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DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

WATER DIVISION

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

October 25, 1990

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Budget and Finance Committee
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT FOR WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

SUMMARY

Citizens are to be congratulated for their efforts. During the past four months, Sacramentans have saved more than 2.9 billion gallons of water by their conservation efforts. These savings amount to an overall reduction of 15% during the past summer months.

It is recommended that during the winter months the existing mandated conservation program be continued but in a modified form. The existing limitation of landscape irrigation between the hours of 12 noon and 6 pm would be revised to be in effect only during the months of May through September. A full review of the water conservation program will be presented to the City Council during the month of March, which will reflect the projected water supply situation for the summer months of 1991.

It is further recommended that the 1.5 FTE Water Waste Inspector positions presently budgeted be increased to 2.5 FTE (limited term) in order to enforce the mandated measures during the winter months.

BACKGROUND

Existing Mandatory Measures. With California in the midst of its fourth consecutive year of drought, the City's Water Division proposed a mandatory Water Conservation Program to supplement the ongoing voluntary program. The proposed program, adopted on May 22, 1990, included the following measures:

1. Prohibit use of City water to wash down sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, or other paved areas, except to alleviate immediate fire or sanitation hazards.
2. Prohibit landscape irrigation between the hours of 12 noon and 6 p.m.
3. Initiate odd/even landscaping irrigation. Residences or businesses with odd address numbers will water landscaping only Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Even numbered addresses will water on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. Watering on Mondays will be prohibited.

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September Conservation Effort. The City's mandated water conservation program continues to be a success. Water production data indicate that Sacramentans reduced water consumption by an estimated 8.5% during the month of September. The normal expected water usage for the month of September would have been around 4.3 billion gallons. Actual use during September 1990 was 3.8 billion gallons. Stated another way, Sacramentans saved approximately 12 million gallons per day in September.

Overall Summer Conservation Effort. Although the 8.5 percent savings during September is below the ambitious 20 percent goal of our conservation program, customer efforts since the mandated program began on June 1st have averaged 15 percent savings.

This 15 percent converts to an overall summer savings of almost 3 billion gallons of water! Water Conservation program statistics for the past summer months are listed in the table below:

	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Water saved	1,262 mg	739 mg	572 mg	361 mg	2,934 mg
Percent Savings	26	14	11	8.5	15
Contacts with Public	2,675	3,068	4,130	1,870	11,743
Mileage Traveled by Water Waste Inspectors	10,589	11,975	11,550	8,117	42,231
First Written Violations Issued	1	1	4	9	15
Second Written Violations Issued	0	0	0	0	0
Approved Variances Issued To Date	305	142	53	57	549
Water Conservation Kits Mailed	0	331	405	1043	1779

mg = MILLION GALLONS

The gradual decline of water conservation savings over the summer months was a result of many factors. One of the most important of these was the lack of constant reminders to our customers outlining the need to conserve water. We generally relied on the news media doing drought stories and bill stuffers to get our conservation message out. In June, media coverage of the drought was heavy while stories dwindled in July. In August and September even fewer stories appeared with a majority of coverage directed at the Iraqi conflict.

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In retrospect, we should have been more aggressive in taking our conservation program to the public using vehicles such as radio spots, newspaper advertisements, school educational programs, etc.. All of these programs, however, are expensive and would significantly increase the overall cost of the City's conservation program if implemented.

Research by other large water purveyors found that the predominant factors for customers making large efforts to conserve water related to consumer perception of the scarcity of water and the need to prevent future shortages. The protection of the environment and saving money were viewed as less important reasons.

The City did not have a water shortage problem. Our water entitlements and contracts guarantee a dependable supply throughout the year even during periods of drought. In effect, our appeal to conserve was based on energy saved by decreased treatment and pumping, chemical treatment savings, and an altruistic motivation to provide more water to downstream beneficial uses. All of these issues make for a difficult conservation sell.

Program Continuation. Due to the uncertainty of climatic conditions (specifically, precipitation) during the upcoming winter months it is recommended that some form of mandatory conservation should continue. Because day-light hours are significantly reduced and landscape irrigation decreases during this period, it is recommended that the prohibition of landscape irrigation between the hours of 12 noon and 6 pm be discontinued. The City Code should be revised so that this specific prohibition be in force only during the period of May through September. The remaining mandated measures, forbidding the washing of paved surfaces and odd/even watering with a Monday prohibition, would continue to be in effect during the winter months. Our customers are now in the habit of this schedule. This combined with the fact that outdoor irrigation is greatly decreased during the winter months, renders any dramatic change in mandated measures unnecessary at the present time.

