

TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Doug Monn, Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Declaration of Level 2 Water Shortage Condition
DATE: February 21, 2012

NEEDS: For City Council to consider declaring a Level 2 Water Supply Shortage Condition in response to a projected 20 percent shortfall between water production capacity and peak summer water demand.

FACTS:

1. Local rainfall through mid-February is 5.36 inches; approximately 50 percent of the long-term average.
2. Dryer than normal conditions are expected to continue through remainder of the rainfall season.
3. Groundwater pumping throughout the groundwater basin is anticipated to increase significantly over pumping in recent years.
4. Increased basin-wide pumping and reduced basin recharge will decrease water levels in City wells and reduce water production capacity during the summer of 2012.
5. It is projected that a 20 percent reduction in City-wide peak summer water demand will be needed to balance demand with available supply.

ANALYSIS &
CONCLUSION: The City Council first declared a Level 2 Water Supply Shortage Condition in 2009. Level 2 mandatory watering schedule restrictions were in effect during 2009 and 2010 from May through September. In June, 2011, the Level 2 Shortage condition was downgraded to Level 1 Water Shortage Condition (voluntary watering restrictions). This change was possible due to an extremely wet winter and near-record cool temperatures in 2011 that reduced water demands within the City and across the groundwater basin.

Precipitation for the 2012 water year is currently 50%^(+/-) of normal. Based on a review of City well production records during past years of low rainfall, a significant decline in total water production capacity is expected for the 2012 peak season. The anticipated reduction in production capacity is due to: 1) higher expected groundwater demands throughout the basin, and 2) reduced recharge of the groundwater basin. These two factors are expected to result in lower water levels in City wells and reduced pumping capacity.

Ordinance No. 957 N.S. permits the City Council to declare a Level 2 Water Supply Shortage Condition when there is a reasonable probability there will be a supply shortage and that a demand reduction of up to 20 percent is required to avoid a shortage.

Upon declaration of a Level 2 condition, the public will be notified that mandatory Level 2 outdoor watering restrictions will be in effect beginning May 1. Up to two part-time water conservation staff will be hired for the May-September period to provide code enforcement

related to the Level 2 outdoor watering schedule restrictions. Funds have been budgeted for 2012 code enforcement staffing.

POLICY

REFERENCE: Ordinance No. 09-957 N.S.

FISCAL

IMPACT: \$39,000 - Water Enterprise Fund 600-310-364-5102

OPTIONS:

1. Declare Level 2 Water Shortage Condition
2. Amend, modify, or reject.

Prepared by: Christopher Alakel, Water Resources Manager

Attachments: Resolution No.

RESOLUTION NO. 12-xxx

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES
ESTABLISHING A LEVEL 2 WATER SHORTAGE CONDITION

WHEREAS, rainfall during the period from October, 2011 through mid-February, 2012 is at 50 percent of normal.

WHEREAS, as a result of dry conditions, groundwater pumping by water users within the Paso Robles Groundwater basin is anticipated to increase significantly over 2010 and 2011.

WHEREAS, increased basin-wide pumping and reduced basin recharge during 2012 is projected to result in lower groundwater levels and reduced well production capacity during the summer of 2012.

WHEREAS, City-wide peak summer water demands in 2012 are projected to exceed available water supply capacity by 20 percent.

WHEREAS, the water conservation programs associated with a Level 2 Water Supply Shortage Condition are necessary to balance water demand with anticipated supply.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Paso Robles does hereby declare that a Level 2 Water Supply Shortage Condition exists.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles this 21th day of February, 2012, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:

Caryn Jackson, Deputy City Clerk