



RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Board Memorandum

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

DATE: JUNE 27, 2016

ITEM NO: 3

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW THE 2015 URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND RECOMMENDATION FOR ADOPTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA WATER CODE

ISSUE:

The item for the Board of Public Utilities consideration is to conduct a public hearing for review of the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan; and recommend that the City Council adopt the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Public Utilities:

1. Conduct a public hearing for review of the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan; and
2. Recommend that the City Council adopt the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Riverside Public Utilities Department (RPU) prepared its 2015 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) in accordance with the Urban Water Management Planning Act, sections 10610 through 10656 of the California Water Code. Water suppliers in California are required to update their UWMP every five years, in years ending in 5 or 0. RPU completed its 2010 UWMP in 2011 and will complete its 2015 UWMP in 2016, in accordance with the modified schedule established by the California Department of Water Resources. The Urban Water Management Planning Act and the California Water Code require the preparation of a UWMP by water suppliers who have more than 3,000 service connections or who serve more than 3,000 acre-feet per year.

This UWMP summarizes RPU's projected retail and wholesale water demands and characterizes the source waters available to meet those demands for the next 25 years. The plan also describes the reliability of RPU's water supplies and discusses RPU's water shortage contingency plan during a catastrophic event or drought conditions.

Previous planning efforts by RPU were prior to the State's emergency drought regulations and mandatory watering restrictions. The 2015 UWMP is the first planning document to re-evaluate the projected demands within RPU's service area following the passing of the new Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance and increased conservation by our customers. The results from this analysis will continue to be refined as information from the Cost of Service Analysis is released and the effects of price elasticity are incorporated.

From 2013 to 2015, RPU customers reduced water use by over 10,000 acre-ft. Customers continue to conserve in 2016. To date, RPU customers have achieved 13,375 acre-ft. of conservation from 2013 to date, mainly because of the mandatory drought regulations. Concurrent with the requested approval

of the UWMP, the Board and the City Council will be asked to lift the City's restrictions on outdoor irrigation that were adopted at the direction of the State to promote water conservation. When the regulations are lifted, it is anticipated that there will be some increase in water use. However, long term (through 2040), RPU anticipates about half of the conservation achieved to date will be preserved and with future support of our conservation programs, water use efficiency messaging, and more refined ordinances; RPU is projected to achieve about 12,000 acre-ft. of reduced water use. RPU's target in Utility 2.0 was to achieve 10,000 acre-ft. of conservation.

The refinements that can be brought into Utility 2.0 from the 2015 UWMP planning effort include:

1. Total build-out demand on RPU's potable system has been reduced from 100,000 acre-ft. per year (which did not account for conservation) to 85,000 acre-ft. per year (which includes conservation, potable water offsets from increased recycled water use, and increased system efficiencies).
2. The 30,000 acre-ft. supply gap previously identified has been reduced to 28,000 acre-ft.
3. Recycled Water program is projected to increase from 4,000 acre-ft. per year to 5,200 acre-ft. per year.
4. Conservation program is projected to increase from 10,000 acre-ft. per year to 12,000 acre-ft. per year.
5. Stormwater capture program can thereby be reduced from 16,000 acre-ft. per year to about 11,000 year.

Although the overall supply gap has only been reduced by 2,000 acre-ft. per year, how the supply gap will be met will impact the future investments made by RPU. The fiscal impact to Utility 2.0 as it relates to future water supply projects is being evaluated and will be presented to Board in the coming months; but, the overall impact will be relatively minor as compared to the to the full needs identified in Utility 2.0.

After the UWMP is adopted by the City Council, RPU will file a copy of the UWMP with the California Department of Water Resources as required by the Urban Water Management Planning Act.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no material cost associated with the adoption of the UWMP. De-minimus costs will be incurred to produce and distribute copies of the 2015 UWMP to agencies required by the Water Code.

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Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Draft 2015 Urban Water Management Plan
2. Appendix