



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 20, 2014
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department
SUBJECT: Declaration Of Stage Two Drought Condition

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Declaring a Stage Two Drought Condition and Establishing Water Use Regulations to be Effective During a Stage Two Drought Condition.

DISCUSSION:

Santa Barbara is currently experiencing the three consecutive driest years on record. On February 11, 2014, Council declared a Stage One Drought Condition, which included a request for the community to voluntarily reduce its water use by 20%. Since that time, Santa Barbara has had minimal rainfall. While there has been a reduction in City-wide water demands, water conservation efforts have fallen short of the 20% targeted reduction that is needed to help ensure that the City will have sufficient water supplies throughout the duration of the drought.

The City plans for drought conditions based on the water supply strategy outlined in the City's 2011 Long-Term Water Supply Plan and the 2010 Urban Water Management Plan. While the City currently has adequate water supplies to meet water demands through September 2014 (the end of the current water year), there is uncertainty associated with the availability of surface supplies in the next water year.

With the potential need to reduce water demands in the coming water year, staff recommends the declaration of a Stage Two Drought Condition at this time. This is the second of three stages under the City's Water Shortage Contingency Plan. The goal in declaring a Stage Two Drought Condition is to alert the public that the City will experience a serious water shortage if dry weather continues, and that the required 20% City-wide reduction in water use will greatly assist with extending existing water supplies.

With the Stage Two Drought Declaration come mandatory water use restrictions. These include requiring hoses to be equipped with self-closing valves, except in limited circumstances, prohibiting the use of running water to clean exterior hardscape surfaces, limiting the hours for irrigating landscape, prohibiting the filling of ornamental water fountains, and requiring covers for swimming pools and spas.

Due to the current dwindling water supplies, the City also sent drought water rate change notices to its customers in accordance with Proposition 218. These proposed drought water rates are structured to encourage extraordinary water conservation and to ensure that the Water Fund remains financially stable for the duration of the drought. Council will consider adoption of the drought rates following the required public hearing.

A Stage Three Drought Condition (“Water Shortage Emergency”) is the highest level of drought response. Stage Three would be triggered by worsening water supply conditions or the need for more aggressive reductions in water use. Extraordinary water conservation by customers now could delay or eliminate the need for the declaration of a Stage Three Drought Condition, which is associated with more restrictive mandatory water conservation measures.

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

SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator’s Office



Stage Two Drought Declaration

May 20, 2014



Outline

- ◆ Drought Condition Recap
- ◆ Status of City Water Supplies
- ◆ City's Water Shortage Plan
- ◆ Stage 2 Water Use Regulations
- ◆ Current Drought Response Efforts
- ◆ Recommendation



Drought Condition Recap

- ◆ Jan 17: State Drought Emergency - Gov. Brown asked for 20% Reduction in Water use
- ◆ Jan 21: Santa Barbara County Drought Emergency
- ◆ Feb 11: City of Santa Barbara Declared Stage One Drought Condition
- ◆ Apr 25: State issues 2nd Drought Emergency Proclamation



Water Supply Outlook

- ◆ No significant measureable rain anticipated until next winter
- ◆ Projected El Nino Cycle next Winter does not guarantee rainfall
- ◆ The combined rainfall from the last 3 years at Gibraltar are the driest on record

