

TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Doug Monn, Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Policy to Provide Emergency Water to Rural Residents
DATE: September 2, 2014

NEEDS: For City Council to consider policies for use of hydrant meters to provide emergency water to rural residents outside City limits.

FACTS:

1. California is experiencing one of the driest years in state history, a condition that particularly affects those who rely on private wells in the unincorporated area of the North County.
2. The City has received requests to allow water trucks to fill from the City water system for emergency delivery to rural residents outside the City limits.
3. On July 1, 2014, City Council directed staff to propose "policies that would support requests from potable water haulers for hydrant meters to provide emergency water to rural residents outside City limits, subject to City discretion to cease or suspend such hydrant water use in accordance with the City's Water Conservation and Water Shortage Contingency Plan".

**ANALYSIS &
CONCLUSION:**

As a result of the City's water supply planning and conservation efforts, the City presently has sufficient water supplies to serve a limited amount of emergency water to residents outside the City facing a hardship. The attached resolution outlines a policy to provide water on an emergency basis while still protecting the City's water customers:

- Emergency water hauling would be for rural residential uses only, with water availability limited by and subject to the City's Water Conservation and Water Shortage Contingency Plan.
- A water hauler would have to provide evidence reasonably satisfactory to the City that it would be providing water to rural residents who need water for their domestic purposes. The hauler would be required to enter into the City's Hydrant Rental Agreement, and be responsible for payment for the water used. ,
- Hydrant water usage would be billed at the same rates charged to other potable water customers.
- Per the City's Water Conservation and Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Chapter 14.02), at declared Level 2 or 3 water supply shortage conditions, the City may suspend the issuance of new hydrant meters and/or recall all outstanding hydrant meters. At Level 4, no new commitments to provide water inside or outside the City are allowed.

On July 1, 2014, City Council also directed staff to bring back proposed policies pertaining to two additional topics:

- a) Treating and wheeling available surface water supplies to neighborhoods bordering the City, and
- b) Wheeling a portion of the City's unused and untreated Nacimiento entitlement on a temporary basis and/or available recycled water for irrigation and/or other non-potable uses outside the City limits to supplement area water supplies, lessen basin pumping, and more fully utilize surface water supplies.

Proposed policies will be presented in a future meeting agenda.

POLICY

REFERENCE:

Water Conservation and Water Shortage Contingency Plan Ordinance No. 957 N.S., and 2010 City of Paso Robles Urban Water Management Plan.

FISCAL

IMPACT:

No additional impacts.

OPTIONS:

- a. Adopt Resolution 14-xxx to:
 1. Adopt a policy to allow City to rent hydrant meters to potable water haulers for the limited purpose of providing water on an emergency basis to rural residents outside City limits, subject to City discretion to cease or suspend such hydrant water use in accordance with the City's Water Conservation and Water Shortage Contingency Plan.
- b. Amend, modify, or reject the above option.

RESOLUTION NO. 14-XXX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES
ADOPTING A POLICY FOR PROVIDING WATER ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS
TO RURAL RESIDENTS OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS

WHEREAS, California is experiencing one of the driest years in state history, prompting the County and State to declare a state of emergency and for the City to implement its local water shortage contingency plans; and

WHEREAS, some rural residents with private wells in the unincorporated area near the City have reported that their wells have gone dry, and water well drillers report a backlog of requests to deepen wells; and

WHEREAS, the City anticipates it may receive requests to provide water on an emergency basis to individual rural residents whose wells have gone dry; and

WHEREAS, the City at times issues permits for hydrant meters for the temporary use of fire hydrants within the City limits and bills such usage at the same rates charged to other potable water customers; and

WHEREAS, although City continues to operate at a Level 2 water supply shortage condition, as a result of the City's careful water supply planning, diversification, and conservation efforts, the City presently has sufficient water supplies both to serve its City customers and to temporarily provide emergency water to neighbors outside City limits that are facing a hardship; and

WHEREAS, the City's adopted Water Conservation and Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Municipal Code chapter 14.02) provides for the discretionary suspension of the issuance of new hydrant meters and/or the recall all outstanding hydrant meters at Levels 2 and 3 water supply shortage conditions; and

WHEREAS, at Level 4, no new commitments or arrangements to provide water are allowed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles does hereby establish policies as follows:

1. Allow a potable water hauler who provides evidence reasonably satisfactory to the City that it is providing water to rural residents outside the City limits in need of emergency domestic water to apply for hydrant meters.
2. Such provision of hydrant meters would be subject to City discretion to disapprove, cease or suspend any such hydrant water use in accordance with the City's Water Conservation and Water Shortage Contingency Plan and other City powers and authorities (i.e., at declared Level 2 or 3 water supply shortage conditions, the City may suspend the issuance of new hydrant meters and/or recall all outstanding hydrant meters; at Level 4, no new commitments to provide water inside or outside the City are allowed);
3. Haulers would be required to execute and adhere to the City's Hydrant Meter Rental Agreement and be responsible for payment pursuant to the Agreement.
4. Hydrant water usage to be billed at the same rates charged to other potable water customers.

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The policy established herein in support of the provision of emergency water supplies shall not apply to applications for new and/or permanent water service connections to customers outside existing City limits.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles at a regular meeting of said City Council held on the 2nd day of September, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:

Caryn Jackson, Deputy City Clerk