

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-0270

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

August 24, 2021

Declaring Stage 2 Water Alert and Implementing Additional Water Conservation Measures

BACKGROUND

- A. California is experiencing an ongoing severe drought, with snowpack runoff and reservoir storage levels at or near record lows.
- B. On May 10, 2021, the Governor issued a proclamation of a State of Emergency to mitigate the effects of drought conditions in the Sacramento and Joaquin Delta Watershed counties including Sacramento County.
- C. On May 13, 2021, the Regional Water Authority (RWA) Board adopted a resolution which called for the consideration of actions that would result in reduction of surface water diversions from the American River watershed to protect the environment of the lower American River and to preserve local water supplies should dry conditions persist.
- D. The actions of the RWA Resolution called for voluntary reductions of water use by 10 percent, shifting diversions from the lower American River to the Sacramento River, and/or shifting from using surface water to groundwater as a supply source as part of the region's plan for sustainability.
- E. On July 8, 2021, the Governor issued an Executive Order calling for voluntary conservation efforts of 15 percent by all Californians by taking common sense measures with both indoor and outdoor water use.
- F. On July 15, 2021, the RWA Board adopted a resolution which called for its member agencies to consider actions that include asking customers to voluntarily reduce their water use by a minimum of 15 percent and consider additional shifting from using surface water to groundwater, where feasible, as a supply source and using other sources of water other than the American River.
- G. This year the projected inflow from upstream sources into waterways and surface storage has been less than projected and has resulted in less water in reservoirs than anticipated.
- H. High air temperatures and dry conditions have further created additional water temperature stress on Lower American River ecosystems.

- I. Folsom Reservoir, being a primary source of water for several water agencies in the region, is vulnerable to worsening drought conditions.
- J. Hydrology leading into water year 2022 is uncertain and continued dry conditions may lead to water shortages and extreme stress to fisheries.
- K. Article XI of Chapter 13.04 of the Sacramento City Code (Outdoor Water Conservation) specifies outdoor water use limitations and restrictions to promote efficient water uses and increase water conservation.
- L. On July 7, 2021, based on critical drought conditions, the Sacramento City Manager declared a Stage 1 Water Watch, asking City, residents and businesses to voluntarily reduce water use by 10 percent. City Code section 13.04.910 authorizes the City Council, by Resolution, to declare the existence of a water shortage and impose revised or additional limitations and restrictions on outdoor water use while the water shortage remains in effect.
- M. The City's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, adopted by the City Council in July 2021 includes a Water Shortage Contingency Plan that sets forth six water conservation stages designed to reduce overall water usage during a water shortage as follows:

Water Use Reduction Plan

Stage 1 Water Watch	up to 10%
Stage 2 Water Alert	up to 20%
Stage 3 Water Warning	up to 30%
Stage 4 Water Crisis	up to 40%
Stage 5 Water Emergency	up to 50%
Stage 6 Water Health & Safety Use Only	>50%

- N. The City of Sacramento has implemented numerous measures to help City, residents and businesses achieve the 10 percent water use reduction including:
 - Activating a drought response team to effectively address all aspects of the drought including operational issues, planning and strategy, public outreach and education, rebates and incentives, funding and financing, and logistics. The Department of Utilities drought response team meets weekly, and the Citywide taskforce meets monthly.
 - Temporarily doubling rebate offerings from July 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021.
 - Reducing use of surface water from the American River and increased extraction of water from Sacramento River and groundwater wells.

- Implementing a drought campaign and increased outreach and education through radio, tv, digital, print, and social media channels.
 - Increasing water patrols to help educate customers about water waste.
- O. Additional funding of \$1,800,000 is needed to support the City's increased Water Conservation Program.
- P. The Department of Utilities presented its drought response recommendations to the City of Sacramento Water Committee on August 10, 2021 and received direction to bring a recommendation to the City Council to consider declaring a Stage 2 of the water shortage condition.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. Based on the on-going drought conditions, the Sacramento City Council in alignment with Governor's Executive Order, hereby ratifies City of Sacramento support for the Regional Water Authority's resolution calling for 15 percent voluntary conservation or other equivalent steps to reduce the pressure on Folsom reservoir and the Lower American River.
- Section 2. Declares Stage 2 'Water Alert' of the City's Water Shortage Contingency Plan with a call to the city residents, businesses and city operations to voluntarily reduce water use by 15 percent.
- Section 3. The City Manager or the City Manager's designee is authorized to transfer \$1,800,000 from the Water Fund (Fund 6005) available fund balance to the Water Conservation Multi-Year Operating Project (114120400).

Adopted by the City of Sacramento City Council on August 24, 2021, by the following vote:

Ayes: Members Guerra, Harris, Jennings, Loloe, Schenirer, Valenzuela, Vang, and Mayor Steinberg

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Member Ashby

Attest: **Mindy Cuppy** Digitally signed by Mindy Cuppy
Date: 2021.09.17 15:16:34
-07'00'

Mindy Cuppy, City Clerk

The presence of an electronic signature certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy as approved by the Sacramento City Council.