



Council Agenda Report

Item 7b

Department: Utilities
Cost Center: 6001
For Agenda of: 6/15/2021
Placement: Public Hearing
Estimated Time: 30 minutes

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SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF 2020 URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND
WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN

RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt a Resolution entitled, “A Resolution of the Council of the City of San Luis Obispo, California, adopting the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan;” and
2. Adopt a Resolution entitled, “A Resolution of the Council of the City of San Luis Obispo, California, adopting the 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan.”

DISCUSSION

Background

The California Urban Water Management Planning Act (Act) is a part of California Water Code (CWC) sections 10610-10656 and 10608. The Act requires urban water suppliers to adopt and submit an updated plan to Department of Water Resources (DWR) every five years. In the Act, urban water suppliers are defined as agencies that provide water for municipal purposes to more than 3,000 customers or supply more than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually (the City meets both criteria).

The City adopted its first Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) in November 1994 and updated the UWMP in 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2016.¹ The City Council adopted the 2015 UWMP by Resolution 10726 on June 14, 2016. By adopting a technically compliant UWMP, the City remains eligible for State grants, low interest loans, and other assistance.

2020 UWMP and WSCP Requirements

State legislation established new requirements in 2018 for 2020 UWMPs, including standardized requirements for water shortage contingency planning and drought risk assessments. Under the State requirements, water suppliers must now plan for a dry period that lasts for five consecutive years, an increase from the previous requirement of three years. Other required elements of UWMPs include:

¹ For the 2015 UWMP, the state legislature extended the filing deadline to July 1, 2016. Per the CWC, UWMPs are to be updated at least once every five years on or before July 1, in years ending in six and one, incorporating updated and new information from the five years preceding each update.

1. Discussion of local water supplies, with a long-term forecast for each source, including climate change.
2. Assessment of the reliability of water supply sources over a 20-year time frame.
3. Description of demand management measures, also known as conservation measures.
4. Demonstrated compliance with - Senate Bill X7-7 2020.²
5. Description of water reliability.
6. Incorporation of land use planning in water demand forecasting.
7. Preparation of a water energy analysis.
8. Inclusion of five previous years of system water losses.

The State-required UWMP sections and corresponding chapters in the City's 2020 UWMP are shown in Table 1. The City's 2020 UWMP is provided as [Attachment A](#) to this report.

Table 1 - Required Sections and Corresponding City Chapters

Required Sections (by Water Code):	City's 2020 UWMP Chapter:
Introduction and Lay Description	Chapter 1, Introduction
Plan Preparation	
System Description	Chapter 2, Service Area and Water System Description
Customer Water Use	Chapter 3, Past, Current, and Projected Water Use by Sector
Conservation Target Compliance	
System Supplies	Chapter 4, Water Sources Chapter 5, Recycled Water
Water Service Reliability and Drought Risk Assessment	Chapter 6, Water Supply Reliability
Demand Management Measures	Chapter 7, Water Conservation & Demand Management Measures
Plan Adoption, Submittal, & Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notices of Public Hearings included in an appendix • Checklist included in an appendix • Electronic submittal following Council Approval

For 2020, the City's Water Shortage Contingency Plan (2020 WSCP) is required to be published separately ([Attachment B](#)) from the 2020 UWMP. The 2020 WSCP is the City's action plan for a drought or catastrophic water supply shortage. Although the State's new requirements are more prescriptive than previous versions, many elements have been included in the City's prior plan.

As discussed in the April 13, 2021 Study Session ([Attachment C](#)), the 2020 WSCP includes six progressive stages consistent with state requirements, as shown in Table 2 page 3 of this report. Each stage corresponds to an additional ten percent shortage in available water supply.

² Senate Bill X7-7 (Water Conservation Act of 2009) is a California state law that requires the state to reduce urban water consumption by 20 percent by the year 2020. The City's 2020 reduction target of 117 GPCD was met and surpassed by the City. The City's 2020 per capita water consumption was 94 GPCD.

