



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: November 18, 2014

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Amendment To The Position And Salary Control Resolution For Drought Related Water Supply Positions

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Amending Resolution No. 14-046, the Position and Salary Control Resolution for Fiscal Year 2015, Affecting the Public Works Department, Effective November 18, 2014.

DISCUSSION:

Santa Barbara is currently in the fourth year of a critical drought period with record low rainfall. On February 11, 2014, Council declared a Stage One Drought Condition; and on May 20, 2014, Council declared a Stage Two Drought Condition, which requires the community to reduce water usage by 20 percent. The Stage Two Drought declaration includes regulations for mandatory water use restrictions. In addition, Council has adopted drought-based water rates to further incentivize extraordinary water conservation.

Staff has increased the water conservation outreach program through an enhanced drought media campaign that includes additional targeted outreach, increased weekly social media messaging, online news outlets, and industry contacts. Staff outreach also includes making significantly more presentations to community and industry groups, offering printed materials with drought-targeted utility bill messaging, providing drought-signage at City facilities, and sponsoring many additional drought-related community trainings and workshops.

Workload for the Water Conservation Program has increased dramatically as a result of the drought. Below is a summary of staff responses to certain items, comparing the January through August period last year to the same period in the current year.

Item	Jan 2013 – Aug 2013	Jan 2014 – Aug 2014	Percent Increase
Water Checkups	347	784	125%
Smart Landscape Rebate Pre-Inspections	58	243	319%
Response to Water Waste Complaints	~30	455	1400%

As a result of the increased workload, the Water Conservation Program has hired several hourly staff who currently work full-time to support drought-response efforts. Staff has prepared an amendment to the Salary and Control Resolution that reflects three limited-term Water Resources Specialist positions. This will allow the City to retain currently trained hourly staff to support drought response efforts for a limited term, ending in June 2015. The contract term will be reevaluated depending on assessment of the drought conditions in spring 2015.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

On September 16, 2014, Council authorized staff to appropriate \$225,000 from Water Fund reserves to the Fiscal Year 2015 Drought Fund budget to meet staffing needs and continue drought response efforts through June 2015, in preparation for continued drought conditions. The staffing budget for Fiscal Year 2016 will be assessed at a later time.

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

SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office