



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL** **DATE: JUNE 7, 2016**  
**FROM: PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT** **WARDS: ALL**

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED SELF-CERTIFICATION OF WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY FOR THREE ADDITIONAL YEARS OF DROUGHT**

## **ISSUES:**

The issue for City Council consideration is to approve the proposed self-certification of water supply reliability for three additional years of drought.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the City Council self-certify the level of available water supplies and the level of conservation necessary to assure that adequate water supply in drought conditions is available to meet the demands of Riverside Public Utilities service area, assuming three additional dry years, is zero.

## **BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES ACTION:**

On June 6, 2016, the Riverside Public Utilities Board will hear this item for consideration to recommend to City Council to self-certify the level of available water supplies and the level of conservation necessary to assure adequate water supply is available to meet the demands of Riverside Public Utilities service area, assuming three additional dry years, is zero.

If the Board approves to forward this to City Council, we respectfully request the City Council consider the item at the June 7, 2016, City Council Meeting.

## **BACKGROUND:**

California is currently in the sixth year of a significant drought resulting in severe impacts to California's water supplies and its ability to meet all of the demands for water in the State. Beginning on January 17, 2014, the Governor has issued a number of executive orders regarding a drought state of emergency. In response to these orders, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has issued and revised emergency regulations mandating water conservation efforts by the City of Riverside and other water agencies throughout the State.

From June 2015 through February 2016 Riverside was required to conserve 28% of its water usage (measured in terms of residential water usage, gallons per capita per day as compared

to its usage in 2013). In February 2016, the State Water Board made changes to the regulation such that Riverside's conservation standard (goal) was modified from 28% to 25%.

On May 9, 2016, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-37-16 which called for extending the emergency regulations through January 2017 and authorizing the State Water Board to make further changes based upon lessons learned from the drought response to date. The State Water Board adopted revised mandatory emergency water conservation regulations at their May 18, 2016 meeting.

The new regulations, in part:

- Provide an alternative to the state developed conservation standards with locally developed conservation standards based upon an agency's specific circumstances (i.e. self-certification).
- Reset the new conservation standard to take effect June 2016 and remain in effect until the end of January 2017.
- Make monthly reporting by urban water suppliers to the State Water Board a permanent requirement.
- Permanently prohibit wasteful practices, such as hosing off sidewalks, driveways, and other hardscape, washing automobiles with hoses not equipped with a shut-off nozzle, and watering lawns in a manner that causes runoff.
- Prohibitions against home owner associations taking action against homeowners during a declared drought will remain.

Riverside has reviewed the new regulations and has determined that there are sufficient water resources for three additional years of drought as defined by the regulations. It is recommended that Riverside self-certify that a conservation rate of zero be required for the duration of the Emergency Drought Regulations (January 2017).

"Self-certification" replaces the state developed standards (e.g., the mandatory 28% and 25% conservation levels assigned to Riverside) with locally developed conservation standards based upon each agency's specific circumstances. The proposed regulation would require individual urban water suppliers to self-certify the level of available water supplies they have assuming three additional dry years, and the level of conservation necessary to assure adequate supply over that time.

### **Riverside's Available Water Supply**

As of 2013 and 2014, all of RPU's water supply came from groundwater extraction rights in the San Bernardino Basin Area (SBBA), Riverside Basin, and the Rialto-Colton Basin. These rights were established in the Western Municipal Water District of Riverside County et al., vs. East San Bernardino County Water District et al., Riverside County Superior Court Case No. 78426 (Western-San Bernardino Judgment). The Western-San Bernardino Judgment cooperatively works with the 1969 Orange County Judgment to enforce the physical solution. As a plaintiff party to the Western-San Bernardino Judgment, RPU's total water right and base period production from all of these basins is 85,774 AF as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Riverside's Total Water Right and Base Period Production (in acre-feet)

Groundwater Basin	RPU Right
SBBA	55,264
Rialto-Colton	2,728
Riverside North	10,902
Riverside South	16,880
Total	85,774

### Riverside's Water Demand in 2013 and 2014

The total potable water demand for RPU in 2013 and 2014 is summarized in Table 2. The total potable water demand is calculated by adding all of the potable water supplied to retail customers, the exchange deliveries to Gage Canal Company, and all potable and raw water loss (i.e. unaccounted for water).

Table 2. Riverside's Total Potable Water Demand in 2013 and 2014 (in acre-feet)

<b>2013</b>	Total Water Production	68,544
	Non-Potable Gage Exchange	12,150
	Unaccounted for Water	2,411
	Riverside's Total Potable Water Demand	83,105
<b>2014</b>	Total Water Production	66,543
	Non-Potable Gage Exchange	11,896
	Unaccounted for Water	2,840
	Riverside's Total Potable Water Demand	81,279

**Comparison of Riverside's available water supply and anticipated demand.** Table 3 shows the water supply reliability self-certification calculation.

Table 3. Riverside's Water Supply Reliability Self-Certification (in acre-ft)

<b>Calculations of Urban Water Supplier's Conservation Standard - Supply Reliability for Three Additional Years of Drought</b>	
Step 1: Determine Total Potable Water Demand	
Potable Water Production in Calendar Year 2013	83,105
Potable Water Production in Calendar Year 2014	81,279
Total Potable Water Demand	82,192
Step 2: Calculate Total Potable Water Supply	
Potable Water Supply	
Groundwater supply for the next three years	85,774
Supply Shortfall in Year 3 (negative amount indicates a surplus)	(3,582)
Conservation Standard with Self-Certification of Supply Reliability	0%

Under the Emergency Drought Regulations, Riverside's supply exceeds its demand and therefore a conservation standard of zero is being proposed for Riverside to the State Water Board.

However, a self-certification of a conservation standard of zero under the Emergency Drought Regulations does not mean that Riverside is under no obligation to conserve, or that conservation does not benefit Riverside customers. First, in 2009, California adopted the Water Conservation Act, also known as SB X7-7 which requires all utilities to reduce consumption by 20% by the year 2020. Riverside has implemented water conservation programs to meet that goal, and is targeted to reach the 20% goal by 2020. Second, the conservation of existing water supplies benefits all customers by reducing the need for imported water and reducing operational costs to produce local groundwater.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Upon receiving a reduced water conservation standard from State Water Board, it is anticipated that water use and associated water revenue will increase. Factors that will impact the amount of the increase include customer behavior response, the amount of conservation that will remain permanently due to Water Wise landscaping and other conservation tools, and lastly weather patterns. Staff will provide periodic updates to apprise the Board of Public Utilities and City Council on actual experience as compared to budget.

Prepared by:	Girish Balachandran, Utilities General Manager
Certified as to	
availability of funds:	Scott G. Miller, Interim Finance Director/Treasurer
Approved by:	John A. Russo, City Manager
Approved as to form:	Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

**Attachments:**

1. Self-Certification Documentation
2. Presentation