



AGENCY:	City Council
MEETING DATE:	August 10, 2015
DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
PRESENTED BY:	T. Varga

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

**TITLE:**

**RECEIVE REPORT AND CONSIDER ADOPTION OF CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
DECLARING A STAGE 1 WATER EMERGENCY**

**ISSUE:**

Fort Bragg is experiencing the effects of a prolonged, four-year drought. Over the course of 2015, water supplies have been steadily declining. At this time, the City is experiencing difficulty maintaining an adequate buffer between its raw water supplies and daily water demands. The ability to replenish water in storage facilities to meet total daily water demand has dropped below normal operational practices. In addition to our local need to conserve, the State of California has mandated water conservation measures.

A comprehensive revision to the City's Water Conservation Ordinance (Chapter 14.06 of the Fort Bragg Municipal Code) is in progress. However, the need for a water emergency is pressing and the existing Municipal Code provisions are adequate to make this declaration.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Adopt City Council resolution declaring Stage 1 Water Emergency

**ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):**

Direct staff to modify the resolution prior to its adoption.

**ANALYSIS:**

The Fort Bragg Municipal Code authorizes the City to declare water emergencies when the flow of City's three raw water sources has declined to the point that it is becoming difficult for the City to maintain normal buffers between source flows and treated water productions as well as treated water storage and daily water demand. To maintain prudent buffer levels, it is necessary to declare a Stage 1 Water Emergency at this time. To optimize water conservation practices, certain supplementary requirements are included with the declaration. These measures are part of the updated Water Conservation Ordinance that is also being considered at tonight's meeting. If the ordinance is introduced and adopted, it would become effective on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The following specific conservation measures are necessary at this time.

- A 20% water reduction goal is established for all users.
- The application of potable water to outdoor landscaping during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall is prohibited.
- To promote water conservation, operators of hotels, motels and other lodging businesses shall provide guests with the option of choosing to not have towels and linens laundered daily. Such businesses shall prominently display notice of this option in each guest room using clear and easily understood language.

Flows in the Noyo River have declined more quickly than last year and are nearing 1.0 cubic feet per second (cfs). Combined flows from the Waterfall Gulch and Newman sources are providing approximately 378,000 gallons per day (gpd). Total flows from all City sources have dropped.

Of great concern is the sudden increase in water usage during the month of July. Based on water production data, July 2014 water production of approximately 743,000 gpd increased to 906,000 gpd in July 2015. This is a year-over-year increase of 22%. This is also an increase of 23% from June 2015. The beginning of the summer season started well with water usage of close to 600,000 gpd for May and June 2015. This usage compared favorably with 2014 usage. Year over year water usage levels for the month of May held steady. For the month of June they dropped 15%. The July increase is a big surprise. July water meter readings are being compiled as of the writing of this report. When it is available, the largest water users will be examined as well as any other unusual increases in water usage.

Beyond the water emergency requirements to implemented, City staff will continue to closely examine and monitor water usage at City facilities. Irrigation has been largely eliminated with the exception of small amounts being used for high visibility landscaped areas like the front lawn of the Guest House. Operation of the Noyo River pump is being managed to avoid salt water intrusion. Flush water from the Highway 20 tank is being re-directed to alternate uses whenever possible. To maintain required, minimum levels of chlorine residuals per public water safety standards, the water in this tank needs to be turned over every week or two. The reuse of treated wastewater from the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) is being pursued. This includes meeting permit requirements of State Water Quality Control Board Division of Public Health. Leak detection is being closely monitored. The Summers Lane Reservoir project continues to be on schedule. Clearing of the site and the timber harvest will occur this fall; construction is slated for 2016. Filling of the reservoir is expected to occur over the winter of 2016/17.

It is anticipated that the most challenging period for meeting water demand will extend from now through at least the middle of September. Climatological predictions are for an El Niño event to take place during the upcoming water year. It should be noted that for the north coast of California this typically results in a year of normal rainfall. Nevertheless, this would be a wonderful improvement from the recent dry winters. Once again, the Fort Bragg community is being asked to come together and see us through a difficult period of limited water availability.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There are no direct fiscal impacts. However as water conservation efforts increase, water usage will decrease water revenues. Given the relatively short period of expected stringent water reductions, effects on water revenues for the FY 2015/16 budget should be nominal.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution

#### **NOTIFICATION:**

None.

#### **City Clerk's Office Use Only**

Agency Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved as Amended
Resolution No.:	_____ Ordinance No.: _____		
Moved by:	_____ Seconded by: _____		
Vote:	_____		

<input type="checkbox"/> Deferred/Continued to meeting of: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____