



Town of Yountville

6550 Yount Street
Yountville, CA 94599

Staff Report

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

Yountville Town Council Staff Report

DATE: December 7, 2021

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: John Ferons, Public Works Director

PREPARED BY: John Ferons, Public Works Director

SUBJECT:
Water Conservation Update for November 2021.

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND

With fall receding and winter approaching, it is important to remember that Yountville remains in an Extreme Drought according to the State's drought monitor. While this is an improvement from last month where the Town was still in an Exceptional Drought our water customers need to remain ever vigilant and not get complacent about water conservation.

Even if we were to receive an above-average precipitation water year, we remain behind and at risk of the drought restrictions needing to be continued into the next water year. Precipitation water years begin every October 1st and end September 30th of the following year. Yountville's Mean Average Precipitation is historically 29.21 Inches per year. Using the Napa One Rain Gauge located on Hopper Creek at SR 29, Yountville's Mean Average Precipitation for the last 2-years was only 13.26 inches. For the last 5-years it was only 27.35 inches, thanks to two big years in 2017 and 2019. For the last 10-years it was only 24.89 inches. For us to catch up in one single-year for the last two really dry years we would need +/- 61 inches of rain in the coming season. While ending the drought, that much rain would bring a completely separate set of challenges to the Town.

In response to the drought condition, the Town has been put on notice by the Veterans Home that they are only planning to provide the Town with 400-acre feet of water rather than the typical 500 or more the Town purchases and consumes in a normal year. In response to this and the drought condition Town Council approved a Phase 2 Water Emergency by adopting modified Phase 2 Water Restrictions with the request for voluntary reduction of 20% in our water use. To date, we are not achieving that goal. Collectively we must come together to reduce our water consumption, or we could face significantly more severe challenges and less available water next year.

Our collective goal of using only 400 Acre-Feet of water (or less) from Rector Reservoir is being tracked by comparing current Fiscal Year 21-22 water use to Fiscal Year 20-21 water use on a month-to-month and running total basis. For this November, Fiscal Year 21-22, the Town used 23.82 Acre-Feet. For the prior year, November, Fiscal Year 20/21, the Town used 41.20 Acre-Feet. This is an 42% reduction for the water use in the month of November from this fiscal year to last fiscal year.

Staff is attributing this month's conservation success to several factors including education, management, and enforcement. A big thank you is due to our water customers who listened to the outreach, adjusted their irrigation

schedules, and turned off the irrigation during the wet days. As a group we have been managing both the proper irrigation techniques and working to mitigate leaks on both the commercial and residential customer bases. The enforcement efforts were also helpful in placing the proper urgency on the matter.

Staff continues to use the Eye on Water application to monitor both water use and potential leaks. To date we only have 221 accounts signed to use Eye on Water which is only 26% of our customer base. Please visit the website, www.eyeonwater.com/signup. This informative website will allow you to monitor your water use by the day, week, month, and year. You will need your Yountville water bill account number with both the leading and following zeroes in the number. Please sign up and let technology help you be ever mindful of your water use.

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. **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. **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. Water conservation is a collective effort by town staff, our residents, and our business partners. The Town is seeking to maintain our quality water delivery via the public infrastructure while engaging the Town's water customers as we work together to save our collective water resource.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive Staff Informational Report and direct any questions to staff.