

Lemos, June

From: K Silva <hiksilva@mcn.org>
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 3:36 PM
To: Norvell, Bernie; Morsell-Haye, Jessica; Peters, Lindy; Albin-Smith, Tess; Rafanan, Marcia; Miller, Tabatha; Lemos, June
Subject: June 28 City Council meeting - Agenda Item No. 7A

Dear Mayor Norvell and Fort Bragg City Councilmembers,

I would like to make a comment on Item 7A. of tonight's City Council meeting but I learned that I will likely not be available to do so in person or via zoom this evening.

Here is my comment and I hope you will all get a chance to read it before tonight's meeting:

The first step in reducing water usage is to learn how much you currently use. The Fort Bragg Water Works statements don't make that easy. Generally available information about saving water uses gallons, not the abbreviation "cons" (consumption units) as shown on our statements, as the measurement. A more informative statement could show the number of gallons used in the cons column. Or, at the very least, include a side note somewhere on the statement defining cons as 748 gallons and I would like to suggest that easy improvement.

The current statements lump together the fixed charges with the variable water use charges for both water and sewer. All four amounts should be broken out so customers learn exactly for what they are paying. This is information used to determine the statement totals and will also be easy to include in the statements. It will help customers to understand why their bill may not change much when they reduce their water use. If complete information is easily accessible, then any goal in water use reduction can be easily determined and measured by your customers. I am amazed by the number of people who don't know how much water they use and how much of their payment is going for water use vs. fixed charges.

How about determining the residential base allocations now and suggesting a range of water use per person as a goal for every stage of emergency? A reduction of 10% is difficult when a 2-person household, who determined to keep their water usage low, generally uses 0- 2 cons. But another 2-person household, not concerned about saving water, uses 8- 10 cons and can easily reduce their usage by 10% while continuing lavish water use. A reasonably wide range of water use per person, taking into consideration some homes have laundry and food crops, etc., is a more equitable goal than a flat percentage and could result in a greater overall reduction in water usage.

B. 4. of the ordinance states "Restaurants shall serve water only upon specific request." Washing machines use a sizable amount of our limited water. Perhaps B. 5. should follow the same practice

as B.4. An example: “Lodging establishments shall launder linens only upon specific request. Hotels and motels and other commercial lodging establishments will educate guests about the need for water conservation with a prominent display in the lobby and in the guest rooms, letting guests know that laundering of any linens (sheets, towels, etc.) will only occur upon request.” The goal of offering the passive option for the guests should be saving water, not wasting it.

If B.4. and B.5. are put into effect during a Stage 1 water emergency, rather than waiting for Stage 2 (or made to be standard practice), the slight inconvenience some visitors might feel will be worth the ability to have water available for use by the residents who have no other options.

Thank you for considering my comments and I hope you all have a great meeting.

Kathy Silva
Fort Bragg resident