



Meeting Date: February 4, 2014
Agenda Item: 10A
Reviewed by Town Manager

Yountville Town Council Staff Report

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Graham Wadsworth, Public Works Director/ Town Engineer
Kevin Gaither, Public Works Manager
Kevin Scott, Regional Government Services Authority

SUBJECT: Implement Phase 1 water emergency regulations and approve Water Use Efficiency Plan

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

As many of us who have lived in California for an extended time period, we are aware that California suffers from drought cycles every 10 to 20 years. The last two severe droughts were in the mid-1970's and late-1980's to early 1990's. Yountville and the Northern California area have experienced record low rainfall for the past 2013 calendar year and the current October-April rainy season. (lowest for a calendar year on record since 1849). As a result weather forecasters have formally declared our region to be in a drought condition. As a consequence, many communities in California are preparing for significant cutbacks in water use.

On January 17, 2014 the Governor of California officially declared a Drought State of Emergency and has directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for these drought conditions and stated "I'm calling on all Californian's to conserve water in every way." Additionally, representatives from the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) stated that water conservation measures are being implemented at the Veterans Home consistent with the Governor's declaration. Veterans Home officials have also advised Town staff that Rector Reservoir is at the lowest level its staff has seen in 15 years and is at approximately 70% of capacity. The current long range weather forecast does not indicate that February and March will include a "March Miracle" in rainfall that could fill reservoirs. The CDVA will provide Town staff with more information about storage capacity at Rector Reservoir before April 1 per the agreement to provide water to the Town.

Yountville Municipal Code Chapter 13.24 addresses water shortage emergencies and the criteria for establishing Phase I regulations include a determination that water available from all sources is projected to be less than 120% of projected demand and those conditions for establishment for a Phase II water emergency. The Governor's Declaration of a Drought State of Emergency includes the following requirements:

1.State agencies, led by the Department of Water Resources, will execute a statewide water conservation campaign to make all Californians aware of the drought and encourage personal actions to reduce water usage. This campaign will be built on the existing Save Our Water campaign (www.saveourh20.org) and will coordinate with local water agencies. This campaign will call on Californians to reduce their water usage by 20 percent.

2.Local urban water suppliers and municipalities are called upon to implement their local water shortage contingency plans immediately in order to avoid or forestall outright restrictions that could become necessary later in the drought season. Local water agencies should also update their legally required urban and agricultural water management plans, which help plan for extended drought conditions. The Department of Water Resources will make the status of these updates publicly available.

3.State agencies, led by the Department of General Services, will immediately implement water use reduction plans for all state facilities. These plans will include immediate water conservation actions, and a moratorium will be placed on new, non-essential landscaping projects at state facilities and on state highways and roads.

If Phase 1 regulations are implemented, then the following voluntary conservation measures by customers shall be encouraged and publicized by the Town:

1. All customers are encouraged to reduce their monthly water consumption by a minimum of 10% from their customary monthly consumption.
2. All customers are encouraged to immediately install water saving devices in their plumbing, appliances, or improvements.
3. All customers are encouraged to limit the expansion or installation of new water-using appliances, plumbing or improvements, such as lawns, gardens, landscaping, pools, sprinkler irrigation systems, wash-down equipment, larger washing machines or garbage disposal units.
4. Customers are encouraged to only wash cars, other vehicles, and other hard surfaces from buckets, with a quick rinse from a hose equipped with a shutoff nozzle.
5. The installation of any required landscaping may be deferred with the appropriate deferral agreement.
6. All persons are encouraged to place an increased emphasis on fire protection.
7. All schools, churches, and social and professional groups are encouraged to discuss water conservation as a regular agenda item and to forward worthwhile suggestions to the Town Planning Department for consideration and implementation.
8. All public facilities are encouraged to establish the following irrigation program: hand watering where appropriate for plants and shrubs; use of shutoff nozzles on hoses used for hand watering; maintenance watering of lawns and fields; 40 minutes per week maximum water for lawns and fields; night watering of fields; and lawns to be watered between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.
9. All people in the Town who are wasting water will be notified by the Town that wasting water is prohibited by Chapters [13.20](#) and [13.24](#), and is a sufficient reason for the Town to discontinue service to the customer's premises.

