

# Agenda Report

January 28, 2013

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Water and Power Department  
**Subject:** Public Hearing Regarding Temporary Implementation of a Level 4 Water Supply Shortage Plan (PMC 13.10.052) Pursuant to Chapter 13.10 of the Pasadena Municipal Code in Preparation for Planned Shutdown of Imported Water Facilities

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that the City Council following a public hearing:

1. Find that the determination of a water supply shortage and implementation of a Level 4 Water Supply Shortage Plan (PMC 13.10.052) 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, pursuant to PMC 13.10.035, that the planned shutdown of imported water supplies from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California ("MWD") from February 21 through February 28, 2013 constitutes a water supply shortage emergency condition;
3. Determine that the Level 4 Water Supply Shortage Plan (PMC 13.10.052) water conservation measures are appropriate to address the water supply shortage emergency and shall remain in effect for the full duration of the MWD shutdown and resumption of imported water supplies from MWD; and
4. Adopt a Proclamation to implement the above recommendations.

## **BACKGROUND:**

From February 21 through 28, 2013, MWD will be replacing old valve actuators at its F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant ("Weymouth Plant") in La Verne and at its Eagle Rock Tower in Eagle Rock; repairing a joint in the Upper Feeder Pipeline; and installing chemical ports at the Weymouth Plant. The replacement of the valve actuators is critical to MWD's operations for purposes of isolating its distribution system during emergencies and planned shutdowns. MWD requires eight (8) days to make the necessary repairs and its contractors are scheduled to work around the clock to meet the tight deadline.

Pasadena Water and Power (“PWP”) receives 60 percent of its imported water from the Weymouth Plant through MWD’s Upper Feeder Pipeline. During the MWD shutdown, PWP must rely solely on local groundwater supplies, water stored in its reservoirs, and conservation.

The disruption in MWD water deliveries to the City of Pasadena (“City”) constitutes a water supply shortage emergency condition, as PWP’s groundwater wells and reservoir storage will not meet the City’s water needs at average consumption levels during the shutdown. Prior to the shutdown, PWP’s reservoirs will be filled to their maximum capacity and will be able to supply approximately 80 million gallons (MG). In addition, five groundwater wells will provide about 95 MG. In total, PWP anticipates a maximum water supply of 175 MG will be available during the eight-day shutdown. Staff projects, based on historical average water usage and present demand conditions, that all of this supply will be consumed within eight-days. Without conservation, there will be no reserves to cover contingencies such as: An extension of the MWD shutdown due to repair 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. Therefore, a 30 percent reduction in water usage during the shutdown is necessary to ensure adequate supplies for indoor and other critical water needs. During the shutdown, a 30 percent reduction is attainable by restricting outdoor water use per the Level 4 Water Supply Shortage Plan along with reducing indoor water use. An aggressive outreach program notifying water customers to conserve water and implementing the Level 4 Water Supply Shortage Plan during the shutdown is expected to achieve the required 30 percent reduction in water use.

In March 2011, MWD had a ten-day shutdown for seismic repairs which prevented deliveries of water to the City. City Council temporarily implemented the Level 4 Water Supply Shortage Plan along with public outreach by PWP. As a result of these actions, the City had conserved adequate water to successfully make up for the water shortage during the ten-day shutdown.

### ***Water Conservation Measures***

Pursuant to PMC Section 13.10.032, the City has in place a number of existing water conservation requirements which supports conserving water during the shutdown. The requirements include:

1. No Watering During Periods of Rain: Watering or irrigating of lawn, landscape or other vegetated area during periods of rain is prohibited.
2. Obligation to Fix Leaks, Breaks or Malfunctions: Loss or escape of water through breaks, leaks or other malfunctions in the water user's plumbing or distribution system is prohibited for any period of time after such escape of water should have reasonably been discovered and corrected and in no event more than 7 days of receiving notice from PWP.
3. Recirculating Water Required for Water Fountains and Decorative Water Features: Operating a water fountain or other decorative water feature that does not use re-circulated water is prohibited.