Surface Water Supplies

◆ Gibraltar Reservoir

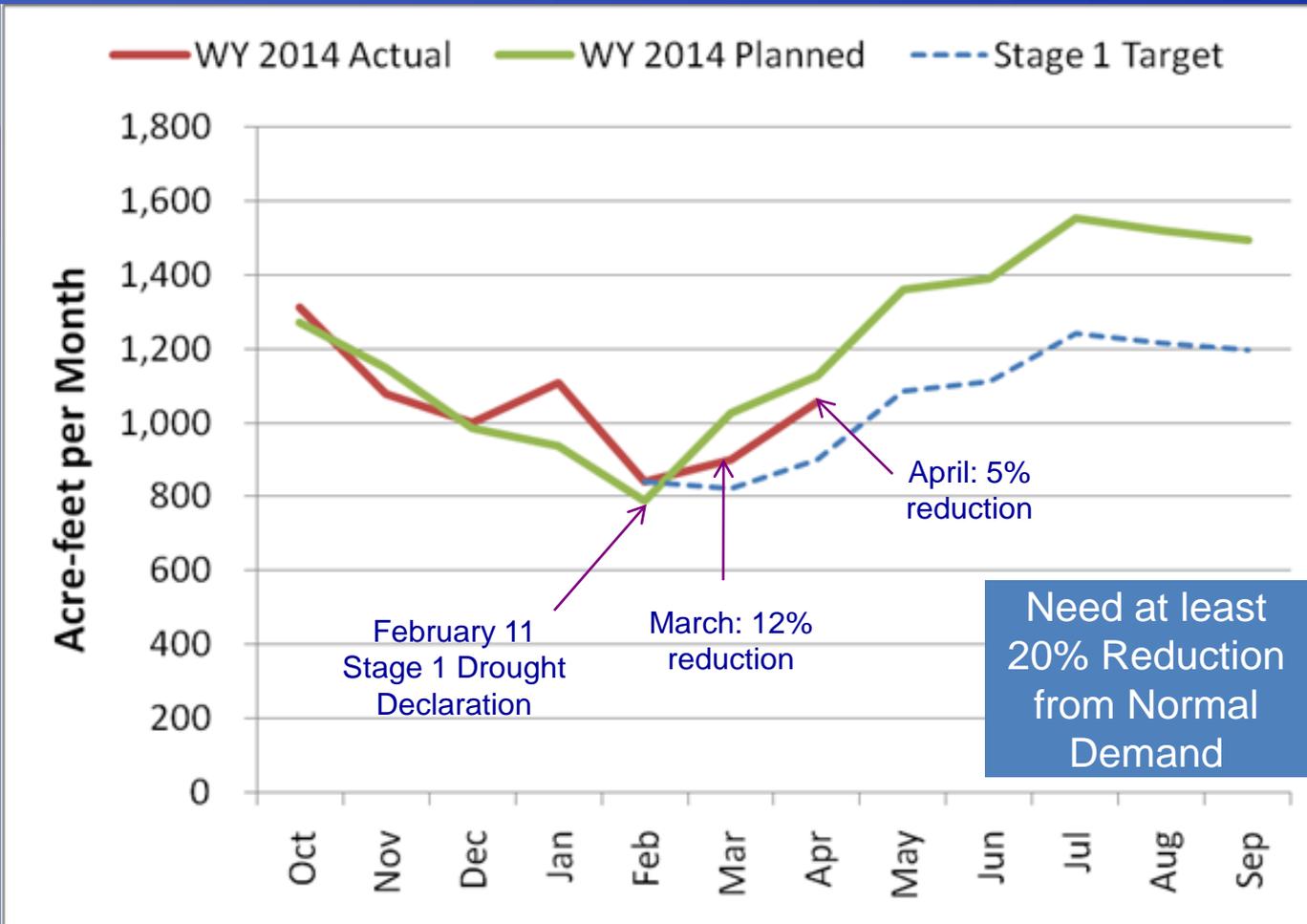
- 34% of Capacity with ~ 1,800 AF
- Average Rainfall ~26" per year
- 33.28" – Total rainfall for 3 years