During a Phase I water emergency the following administrative practices will be followed:

1. The Town will bill customers on a monthly basis for water used.

It is noted that it will take Town staff a few months to adjust our billing procedures to make this adjustment and additional temporary staff will be needed to help with the increased workload that going from 6 billings to 12 billings requires.
2. Based on the amount of water used, customers will be notified if their water usage during the billing period exceeded the amount they would be allowed under a Phase II water emergency.
3. The Town will advise customers of the water shortage and of the restrictions and opportunities for exemptions that are available under Section [13.24.070](#).
4. Any applicant for a building permit for construction that may be affected by the existence of a Phase III or Phase IV water emergency shall be informed of the impact of these phases prior to issuance of a building permit, but lack of such notice shall not permit a new water connection that is otherwise prohibited.

Depending on future water supply availability information, the Town may need to evaluate implementation of Phase 2 Regulations. If Phase 2 water regulations are implemented, then residential users would be encouraged to reduce their water use by 15% and commercial and industrial users would be required to reduce their water use by 15% of their use during the corresponding period of the preceding nonrationed year, provided that no commercial or industrial user will be required to reduce usage to less than 100 gallons per day. All watering or irrigation of lawns, landscaping, vineyards, and fields would be prohibited between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

In terms of a water shortage disaster plan, Town staff is requesting the Town Council approve of the attached Water Use Efficiency Plan, which presents water conservation information. Because the Town serves less than 3,300 people, the Town is not mandated to prepare an Urban Water Management Plan described in the Declaration. If Phase 2 water regulations are implemented, then it is recommended that Town staff prepare a water shortage disaster plan.

The Public Works Director worked with Rural Community Assistance Corporation staff to prepare a Water Use Efficiency Plan to prepare for drought conditions and as a regular course of business. The Water Use Efficiency Plan includes the following:

1. Description of the service area and applicable regulations
2. Water supply source capacity
3. Description of recycled water program
4. Water production vs. consumption information
5. California Plumbing Code requirements
6. Conservation measures

Since the early 1980's, California building codes have required the manufacture and use of many water savings devices within the home. Devices such as ultra-low flush toilets, low flow showerheads and faucets, commercial dishwasher sprayers, etc. had reached a point of saturation in homes and commercial buildings for most California cities. Obtaining additional water conservation within the homes had become more difficult, so incentives and rebate programs have been implemented.

In 1998, the Town Council declared a water moratorium, new water service connections were prohibited, and many water conservation programs were established. In 2004, the Town and California Department of Veterans Affairs entered into a long term water supply agreement for Rector Reservoir water. In 2005, the Town built a municipal well for droughts and emergencies. Recently, many clothes washer manufacturers developed more economical, front loading units that can reduce water used for laundering clothes by up to 75% over normal top loading washers.

The Town currently participates in several programs:

1. Residential Clothes Washer Program - The Town provides \$50 toward the purchase of water efficient washers, and \$200 toward the purchase of Energystar-rated "most efficient" washers. This program is currently ongoing.
2. High Efficiency Toilets Program - The Town will update its program to reflect Code changes and new Proposition 84 grant requirements. The Town's current program calls for toilets with maximum 1.6 gallons per flush. New requirements call for maximum 1.28 gallons per flush.
3. Cash for Grass Program - This program will be fully operational in mid-February 2014 as part of the Proposition 84 grant and memorandum of agreement between Napa County agencies. Customers are provided financial incentives to replace high water use landscaping with water efficient landscaping. The City of Napa will provide pre- and post-inspections through a contract with the Town.

