



# Town of Yountville

6550 Yount Street  
Yountville, CA 94599

## Staff Report

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

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## Yountville Town Council Staff Report

**DATE:** April 5, 2022

**TO:** Mayor and Town Council

**FROM:** John Ferons, Public Works Director

**PREPARED BY:** John Ferons, Public Works Director

**SUBJECT:**

Water Conservation Update for February and March 2022.

### **DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND**

There are two recent, significant developments in water conservation as the historic drought smolders on:

1. Executive Order N-7-22; Following the driest first three months in California's recorded history, on March 28<sup>th</sup> the Governor issued Executive Order N-7-22 (attached) taking steps to drive water conservation at the local level, calling on local water suppliers to maintain Phase 2 Water Shortage Emergency regulations. The order also directed the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to evaluate a ban on the water of decorative grasses at businesses and institutions.

As drought conditions worsen the order called on the SWRCB to require urban water suppliers to activate, at a minimum, Level 2 of their local Water Shortage Contingency Plans. As Yountville is already in Phase 2 Water Shortage Emergency, we have been actively implementing water conservation measures to meet a water shortage level of 20-percent. To further conserve water and strengthen drought resiliency in this critically dry year, the Governor is also encouraging suppliers, where appropriate, to consider going beyond the Level 2 of their water shortage contingency plans, activating more ambitious measures. The Governor has also ordered state agencies to submit funding proposals to support the state's short and long-term drought response, including emergency assistance to communities and households facing drought-related water shortages, facilitating groundwater recharge and wastewater recycling, improvements in water use efficiency, protecting fish and wildlife, and minimizing drought-related economic disruption.

2. CalVET FY 2022-23 Water Allocation Memo; In addition to the Governor's Executive Order, CalVET on March 29<sup>th</sup> issued our Fiscal Year 2022-23 Water Allocation Memo (attached) stating that our maximum water allocation for the period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, will be 400 acre-feet. This extends our 20-percent reduction from prior allocations of 500 acre-feet to 400 acre-feet for the next 15-months.

CalVET states that the California Department of Water Resources has classified the current water year as Critical. As such they are seeking water conservation throughout the entire system including the Veterans Home. The goal is to ensure we extend the water supply within Rector Reservoir for everyone's future needs for as long as possible. There is a condition if rainfall totals change between now and the next water year the allocation may be adjusted.

The executive order and water allocation memo combine to extend the Phase 2 Water Shortage Emergency and 20-percent reduction from Rector into the next 15-months.

In the near term, the goal of using 400 Acre-Feet from Rector Reservoir will still be tracked by comparing current Fiscal Year 2021-2022 water use to Fiscal Year 2020-2021 water use on a month-to-month and running total basis as follows:

- February 2022 = 20.72 Acre-Feet.
- February 2021 = 31.10 Acre-Feet
- Difference = 33.4% Reduction
- Rector Water use = 254.1 Acre-Feet,
- Volume -vs- Time = 63.5% of water used over 66.7% of time in the year

At the time of the writing of this Staff Report, the March 2022 water usage numbers were not available however they will be available and reported during the Town Council meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Our Phase 2 Water Shortage Emergency status and the need to maintain 20-percent conservation levels are now the new normal. As such we need collective diligence from all of the Town's water customers, both residential and commercial, to try and ensure that we do not have to escalate to a Phase 3 Water Shortage Emergency.

Public Works staff is continuing outreach efforts, monitoring of water use and abuse and will be issuing notices of violations and administrative fines to those water customers who cannot or will not abide by the current water regulations. Staff is also working with commercial water customers to minimize water leaks and over-watering of commercial landscapes.

Additionally, here is a big reminder that all of our water customers will benefit from the use of the Eye on Water application to monitor both water use and potential leaks. The Eye on Water app is a user-friendly visual interface to quickly understand when and how much water is passing through your water meter. All of the water that passed through your water meter becomes your water and is reflected on your water bill. Conserving water will also help to save money on your monthly water bill. To date, we have 217 accounts enrolled in Eye on Water which is slightly more than 25% of our customer base.

Please visit the website, [www.eyeonwater.com/signup](http://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.