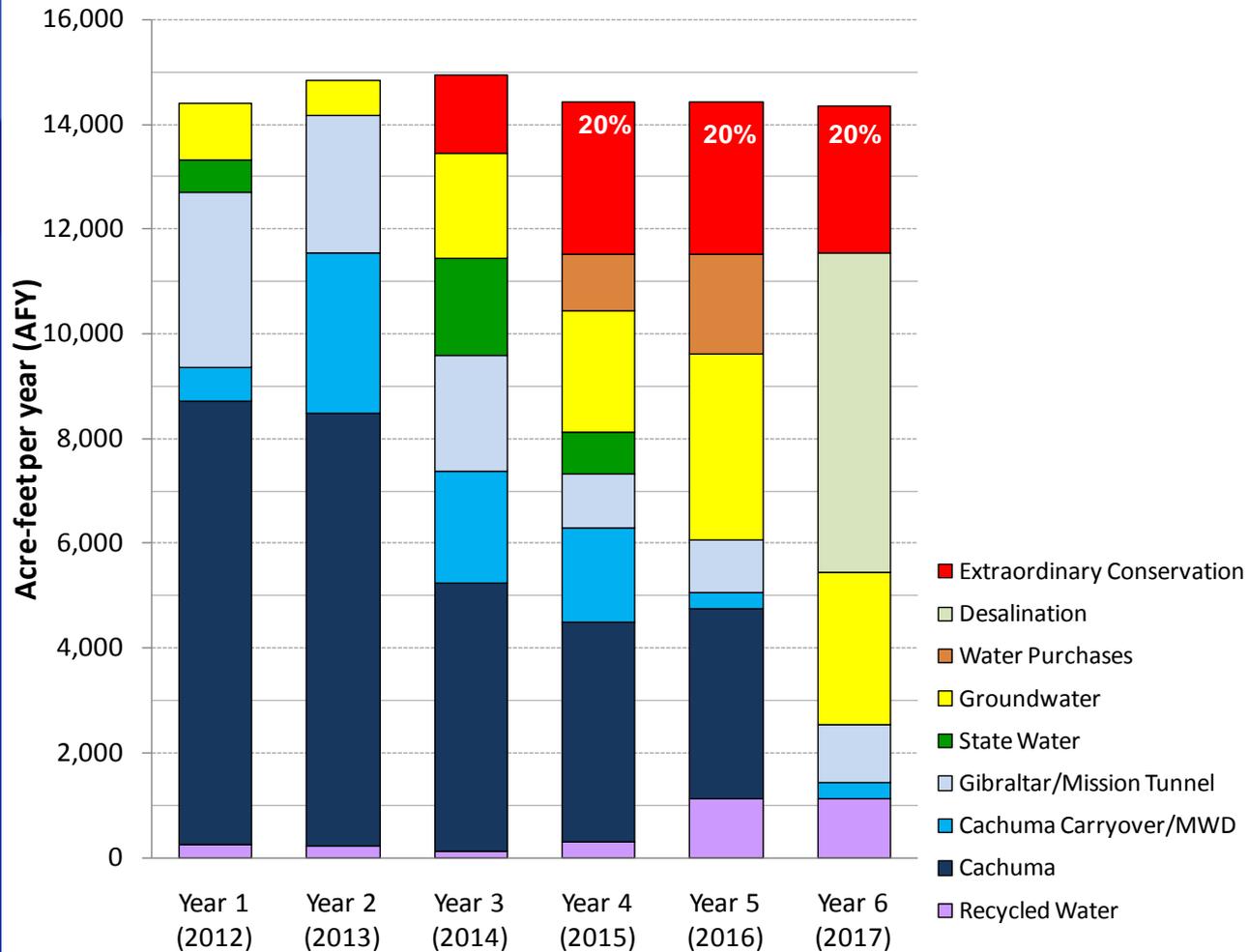
◆ Lake Cachuma

- 37% of Capacity with ~ 71,000 AF

Monthly Demands



Current Supply Strategy: (no reservoir inflows, no State Water)



Supplemental Water

- ◆ State Water Project
- ◆ Secured
 - ◆ 1,148 AF – Water Purchased from VAFB
 - ◆ 165 AF – 5% State Water Project Allocation
 - ◆ 1,313 AF
- ◆ Unsecured
 - ◆ 1,300 AF from Biggs-West Gridley ID
 - ◆ 1,427 AF Banked Water with Dudley Ridge
 - ◆ 2,727 AF





City's Water Shortage Plan

- ◆ Adopted 2011 Water Shortage Contingency Plan
- ◆ “Extraordinary” drought conservation, beyond normal water conservation actions
- ◆ Three defined Drought Stages

