



RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Board Memorandum

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

DATE: APRIL 24, 2017

ITEM NO: 8

SUBJECT: STATE OF CALIFORNIA WATER DROUGHT UPDATE

ISSUE:

Receive and file the State of California Water Drought Update.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Public Utilities receive and file the State of California Water Drought Update.

BACKGROUND:

In April 2015, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. declared a State of Emergency, due to extended drought conditions, and called for a statewide 25% reduction in urban water use in 2015 to reduce the impact to the State's water resources. In implementing the Governor's Order, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) required Riverside to conserve 28% of its urban water use relative to 2013 for the period between June 2015 and February 2016. In response, the City Council implemented Stage 3 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan. In February 2016, the SWRCB modified Riverside's conservation standard to 25%. In April 2016, the SWRCB revised the regulations to allow water agencies to self-certify their water conservation standard depending on their water supply condition over the next three years. Based on these guidelines, the City Council self-certified to a zero conservation standard (relative to 2013) and rescinded Stage 3 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan. From June 2015 to present, Riverside Residents have reduced water use by 20% as compared to the water usage in 2013 as shown in the attached figure.

In May 2016, Executive Order B-37-16 (Executive Order) was issued, which directed five State Agencies to develop measures to establish long-term urban water conservation (efficiency) standards and to develop improved state and local planning processes in anticipation of more frequent and severe droughts. The agencies were designated Executive Order Agencies (EO Agencies) and include the Department of Water Resources, the SWRCB, the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and the California Energy Commission. In response, the EO Agencies are developing new water efficiency standards. Rather than measuring water savings as a percentage reduction from a chosen baseline, the new regulations will take into account the unique climatic, demographic and land-use characteristics of each urban water agency's service area. The goal is to provide a conservation/efficiency framework that is more durable and applies more equitably and uniformly across the enormous variations in local conditions in California.

Over the next 3 years the EO Agencies will develop and rollout the entire suite of conservation measures and requirements to comply with the Executive Order; and, local agencies will be required to be in full compliance by 2025.

DISCUSSION:

To date, the SWRCB has extended the Emergency Drought Regulations until May 2017. This action has little impact to RPU as the Utility is currently in compliance with the emergency regulations, the Utility

exceeds the conservation standard set for RPU, and the Utility complies with the monthly reporting requirement. As new conservation requirements are developed by the EO Agencies they will undoubtedly impact RPU and its customers. Staff anticipates the largest impacts to the Utility stemming from:

1. EO Item 2 & 6 - New Water Use Targets;
2. EO Item 4 - Water Use Prohibitions;
3. EO Item 5 & 6 - Minimizing Water Loss; and
4. EO Item 8 & 9 – Water Shortage Contingency Plans

New Water Use Targets will be based on efficient water use standards. The State is going to create new water use standards for indoor use, outdoor use, and water loss for each customer within RPU. Based on those water “needs” and our local climate conditions an interim water budget will be established for our service area (i.e. for the Utility) in 2018. By 2020, the final water budget will be established for our service area and RPU must be in full compliance by 2025.

The City is currently in compliance with the State’s Water Use Prohibitions. When/if the list of water use prohibitions is expanded by the State, the City will need to incorporate those new prohibitions into the Riverside Municipal Code.

The State is developing requirements for local water agencies to reduce system leaks (i.e. water loss). Through SB 555, annual validated water loss audit reports will be required in October. By July 2020, local water agencies will be required to meet performance standards for the volume of water losses. If the State was to be too aggressive with the water loss standard, it could prove to be expensive and challenging for local water agencies such as RPU to meet the criteria. Staff will stay engaged with the State and submit comments as the performance standards are being developed.

The State is proposing to strengthen and create common statewide reporting standards for: Water Shortage Contingency Plans, a 5-yr Drought Risk Assessment, and an Annual Water Budget Forecast report. RPU has developed a Water Shortage Contingency Plan and currently prepares a 3-yr Drought Risk Assessment. As new criteria are released from the EO Agencies, RPU will be required to update its Water Shortage Contingency Plan. As part of our 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, RPU will prepare a 5-yr Drought Risk Assessment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None at this time.

Prepared by:	Todd L. Jorgenson, Utilities Assistant General Manager/Water
Approved by:	Girish Balachandran, Utilities General Manager
Approved by:	John A. Russo, City Manager
Approved as to form:	Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Certifies availability
of funds: Laura Chavez-Nomura, Utilities Assistant General Manager/Finance

Attachments:

1. Summary of RPU Total Urban Water Production Percent Savings Figure
2. Executive Order B-37-16
3. Presentation