



Agenda Item No. _____

File Code No.

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Item 5

AGENDA DATE: June 24, 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.

DISCUSSION:

On May 20, 2014, Council declared a Stage Two Drought in response to a continued water shortage forecasted for next year and the need for the community 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, progress on reducing water usage, and current work efforts. This report will cover the following items:

- Water Supply Outlook
- Supplemental Water
- Drought Response Capital Projects
- Conservation Efforts

The Water Supply Outlook remains unchanged from the May 20, 2014 Stage Two declaration. The earliest our region generally receives significant rain is late October, and staff continues to work on securing additional supplemental water, accelerating drought related capital projects, and sustaining a strong message for extraordinary conservation.

The City has secured supplemental water to meet the projected shortages for next year, provided that the community can achieve the 20% reduction in water usage, and our wells are able to be operated as planned. Staff continues to work with the Central Coast Water Authority to identify additional opportunities for supplemental water, should it be necessary.

Staff is moving forward with the design and construction of capital projects to assist with water supply during the drought. This includes the acceleration of groundwater well replacements, including the use of poor quality groundwater wells in place of potable

water for irrigation, and preliminary design work to restart the City's Desalination Facility, should it become necessary.

Staff has increased the Water Conservation Outreach Program through an enhanced drought media campaign, including:

- additional targeted outreach
- 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
- added temporary hourly staff to take on increased requests for water checkups
- additional trainings and workshops

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SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office