



AGENCY: City Council  
MEETING DATE: June 14, 2021  
DEPARTMENT: Public Works  
PRESENTED BY: J. Smith  
EMAIL ADDRESS: [Jsmith@fortbragg.com](mailto:Jsmith@fortbragg.com)

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

**TITLE:**

**Receive Report and Consider Adoption of City Council Resolution Approving Budget Amendment 2021-13 Amending Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget**

**ISSUE:**

The flow in the Noyo River, which is our primary water source in summer/fall months, is at levels below 1977, which is our worst drought on record. Staff has been working with the State Water Resources Control Board, Cal OES, Department of Drinking Water and other state agencies for several months planning for alternative sources including use of a portable desalination plant to supplement our surface water sources. However, we still have hurdles with sourcing and permitting challenges with the other state agencies. In order to pursue these options, staff is requesting the Council set aside \$600,000.

**ANALYSIS:**

The City of Fort Bragg's water supply system relies solely on three surface water sources: Waterfall Gulch, Newman Gulch and the Noyo River. The City has been able to secure an additional 16 million gallons over the past five years, providing a good supply for short term flow challenges. To answer the anticipated need to supplement existing sources and storage for this drought period, staff has been working on a number of potential new sources and modifications to existing infrastructure. Options reviewed were: shallow ground water wells, truck transport from Ukiah or Willits, solar dehumidifiers and desalination treatment. The State Division of Finance has shared their intent to reimburse funds up to \$500,000 toward this effort. If additional costs are incurred throughout the project, they will be reimbursed but require additional authorization.

Over the past 30+ years, the City has pursued ground water wells to add to our water portfolio. Unfortunately, none have been found worthy of adding to our system. Over the past couple weeks, we've made a great effort to search for a production well. We have discussed potential locations with local retired well drillers with very few leads. After reviewing the depth and flow of the wells in the surrounding area, we concluded that this was not a viable option for us. With all of that said, we are looking at an existing shallow well that may provide some benefit. Use of such a source is very challenging to provide proper treatment before connecting to the distribution system.

Utilizing trucks to transport water from Ukiah or Willits is not likely an option. This effort would require 57 loads per day to provide 200,000 gallons. Ten trucks operating twenty-four hours a day would be necessary for this work.

Solar dehumidifiers are very costly and provide approximately 30 liters of water per day, at a cost of around \$4,600 per panel.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8D

Desalination has come to the forefront as the best option to provide water to our customers. The current plan utilizes existing infrastructure to convey water to and from the treatment unit. The reverse osmosis (RO) desalination system will be located at the water treatment plant. We are requiring that vendors propose a 200 gallon per minute unit of finished water, providing 288,000 gallons per day.

### Water Conservation

By making small reductions in our water usage today, we may avoid any need to enter a Stage 2, 3, or 4 Water Emergency. Under the current Municipal Code, the City cannot mandate a Stage 1 level of water conservation without meeting one of the three thresholds in section 14.06.020 or, after conducting a public hearing with proper notice and making appropriate findings of necessity (California Water Code 375), the City Council may adopt and enforce a water conservation program.

Staff will continue to monitor water usage and the City's ability to continue to replenish water storage. If necessary, staff may recommend that City Council declare an emergency and/or implement mandatory water conservation measures.

Stage 1 Water Conservation Measures include the following:

1. All users of potable water shall reduce their potable water consumption by 10% as compared to the same month of the base year.
2. Consistent with state requirements to prevent the waste and unreasonable use of potable water and to promote water conservation, each of the following actions is prohibited:
  - a. The use of potable water on outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures.
  - b. The use of a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, or to irrigate landscaped areas, including trees and shrubs located on residential and commercial properties that are not irrigated by a landscape irrigation system, except where the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use.
  - c. The use of potable water to wash driveways, sidewalks, and similar hardscapes.
  - d. The use of potable water in a fountain or other decorative water feature, except where the water is part of a recirculating system.
  - e. The irrigation of outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall.

f. The irrigation of residential and commercial landscapes, at any time other than before 10:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m.

g. 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.

h. The irrigation with potable water of ornamental turf on public street medians.

i. The 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.

3. In addition, each of the following uses of potable water is prohibited:

a. The use of any hose or similar device, irrespective of whether a nozzle, valve, or other shut-off mechanism is attached thereto, for washing or cleaning the exterior surface of any dwelling, garage, commercial or industrial building. Persons painting building exteriors shall be exempted from this provision when potable water is used to clean or prepare a surface for painting.

b. The use of potable water for filling or refilling any existing or new swimming pool. Replenishing existing pools which have lost water due to evaporation shall be permitted.

c. The use of potable water in construction projects for backfill consolidation or compaction, or for dust control purposes; provided, however, that the City Manager may permit the use of potable water upon a determination by the City Manager that no other source of water for the purpose is available, or that no other method of compaction, consolidation, or dust control is reasonably available. The reuse of water system flush water is permitted.

d. The use of water through, with or by any plumbing, sprinkler, watering or irrigation system, or other device, equipment, or appliance which is broken or defective, or which, for any reason, fails to use water in the ordinary and customary manner or quantity for which it was designed, constructed, or manufactured.

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

5. To prevent waste and unreasonable use of potable water and to promote water conservation, lawn watering and landscape irrigation with potable water shall be limited to no more than 2 days per week for all water users.

6. Tampering with any part of the water system to circumvent the provisions contained within this section, include tampering with hydrants or water meters, is prohibited.

7. Residents and business owners shall repair all water leaks as soon as feasibly possible, but no later than 5 days after notification by the City, unless other arrangements are made with the Public Works Director.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Adopt Resolution approving budget amendment 2021-13 to provide funds for emergency projects.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):**

1. Do not adopt Resolution.
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Little to no impact is expected. State emergency funds are expected to reimburse costs of this effort.

**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACT:**

This action has no impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

**CONSISTENCY:**

N/A

**IMPLEMENTATION/TIMEFRAMES:**

Equipment purchases will begin soon after approval of funds.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution
2. Exhibit A – Budget Amendment

**NOTIFICATION:**

N/A.