



CITY OF WHEATLAND

CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

August 9, 2022

SUBJECT: Conduct public hearing and adopt Resolution No. 31-22 declaring a drought condition, declaration of Stage 2 Water Alert, and setting a twenty percent conservation goal

PREPARED BY: Dane H. Schilling, City Engineer

Recommendation

City staff recommends conducting a public hearing regarding the City's response to statewide drought conditions, and adopting Resolution No. 31-22 declaring a drought condition, adopting Stage 2 water use restrictions per Chapter 13.54 of the Wheatland Municipal Code and adopting a 20% water conservation goal.

Background/Discussion

On March 28, 2022, Governor Newsom enacted Executive Order N-7-22 in response to statewide drought conditions. Among other things, the executive order instructs urban water suppliers to perform actions to achieve twenty percent in conservation when measured against 2020 water usage.

Although the City is not an urban water supplier and therefore is not subject to the Governor's executive order, Chapter 13.54 of the City's municipal code (adopted in 2015) sets forth the actions to be undertaken by the City during drought conditions. The program groups water supply and conditions into five stages, with the "Normal" Stage used for normal water supply conditions and Stages 1 through 4 used for drought conditions of increasing severity.

The State of California is currently in a multi-year drought, and the City is fully dependent on a single ground water source, the South Yuba Ground Water Subbasin. Although groundwater is currently in good supply and has historically sustained sufficient levels through recent drought events, the City's ground water supply will be reduced by current drought conditions. Staff is recommending that the City adopt a resolution acknowledging the drought conditions, declare a Stage 2 Water Alert in accordance with Section 13.54.050, and encourage customers to reduce water consumption by 20%.

A Stage 2 Water Alert includes the following mandatory water conservation measures and restrictions:

1. When washing down or spraying paved surfaces (including sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, and patios), buildings, structures, vehicles, boats or equipment with a hose, the hose must be equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle.
2. When irrigating with a sprinkler system, do not allow water to run off the property into the street or sidewalk or onto adjacent property and do not overspray onto non-targeted areas such as adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, hardscapes, streets, sidewalks or structures.
3. Landscape irrigation and watering is permitted only from 7 pm to 10 am, and no more frequently than two days per week. The city manager is authorized and directed to establish a landscape irrigation schedule for different areas throughout the city and to notify residents about their water and no-water days.
4. Irrigate no longer than thirty minutes per watering zone or station per water-day.
5. Landscape irrigation and watering is prohibited during and within forty-eight hours after measurable rainfall.
6. Repair all water leaks within the water consumer's water and irrigation system within seventy-two hours after written notification by the city unless other arrangements are made with the city manager.
7. When using water for construction-related purposes, use recycled or non-potable water when available.

See the City of Wheatland Water Conservation/Contingency Policy Matrix (Attachment 2) for more information.

Alternatives

The City Council may choose to modify the proposed actions or choose to not to take any of the proposed actions.

Fiscal Impact

A twenty percent reduction in municipal water use would lead to a reduction in water enterprise fund revenues. However, since the City's pricing structure begins with a base rate, only the consumption in excess of the base rate usage would translate to reduced revenues. Also, the City's water production expenses (most notably electricity costs) would be reduced commensurate with reduced water production. Therefore, the overall percentage reduction in revenue is expected to be less than the actual percentage reductions in water consumption due to conservation.

Relatively minor costs associated with public outreach, monitoring, notifications, enforcement and other staff time may be incurred.

Attachments

1. Resolution
2. Water Conservation/Contingency Policy Matrix

RESOLUTION NO. 31-22

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHEATLAND
DECLARING A STAGE 2 DROUGHT CONDITION, ADOPTING WATER USE
RESTRICTIONS AND ADOPTING A TWENTY PERCENT CONSERVATION GOAL**

WHEREAS, the State of California is experiencing a multi-year drought; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2022, Governor Newsom enacted Executive Order N-7-22 in response to statewide drought conditions. Among other things, the executive order instructs urban water suppliers to perform actions to achieve twenty percent water conservation when measured against 2020 water usage; and

