



AGENCY: City Council  
MEETING DATE: June 28, 2021  
DEPARTMENT: City Manager/Public Works  
PRESENTED BY: T. Miller/J. Smith  
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## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

### **TITLE:**

**Receive Report and Consider Endorsing and Encouraging Voluntary Implementation of Stage 2 Water Conservation Measures in Fort Bragg**

### **ISSUE:**

The City of Fort Bragg Municipal Code Chapter 14.06, Water Conservation, currently 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. As we have discussed, staff has determined that the parameters as set forth in the Code occur too late in a water shortage for water conservation to be truly effective in managing a water emergency. Action is necessary before the City crosses those thresholds and not after.

The City has not met any of the thresholds to declare a water emergency and implement water conservation measures but staff feels it prudent to ask our residents and water customers to target a Stage 2 conservation goal to reduce normal water usage by 10-20% for this time of year.

An Ordinance was scheduled for public hearing and introduction this evening with five conservation levels. The voluntary water reduction measures set forth in the attached resolution reflect the conservation measures consistent with the proposed Ordinance at Stage 2 "Water Warning." By requesting early voluntary implementation, water customers have an opportunity to get accustomed to the revised conservation measures and stages prior to invoking mandatory compliance.

### **ANALYSIS:**

Fort Bragg Municipal Code Chapter 14.06, Water Conservation, section 14.06.020 was most recently updated on January 25, 2016 and sets forth the three independent triggers that measure the City's ability to replenish water storage. The City has not currently met any one of those requirements. The Ordinance considered by the City Council this evening provides more flexibility in the City Manager's decision to set a conservation stage.

Governor Newsom [declared a state of emergency](#) for Mendocino and Sonoma County due to drought conditions on April 21, 2021. On May 10, 2021, the Governor extended that state of emergency to 39 additional counties. As discussed, current flows in the Noyo River are lower than any year since 1977 and City staff has been preparing for drought conditions since late March. The City of Fort Bragg's water supply system relies solely on three surface water sources: Waterfall Gulch (tributary to Hare Creek), Newman Gulch (tributary to Noyo River), and the Noyo River (diversion is at Madsen Hole).

By making incremental reductions in our water usage today, we may avoid a higher level Water Emergency later. The City Council issued a voluntary Stage 1 water emergency on May 10, 2021. The chart below indicates the level of success from that early request of City Water Customers.

<b>MONTH/YEAR</b>	<b>MILLON GALLONS A DAY AVERAGE</b>	<b>CHANGE FROM PRIOR YEAR</b>
<b>June, 2021 (to-date)</b>	0.768	(7.8%)
<b>June, 2020</b>	0.833	(15.7%)
<b>June, 2019</b>	0.988	-

As of June 25, 2021, the Noyo river flows have dropped to 2.57 cubic feet per second (cfs). This is down from 3.85 csf a week ago on June 18, 2021. However, at least part of the reason for this decrease is lawful diversions farther up the river. Stream flows at Waterfall Gulch have declined 12.5% from April and stream flows from Newman Gulch have declined 8% since April.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Adopt Resolution recommending and encouraging voluntary implementation of Stage 2 water conservation measures which target a 10-20% decrease in water usage from the same time in the base year.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):**

1. Do not adopt Resolution.
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. A small reduction now may mitigate the necessity of more significant mandatory water conservation measures in the future that would have a greater impact on revenue.

**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:**

The request for voluntary compliance with Stage 2 water conservation measures would be immediate and if implemented, additional water usage could be reduced immediately.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution

**NOTIFICATION:**

N/A