 2021, the City's SWP Contract allocation was again reduced to 5%.

During California's 2012-2016 drought, the City utilized the backup groundwater well at the WTP, "carryover" water from the SWP Contract to supplement supplies, and encouraged customers to conserve water. Customers did an excellent job reducing consumption during the 2012-2016 drought, and adopted long-term habits that reduced water consumption overall. Through these efforts, the City was able to meet water demands.

There is growing concern that while many water agencies have enough water supplies to serve customers for 2021, including Yuba City, there may be a need to severely restrict water consumption in 2022 if California has another dry winter. Rather than take a "wait and see" approach, the State is recommending action to begin voluntarily reducing water consumption.

Staff supports the call for voluntary conservation, as the City has limited supplies available during the peak time of year in the summer, and limited SWP Contract carryover water to supplement the North Yuba Water District and SWP Contract supplies during that time. Conserving the SWP Contract carryover water to the extent practicable, will extend the City's ability to use it in 2022 and beyond should the drought continue. For information purposes, going into summer 2021, the City has 4,908 acre-feet of SWP Contract carryover water available. With the projected utilization of 2,918 acre-feet in 2021, there will only be 1,990 acre-feet available for 2022.

Analysis:

On July 8, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-10-21 (Executive Order). The Executive Order expanded the state of emergency previously proclaimed for 41 counties in Executive Orders issued on April 21 and May 10, to include an additional 9 counties. The Executive Order notes that, "action by Californians now to conserve water and to extend local groundwater and surface water supplies will provide greater resilience if the drought continues in future years." The Executive Order also states, "To preserve the State's surface and groundwater supplies and better prepare for the potential for continued dry conditions next year, and to join existing efforts by agricultural water users, public water systems, and governmental agencies to respond to water shortages, I call on all Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15% from their 2020 levels."

Measures identified in the Executive Order that help to achieve 15% voluntary conservation include:

- Irrigate landscapes more efficiently – Water one day less per week, do not water during or immediately after rainfall, water during the cooler parts of the day, and use a weather-based irrigation controller.
- Run dishwashers and washing machines only when full
- Find and fix leaks
- Install water efficient showerheads and take shorter showers
- Use a shut-off nozzle on hoses and take cars to commercial car washes that use recycled water

The State Water Resources Control Board is tasked with tracking and reporting monthly progress on achieving a 15% reduction in statewide urban water use as compared to 2020.

Per the City's draft Water Shortage Contingency Plan, 15% voluntary conservation fits into Stage 2, which is considered a "Water Warning" and is to be implemented when up to 20% conservation requested. Under a Stage 2 "Water Warning", customers are informed of possible shortages and the following measures are to be implemented:

Prohibited Water Uses

- Allowing water to run off unused into a gutter, ditch, or drain
- Failing to repair a controllable leak
- Washing sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios or other paved areas
- Utilizing a hand-held hose without an automatic shut-off nozzle
- Irrigating during a precipitation event
- Enforce outdoor irrigation restrictions including limiting the number of water days per week, and time when irrigation can occur (e.g. between 6:00 pm and 9:00 am).

The outdoor irrigation measure would normally be implemented with a mandatory conservation requirement. Based on the Executive Order, staff is instead recommending to encourage customers to voluntarily water one day less per week and to water during the coolest part of the day.

With Councils direction, staff will prepare an outreach campaign to:

- Promote the City's rebate program for WaterSmart® toilets, showerheads, and irrigation controllers.
- Notify customers of the voluntary conservation measures identified in the Executive Order.
- Notify customers of the prohibited water uses identified in the Water Shortage Contingency Plan, with the modification noted above related to outdoor irrigation restrictions.
- Encourage customers to sign-up online to access their cellular water meter account so that they can receive real-time data related to water consumption and leaks.

In addition, staff is looking at other measures to conserve the City's surface water supplies. Three groundwater wells located within the water distribution system are being evaluated to be brought back online, staff has issued a request for proposals for the design of a second groundwater well at the Water Treatment Plant with the goal to have the well online by summer 2022, and the Parks Division will evaluate scaling back irrigation at parks that use surface water instead of groundwater.

