



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: December 16, 2014

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Stage Two Drought Update

RECOMMENDATION:

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

DISCUSSION:

On February 11, 2014, Council declared a Stage One Drought and asked customers to reduce water use by 20 percent. 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. On May 20, 2014, Council declared a Stage Two Drought in response to a continued water shortage forecasted for next year and the inability of the community to reduce water usage by 20 percent. This report will cover the following items:

- Water Supply Outlook/Weather Forecast
- Drought Response Capital Projects
- Conservation Efforts

Water Supply Outlook

The water supply outlook remains unchanged from the November 18, 2014 drought update presentation. The Santa Barbara area received some moderate rainfall in early December, but the area needs pro-longed wet weather to make a significant impact on water supplies. The National Weather Service is projecting a weak El Nino weather condition and equal chances of above, below, or normal rainfall for Santa Barbara over the next few months. Due to the uncertainty in projected rainfall, staff is planning for continued drought conditions. Staff continues to work on securing additional supplemental water, accelerating drought related capital projects, and sustaining a strong message for extraordinary conservation. The most recent water conservation numbers for October 2014 show an ongoing 20 percent reduction in water use. Staff is

hopeful that the drought water rates that went into effect on July 1, 2014 will encourage the community to continue sustaining the 20 percent water use reduction.

Drought Response Capital Projects

Staff is moving forward with the design and construction of capital work projects to assist with water supply during the drought. This includes the acceleration of groundwater well replacement and projects that use poor quality groundwater in place of potable water for irrigation. Groundwater wells include the Corporation Yard Well, which is currently online and whose water is being treated at the Ortega Groundwater Treatment Plant; Valle Verde Well, whose water is being pumped into the City's recycled water system; and the new Alameda Well, that was recently awarded a contract for construction.

At the direction of Council, staff is moving forward with the reactivation of the City's Desalination Facility. On November 17, 2014, the Request For Proposal to design, build and operate the facility was sent to the three pre-qualified firms. Responses are due back on February 5, 2014. Staff is currently working on applying for a \$40 million State Revolving Fund loan for the project.

Conservation Efforts

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 additional trainings and workshops.