Stage One Drought

- ◆ Alert public that potential serious water shortage if dry weather continues and water demands remain high
- ◆ Request reduction in normal water usage



Stage Two Drought

- ◆ Serious water shortage is expected in the current or impending year
- ◆ Drought-based Water Rates
- ◆ Mandatory water use restrictions considered



Stage Three Drought

- ◆ Extreme water shortage
- ◆ Increase drought-based water rates
- ◆ More aggressive mandatory water use restrictions



Stage Two Regulations

- ◆ Hoses must be equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle
- ◆ Washing of pavement and other hard surfaces is generally prohibited
- ◆ Irrigation is limited to evening and early morning hours



Stage Two Regulations

- ◆ Cars and boats must be washed at commercial facilities that recycle water, or by hose with shut-off nozzle
- ◆ Pools and spas must be equipped with a cover when not in use
- ◆ No draining of pools by more than one third, unless authorized



Stage Two Regulations

- ◆ Use of water in ornamental water features & fountains is prohibited
 - Exception:
 - If located indoors or on residential properties;
 - Fountains that have a total water surface area less than or equal to 25 ft.²
 - Were home to aquatic life (such as fish or turtles) prior to Stage 2 Declaration



Stage Two Regulations

- ◆ Drought notices required in restaurants & hotels; water served on request only
- ◆ Gyms, pools & other businesses providing showers must post drought notices & promote limitation of shower use



Summary of Drought-Based Water Rates

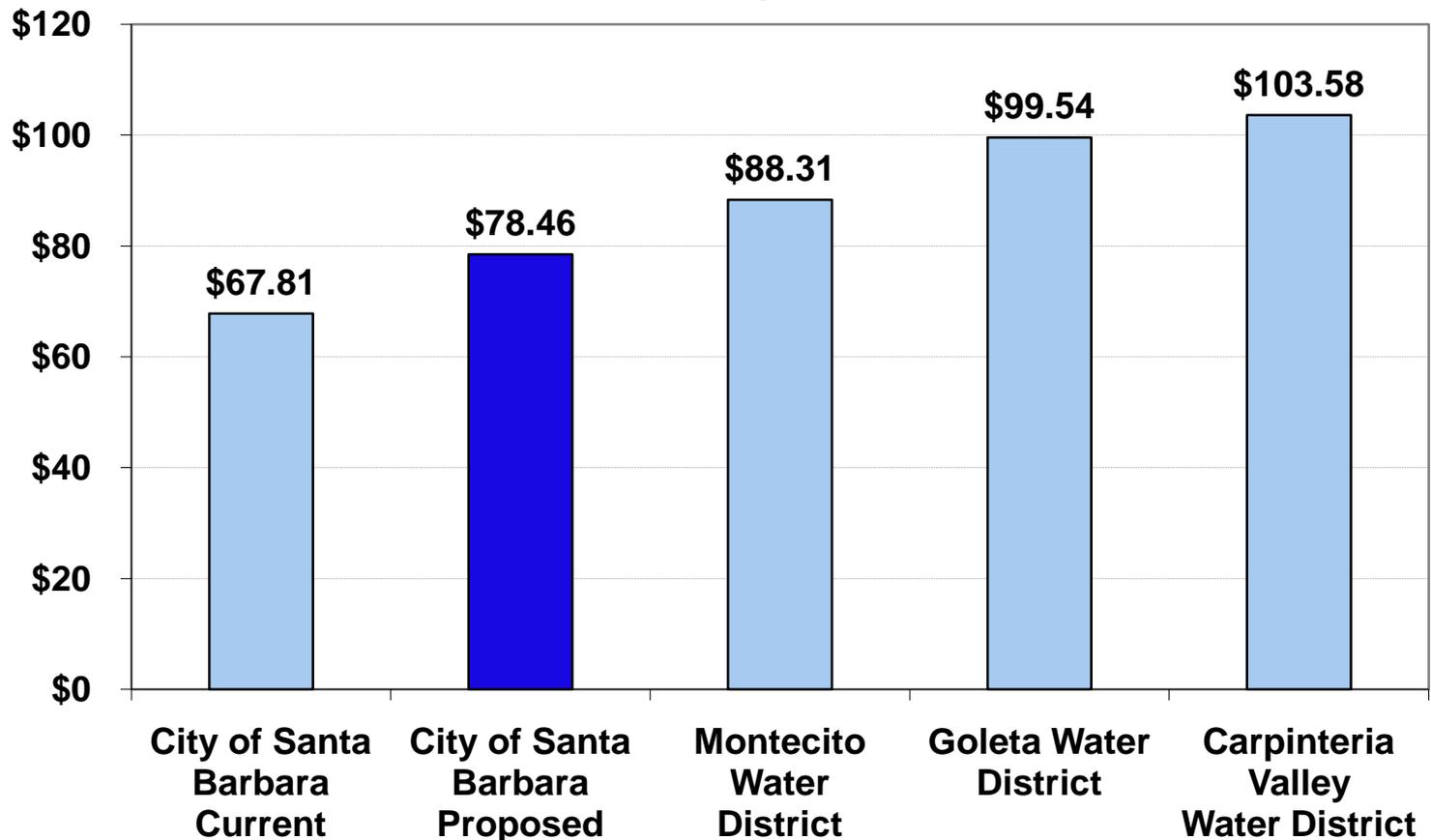
Proposed Water Rates effective on all bills that go out after July 1, 2014 for water use in June