As suggested during the Study Session, an action has been added to the 2020 WSCP requiring that the City cease all water sales when entering a water shortage. A section allowing for the use of aerial imagery³-based water allotments in place of the traditional days/per week irrigation restrictions and indoor water budgets has also been added, as directed by Council.

**Table 2: 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan
Water Shortage Response Stages - Quick Reference Guide**

STAGE	WATER SUPPLY STATUS ¹	CITY ACTIONS
Monitor	5+ years of available water supply	City maintains existing water conservation staffing levels and budget that supports meeting internal water efficiency goals and regulatory requirements for water conservation, including ongoing public outreach.
Watch	< 5 years of available water supply (up to 10% water shortage)	City increases programs that encourage voluntary water conservation including public outreach, rebate programs, and water efficient fixture giveaways. City examines available alternative water sources (groundwater expansion, recycled water filling stations, water purchase agreements, etc.), City modifies internal operations to focus on decreasing water loss and prepares for subsequent WSCP stages. City ceases any outside-City water sales/leases.
Warning	< 4.5 years of available water supply (up to 20% water shortage)	City implements time of use irrigation restrictions (7:00 PM – 7:00 AM). City increases staffing, budget, and outreach to achieve additional voluntary conservation savings while preparing for Alert-Critical stages.
Alert	< 4 years of available water supply (up to 30% water shortage)	City requires mandatory conservation measures including outdoor irrigation restrictions (four day a week watering) and considers a Water Offset Program for new connections.
Severe	< 3.5 years of available water supply (up to 40% water shortage)	City implements Water Allotment Program. Water Offset Program for new connections may be increased (1.5:1 or 2:1 offset ratio). Allowable irrigation reduced to three days per week.
Extreme	< 3 years of available water supply (up to 50% water shortage)	City continues to implement a Water Allotment Program with reduced allotment levels. Water Offset Program for new connections may be increased (1.5:1 or 2:1 offset ratio). Allowable irrigation reduced to two days per week with optional additional measures limiting turf and spray irrigation.
Critical	< 2.5 year of available water supply (>50% water shortage)	City continues to implement a Water Allotment Program at further reduced levels (minimum for public health and safety). Irrigation no longer permitted. Water Offset Program to cease and no new connections permitted.

NOTE: The City's Water Supply Status is informed by the Water Projection Model described in Section 2 of the WSCP, Annual Water Shortage Assessment.

³ Aerial imagery are high-resolution photographs taken from an aircraft or drone.

Should the 2020 UWMP and 2020 WSCP be approved by the City Council via the Resolutions provided in [Attachment D](#) and [Attachment E](#), staff will return to Council later this year with an update to the City's Water Conservation Ordinance (Chapter 13.07 of the Municipal Code) to establish the regulations and procedures for implementing the 2020 WSCP and update the ordinance to comply with newer requirements under CWC Chapter 3.3: Excessive Residential Water Use During Drought.

Current City Water Supply Status

Utilizing the City's Water Projection Model as part of its water supply management, staff analyzes whether a water supply shortage is anticipated in any given year, and the severity of a shortage based on the availability of the City's different sources of supply and water demand trends. The City uses the model to study the potential impacts of various intensities of drought conditions, including increased temperature and evaporation rates, along with decreased precipitation.

Table 3 - Reservoir Storage

Reservoir	Volume (Acre-Feet)	Percent of Capacity
Salinas	16,267	68.23%
Whale Rock	30,050	77.12%
Nacimiento	123,365	32.64%

NOTES:

1. Reservoir volumes are as of 5/13/2021.
2. City's available balance of Whale Rock Reservoir's total storage volume is 15,295 acre-feet.

