



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 RESOLUTION TO DECLARE STAGE 1 OF THE WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM INDICATING NORMAL WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS FOR RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PROPOSED URGENCY ORDINANCE TO COMPLY WITH THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD EXTENDED EMERGENCY DROUGHT REGULATIONS

ISSUES:

The issue for City Council consideration is to adopt the proposed Resolution declaring Stage 1 of the Water Conservation Ordinance, indicating normal water supply conditions, in light of the City's concurrent proposal to submit a self-certification to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) of a conservation standard of zero for Riverside Public Utilities (RPU); and, to adopt the proposed urgency ordinance to comply with the State Water Board's extended emergency drought regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Adopt the attached Resolution declaring Stage 1 of the Water Conservation Ordinance indicating normal water supply conditions for RPU; and
2. Adopt an Urgency Ordinance, effective immediately, amending Riverside Municipal Code, Water Conservation, Chapter 14.22 to comply with the State Water Board's extended emergency drought regulations.

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 adopt the proposed Resolution declaring Stage 1 of the Water Conservation Ordinance, indicating normal water supply conditions, in anticipation of the State Water Board issuing a conservation standard of zero for RPU; and, to adopt the proposed Ordinance to comply with the State Water Board's extended emergency drought regulations.

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:

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 revised the mandatory emergency water conservation regulations at its May 18, 2016 meeting. The revised regulations allow water supply agencies to review their own supply and demand under drought conditions, and to certify that they have adequate supply to adopt a conservation standard equal to any projected shortfall. Based on support documentation that shows water supplies exceeding projected water demands for the following three years, assuming extended drought conditions, RPU can self-certify to a zero conservation standard. The revised regulations also carry forward prohibitions on certain landscape irrigation with potable water, and restrictions on restaurant and hospitality practices.

Declaring Stage 1 of the Water Conservation Ordinance will eliminate mandatory outdoor watering restrictions and allow citizens of Riverside to voluntarily use water efficiently at their home and/or business. Stage 1 contains the following voluntary restrictions on water use:

1. Watering vegetation between the hours of 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, and time limits on individual sprinklers during other hours;
2. Only using hoses with shut-off nozzles;
3. Washing vehicles only with hoses equipped with shut-off nozzles; and
4. No unnecessary use of water for construction operations.

To comply with new conservation language added by the State Water Board in their extended emergency drought regulations; and to prevent the waste and unreasonable use of water and to promote water conservation, each of the following actions are proposed to be added as prohibited uses for water in Section 14.22.010, *Unreasonable Uses of Water* of the Riverside Municipal Code Chapter 14.22, except where necessary to address an immediate health and safety need or to comply with a term or condition in a permit issued by a state or federal agency:

1. Irrigation with potable water of ornamental turf on public street medians; and
2. Irrigation with potable water of landscapes outside of newly constructed homes and buildings in a manner inconsistent with regulations or other requirements established by the California Building Standards Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development and/or inconsistent with Riverside's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.

To address the restaurant and hospitality restrictions, the following section are proposed to be added to RMC section 14.22.010:

1. A prohibition on "The serving of drinking water other than upon request in eating or drinking establishments, including but not limited to restaurants, hotels, cafes, cafeterias, bars, or other public places where food or drink are served and/or purchased"; and

2. To avoid unreasonable use of water, operators of hotels and motels shall provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily; the hotel or motel shall prominently display notice of this option in each guestroom using clear and easily understood language.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Upon declaring Stage 1 of the Water Conservation Ordinance, it is anticipated that water use and associated water revenue will increase. The amount of the increase will depend on many factors including customer behavior response, permanent reduction in water use due to WaterWise landscaping and other conservation tools implemented during the drought and also upcoming 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. Resolution Invoking Stage 1
2. Ordinance Modifying 14.22.010 of the RMC
3. Presentation