WHEREAS, the City's water conservation program, as set forth in Wheatland Municipal Code chapter 13.54, sets forth the actions to be undertaken by the City during drought conditions, and the program groups water supply and conditions into five stages, with the "Normal" Stage used for normal water supply conditions and Stages 1 through 4 used for drought conditions of increasing severity; and

WHEREAS, the City Engineer has informed the City Council of a multi-year drought condition within the City which is a qualifying event to declare a Stage 2 drought condition; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has conducted a noticed public hearing regarding this proposed resolution as required by law and has considered all public comments received concerning the subject matter of this resolution; and

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, ORDERED AND FOUND by the City Council of City of Wheatland, State of California, hereby:

1. Declares a water shortage emergency condition in accordance with Wheatland Municipal Code Chapter 13.54 and based on the current multi-year drought and imposes water usage restrictions in order to conserve the City's water supply.
2. Declares a Stage 2 drought condition under Wheatland Municipal Code sections 13.54.020 and 13.54.050, and implement the related water use restrictions. Accordingly, the City Manager is authorized and directed to enforce the water use restrictions in this resolution pursuant to Wheatland Municipal Code section 13.54.100.
3. Declares an annual water conservation goal of twenty percent when compared to annual water consumption in 2020, and directs the City Manager to conduct appropriate public outreach in efforts to achieve this goal.

This resolution shall take effect immediately and shall remain in full force and effect until the council, by resolution, determines that a different stage is appropriate or that the drought conditions have ceased.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of City of Wheatland, State of California this 9th day of August 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Rick West, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Thomason, City Clerk

CITY OF WHEATLAND WATER CONSERVATION/CONTINGENCY POLICY MATRIX PER MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 13.54

	WATER STAGE				
	NORMAL	1 WATCH	2 ALERT	3 CRITICAL	4 EMERGENCY
CONDITIONS / INDICATIONS	Normal water year.	Single year drought or other minimal water supply impairments.	Notable water supply reduction, multi-year drought or supply impairment.	Substantial water supply reductions, multi-year drought, water system impairment, water shortage declaration by State or Federal Government.	Catastrophic water supply reductions or water system impairment, multi-year drought, emergency declaration by State or Federal Government.
CONSERVATION GOALS	Voluntary Conservation.	10% Voluntary Conservation.	Up to 25% mandatory conservation.	Up to 30% mandatory conservation.	30% or higher mandatory conservation through complete cessation of water service.
STAFF TRAINING	No special training.	Initial training on requirements of Watch Stage.	Initial training on requirements of Alert Stage, plus monthly refresher sessions.	Initial training on requirements of Critical Stage, plus weekly refresher sessions.	Initial training on requirements of Emergency, weekly refresher sessions and daily communication with the City Manager.

CITY OF WHEATLAND WATER CONSERVATION/CONTINGENCY POLICY MATRIX PER MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 13.54

	WATER STAGE				
	NORMAL	1 WATCH	2 ALERT	3 CRITICAL	4 EMERGENCY
EDUCATION/ OUTREACH	None.	-Website. -Post voluntary conservation fliers.	-Website including % saved to date. -Post mandatory conservation fliers. -Direct mailers to customers. -Contact schools & higher water users in-person.	-Website including % saved to date. -Post mandatory conservation fliers. -Direct mailers to customers. -Contact schools & higher water users in-person.	-Website including % saved to date, per capita rationing (if any). -Post mandatory conservation fliers. -Direct mailers to customers. -Contact schools & higher water users in-person.
WASHING OF PAVED SURFACES	Allowed with flow control device.	Allowed with flow control device.	Allowed with flow control device.	Not Allowed.	Not Allowed.
HAND WATERING AND VEHICLE WASHING	Allowed	Nozzle with auto shut-off required	Nozzle with auto shut-off required	Nozzle with auto shut-off, only bucket wash vehicles	No vehicle washing allowed
LANDSCAPE WATER RUNOFF, OVERSPRAY OR INEFFICIENT USE	Encouraged against	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed

CITY OF WHEATLAND WATER CONSERVATION/CONTINGENCY POLICY MATRIX PER MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 13.54