Extending a mandatory conservation program through the winter months will necessitate keeping Water Waste Inspectors on duty during this period. During this past summer, six (0.25 FTE) Water Waste Inspectors are hired seasonally. In order to enforce the mandatory program, it is recommended that two (0.5 FTE) Water Waste Inspectors be kept on-staff through the next six months. This request will necessitate a budget revision to increase limited-term Water Waste Inspectors budgeted from 1.5 to 2.5 FTE. The Water Waste Inspectors would continue to patrol the City looking for water waste violations in addition to responding to citizen complaints.

Two vehicles will also be required for use by the Water Waste Inspectors. At the present time we depend on the Fleet Management motor pool to obtain vehicles for the Water Waste Inspectors. Because the conservation program will be a year around program, permanent vehicles must be secured.

Program Re-Evaluation. During the month of March 1991, the Water Division will prepare a report to the City Council evaluating the projected water supply status for the spring and summer of 1991. Based on those water supply conditions, the 1991 water conservation program will be prepared and presented to the City Council. Depending upon winter and spring climatic conditions, further revision of the mandatory water conservation program may be suggested.

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FINANCIAL

The estimated cost to date for the 1990 program is \$121,000, most of which has been approved with the operating budget for 90/91. This amount covers the salaries of one permanent Water Conservation Specialist and six limited term Water Waste Inspectors, the printing and mailing of water conservation brochures and water saving device kits. It is estimated that the 2,934 million gallons of water conserved has resulted in \$189,860 being saved in treatment and pumping costs.

The requested \$44,650 in additional funding necessary to extend the mandatory program will come from the Water Fund Contingency Reserve (4-13-710-7012-4999) which has a current balance of \$5,741,000. It would take a 0.2 percent rate increase to replace this amount in contingency reserve.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

In May of 1988, the City Council passed a resolution promoting year-round water conservation.

On May 22, 1990, the City Council passed a resolution prohibiting certain uses of water such as pavement washing and odd/even landscape irrigation.

MBE/WBE EFFORTS

No impact.


RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Budget and Finance Committee forward the attached resolution (1) authorizing the addition of 1.0 FTE to the Water Division budget and (2) revising the water conservation ordinance amending Section 47.404 of the City Code to the full City Council for adoption.

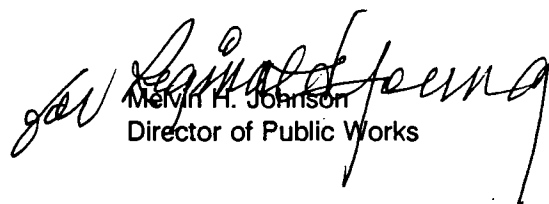
Respectfully submitted,


Jim Sequeira
Water Division Manager

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:


Jack R. Crist
Deputy City Manager

APPROVED:


Melvin H. Johnson
Director of Public Works

October 25, 1990
All Districts

Contact Person:
Jim Sequeira - 449-1291
CODE:ARBF.1025

RESOLUTION NO.

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF _____

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE OPERATING BUDGET
OF THE WATER DIVISION
ADDING A POSITION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS, AND
AMENDING SECTION 47.404 OF CHAPTER 47 OF THE CITY CODE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO THAT:

1. The following position be added to the Water Division

Water Administration (Organization 3151)

<u>Code</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>FTE</u>
09060	Water Waste Inspector	1.0

2. Funds in the amount totaling \$34,450 be transferred from the Water Fund Contingency Reserve (4-13-710-7012-4999) to the Water Division operations budget.

413-310-3151-4101		\$14,200
413-310-3151-4234		\$ 8,000
413-310-3151-4282		\$ 50
413-310-3151-4632		<u>\$22,400</u>
	TOTAL	\$44,650

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO.: _____

DATE ADOPTED: _____

ORDINANCE NO.

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 47.404 OF CHAPTER 47
OF THE CITY CODE, PROHIBITING AND REGULATING
CERTAIN USES OF WATER DELIVERED BY THE
CITY SYSTEM

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:

Section 1

Section 47.404 (b) of Chapter 47 of the Sacramento City Code is amended to read as follows:

Landscape irrigation shall be prohibited between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
from May 1 to September 30.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

ORDINANCE NO.: _____

DATE ADOPTED: _____