



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: April 15, 2014

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Stage One Drought Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive an update on the status of the current drought.

DISCUSSION:

On February 11, 2014, Council declared a Stage One Drought and asked customers to reduce water usage by 20%. Council requested that staff keep them informed and report back monthly with a status update on the City's water supplies, conservation efforts, and current work efforts. This report will cover the following items:

- *Water Supply Outlook*
- *Water Purchases*
- *Drought Response Capital Projects*
- *Conservation Efforts*

The Water Supply Outlook is slightly improved statewide due to recent storms in the northern part of the state. Unfortunately, the snow pack remains low. While the recent rains have helped, they were not sufficient to change the water supply outlook for the City. The additional water may, however, ease some through delta transport.

Staff continues to work with the Central Coast Water Authority to identify opportunities for water purchases. While there are potential deals in the works, we have not yet secured any additional water supplies.

Staff is moving forward with the design and construction of capital work to assist with water supply during the drought. These include the acceleration of groundwater well replacement, as well as projects to use poor quality groundwater in place of potable water for irrigation.

Staff has increased the water conservation outreach program through an enhanced drought media campaign: additional targeted outreach, including increased weekly messaging through social media, online news outlets, and industry contacts; presentations to community and industry groups; additional printed materials with drought messaging; targeted utility bill messaging; drought signage at City facilities; and Landscape Water Use Drought Forum on April 23, 2014, as well as additional trainings and workshops.

PREPARED BY: Joshua Haggmark, Acting Water Resources Manager/JH/mh

SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca Bjork, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office