		WATER STAGE				
		NORMAL	1 WATCH	2 ALERT	3 CRITICAL	4 EMERGENCY
LANDSCAPE WATERING	No restrictions	Allowed any days between 7pm and 10am.	-Allowed two days per week. -Watering from midnight to 10am and 7pm to midnight. -No more than 30-minutes total per area per day. -Even address numbers on Saturdays & Wednesdays. -Odd address numbers on Sundays & Thursdays. -No watering during and within 48-hrs of measurable rain event.	-Allowed two days per week June through October, allowed one day per week November through May. -Watering from midnight to 10am and 7pm to midnight. -No more than 10-minutes total per area per day. -Even address numbers on Saturdays & Wednesdays. -Odd address numbers on Sundays & Thursdays. -No watering during and within 48-hrs of measurable rain event.	Not allowed except to preclude/prevent fire hazards as determined by the Fire Marshal	
NURSERY PLANTS AND LIVESTOCK	No restrictions	Water anytime with handheld hose or drip irrigation. Otherwise water between 7pm and 10am	Water anytime with handheld hose or drip irrigation. Otherwise water between 7pm and 10am	Every other day between 7pm and 10am. No more than 10-minutes per area per day	Allowed to the minimum extent possible to sustain livestock and nursery stock (as determined by the City)	

CITY OF WHEATLAND WATER CONSERVATION/CONTINGENCY POLICY MATRIX PER MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 13.54

	WATER STAGE				
	NORMAL	1 WATCH	2 ALERT	3 CRITICAL	4 EMERGENCY
WATER IN RESTAURANTS	No restrictions	Voluntary participation in "water upon request"	Voluntary participation in "water upon request"	Water upon request only	Water upon request only
LEAK REPAIR	Repair in reasonable time frame	Repair within 5 days	Repair within 72 hours	Repair within 48 hours	Repair within 24 hours
CONSTRUCTION WATER	No restrictions	No restrictions	Use recycled or non-potable water when available	Use recycled or non-potable water when available	No construction water allowed without written authorization of the City Engineer
NEW SERVICES	No restrictions	No restrictions	No restrictions	New water services and "will serve letters" may be issued at the discretion of the City Engineer	New water services and "will serve letters" may be issued at the discretion of the City Engineer
REPORTING	Complaint driven only	Complaint driven only	Complaints and patrols. Periodic random checks of individual water usage records.	Complaints and patrols. Monthly random checks of individual water usage records.	Complaints and patrols. Month checks of all water usage records.

CITY OF WHEATLAND WATER CONSERVATION/CONTINGENCY POLICY MATRIX PER MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 13.54

		WATER STAGE				
ENFORCEMENT		NORMAL	1 WATCH	2 ALERT	3 CRITICAL	4 EMERGENCY
<p>General Approach: Each stage has a education/phase-in period in which only verbal warnings are given with an emphasis on education and outreach. Enforcement measures are progressive by stage and increase in severity by stage. City Manager will appoint a Water Conservation Supervisor who logs, tracks and reports all complaints, verbal warnings and written violations.</p>						
	30-day phase-in/ education period verbal warnings only.	30-day phase-in/ education period verbal warnings only.	30-day phase-in/ education period verbal warnings only.	10-day phase-in/ education period verbal warnings only.	No phase-in/ education period.	
	-Education, outreach, verbal warnings, door hangars & written warnings.	-Education, outreach, verbal warnings, door hangars & written warnings.	-Education, outreach, verbal warnings, door hangars & written warnings.	-Education, outreach, verbal warnings, door hangars & written warnings.	-Education, outreach, verbal warnings, door hangars & written warnings.	-Education, outreach, verbal warnings, door hangars & written warnings.
	-Enforce per current municipal code up to \$25 per day after 4th written notice of violation.	-Citings up to \$50 after 3rd written notice of violation.	-Citings ranging from \$50 to \$100 per day plus court costs (if any) after 2nd written notice of violation as follows: 1st Citation \$50 2nd Citation \$75 3rd or more \$100	-Citings ranging from \$50 to \$200 per day plus court costs (if any) after 1st written notice of violation as follows: 1st Citation \$50 2nd Citation \$100 3rd or more \$200	-Citings ranging from \$50 to \$300 per day plus court costs (if any) after 1st written notice of violation as follows: 1st Citation \$50 2nd Citation \$100 3rd Citation \$200 4th or more \$300	- Possible suspension of service.