



City Manager's Report
June 28, 2016 City Council Meeting
Prepared by: Dave Warren, Director of Finance
Item #: 8.7

Subject: Adopt a resolution:

1. Declaring an immediate end to the drought state of emergency; and
2. Declaring an immediate end to the mandatory watering restrictions; and
3. Directing staff to distribute a notice informing the Public of these changes.

Background:

Due to the severe drought, the City Council took several actions between February 2014 and May 2015 including declaring a drought state of emergency and mandatory watering restrictions to conserve as much water as possible. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted revised emergency regulations for urban water conservation this past May which eliminated the watering restrictions in the City. Tonight, staff is recommending the City Council adopt a resolution ending the drought state of emergency and the associated watering restrictions and directing staff to distribute a notice informing the Public of the change.

Discussion:

The City currently limits outdoor watering between April 16th and November 15th to two-days per week and once-per week between November 16th through April 15th. Due to the ongoing yet improving drought conditions, Governor Brown issued an Executive Order directing actions aimed at using water wisely, reducing water waste, and improving water use efficiency on May 9, 2016. The Executive Order also directed the SWRCB to extend certain emergency regulations for urban water conservation through the end of January 2017. On May 18, 2016, the SWRCB adopted revised emergency regulations for urban water conservation which eliminated the watering restrictions for water purveyors with less than 3,000 connections like Placerville. However, the following prohibitions still remain:

- Irrigating with potable water of ornamental turf on public street medians
- Irrigating with potable water outside of newly-constructed homes and buildings not in accordance with emergency regulations or other requirements established in the California Building Standards Code
- Using potable water to wash sidewalks and driveways
- Allowing runoff when irrigating with potable water
- Using hoses with no shutoff nozzles to wash cars
- Using potable water in decorative water features that do not recirculate the water
- Irrigating outdoors during and within 48 hours following measureable rainfall

Due to the SWRCB's revised regulations, staff recommends the Council declare an immediate end to the drought state of emergency and the mandatory watering restrictions in the City. By

doing so, residents would once again be able to water on the days of their choice without restrictions. If approved, staff would prepare a notice informing the Public of the end to the mandatory watering restrictions and the continuation of the various prohibitions listed above. The notice would be distributed with the July utility bills and posted on the City's website and Facebook page.

Cost:

The cost of the Public notice is estimated to be \$1,528.

Budget Impact:

The \$1,528 estimated cost of the Public notice is assumed in the proposed Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Operating Budget which is included in tonight's agenda under a separate cover. If approved by the Council, staff anticipates a rise in water and sewer rate revenues in Fiscal Year 2016/2017 which have also been assumed in the proposed Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Operating Budget.

Recommendation:

Adopt a resolution:

1. Declaring an immediate end to the drought state of emergency; and
2. Declaring an immediate end to the mandatory watering restrictions; and
3. Directing staff to distribute a notice informing the Public of these changes.



M. Cleve Morris, City Manager



Dave Warren, Director of Finance

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PLACERVILLE DECLARING
AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE DROUGHT STATE OF EMERGENCY AND ASSOCIATED
WATERING RESTRICTIONS AND DIRECTING STAFF TO DISTRIBUTE A NOTICE
INFORMING THE PUBLIC OF THESE CHANGES**

WHEREAS, the City Council took several actions between February 2014 and May 2015 including declaring a drought state of emergency and mandatory watering restrictions due to the severe drought conditions during that period of time; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing drought conditions have improved , and the State Water Resources Control Board adopted revised emergency regulations for urban water conservation on May 18, 2016, which eliminated watering restrictions for water purveyors with less than 3,000 connections like Placerville; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to restore unrestricted outdoor watering in the City due to the improved drought conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Placerville:

1. Declares an immediate end to the drought state of emergency; and
2. Declares an immediate end to the mandatory watering restrictions; and
3. Directs staff to distribute a notice informing the Public of these changes.

The foregoing Resolution was introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Placerville held on June 28, 2016, by Councilmember _____ who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilmember _____. The motion was passed by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Mayor, Trisha Wilkins

ATTEST:

Regina O'Connell, Interim City Clerk