It should be noted that Blackburn-Talley, Regency, Gauche, Sam Brannan, and Northridge park are all irrigated with non-potable groundwater. While irrigation at these parks will be evaluated, they will likely not be modified to the extent of the parks irrigated with surface water. Signage will be placed at these parks to let residents know.

Fiscal Impact:

A reduction in consumption will result in a reduction in revenues. Some of that reduction in revenues will be offset by reduction in expenditures due to less pumping and chemical costs.

Alternatives:

Direct staff to go beyond Governor Newsom's Executive Order and implement a mandatory conservation target of 15% or greater.

Recommendation:

Adopt a Resolution declaring that water supply conditions are such that they dictate and justify the need for the implementation of voluntary conservation measures to achieve 15% conservation, which aligns with the implementation of State 2 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Executive Order N-10-21

Prepared by:

/s/ Diana Langley

Diana Langley
Public Works Director

Submitted by:

/s/ Dave Vaughn

Dave Vaughn
City Manager

Reviewed by:

Finance

City Attorney

SM

SLC by email

ATTACHMENT 1

RESOLUTION NO. ____
RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUBA CITY
DECLARING THAT WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS ARE SUCH THAT THEY DICTATE AND
JUSTIFY THE NEED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION
MEASURES TO ACHIEVE 15% CONSERVATION

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-10-21 requesting that all Californians voluntarily reduce their water use by 15% from their 2020 levels; and

WHEREAS, the City's voluntary and mandatory water restrictions to achieve up to a 20% reduction in water consumption are a part of Stage 2 of the City's Water Shortage Contingency Plan; and,

WHEREAS, Section 6-6.19 of the Municipal Code dictates that upon declaration of the City Council that water supply conditions are such that they dictate and justify the implementation of emergency water restrictions, the regulations in the Water Shortage Contingency Plan within the City's adopted Urban Water Management Plan will apply.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Yuba City hereby declares that water supply conditions are such that they dictate and justify the need for implementation of emergency water restrictions.

The foregoing resolution was duly and regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by the City Council of the City of Yuba City at a regular meeting thereof held on the 20th day of July, 2021.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Marc Boomgaarden, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ciara Wakefield, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM
COUNSEL FOR YUBA CITY

Shannon L. Chaffin, City Attorney
Aleshire & Wynder, LLP

ATTACHMENT 2

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-10-21

WHEREAS communities across California are experiencing more frequent, prolonged, and severe impacts of climate change including catastrophic wildfires, extreme heat and unprecedentedly dry conditions that threaten the health of our people, habitat for species and our economy; and

WHEREAS severe drought afflicts the American West and increasingly warming temperatures driven by climate change exacerbate harmful drought effects including disruption of drinking water and irrigation supplies, degradation of fish and wildlife habitat, and heightened flammability of wildland vegetation; and

WHEREAS on April 21 and May 10, 2021, I issued proclamations that a state of emergency exists in a total of 41 counties due to severe drought conditions and directed state agencies to take immediate action to preserve critical water supplies and mitigate the effects of drought and ensure the protection of health, safety, and the environment; and

WHEREAS today, I issued a further proclamation of a state of emergency due to drought conditions in nine additional counties (Inyo, Marin, Mono, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz), and directed state agencies to take further actions to bolster drought resilience and prepare for impacts on communities, businesses, and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS drought conditions present urgent challenges, including the risk of drinking water shortages in communities, greatly increased wildfire activity, diminished water for agricultural production, adverse impacts on fisheries, and additional water scarcity if drought conditions continue into next year; and

WHEREAS agriculture is an important economic driver in California that has made significant investments in irrigation efficiencies such that nearly 70 percent of the nation's farmland using drip and micro-irrigation is located in California, and despite that investment, many agricultural producers are experiencing severe reductions in water supplies and are fallowing land in response to current dry conditions; and