4. **Drinking Water Served Upon Request Only:** Eating or drinking establishments, including, but not limited to a restaurant, hotel, cafe, cafeteria, bar or other public place where food and drinks are sold, served or offered for sale, are prohibited from providing drinking water to any person unless expressly requested by the patrons.
5. **Restaurants Required to Use Water Conserving Dish Wash Spray Valves:** Food preparation establishments, such as restaurants, cafes and cafeterias, are prohibited from using non-water conserving dish wash spray valves.
6. **Commercial Lodging Establishments Shall Provide Guests Option to Decline Daily Linen Services:** Hotels, motels and other commercial lodging establishments must provide customers the option of not having towels and linens laundered daily. Commercial lodging establishments must prominently display notice of this option in each bathroom using clear and easily understood language.
7. **No Installation of Single Pass Cooling Systems:** Installation of single pass cooling systems is prohibited in buildings requesting new water service.
8. **No Installation of Non-recirculating equipment in Commercial Car Wash and Laundry Systems:** Installation of non-recirculating water systems is prohibited in new commercial convey or car washes and new commercial laundry systems.

#### ***Level 4 Water Supply Shortage Conservation Requirements***

During a Level 4 Water Supply Shortage condition, water-use restrictions are increasingly restrictive in response to a worsening water supply situation. These restrictions include:

1. 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.
2. Repairing leaks, breaks or malfunctions within 24 hours of notification by PWP.
3. Filling or re-filling ornamental lakes or ponds is prohibited except to the extent necessary to sustain aquatic life.
4. Limiting refill of residential swimming pools or outdoor spas to no more than one foot. Initial filling of pools and spas are prohibited.
5. 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.

There are no enforced restrictions for indoor water use. PWP encourages residents and businesses to do their part to reduce indoor water use to assist in efforts to conserve water during the shutdown.

#### ***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 includes:

1. Citywide mailer
2. Press releases
3. News articles through City/PWP publications such as Pasadena In Focus and Conduit

4. Water Shortage Hotline
5. Direct outreach to key customers, stakeholders, and interest groups such as nurseries, irrigation supply retailers, landscapers, Caltrans, PUSD, City Departments, Chamber of Commerce, neighborhood associations, etc.
6. Daily updates during the shutdown on the City's website, Facebook, and Twitter.

***Enforcement***

During the period of the Level 4 Water Supply Shortage Plan, PWP may assign more staff to patrol for violations and respond to water waste reports. 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.

**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 State 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. Achieving the 30 percent water conservation target has no secondary environmental impacts because a significant amount of current water usage is over-watering landscaping.

It is estimated that many customers over-water by as much as 50 percent and reducing water consumption among those customers may actually improve the health of their landscaping. Also, a significant amount of the water used to over-water landscapes runs off the target area into storm sewers or evaporates before it can percolate into the ground; therefore, reducing such water consumption has little to no effect on groundwater recharge. In general, approximately 10 percent of irrigation water recharges the basin. However, very little of the water percolates into the groundwater basin during winter months because of oversaturated conditions of the ground due to

natural precipitation. Although some of the water may ultimately recharge the groundwater basin, excess irrigation is neither an environmentally nor a fiscally responsible means of doing so.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

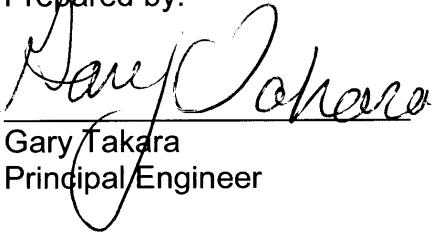
Water sales during the period of increased conservation will reduce net revenues to the Water Fund by approximately \$50,000 to \$75,000 depending on actual conservation levels achieved. Water conservation also impacts the sewer fund, which is collected based on water consumption.

Respectfully submitted,



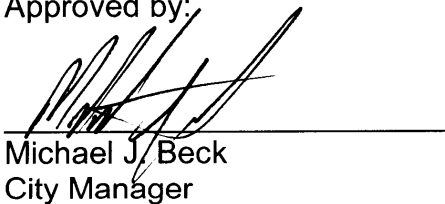
Phyllis E. Currie  
General Manager  
Water and Power Department

Prepared by:



Gary Takara  
Principal Engineer

Approved by:



Michael J. Beck  
City Manager

Attachment A - Proclamation