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

SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office



Stage 2 Drought Update



City Council
December 16, 2014



Overview

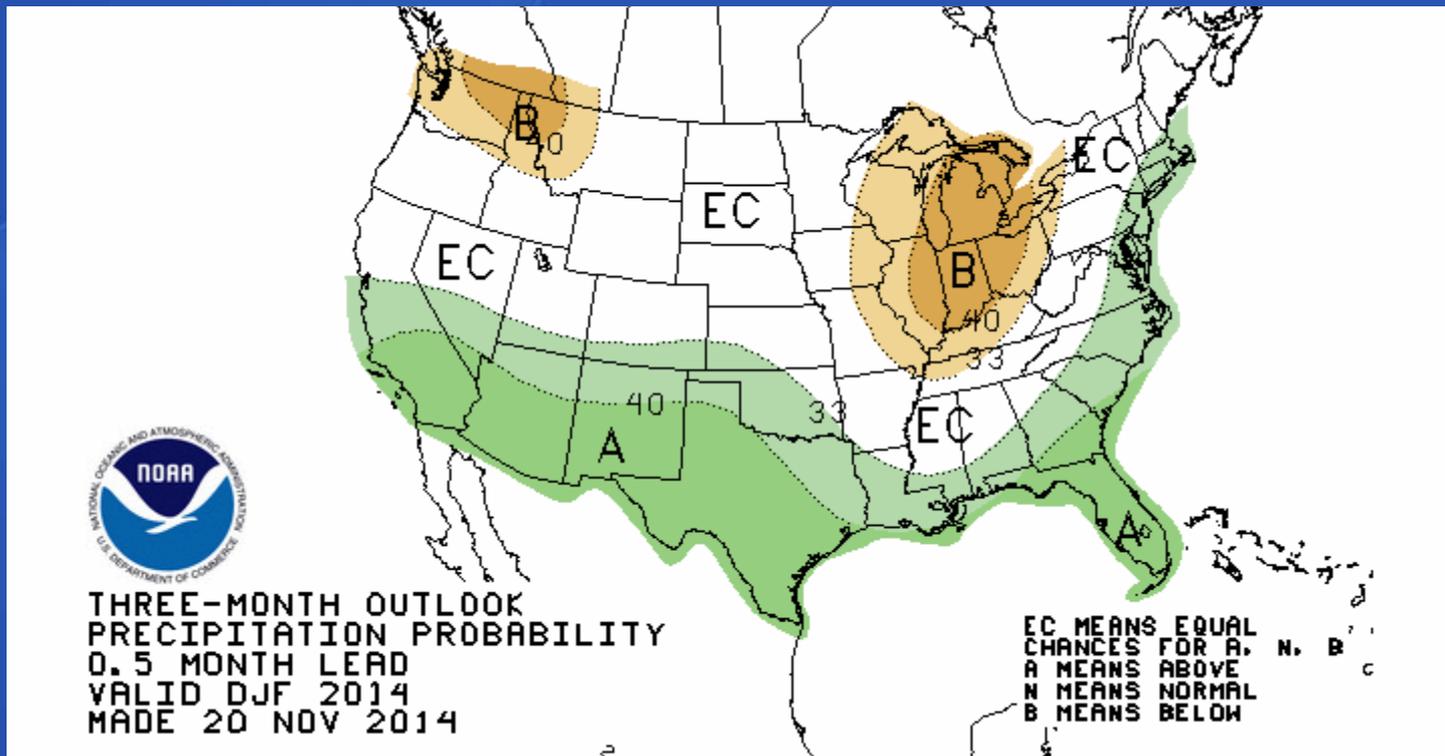
- ◆ Rainfall Totals & Weather Forecast
- ◆ Community Conservation and Water Supply Outlook
- ◆ State/Supplemental Water
- ◆ Drought Response Capital Projects
- ◆ Water Conservation Program

