



AGENCY: City Council
MEETING DATE: September 28, 2020
DEPARTMENT: Director of Public Works
PRESENTED BY: John Smith
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AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

TITLE:

Receive Report and Consider Adoption of City Council Resolution Downgrading the Stage 2 Water Conservation Measures to Stage 1 Water Conservation Measures

ISSUE:

The City of Fort Bragg Municipal Code Chapter 14.06, Water Conservation, sets forth the parameters for the City to declare a water emergency and implement mandatory water conservation consistent with the Stage or level of the emergency.

Mendocino County is undergoing a severe drought causing a strain on our water sources. The seasonal change in weather has increased and stabilized flows in the Noyo River allowing for more accurate source flow forecasting. It is the recommendation of staff to ask our residents and water customers to continue to be mindful of water use and maintain the 10% reduction according to Stage 1 conservation requirements.

ANALYSIS:

September proved to be challenging during low flows in the Noyo River paired with the high tides. Fort Bragg's water sources have kept up with the demand of our water users during this time. The residents of Fort Bragg have answered the request for conservation by reducing use by 12% according to weekly averages this month. During this work by the public, the Noyo River flow increased to 1.86 cubic feet per second (cfs). The uptick is due to the seasonal change in weather causing reduced plant uptake in the watershed and cooler temperatures slowing evaporation.

With October quickly approaching, the City plans for the dry spell to continue into the middle of November, similar to the 2015 drought. October will bring another round of high tides lasting seven days. During this time, we expect short pump run times at the Noyo River Station and more than likely reserves will be used from our reservoir to bridge the gap in demand.

Once again, the Fort Bragg community is being asked to come together and see us through a difficult period of limited water availability. Staff will continue to monitor water usage and the City's ability to replenish water storage. To keep the public informed about current and historic water levels, information is updated on the City's website at least weekly: https://city.fortbragg.com/474/Water-Conservation#liveEditTab_widgets.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt Resolution recommending downgrading to Stage 1 water conservation measures which target a 10% decrease in water usage from the same time in the base year.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8B

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):

1. Do not adopt Resolution and cancel emergency status.
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Reduced water usage will impact Water Fund revenues during the time frame customers practice water conservation, however, the water fund's reserves and fund balance can absorb the loss.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACT:

Reduced water usage will have an incremental reduction in pumping and water treatment, which will result in a small decrease in the use of electricity and resulting greenhouse gas emissions.

CONSISTENCY:

N/A

IMPLEMENTATION/TIMEFRAMES:

Compliance with a Stage 1 water emergency would be immediate and if implemented water usage could be reduced immediately.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. September Water Supply Data

NOTIFICATION:

N/A.