



Town of Yountville

6550 Yount Street
Yountville, CA 94599

Staff Report

Agenda Item #: {{section.number}}A

Yountville Town Council Staff Report

DATE: November 1, 2022

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: John Ferons, Public Works Director

PREPARED BY: John Ferons, Public Works Director

SUBJECT:

Water Conservation Update and Request for Direction to Initiate the Recruitment Process for a Water Advisory Board including One Member from the Commercial Community, and Three Residents consistent with the current Phase II Water Shortage Emergency.

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND

Droughtlook

While cooler weather is upon us, it does not bring hope for an end to the drought. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in its annual winter outlook is predicting California can expect “drier-than-average conditions,” foreshadowing that one of the worst droughts in recorded history is likely to continue into a fourth year. This forecast is critical because the Napa Valley receives most of its annual rain in between January and March. Drought is expected to worsen during winter according to NOAA.

It is important to note, it will take more than a normal series of winter storms to alleviate this historic drought. As a reminder, the Town remains in a modified Phase II Water Shortage Emergency to help to meet the Town’s goals of water conservation within our available water supply.

Tracking Water Conservation

At the time of the writing of this Staff Report the October 2022 water usage numbers were not available as the month of October is not over, however they will be available and reported during the Town Council meeting November 1st.

Water Advisory Board

While the Town remains in a Phase II Water Emergency there exists a provision within the Phase II regulations that the Town form a Water Advisory Board as follows:

Town Municipal Code 13.24.030 C.: The Council shall form a Water Advisory Board consisting of one councilmember, one member from the commercial community, and three residents. The Town Engineer shall be an ex-officio member of this board.

The current purpose for the formation of the Water Advisory Board is that the Town has received inquiries regarding exception permits to the current Phase II Water Shortage Emergency Regulations. The Town’s Municipal Code defines how the Town shall consider those exception requests as follows:

Town Municipal Code 13.24.070 Exception permits.:

A. Under a Phase I, Phase II, or Phase III water emergency, the Town Engineer may, upon the imposition of reasonable conditions, grant exception permits up to a maximum of 500 gallons per day, in addition to any basic allocation, on application of a customer submitted under penalty of perjury, based on the following:

- 1. For each full-time resident of a dwelling exceeding four residents, the quantity of 50 gallons per day.*
- 2. For residential property exceeding 7000 square feet in area, the quantity of 20 gallons per day for each additional 1000 square feet of property area in excess of 7000 square feet. For purposes of this subdivision, multiple parcels maintained and fully landscaped as one property may be computed as being one parcel. The exception granted herein shall allow the use of no more than an additional 250 gallons per day for this purpose.*
- 3. For each swimming pool, the quantity of 25 gallons per day.*
- 4. For medical conditions of a resident, a quantity as required to maintain health standards.*

B. The Water Advisory Board shall meet at least monthly and may grant permits for uses of water or for exceptions to water conservation measures or for water connections otherwise prohibited by Sections 13.24.030, 13.24.040 and 13.24.050 if it finds and determines that such regulations would:

- 1. Cause an unnecessary and undue hardship to the applicant or to the public; or*
- 2. Cause an emergency condition affecting the health, sanitation, fire protection, or safety of the applicant or public; or*
- 3. Promote water conservation by providing for the establishment of water efficient landscaping by replacing more water-intensive landscaping.*

C. The Water Advisory Board shall prescribe necessary procedures for the application for and use of exception permits.

D. Any decision of the Town Engineer in granting or denying exceptions may be appealed by the applicant or any other person to the Water Advisory Board by filing a written appeal with the Town Clerk within five days after the date of mailing of written notice to the applicant of the decision rendered. The Water Advisory Board shall attempt to hear such appeal within 20 days, and shall affirm, reverse, or modify such decision.

E. Any decision of the Water Advisory Board may be appealed by the applicant to the Council according to the provisions of Chapter 1.30 of this code.

To date the Town Engineer has only received inquiries about the exception permit process but has not received any exception permit applications. In preparation for any such exception permit applications, Town Staff is requesting direction from the Town Council to initiate the recruitment process for the member of the commercial community and the three residents.

It is anticipated that recommendations for appointment to those positions will be scheduled for the first Town Council meeting in January. It is also at that meeting Town Staff will be requesting Town Council select amongst themselves the councilmember who will be assigned to the Water Advisory Board.

Town Staff would like to continue to thank all of water customers, both residential and commercial, for their diligent water conservation efforts and change in water use behavior. Staff also encourages those who regularly exceed allowable amounts and/or those who waste water to be reminded that we are in a historic drought, to always be ever mindful of your water use, and to provide your best effort to come into compliance.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Not Applicable

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

Is it Currently Budgeted? N/A

Where is it Budgeted? N/A

Is it Mandatory or Discretionary? Discretionary

Is there a Staff Resource Impact? Nominal

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Is item Identified in Strategic Plan? Yes

If yes, Identify Strategic Goal and Objective. **Engaged Residents:** The Town embraces our residents' commitment to community as seen through volunteerism, civic engagement, and public participation that enhances the quality of life in Yountville. **Exceptional Town Services and Staff:** The Town supports its talented staff who deliver high quality municipal programs and services while maintaining public infrastructure for the benefit of the community.

Briefly Explain Relationship to Strategic Plan Goal and Objective. Formation of the Water Advisory Board will engage the commercial and residential community in the water shortage emergency public process while also providing Town staff the ability to maintain water delivery for the benefit of the Town's water customers.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive staff report and direct questions to staff.

Receive public comment.

Conduct Council discussion.

Receive the Water Conservation Update and Provide Direction to Initiate the Recruitment Process for a Water Advisory Board including One Member from the Commercial Community, and Three Residents consistent with the current Phase II Water Shortage Emergency.