WHEREAS action by Californians now to conserve water and to extend local groundwater and surface water supplies will provide greater resilience if the drought continues in future years; and

WHEREAS during the 2012-2016 drought, Californians did their part to conserve water, with many taking permanent actions that continue to yield benefits; per capita residential water use statewide declined 21 percent between the years 2013 and 2016, and has remained on average 16 percent below 2013 levels as of 2020; and

WHEREAS local water suppliers and communities have made strategic and forward-looking investments in water recycling, stormwater capture and reuse, groundwater storage and other strategies to improve drought resilience; and

WHEREAS there is now a need to augment ongoing water conservation and drought resilience investments with additional action to extend available supplies, protect water reserves in case drought conditions extend to a third year and maintain critical flows for fish and wildlife.

NOW THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, do hereby issue the following order to become effective immediately.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1) To preserve the State's surface and groundwater supplies and better prepare for the potential for continued dry conditions next year, and to join existing efforts by agricultural water users, public water systems, and governmental agencies to respond to water shortages, I call on all Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15 percent from their 2020 levels. Commonsense measures Californians can undertake to save water and money include:
 - a. Irrigating landscapes more efficiently. As much as 50 percent of residential water use goes to outdoor irrigation, and much of that is wasted due to evaporation, wind, or runoff caused by inefficient irrigation methods and systems. Watering one day less per week, not watering during or immediately after rainfall, watering during the cooler parts of the day and using a weather-based irrigation controller can reduce irrigation water use, saving nearly 8,800 gallons of water per year.
 - b. Running dishwashers and washing machines only when full. Full laundry loads can save 15–45 gallons per load. Full dishwasher cycles can save 5–15 gallons per load.
 - c. Finding and fixing leaks. A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste nearly 3,200 gallons per year.
 - d. Installing water-efficient showerheads and taking shorter showers. Keeping showers under five minutes can save 12.5 gallons per shower when using a water-efficient showerhead.
 - e. Using a shut-off nozzle on hoses and taking cars to commercial car washes that use recycled water.

The State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) shall track and report monthly on the State's progress toward achieving a 15-percent reduction in statewide urban water use as compared to 2020 use.

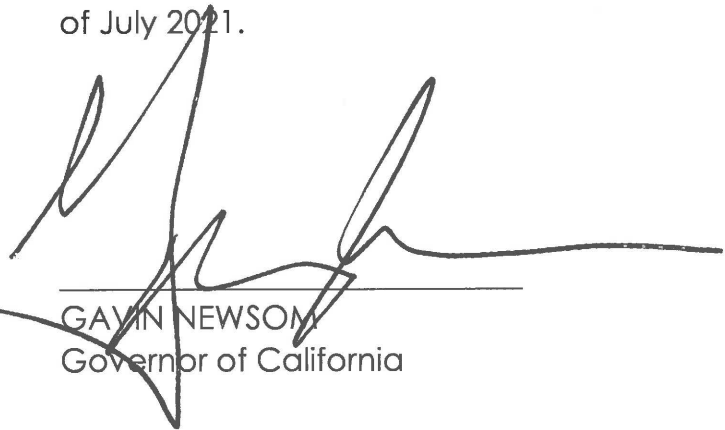
- 2) State agencies, led by the Department of Water Resources and in coordination with local agencies, shall encourage actions by all Californians, whether in their residential, industrial, commercial, agricultural, or institutional use, to reduce water usage, including through the statewide Save Our Water conservation campaign at SaveOurWater.com, which provides simple ways for Californians to reduce water use in their everyday lives.
- 3) The Department of Water Resources shall monitor hydrologic conditions such as cumulative precipitation, reservoir storage levels, soil moisture and other metrics, and the Water Board shall monitor progress on voluntary

conservation as ongoing indicators of water supply risk that may inform future drought response actions.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 8th day of July 2021.



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California



ATTEST:



SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D.
Secretary of State