4. Smart Irrigation Controllers - This program will likely not be available until Spring 2014. This will assist customers with installation of irrigation controllers that monitor weather conditions and adjust irrigation accordingly.
5. There is an online resource available for the statewide campaign "Save Our Water" (<http://www.saveourh2o.org/>)
6. In the near future, an online tool called "Sprinkler Times" will be available to assist customers in scheduling their irrigation times and provide notifications of irrigation status.

"Water use efficiency results in benefits to water supply and water quality through technological and behavioral improvements that decrease indoor and outdoor residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional water use. The benefits of water use efficiency are often small, incremental and difficult to see, but when Californians act together as a community to conserve water, the cumulative effect is clear and the benefits are widespread." (California Water Plan, 2009)

<u>FISCAL IMPACT</u>	
Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes, increased cost to provide monthly billings.
Is it Currently Budgeted?	Costs for bi-monthly billing are included, but costs for 6 additional billings are not included. Approximately 15% of Accounting Technician and 5% of Administrative Assistant staff time are allocated to current billing procedures.
Where is it Budgeted?	Water Utility Operating Fund 61-4505
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Mandatory – Governor has directed local government to implement the Town water storage contingency plan.
Is there a Staff Resource Impact?	Yes, monthly utility billing and educating the public on water conservation will have an impact on routine operations and projects.
<u>STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL</u>	
Is item Identified in Strategic Plan?	Yes
If yes, Identify Strategic Goal and Objective.	6.1.2 Prepare for Emergencies 6.1.3 Maintain Compliance with Current and Evolving Regulations 6.1.4 Implement Water Conservation Plan
Briefly Explain Relationship to Strategic Plan Goal and Objective.	The Water Use Efficiency Plan provides a framework for the Town to comply with mandated water use reductions in the Building Code. The plan is also a tool to manage emergency drought situations.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Do not establish Phase 1 water emergency limitation regulations. (not permissible based on Governor's Declaration)
2. Establish Phase 1 water emergency limitation regulations. (as required by Governor's Declaration)
3. Approve the Water Use Efficiency Plan.
4. Do not approve Water Use Efficiency Plan, and direct staff to make revisions for approval at a future Town Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt Resolution Number 3151-14 establishing Phase 1 water emergency limitation regulations and approving the Water Use Efficiency Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution Number 3151-14
2. Governor's Declaration of Drought State of Emergency
3. Page 4 of the "2012 Drought Brochure" published by the California Department of Water Resources
4. Updated Water Use Efficiency Plan

Town of Yountville
Resolution Number 3151-14

Implement Phase 1 Water Emergency Regulations and Approve Water Use Efficiency Plan

Recitals

- A. The Governor of California declared a Drought State of Emergency on January 17, 2014 and it is necessary to limit usage by the water customers.
- B. The Governor has ordered that local urban water suppliers and municipalities are called upon to implement their local water shortage contingency plans immediately in order to avoid or forestall outright restrictions necessary later in the drought season.
- C. Yountville Municipal Code Chapter 13.24 addresses water shortage emergencies.
- D. Based on the Declaration, staff is recommending that the Town Council implement Phase 1 water shortage emergency regulations.
- E. Water use efficiency results in benefits to water supply and water quality through technological and behavioral improvements that decrease indoor and outdoor residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional water use.
- F. Town staff is requesting the Town Council approve of the Water Use Efficiency Plan, which presents water conservation information.

Now therefore, the Town Council of the Town of Yountville does resolve as follows:

- 1. Town shall immediately implement Phase 1 water shortage emergency regulations.
- 2. The Town Clerk shall file a notice declaring the establishment of Phase 1 water shortage emergency regulations.
- 3. The Water Use Efficiency Plan is approved.
- 4. This Resolution is hereby adopted and becomes effective and in full force immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Yountville, State of California, held on this 4th day of February, 2014 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

John F. Dunbar, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michelle Dahme, Town Clerk