Rain Totals for WY 15

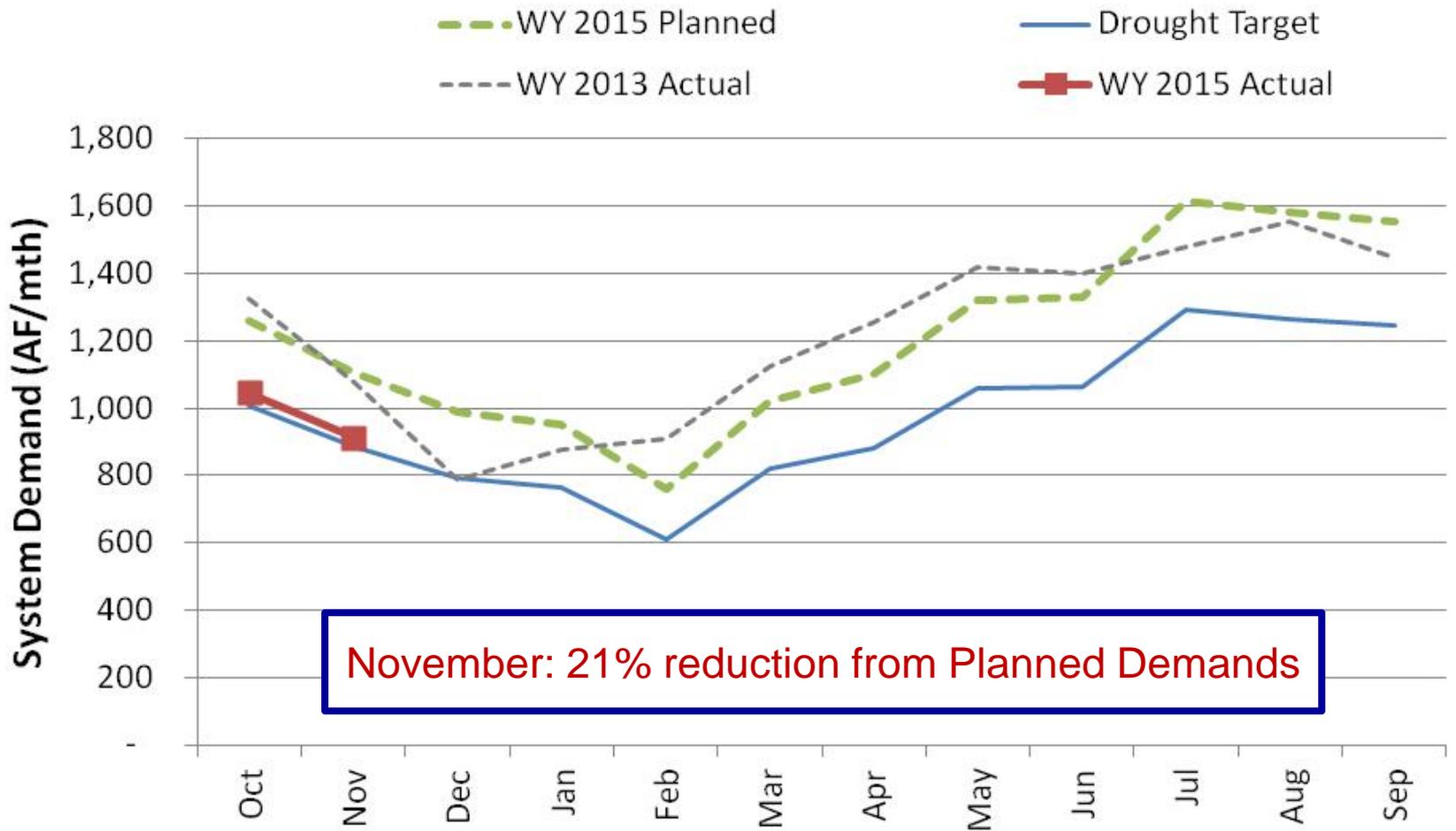
- ◆ Rainfall for the Water Year as of 12/15/14:
 - Gibraltar Lake – 7.47” (152% of Normal)
 - Lake Cachuma – 6.08” (157% of Normal)
 - Santa Barbara – 5.49” (1453% of Normal)
- ◆ Despite impressive start to the Water Year, it has not changed our current drought situation
- ◆ Above normal rainfall is required
 - Still no measurable runoff into local lakes
 - County Flood Control estimating we need 8” more before we see measurable runoff