Usage Level	Monthly Usage (hcf)	Existing Bill	Proposed Bill	Difference	Percent Change
Low	4	\$26.53	\$27.34	\$0.81	3%
Moderate	12	\$67.81	\$78.46	\$10.65	16%
High	32	\$191.45	\$319.06	\$127.61	67%

*Based on a 5/8" Meter

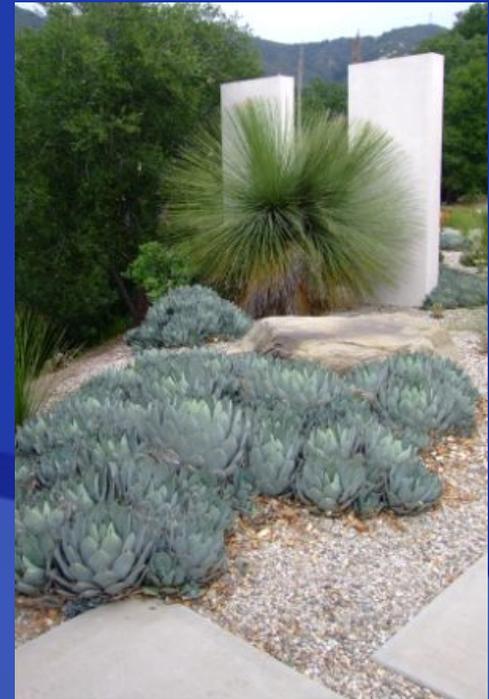
Rate Comparison

Jan 2014 Monthly Single Family Residential Water Service Charges



Conservation Program Highlights

- ◆ Free Water Check-ups
- ◆ Working with Property Managers, HOAs, & Landscapers on Reducing Landscape Water Use
- ◆ Workshops & Trainings for Homeowners & Landscapers
- ◆ Smart Landscape Rebate Program
 - ◆ Includes Pool Covers
 - ◆ Permeable Surfaces



Conservation Program Highlights

- ◆ Increased Marketing & Outreach with Specific Calls to Action
- ◆ Attending Community Group Meetings
- ◆ Actively Working with Large Commercial & Institutional Water Customers
- ◆ Targeted Outreach to Top 100 Residential Water Customers





Summary

- ◆ A water shortage is projected for next year
- ◆ Unprecedented Drought Conditions
- ◆ Working to secure & preserve water supplies & promote extraordinary water conservation
- ◆ Need for more aggressive conservation to meet City-wide 20% reduction



Recommendation

- ◆ Adopt a Resolution Declaring Stage Two Drought Condition and Establishing Water Use Regulations



**For information & assistance on
water conservation:**

www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterWise

Call: 564-5460