Using the Water Projection Model for 2021, the City currently has more than ten years of water available. As of May 2021, the City has over 16,000 acre-feet of water in storage at Salinas Reservoir and its available balance of Whale Rock Reservoir is 15,295 acre-feet. The City requested its full contractual allocation of 5,482 acre-feet of water from Nacimiento Reservoir for 2021.

Ongoing Public Outreach Regarding City Water Supplies

As much of California is experiencing significant drought, the City has received many inquiries regarding water supply status and whether any specific actions are being requested of community members. As described above, City water supplies are secure and adequate to meet community needs for the foreseeable future. No water use restrictions are in place in the City or necessary at this time.

To provide the community with ongoing information on the City's current water supply availability and drought, the Utilities Department established a communications plan and calendar which outlines the methods the City will take to inform the community of current water supply conditions. This plan contains information on written communication efforts such as utility bill stuffers, the quarterly Resource Newsletter, and utilizing updates in local newspapers.

MONITOR STAGE

- ✓ Communicate on the City's Water Supply Status
- ✓ Monitor Community Water Use
- ✓ Encourage Efficient Indoor and Outdoor Water Use (Voluntary Conservation)
- ✓ Identify and Notify Customers of Possible Leaks
- ✓ Enforce Water Efficiency Ordinances

The plan also outlines options for radio and social media content, and a return to public events once COVID-19 restrictions ease or are lifted. The plan focuses efforts on community groups that may be overlooked such as incoming Cal Poly students, the Spanish speaking community, and the City's senior citizen community.

Previous Council or Advisory Body Action

On June 14, 2016, Council adopted the City's 2015 UWMP by Resolution 10726.

The City Council participated in a Study Session on April 13, 2021 on the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Attachment 5).

Policy Context

General Plan, Water and Wastewater Management Element, Program A 5.3.3 states *"Prepare and update the Urban Water Management Plan every five years as required by the State."*

On Short-term Water Shortages, General Plan Policy A 6.2.2, states *"Mandatory water conservation measures as described in the City's Water Shortage Contingency Plan, included in the City's Urban Water Management Plan, may be implemented when the City's water supplies are projected to last five years or less."*

Public Engagement

On April 13, 2021, a Study Session was conducted to allow for community input related to the WSCP stages and associated actions.

The City's water planning documents including the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan, 2020 Water Resources Status Report, and General Plan Water and Wastewater Management Element are provided on the Utilities Department webpage, under Documents and Files, at the link below:

<https://www.slocity.org/government/department-directory/utilities-department/documents-and-files>

A complete draft of the City's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan was made available on the City's website on May 27, 2021.

CONCURRENCE

The City's Community Development and Public Works Departments concur with the recommendations in this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

No environmental review is required for this item. Per California Water Code §10652⁴, urban water management planning is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for the on-going implementation of the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan is proposed in the 2021-23 Financial Plan in the Water Fund, Water Administration and Water Resource Program section operating budgets. Adoption of these plans do not create additional costs that are not already outlined in the 2021-23 Financial Plan under consideration at the June 15, 2021 Council meeting.

ALTERNATIVES

The City Council could continue this item for consideration at a future Council meeting and provide additional direction to staff on revisions to the 2020 UWMP and 2020 WSCP. This is not recommended as the 2020 UWMP and 2020 WSCP are required to be submitted to the state by July 1, 2021.

ATTACHMENTS

- A – 2020 Urban Water Management Plan
- B – 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan
- C – April 13, 2021 Council Agenda Report, Study Session on 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan
- D – Draft Resolution - Adopting 2020 Urban Water Management Plan
- E – Draft Resolution - Adopting 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan

⁴ 10652. The California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code) does not apply to the preparation and adoption of plans pursuant to this part or to the implementation of actions taken pursuant to Section 10632. Nothing in this part shall be interpreted as exempting from the California Environmental Quality Act any project that would significantly affect water supplies for fish and wildlife, or any project for implementation of the plan, other than projects implementing Section 10632, or any project for expanded or additional water supplies.