National Weather Forecast

- ◆ Next three months: Above Average chances of Precipitation



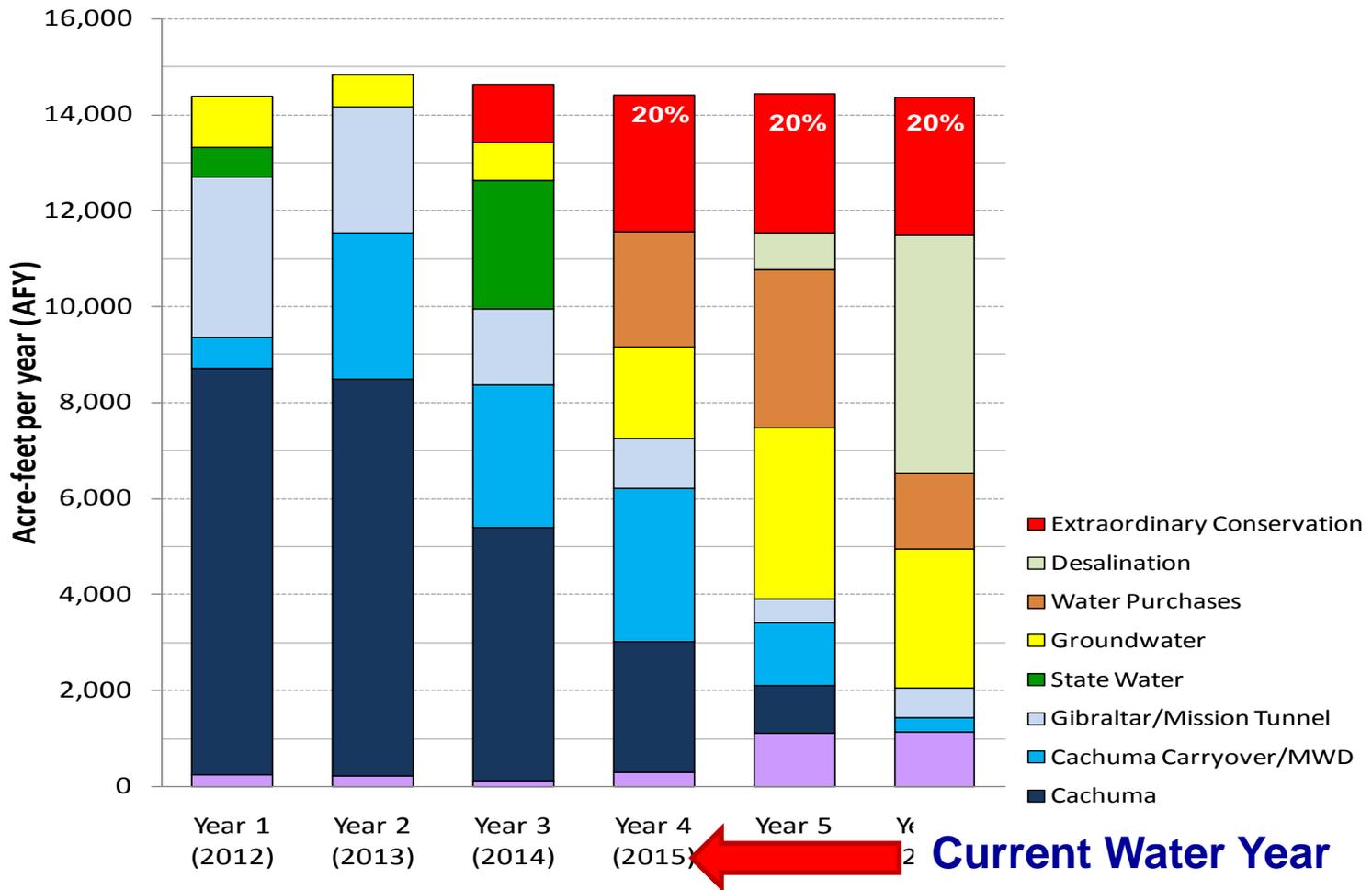
Monthly Demands



November: 21% reduction from Planned Demands

Current Supply Strategy

(based on no reservoir inflows, no State Water)



State & Supplemental Water

- ◆ Maximizing City's pipeline capacity and using capacity of others, as available
- ◆ Already secured needs for Water Year 2015 (based on 20% City-wide demand reduction)
- ◆ Working to secure 4,500 AF for later years of drought
 - Initial 2015 State Allocation is 10% (~300 AF)
 - Looking for Water Purchases State-wide
 - Budgeted \$3.5 M in FY 2015 Water Purchases

Drought Response Capital Projects

- ◆ Recycled Water System
- ◆ Groundwater Projects
- ◆ Desalination Plant



Recycled Water System Projects

- ◆ Valle Verde Well (Non-Potable)
 - Online
 - Meeting Current Recycled Water System Demands



Groundwater Well Project Highlights

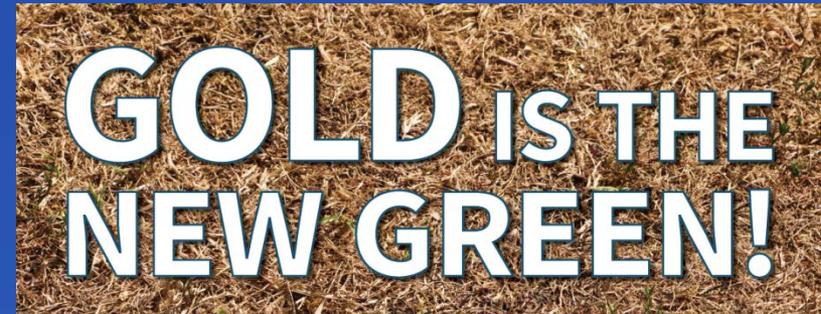
- ◆ Corp Yard
 - In production at 750 gpm
- ◆ Vera Cruz
 - Scheduled to be online by January 2015
- ◆ City Hall
 - Scheduled to be online by January 2015
 - Work will require temporary use of some City Hall Parking

