

RESOLUTION NO. ____-2021

**RESOLUTION OF THE FORT BRAGG CITY COUNCIL
DOWNGRADING THE WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES FROM
STAGE 4 – WATER CRISIS TO STAGE 2 WATER WARNING**

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Bragg has experienced significantly less rainfall in the last twenty-four (24) months than would be considered normal; and

WHEREAS, the water flow in the Noyo River has declined to and below water levels in the summer of 1977, which is the worst drought on record for the City of Fort Bragg; and

WHEREAS, historically, in the months of August, September and October, the Noyo River experiences high tides, where the gravitational pull between the sun and the moon increase tide levels to a foot or two higher than normal tide levels. High tides during periods of low flow levels on the Noyo River increase salinity content and shorten pump run times, impairing the City's ability to replenish water supply from the Noyo River; and

WHEREAS, the weather forecasts continue to show no significant rainfall in the area in the coming weeks and months; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2021, the USDA declared that 50 counties in California, including Mendocino County, were designated as primary natural disaster areas due to recent drought; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2021, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency in Mendocino County due to drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, the City has procured a Desalination-Reverse Osmosis Treatment System from Aquaclear that will allow it to continue to pump water from the Noyo River during high tides when salinity reaches levels which cannot be processed by the City's Water Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, the City has negotiated a Well-use Agreement with the Fort Bragg Unified School District, to allow the City to use well water to supplement its water supply, if necessary; and

WHEREAS, the City met the Stage 2 Water Conservation target by reducing water use with Conservation measures implemented on July 12, 2021 by reducing usage from July 2020 by fifteen (15%); and

WHEREAS, on August 9, 2021, after a properly noticed public hearing, the City Council declared a Stage 3 Water Emergency and implemented Stage 3 Water Conservation Restrictions for the Fort Bragg Water System; and

WHEREAS, water usage for the month of August 2021 was 33.2% lower than August 2019, exceeding the Stage 3 Water Conservation goal of a 20-30% reduction; and

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2021 the City Council declared a Stage 4 Water Crisis and implemented Stage 4 Water Conservation Restrictions for the Fort Bragg Water System water supply; and

WHEREAS, water usage for the month of September 2021 was 32% lower than September 2019, meeting the Stage 4 Water Conservation goal of a 30-40% reduction; and

WHEREAS, during the second half of September 2021 the region received several days of rain which resulted in increased flows in the Noyo River allowing the City to replenish water storage in the Summers Lane Water Reservoir; and

WHEREAS, the City received the Desalination-Reverse Osmosis Treatment System on September 24th and has completed the setup and testing of the unit to ensure that it is ready to treat brackish salt water during the next cycle of high tides; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager, after considering all the relevant factors impacting the City's potable water sources per Section § 14.06.020 (WATER CONSERVATION STAGES), recommends that the City Council downgrade to a Stage 2 Water Warning.

WHEREAS, based on all the evidence presented, the City Council finds as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct and are made a part of this Resolution.
2. The City Manager's evaluation of the City of Fort Bragg's current water supply, future rainfall predictions, reduced temperatures inland of Fort Bragg in the water shed, projected water demand, projected water source levels, supply from Desalination-Reverse Osmosis Treatment System and Well Use Agreement with the Fort Bragg Unified School District resulted in a recommendation that the City downgrade from a Stage 4 Water Crisis and to a Stage 2 Water Warning.
3. The City Manager determined that a Stage 2 Water Warning and mandatory Stage 2 Water Conservation Restrictions are in the best interests of the City of Fort Bragg Water Customers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg does hereby declare a Stage 2 Water Warning pursuant to Chapter 14.06 of the Fort Bragg Municipal Code and requires implementation of Stage 2 Water Conservation Measures, as set forth in Fort Bragg Municipal Code section 14.06.050 B.

The above and foregoing Resolution was introduced by Councilmember _____, seconded by Councilmember _____, and passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg held on the 12th day of October, 2021, by the following vote:

**AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:
RECUSED:**

BERNIE NORVELL
Mayor

ATTEST:

June Lemos, CMC City Clerk