



AGENCY: City Council
MEETING DATE: November 14, 2022
DEPARTMENT: Public Works
PRESENTED BY: John Smith
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AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

TITLE:

Receive Report and Consider Adoption of City Council Resolution Rescinding 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 rescind all water conservation restrictions.

ANALYSIS:

August, September and October proved to be somewhat challenging during low flows in the Noyo River paired with the high tides. With the addition of the desalination system, our sources were able to keep up with the demand of our customers during this time. The residents of Fort Bragg answered the request for conservation by reducing overall usage by 30%, according to the monthly average of August, September and October this year. This is compared to our last non-drought year which was 2019. During this work by the public, the Noyo River flows have increased to 20 cubic feet per second (cfs) due to recent rain events. Seasonal variation was also a contributor in weather, causing reduced plant uptake in the watershed and cooler temperatures slowing evaporation.

With a steady flow in the Noyo River and forecasted rain, staff would like to propose removal of all water conservation restrictions.

Staff will continue to monitor water usage and source flows and begin preparation for possible future drought conditions. This will include our list of Capital Improvement Program projects.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt Resolution recommending removing water conservation measures.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):

1. Provide alternative direction to staff.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACT:

N/A

CONSISTENCY:

N/A

IMPLEMENTATION/TIMEFRAMES:

Cancellation of the water emergency would be immediate.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution

NOTIFICATION:

Customers will be notified if water warnings are rescinded.