Desal Project Highlights

- ◆ Submitting for SRF Loan in December
- ◆ Coastal Development Permit (CDP)
 - Hearing February in Pismo Beach
- ◆ NPDES Permit Amendment
 - RWQCB Public Hearing scheduled for January 29-30 in Santa Barbara

Conservation Outreach Update

- Free “Gold is the New Green” signs available to City water customers
 - 115 distributed
- 50 signs distributed to Parks & Recreation Department



We are doing our part to conserve water during the drought by reducing or eliminating watering this area of grass. *Let's save together!*

SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterWise



G  **LD**
is the **new green!**

We're *all* facing a severe drought in Santa Barbara.

We want you to know we're **doing our part** too. We're cutting down on how much we water certain areas, like this one.

To find out more about our drought response, please visit santabarbaraca.gov.

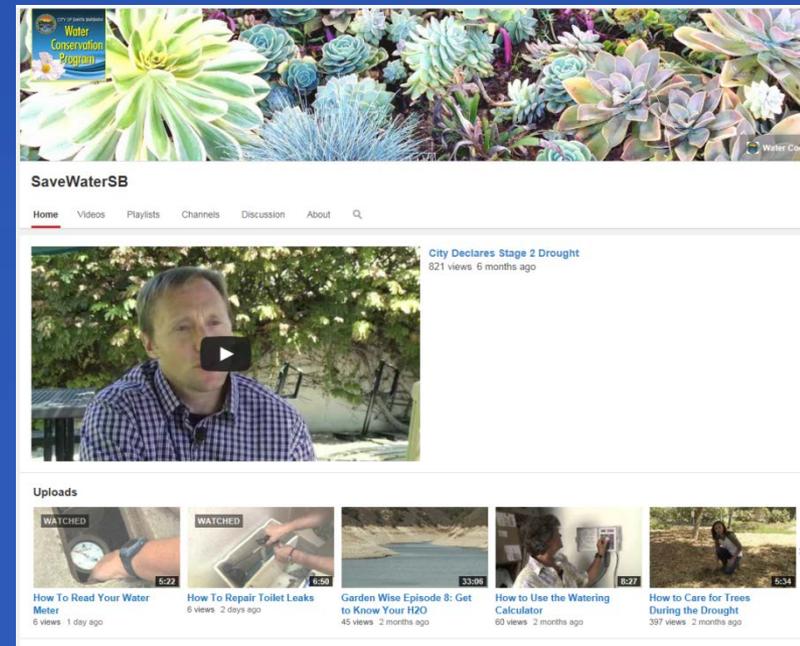
We're all in this together! Remember, #GoldIsTheNewGreen



Conservation Outreach Update

■ YouTube Channel

- 45 videos
 - How to read meter
 - Find & repair toilet leaks
 - Find and repair drip irrigation leaks
 - Identify sprinkler leaks
 - Adjust controllers
 - Garden Wise Episodes



■ YouTube.com/SaveWaterSB

Rain On – Sprinklers Off

- Make sure sprinkler timers are set to “Off”
 - 1 inch of rain = 1 week off for thirstiest plants
- Power outages:
 - May trigger default watering every day- can double or triple water bills





Questions?

(805) 564-5460

SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterWise



An aerial photograph of a vast, winding reservoir nestled in a mountainous landscape. The foreground shows a large concrete dam structure on the left. The middle ground is dominated by the reservoir's blue water, which reflects the sky and surrounding terrain. The background features a range of rugged mountains, with the highest peaks covered in snow under a clear blue sky with wispy clouds. The overall scene is a mix of natural beauty and human engineering.

Vision for a Wetter Tomorrow