

Agenda Report

January 25, 2016

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Water and Power Department

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING TO TEMPORARILY IMPLEMENT A LEVEL 4 WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGE PLAN PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 13.10 OF THE PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE IN PREPARATION FOR PLANNED SHUTDOWN OF IMPORTED WATER SUPPLY

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the determination of a water supply shortage and implementation of recommended Water Supply Shortage Plans and additional water conservation measures pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code ("PMC") Chapter 13.10 are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15307 (Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources);
2. Determine that the planned shutdown of imported water supplies from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California ("MWD") scheduled for February 29, 2016 through approximately March 9, 2016 constitutes a water supply shortage emergency condition, pursuant to PMC 13.10.015;
3. Determine that the temporary implementation of the Level 4 Water Supply Shortage Plan (PMC 13.10.052) water conservation measures commencing February 25, 2016 through the actual date that imported water supplies from MWD are restored is appropriate to address the water supply shortage emergency;
4. Determine that the additional water conservation measures adopted by the City Council on June 1, 2015 shall remain in effect;
5. Determine that the current Level 2 Water Supply Shortage Plan water conservation measures shall resume upon termination of the temporary Level 4 Water Supply Shortage Plan measures; and
6. Adopt implementation of the Level 4 Water Supply Shortage and other recommended measures by way of public proclamation (Attachment A) pursuant to Pasadena's Water Waste Prohibitions and Water Supply Shortage Plan Ordinance (PMC 13.10).

BACKGROUND:

Pasadena Water and Power (“PWP”) imports approximately 60 percent of its water from the MWD. From February 29 through March 9, 2016, MWD will suspend water deliveries to Pasadena and other member agencies to allow for switchover to a new ozonation disinfection system that is currently under construction at its Weymouth Water Treatment Plant in the City of La Verne. This plant treats water from the Colorado River and the State Water Project, and the imported water is delivered to Pasadena through five connections along the Upper Feeder Pipeline. MWD requires ten days for the switchover and its contractors are scheduled to work around the clock to meet the tight deadline.

Water Supply and Demand During the MWD Water Shutdown

During the MWD shutdown, PWP must rely solely on local groundwater supplies, water stored in its reservoirs, and conservation. These sources cannot meet PWP’s projected water supply needs of 23-24 million gallons per day (“MGD”) for typical March conditions, or even the 20 MGD March demand during wetter conditions.

Over several days prior to the shutdown, PWP’s reservoirs will be filled to their maximum operating capacity and will be able to supply approximately 77 million gallons (“MG”) during the shutdown. In addition, five groundwater wells will provide a combined total production of about 10.3 MGD during the shutdown. In total, PWP anticipates a maximum water supply of 180 MG, or 18 MGD, will be available during the planned ten-day shutdown.

Staff projects that there will be sufficient water supply to meet approximately ten days of demand if water consumption is reduced to the levels achieved under the Level 4 Water Supply Shortage Plans in effect during similar MWD shutdowns in the past. PWP water demand was reduced to 15.2 MGD during the March 2011 shutdown (with relatively wet conditions), and 18.3 MGD during the February 2013 shutdown (a very dry period). This projection does not account for possible setbacks which may include an extension of the MWD shutdown due to construction delays; loss of any local water wells due to mechanical or electrical failure; or increased demand due to unusually warm or dry weather, a large main break, or a significant fire event. Establishing a conservation target of at least 30% below average March usage (16-17 MGD) during the shutdown would provide a small one-to two-day cushion in water supply.

Although it is anticipated that El Niño could bring rain to the area thus alleviating some concerns for water consumption, an aggressive outreach program notifying water customers to conserve water and implementing the Level 4 Water Supply Shortage Plan during the 2016 shutdown is recommended to responsibly manage PWP’s limited water supplies.

Recommended Level 4 Water Supply Shortage Plan Implementation

To ensure adequate supplies of water for essential indoor uses during the MWD shutdown, PWP recommends the temporary adoption of a Level 4 Water Supply Shortage Plan that prohibits outdoor watering with few exceptions. The Level 4 Water Supply Shortage Plan includes the following water conservation measures:

- Watering or irrigating of lawn, landscape or other vegetated area is prohibited with very limited exceptions, as specified in PMC 13.10.052(B)1.
- No exemptions to outdoor watering will be allowed during this time frame. All active public parks and playing fields must adhere to the water prohibitions. This includes golf courses, schools, and parks.
- Repairing leaks, breaks or malfunctions within twenty –four (24) hours of notification by PWP.
- Filling or re-filling ornamental lakes or ponds is prohibited except to the extent necessary to sustain aquatic life.
- Limiting refill of residential swimming pools or outdoor spas to no more than one foot. Initial filling of pools and spas is prohibited.
- Suspending installation of new potable water services, and issuance of temporary or permanent meters. No statements of immediate ability to service or provide potable water service will be issued, with limited exceptions as specified in PMC 13.10.052(B)5.

