



Agenda Report

June 7, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

Through: Municipal Services Committee (May 25, 2021)

From: Water and Power Department

Subject: **PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2020 URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan ("UWMP") and Water Shortage Contingency Plan ("WSCP") is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15282(v), which exempts from CEQA the preparation and adoption of urban water management plans pursuant to the Water Code;
2. Hold a public hearing on June 7, 2021 to receive comments on the UWMP and the WSCP;
3. Adopt a resolution approving the 2020 UWMP and WSCP (provided as Chapter 8 in the UWMP) immediately following the public hearing and incorporating any changes the Council deems necessary; and

MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 25, 2021, the Municipal Services Committee ("MSC") recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution approving the 2020 UWMP and the WSCP.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As an urban water supplier, Pasadena Water and Power ("PWP") has prepared the 2020 UWMP to comply with the requirements of the California Water Code and demonstrate its long-term water supply and resource planning. The 2020 UWMP complies with applicable California Law and must be adopted by the City of Pasadena and submitted to the State Department of Water Resources by July 1, 2021.

The UWMP must contain information describing the supply service area, land use, water conservation, and climate change impacts over a twenty-year planning horizon. The data of all these components are integrated into the analysis of water supply and demand projections.

The reliability assessment demonstrates that with supplies from groundwater based on PWP's decreed rights from the Raymond Basin and imported water as made available by the Metropolitan Water District, there will be no shortage of supplies to meet PWP's projected demands. Furthermore, PWP will continue implementing its comprehensive water conservation programs and stormwater capture projects, to reduce water demands and increase local supply, thus increasing supply reliability.

The Water Shortage and Contingency Plan ("WSCP"), provided as Chapter 8 in the UWMP, details how PWP intends to act in case of an actual water shortage condition. The WSCP anticipates a water supply shortage and provides pre-planned guidance for managing and mitigating the shortage based on Pasadena's existing "Water Waste Prohibitions and Water Supply Shortage Plans" (Pasadena Municipal Code Chapter 13.10). The WSCP and established demand management measures provide additional means of maintaining an adequate water supply to protect public health and safety.

BACKGROUND:

UWMP Plan Preparation

To ensure adequate water supply planning, the Urban Water Management Planning Act (California Water Code, Sections 10608 through 10656) requires that every urban water supplier that provides water to more than 3,000 customers or supplies more than 3,000 acre-feet ("AF") of water annually shall prepare and adopt an UWMP every five years. The State Department of Water Resources has provided guidance on the framework of the UWMP in the "2020 UWMP Guidebook for Urban Water Suppliers." PWP's UWMP closely follows the recommended outline in the Guidebook to ensure full compliance with the law and eligibility for State grants and loans. PWP last fulfilled the requirement for an UWMP with the City Council's adoption of the 2015 UWMP on June 13, 2016.

Current and Projected Water Use

In 2020, PWP supplied 29,290 acre-feet of water to serve its 38,421 customer accounts (approximately 170,400 people), qualifying PWP as an "urban water supplier". In 2009, the State Legislature passed the Water Conservation Act, referred to as Senate Bill ("SB") X7-7, with targets and compliance to be reported in the UWMP. SB X7-7 requires each urban retail water supplier to reduce urban per capita water use by 20% by December 31, 2020 when compared to a baseline calculated using the ten-year average water use for the period from calendar years 1995 to 2004. Pasadena exceeded its 20% reduction goal by achieving 153 gallons per capita per day, which is about 27% less than the 211 gallons per capita per day baseline established in 2015.

Future projections through the 20-year planning horizon include mandated reductions enacted by SB 606 and Assembly Bill ("AB") 1668. These regulations require a

reduction of indoor residential water use from the current level of 57 gallons per capita per day to meet the target of 55 gallons per capita per day by 2025, and 50 gallons per capita per day by 2030 (the equivalent of approximately 1,400 acre-feet per year ("AFY")). In addition, the State is considering outdoor targets and water loss reductions for which final rules have not yet been established. For planning purposes, staff believes it is reasonable to presume that reductions will equal 2,100 AFY by 2030, reducing Pasadena's total water use to about 25,000 AFY.

Water Supply Reliability, Water Shortage Contingency Plan, and Drought Risk Assessment

The Urban Water Management Planning Act requires suppliers to conduct three key planning analyses to evaluate supply reliability. The first is a water service reliability assessment that compares the total water supply sources available to the water supplier for a normal water year, a single dry water year, and a drought lasting five consecutive water years. The second analysis is a drought risk assessment that evaluates a drought period that lasts five consecutive water years starting from the year following when the assessment is conducted. The third analysis is the WSCP, which is a detailed proposal for actions PWP intends to implement during actual water shortage conditions. New for the 2020 UWMP cycle is the adoption of the WSCP as a stand-alone document.

