



Town of Yountville

6550 Yount Street
Yountville, CA 94599

Staff Report

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

Yountville Town Council Staff Report

DATE: April 6, 2021

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Joe Tagliaboschi, Public Works Director

PREPARED BY: Joe Tagliaboschi, Public Works Director

SUBJECT:

Discussion of the Veterans Home Notice Regarding 20% Curtailment of Water Allocation to 400 Acre Feet (AF) and Possible Implementation of Phase One (1) Water Emergency Regulations if needed.

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND

On March 22, 2021 the Director of Operations for the Veterans Home sent a Water Allocation Memorandum to the Town notifying the Town that there would be a 20% reduction from our 500AF allocation resulting in a 400AF water availability. This notice was not unexpected as rainfall to date is at approximately 13" (normal rainfall is 30"). The past two years have had similar results with no year in the last two (2) reaching a "normal" year of rain. The State announced as much this week "This year California is enduring its second consecutive dry winter. The Sierra Nevada snowpack — whose spring melt is ordinarily crucial to replenishing the state's major rivers and reservoirs — is 37% thinner than normal for this time of year. Shasta Lake, the state's largest reservoir, is one-third emptier than usual for this date, while Lake Oroville is about half as full as it should be". The notice is a formality and required under the terms of our agreement "As Per Section 13 of agreement 04YS0025, ratified by Town Resolution 2321-05.

The Memorandum also includes the current state of Rector Reservoir "As of today, Rector Reservoir is at approximately 80% capacity. Long range forecasts do not support any major precipitation. The California Department of Water Resources has classified the current water year as critical with the next update scheduled for April 1, 2021". The State as indicated that they may be inclined to declare additional conservation measures as was the case in 2014. The City of St. Helena is currently in a conservation protocol with a formal declaration. In April, St Helena staff will bring a plan forward for penalties for those who do not meet reduction targets for conservation.

The Town water usage has been on a generally flat trajectory. Water usage for the past 5 years with both 19/20 and 18/19 as outliers. The town would need to reduce usage by approximately 70AF.

- 19/20 544.49
- 18/19 357.54
- 17/18 479.45
- 16/17 427.43
- 15/16 473.97

On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown declared a drought state of emergency. On March 1, 2014, Governor Brown signed a drought relief package, Senate Bill 104 (Statutes 2014; Chapter 3; Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), to, among other things: provide funding to improve conservation and emergency supplies; reduce fire risk and increase fire-fighting capabilities; and expand the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board or Board) authority under Water Code section 1058.5 and increase penalties for unauthorized diversion of water.

Due to the dry conditions, on January 23, 2015, the State Water Board issued a Notice of Surface Water Shortage and Potential for Curtailment of Water Right Diversions. On April 25, 2015, the Governor issued a Proclamation of a Continued State of Emergency to strengthen the state's ability to manage water and habitat effectively in drought conditions.

In April 2016, the Governor rescinded the order and directed the Department of Water Resources to develop and implement a plan for phase 1 water conservation and a self-reporting tool for water suppliers to match usage and conservation to a three-year water supply estimate. The Town reduced consumption by 28.1 % as compared to the 2013 benchmark.

In 2014 the Town Council updated the water conservation plan and voted in favor of staff recommendations to use the Municipal Code Chapters 13.20 and 13.24 to implement Phase I conservation measures. Under Phase I regulations the following voluntary conservation measures by customers were encouraged and publicized by the Town:

1. All customers were 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 were 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 were 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 could be deferred with the appropriate deferral agreement.
6. All persons were encouraged to place an increased emphasis on fire protection.
7. All schools, churches, and social and professional groups were 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 were 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 were notified by the Town that wasting water is prohibited by Chapters 13.20 and 13.24 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 are followed:

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

The Town also currently participates in several of water conservation programs:

Cash for Grass Program - This program is fully operational as of 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 provides pre- and post-inspections through a contract with the Town. There was an initial spate of customers who benefited from the Cash for Grass Program however, in the more recent past requests for the program have dropped to almost nothing.

There is an indication that in April, the State of California will announce a decision on additional drought measures similar to 2014/15. Although in the statement this week they relayed that there are no plans for formal declarations for this year. The 20% reduction from Veterans Home source will take effect in the new Fiscal Year in July 2021. Staff will return with additional recommendations and a resolution to incorporate the Veterans Home and any new State requirements as directed by Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Not Applicable

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? Yes

Is it Currently Budgeted? No

Where is it Budgeted? N/A

Is it Mandatory or Discretionary? Mandatory

Is there a Staff Resource Impact? Nominal

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Is item Identified in Strategic Plan? Yes

If yes, Identify Strategic Goal and Objective. **Responsible Fiscal Policy:** The Town maintains its fiscal health through policies designed to maximize economic opportunities, manage expenses, and ensure prudent reserves. **Visionary Leadership:** The Town's leadership maintains an open-minded, forward-thinking decision-making process. We value engagement and participation from all members of the community as we work together to create policies and plan for the future.

Briefly Explain Relationship to Strategic Plan Goal and Objective. The Water Use Phase 1 Plan provides a framework for the Town to comply with mandated water use reductions in the Municipal Code. The plan is also a tool to manage emergency drought situations.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and File