



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 28, 2016

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Public Hearing And Adoption Of 2015 Urban Water Management Plan

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Hold a public hearing regarding the adoption of the City's 2015 Urban Water Management Plan;
- B. Adopt a 2020 water use target of 117 gallons per capita per day in accordance with the legislative requirements of the Water Conservation Act of 2009 and as set forth in Section 5 of the Urban Water Management Plan; and
- C. Adopt and authorize the Public Works Director to transmit the City's 2015 Urban Water Management Plan to the California Department of Water Resources with such minor revisions as may be approved by the Public Works Director to ensure compliance with State Urban Water Management Plan requirements and that are consistent with the City's Long Term Water Supply Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City's 2015 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) has been prepared as required by California Water Code (CWC), Section 10631. In accordance with CWC Section 10608, prior to adoption of the UWMP, the City Council must hold at least one public hearing regarding the UWMP.

An UWMP is a state-mandated report that generally summarizes the actions of water management agencies, with a planning horizon of 20 years. The 2015 UWMP must be reviewed, approved and submitted by the City to the Department of Water Resources no later than July 1, 2016. The City's primary water supply management tool is the 2011 Long Term Water Supply Plan (LTWSP) which was used as a basis for preparation of both the 2015 UWMP and the 2010 UWMP.

The updated 2015 UWMP fulfills CWC requirements mandating certain reporting obligations, including specific water conservation targets. The 2015 UWMP adopts a 2020 target for water use of 117 gallons per capita per day (GPCD), which the City is on track to meet, and an interim 2015 target of 123.4 GPCD, which the City has met. The 2015

UWMP demonstrates the City's long-term water supply and demand balance through 2035 under normal, single-year, and multi-year drought conditions, and it establishes a plan for responding to a catastrophic water supply emergency.

It is important to understand that the UWMP reflects a snapshot in time of the City's water supply planning. At the time of developing the 2015 UWMP, staff was responding to the current drought emergency. It is anticipated that the City will update its LTWSP after the current drought emergency has ended and new information regarding operational yield of existing supply becomes available, with a goal to update the City's LTWSP before the next required 2020 UWMP Update.

DISCUSSION:

An Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) is a state-mandated report that generally summarizes the actions of water management agencies. It provides managers and the public with a broad perspective on a number of water supply issues. The California Urban Water Management Planning Act (UWMP Act), requires preparation of a plan that:

- Accomplishes water supply planning over a 20-year period in 5-year increments.
- Identifies and quantifies water supplies, including recycled water, for existing and future demands, in normal, single-dry-, and multiple-dry-years.
- Describes conservation program implementation and efficient use of urban water supplies.
- Requires updating and re-adoption every five years, but can be updated or amended any time, as necessary.

The City's primary water supply management tool is the LTWSP. On June 14, 2011, the City adopted an update to its LTWSP in order to analyze water supplies for the City's 2011 General Plan Update (City of Santa Barbara, 2011). The goal of the LTWSP was to evaluate the adequacy and reliability of the City's water supply and provide a long-term view of how the City's water supplies would be managed. Information in the 2015 UWMP, as well as the 2010 UWMP, reflects the analyses completed for the 2011 LTWSP. An update of the LTWSP is anticipated upon the conclusion of the current severe drought and will be used in the preparation of the City's 2020 UWMP update. Future updates will include any new information regarding operational yield of existing supply and any long-term strategy changes resulting from the current drought or other factors.

The updated 2015 UWMP fulfills the CWC requirements mandating certain reporting obligations, including specific water conservation targets. The 2015 UWMP updates the 2010 UWMP and uses the 2011 LTWSP as the basis for water supply projections. Some of the changes and key findings contained in the 2015 UWMP are summarized below:

Water Supply and Demand Projections to 2035:

The UWMP must provide water supply planning for a 20-year planning horizon. The 2015 UWMP projects water demands and supplies out to the year 2035.

Updated Population Numbers:

The Water Conservation Act of 2009 (CWC 10608.16 et seq) requires urban water suppliers to prepare water use targets to drive conservation efforts, measured in gallons per capita per day (GPCD). A significant input to these targets is population. For 2015, Department of Water Resources (DWR) required that all population projections be based on 2010 U.S. Census data. The basis for the 2015 UWMP population projections is California Department of Finance data (which is based on 2010 Census data) for the City, and the Mission Canyon areas. City staff has confirmed with DWR that the new population projections are appropriate and meet the requirements of the CWC. In general, the new population projections are higher than those in the 2010 plan by approximately 500 people per year throughout the planning horizon.