To meet its current water demands, PWP relies on a supply that consists of approximately 39% local groundwater from the Raymond Basin and 61% from the purchase of imported water from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California ("MWD"). MWD is the regional water wholesaler to 26 member agencies, including Pasadena. MWD's primary sources of water are from the State Water Project and the Colorado River Aqueduct. MWD also provided their reliability assessment which was used in compiling Pasadena's UWMP.

In the reliability assessment, the single and multiple dry years were selected to be consistent with MWD's UWMP which includes extensive hydrological modeling and Pasadena is dependent on MWD for imported water supplies. As shown in Table 1, the analysis demonstrated that there will be sufficient water to meet Pasadena's demands under the studied scenarios.

Table 1- Multiple Dry-Year Supply and Demand Comparison (AFY)

| | 2025 | 2030 | 2035 | 2040 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Groundwater for Pumping ¹ | 11,830 | 11,830 | 11,830 | 11,830 |
| Imported Water ² | 19,703 | 20,113 | 20,217 | 20,300 |
| Supply Totals | 31,533 | 31,943 | 32,047 | 32,130 |
| Demand Totals³ | 26,750 | 25,000 | 25,320 | 25,630 |

¹ Projected dry-year groundwater supplies are equal to voluntary reduced pumping rights of 10,304 AFY plus 1,526 AFY of spreading credits.

² Projected imported supplies are equal to projected demands for imported water as represented in the MWD UWMP.

³ Demand Totals include regulatory required reductions under SB 606 and AB 1668, but are not reduced to reflect additional planned water savings from PWP's conservation programs.

The WSCP anticipates a water supply shortage and provides pre-planned guidance for managing and mitigating the shortage based on Pasadena's existing "Water Waste Prohibitions and Water Supply Shortage Plans" (Pasadena Municipal Code Chapter 13.10). The drought risk assessment then offsets the water savings defined in the WSCP when analyzing water supply and demands during multiple year droughts. These analyses and results are provided in Chapters 7 and 8 of the UWMP.

In Chapter 9 of the UWMP, staff describes the Demand Management Measures to help lower demands and improve water service reliability. The measures include water waste prevention ordinances, metering, conservation pricing, public education and outreach, water conservation program coordination, and programs to assess and manage water system losses.

Public Notice, Review, and Hearing

The California Water Code requires PWP to coordinate its water supply planning with neighboring agencies and Los Angeles County, as well as hold a public hearing to accept comments. The agencies were notified of the availability of both the UWMP and the WSCP online at www.pwpweb.com/UWMP as of April 30, 2021.

PWP has executed the following milestone activities prior to the public hearing which has allowed for a participatory process while also fulfilling statutory requirements.

- March 31 – 60-day notification letters to affected cities/LA County
- April 30 – Published Public Draft 2020 UWMP and WSCP
- May 3 – Set public hearing date at Council meeting
- May 6,13 – Published Public Hearing Notifications
- May 25 – MSC recommends City Council adopt the 2020 UWMP & WSCP
- May 31 – Deadline to receive comments for incorporation in Draft 2020 UWMP and WSCP before Public Hearing
- June 7 – Public Hearing

The UWMP document is included as Attachment A. Public comments received to date on the Public Draft UWMP is included as Attachment B.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed resolution is consistent with the City's mission delivering exemplary municipal services with respect to adequate access to safe drinking water and sustainable management of Pasadena's drinking water sources. It is also consistent with the General Plan Land Use Element and the City Council's Strategic Planning Goals. It is required for regulatory compliance as well as achieving City Council goals to increase conservation and sustainability.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15282(v) sets forth a statutory exemption that specifically exempts from environmental review "the preparation and adoption of urban water management plans pursuant to the provisions of Section 10652 of the Water Code". In turn, section 10652 of the Water Code refers back to urban water management plans prepared pursuant to section 10632 of the Water Code. The UWMP is prepared pursuant to these sections of the Water Code, and therefore falls under this exemption.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Approval of the UWMP will have no incremental fiscal impact on the Water Fund. The indirect or support cost requirements will be addressed annually in Water Operating Budget.

Respectfully submitted,



GURCHARAN S. BAWA
General Manager
Water and Power Department

Prepared by:



Natalie Z. Ouwersloot
Principal Engineer

Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
City Manager

Attachments

- Attachment A – 2020 Public Draft Urban Water Management Plan
- Attachment B – Comments Received on the Public Draft 2020 UWMP