



CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES
"The Pass of the Oaks"

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
Tuesday, February 3, 2009 7:30 PM

ADDENDUM
to Regular Meeting

MEETING LOCATION: PASO ROBLES LIBRARY/CITY HALL
CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 SPRING STREET

DISCUSSION

16. Water Conservation Manager

D. Monn, Director of Public Works

For the City Council to consider authorizing a contract Water Conservation Manager position.

OPTIONS:

- a. Adopt Resolution No. 09-XXX authorizing the retention of a Contract Water Conservation; or
- b. Amend, modify or reject the above option.

ROLL CALL VOTE

*** End of Addendum ***

TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Doug Monn, Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Water Conservation Manager
DATE: February 3, 2009

NEEDS: For City Council to consider authorizing a contract Water Conservation Manager position.

FACTS:

1. The City water system has been incapable of satisfying peak summer demands for the past several years, resulting in substantial water storage deficiencies.
2. Seasonal water storage levels are substantially below what is necessary to provide adequate emergency and fire protection.
3. Production capacity has been trending significantly downward in recent years.
4. Due to increasing water demands coupled with reduced production capacity and decreasing precipitation, a deep production shortfall is predicted for this spring and summer.
5. The City's Salinas River underflow wells (which account for 50% of the City's production capacity) are experiencing historic-low production levels. Thunderbird Well #17 which typically produces between 900-1,000 gpm has been shut down due to excessively low groundwater conditions. Well production is roughly half of what is typical for this time of year; never has the production of this wellfield been this low.
6. To address the projected 2009 production shortfall, total City water consumption will need to be reduced by a minimum of 2.3 million gallons per day (18% of total production during peak season).
7. Summertime demands can exceed winter demand by over 330%. The majority of this demand increase is due to irrigation.
8. Residents and businesses need to take actions to conserve in order to offset the projected 2009 seasonal shortfall and to protect against possible water outages.
9. Additionally, it is likely that state legislation will, over the longer term, require reduced consumption by an additional 20% over the next two years.

**ANALYSIS &
CONCLUSION:**

The City's monthly demands vary from a low of approximately 4.1 percent of the total annual production in January to a high of approximately 13.5 percent in July. Said another way, the summer demand is more than triple the winter demand. Additionally, the volume of water that ends up at the wastewater treatment plant remains relatively constant year-round. Increased production and consumption is due largely to the increase in (summertime) irrigation.

Over the past several years the City has had difficulty satisfying peak season demands. In an effort to keep pace with demand the City focused efforts on enhancing production capability. These efforts include well rehabilitation, installing new wells, and recommissioning standby wells. In spite of these efforts, overall water production has been declining.

In the summer of 2004 total production capacity was roughly 8,800 gallons per minute (gpm) or 12.7 million gallons per day (MGD). In 2008 the total summertime production capacity was 8,100 gpm (11.7 MGD). It is estimated that maximum summertime production in 2009 will decline even further to approximately 7,153 gpm (10.4 MGD), and peak summer demand is estimated to be between 12 and 12.7 MGD.

Further compounding the production-shortfall is the continued below-normal perception pattern being experienced in our area. As of January 27, Paso Robles precipitation was 45% of normal. Without substantial rainfall to recharge the Salinas River underflow, production of the Thunderbird Wellfield will continue to decline. The Thunderbird Wells account for roughly half of the City's current production capability and are currently experiencing the lowest production levels ever recorded.

Per capita water use is quite high in the City of Paso Robles. To address the 2009 production shortfall, water consumption will need to be reduced by as much as 2.3 MGD. This is equivalent to approximately 250 gallons per residential meter (approximately 26% reduction in peak season residential usage). Average residential daily water demand can reach 980 gallons per meter during peak season. While the most obvious action to reduce water use is to limit irrigation, the overall and long range effort must be multifaceted including education programs, public outreach, retrofit and landscape conservation ordinances. To accomplish this task in a timeframe that will address the projected 2009 production shortfall, the City needs to immediately seek a contract Water Conservation Manager.

POLICY

REFERENCE: Integrated Water Resource Management Plan, 2005 Urban Water Management Plan

FISCAL

IMPACT: The funding is included in the Water Operations Fund at \$122,000 per year.

- OPTIONS:**
- A. Adopt Resolution No. 09-xx authorizing the retention of a Contract Water Conservation Manager.
 - B. Amend, modify or reject the above option.

Prepared by: Christopher Alakel, Water Resources Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 09-xx

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES
AUTHORIZING THE RETENTION OF A WATER CONSERVATION MANAGER

WHEREAS, the City has been unable at times to meet seasonal peak water demands, and water production levels continue to decline, and next summer production capacity is likely to hit an all-time low; and

WHEREAS, a Water Conservation Manager can develop a City-wide conservation program to help reduce overall water consumption and mitigate projected shortfalls.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles does hereby appropriate the anticipated annual expense of \$122,000 from the Water Operations Fund to Budget Account No. 600-310-5101-165 to fund the Water Conservation Manager Position.

SECTION 2. The City Council does hereby authorize staff to advertise and retain a Contract Water Conservation Manager

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles this 3rd day of February 2009 by the following votes:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cathy David, Deputy City Clerk