Water Use Targets and Water Conservation:

As described in the Water Conservation Act of 2009, the intent of California legislature is to increase water use efficiency. The legislature has set a goal of a 20 percent per capita reduction in urban water use statewide by 2020. Consistent with those goals, the 2015 UWMP provides an estimate of Base Daily Per Capita Water Use (BDPCWU) and establishes water use targets for the years 2015 and 2020 using state-mandated methodologies. The BDPCWU is updated in the 2015 UWMP to reflect the updated population numbers described above. Council adoption of the 2015 UWMP confirms the City's calculations of its state-mandated water use targets of 123 GPCD for 2015 and 117 GPCD for 2020. The updated population numbers described above did not result in a change in the targets; therefore, they are the same as the 2010 UWMP.

Compliance GPCD:

According to the Water Conservation Act of 2009, water suppliers are required to calculate and report actual 2015 water use and determine whether or not they have met the per capita 2015 target water use. The City's 2015 target water use is 123 GPCD. The City's actual water use in 2015 was 102 GPCD, which is lower than its 2015 target water use of 123 GPCD based on "normal" conditions. The City's water use significantly decreased in 2015 due to the multi-year statewide drought. For the 2015 UWMP, the City demonstrates that its "normal" 2015 water use would have been 120 GPCD and thus the City would have met its target regardless of the extraordinary conservation seen in response to the drought.

Suppliers are also required to assess progress toward meeting the 2020 target water use. The City demonstrates that it is on track to meet the 2020 target of 117 GPCD, regardless of drought or non-drought conditions in the future. In support of the City's 2011 LTWSP, the City hired Maddaus Water Management, Inc. to develop a water demand and conservation model to evaluate the City's Water Conservation Program. Based on this modeling work, the City's 2020 per capita water use is projected to be 116 GPCD assuming normal conditions. Any long-term changes in water use resulting

from extraordinary conservation in the current drought response would further reduce demands; in which case, the City would further exceed its target.

Economic Impacts:

The UWMP Act requires that the City include discussion of economic impacts resulting from the required water use targets. As discussed above, the City's actual 2015 water use meets the interim target, and projected water use is expected to meet or exceed the 2020 target. The Maddaus model used to analyze the City's Water Conservation Program quantifies both the demand reduction effects of different conservation measures as well as their cost. Therefore, the City's conservation program is selected based on its cost-effectiveness compared with the cost of additional, more expensive water supply. Because the City's long-term conservation plan is based on its cost-effectiveness, and the plan meets or exceeds the conservation requirements of the Water Conservation Act of 2009, the requirements are not expected to produce an economic impact.

Water Supply during Normal and Drought Conditions:

The UWMP requires that water supply availability is analyzed under normal hydrology, single-dry-year, and multi-dry-year periods. Based on the historical data used in the 2011 LTWSP, the critical drought period had a duration of five years, with the worst local drought occurring during 1947-1952. At the time of developing the 2015 UWMP, the City was experiencing extreme drought conditions. City staff resources are focused on responding to the current drought emergency, with planning policies adopted in the 2011 LTWSP. After the current drought emergency is over, the City will incorporate the current drought information into its modeling analyses and revisit its long-term planning policies for future droughts. Other factors, such as new environmental requirements or operational factors that could further reduce water supply availability, will also be incorporated. It is anticipated that the City will update its LTWSP prior to the next round of UWMP updates, and the potential new drought of record will be incorporated into the City's 2020 UWMP.

Water Shortage Contingency Planning:

The Water Shortage Contingency Planning section continues a three-stage drought response approach that maintains flexibility for Council to approve measures that best respond to current conditions at any particular point in a drought or other water shortage condition. It reflects the importance of the public's role in providing extraordinary conservation during droughts, in addition to ongoing efficiency efforts. Potential response measures include a comprehensive public information campaign, rate adjustments to reflect revenue requirements and available water supply, water use regulations, development restrictions, and rationing for severe conditions or catastrophic interruption.

The Draft Plan was posted on the City's Internet site at www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/water on April 29, 2016 for the State-required 60-day public review period. Key agencies were notified to give an opportunity to provide comments for consideration prior to preparation of the final drafts.

Staff provided an update to the Water Commission on the Draft 2015 UWMP at the regular Water Commission meeting on April 21, 2016, and May 19, 2016. Comments received from the Water Commission have been incorporated into the Final Draft 2015 UWMP. Written comments to the Draft UWMP were received from Santa Barbara Channelkeeper.

The Final Draft 2015 Urban Water Management Plan has been provided to Mayor and Council under separate cover and is available for review at the City Clerk's Office.

The City Environmental Analyst has determined that the adoption of the 2015 UWMP qualifies for a Statutory Exemption from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as established by the State Legislature and specified in the California Water Code (Urban Water Management Planning Act, Section 10652), and the CEQA Guidelines (Section 15282(v)).

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SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office