The Level 4 restrictions must be imposed several days prior to the planned shutdown to ensure that reservoirs can be filled; therefore, it is recommended that the Level 4 restrictions be put in place effective the morning of Thursday, February 25, 2016.

All permanent water waste prohibitions under PMC 13.10, as well as the additional water conservation measures adopted by the City Council on June 1, 2015, will continue to remain in effect. These additional water conservation measures include:

- Prohibit the irrigation of turf within 48-hours following a measurable precipitation;
- Prohibit washing down hard or paved surfaces using potable water, except where necessary to alleviate safety or sanitary hazards (this revoked a pre-existing exemption for pressure washers or water brooms);
- Require that all master-metered multifamily properties certify installation of water efficient shower heads and aerators; and,
- Require residential properties be retrofitted to current code upon resale of the property.

The temporary Level 4 restrictions will be lifted within 24 hours of the restoration of imported water supplies from MWD, at which time implementation of the current Level 2 Water Supply Shortage Plan will resume.

Public Outreach

PWP, in conjunction with MWD, will implement a broad outreach program to keep customers informed and allow them to be better prepared. Outreach will include:

1. Print information mailed to all PWP customers
2. Press releases
3. Information updates via periodic newsletters such as the City Manager Weekly Newsletter, PWP E-newsletter, Pasadena In Focus, etc.
4. Direct outreach to large commercial water users, stakeholders, nurseries, irrigation supply retailers, landscapers, Caltrans, PUSD, City Departments, Chamber of Commerce, City Council field reps, and neighborhood associations
5. Daily updates prior to and during the shutdown on the City's website, Facebook, and Twitter
6. Updated message on the City phone system
7. Joint agency press conference
8. Print advertisements
9. Lawn signs
10. Digital changeable message signs

Enforcement

During the period of the Level 4 Water Supply Shortage Plan, PWP will assign more staff to patrol for violations and respond to water waste reports. When violations are observed or reported, PWP staff will notify customers as soon as possible in person, by leaving door hangar, and/or by telephone to encourage timely compliance.

In addition, pursuant to PMC 13.10.065, penalties for residential customers and all other customers with water meters less than 1½ inches are as follows:

1. First Violation: A written notice of violation will be delivered via U.S. mail
2. Second Violation: One hundred dollar (\$100.00) fine
3. Third Violation: Two hundred dollar (\$200.00) fine
4. Fourth Violation: Three hundred and fifty dollar (\$350.00) fine
5. Fifth and Subsequent Violations: Five hundred dollar (\$500.00) fine

Fines are doubled for non-residential customers with water meters 1½ inches or larger in accordance with PMC 13.10.067.

Public Hearing Timeline

The following activities have been executed in preparation for the public hearing:

- December 8, 2015 – Informational presentation to MSC;
- December 14, 2015 – Presentation to City Council and Set Public Hearing date;
- January 7, 2016 – Publish Public Hearing Notification in Pasadena Journal to meet the minimum 10-day notification period in advance of the public hearing.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed outdoor water usage restrictions will be implemented in accordance with PMC Chapter 13.10. It will promote increased water conservation and extend available supplies during the shutdown.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

The project has been determined to be exempt per Section 15307 of the CEQA Guidelines, Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources. This exemption consists of actions by regulatory agencies as authorized by State law or local ordinance to assure maintenance of a natural resource (such as water) where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the resource. It has been determined that implementing a Level 4 Water Supply Shortage Plan will have no secondary environmental impacts because a significant amount of current water consumption is used to over water landscaping and runs off the target area into storm sewers or evaporates before it can percolate into the ground. It is estimated that many customers over water by as much as 50%. It is possible that reducing water consumption among those customers may actually improve the health of their landscaping. Furthermore, the Raymond Basin Management Board has already mitigated recharge issues by restricting pumping rights from the Raymond Basin effective July 1, 2009.

FISCAL IMPACT:

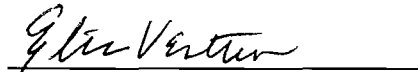
As a result of reduced water sales during the recommended Level 4 Water Supply Shortage Plan, Water Fund revenues are expected to be reduced approximately \$300,000 to \$400,000 and purchased water costs will decline by approximately \$200,000 to \$250,000. These reductions have been incorporated in the amended FY 2016 budget that was revised to reflect the State mandated 28% reduction in water consumption. In addition, \$50,000 for public outreach and minor administrative costs are expected to be incurred to implement the recommended Level 4 Water Supply Shortage Plan.

Respectfully submitted,



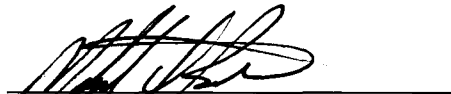
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Attachments

Attachment A – Level 4 Water Shortage Plan Proclamation