

City of Brisbane

Agenda Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Randy Breault, Director of Public Works/City Engineer via City Manager

SUBJECT: Update on Drought and Brisbane Water Systems Responses

DATE: May 21, 2015

Recommendation:

Provide comment or direction as deemed appropriate. This report is informational only; no action is required.

Background:

In response to the developing drought and actions taken at state and local levels, the City previously adopted a Water Conservation Program and a Water Shortage Contingency Plan (see attached staff report from 8/21/14). Governor Brown issued another Executive Order on April 1, 2015, requiring additional reductions and actions by multiple state agencies. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) responded to this Order by issuing their Resolution No. 2015-0032, which created new Drought Emergency Water Conservation regulations. This resolution was adopted May 5, 2015; based on the rapid review and approval of previous SWRCB emergency actions, staff assumes that the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) will approve codification of the new regulations so that they will be in effect by June 1, 2015.

Discussion:

Requirements imposed by SWRCB directly on the following parties:

Everyone

- Prohibited from applying potable water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures.
- Prohibited from using a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, except where the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use.
- Prohibited from applying potable water to driveways and sidewalks.

- Prohibited from using potable water in a fountain or other decorative feature except where the water is part of a recirculating system.
- Prohibited from applying potable water to outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall.
- Prohibited from using potable water to irrigate ornamental turf on public street medians.
- Prohibited from using potable water to irrigate landscapes outside of new homes and buildings in a manner inconsistent with regulations and requirements established by the California building Standards Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Restaurants, hotels, cafes, cafeterias, bars, etc.

- Prohibited from serving drinking water other than upon request.

Hotels and motels

- Provide guests the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily. Prominently display notice of this option in each guestroom using clear and easily understood language.

Commercial, industrial, and institutional properties

- Limit outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes of turf with potable water to no more than two days per week; or
- Reduce potable water usage supplied by sources other than a water supplier by 25 percent for the months of June 2015 through February 2016 as compared to the amount used from those sources for the same months in 2013 (not applicable to any Brisbane/GVMID customers).

Requirements imposed by SWRCB directly on distributors of a public water supply:

In determining required reductions, the SWRCB used the average residential gallons per capita per day (R-GPCD) of urban water suppliers for the period of July-September 2014 as a proxy for then current water efficiency. This metric generated a significant amount of discussion due to the varying characteristics and prior conservation measures of the hundreds of urban water suppliers.

Urban water supplies with a R-GPCD of 65 or less

- Reduce total potable water consumption by 8% for each month as compared to the amount used in the same month in 2013.

Brisbane and GVMID do NOT meet the definition of urban water supplier, so additional “brackets” for reduction and other specific measures are deleted for brevity. Brisbane and

GVMID are classified as a small water supplier (i.e., “non-urban water supplier”). For reference, note that our R-GPCD for the calendar year 2014 was 46, which is 19 gallons per day less than the lowest bracket established by the SWRCB. The highest of the eight brackets established by SWRCB was for suppliers with an average R-GPCD of 215. Those suppliers are required to reduce water consumption by 36 percent.

Non-urban water suppliers (includes Brisbane and GVMID)

- Limit outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscape or turf with potable water by the persons it serves to no more than two days per week; OR
- Reduce by 25 percent reduction its total potable production relative to the amount produced in 2013.
- Submit a report by December 15, 2015, on a form provided by SWRCB, to confirm compliance with outdoor irrigation restriction or with potable water production reduction.

New actions and enforcement now required by the City of Brisbane:

Based on authority provided in BMC §8.41.010, the Director of Public Works imposed Stage 1 Drought Restrictions from our Water Shortage Contingency Plans on October 7, 2014. These restrictions remain in effect. Assuming the OAL approves the new SWRCB regulations, the Director will impose the following Stage 2 Drought Restrictions (modified as necessary to meet SWRCB requirements) on that day, and they will become effective five days thereafter:

- All voluntary measures from Stage 1 are now mandatory.
- Prohibit applying potable water to outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall.
- Prohibit using potable water to irrigate ornamental turf on public street medians. (applies only to City - action already taken.
- Limit outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscape or turf with potable water by the person it serves to no more than two days per week.

How the city will educate, encourage, and enforce these new requirements:

We will continue to educate, encourage, and in case of egregious repeat violations, enforce against all violations of the mandated conservation regulations. With outdoor irrigation accounting for 42% of our total usage, the city will focus our limited staff resources on enforcement of turf irrigation restrictions.

Outdoor irrigation will be restricted to 2 days per week on the following schedule:

- Addresses ending in an odd number may only water Monday and Thursday
- Addresses ending in an even number may only water Tuesday and Friday
- Sites with no address may water only on Monday and Thursday

Assigned DPW staff will conduct weekday morning tours of Crocker Industrial Park, the Northeast Ridge HOAs, and Sierra Point to ensure watering occurs per the above schedule, to ensure watering occurs only between 6 PM and 9 AM, and not during or within 48 hours of measurable rainfall, and to ensure irrigation water does not flow onto hardscape surfaces.

The first outreach to notify irrigation customers of these new requirements will include posting on the city's website and direct mailers. First offenders will typically be given an educational reminder notice. Blatant noncompliance will be dealt with using the city's administrative citation procedures.

Independent actions the city has taken to respond to the drought:

In addition to the requirements imposed on our customers, the Department of Public Works has implemented the following water conservation measures:

Landscaping

- Outside irrigation has been turned off to all public medians and to the turf at City Hall. Irrigation rates have been cut back for the turf at the North Hill Pump Station, Crocker Park Entry and the turf around the Community Board.
- 90% of the Marina irrigation system has been retrofitted to the more water efficient MP rotators.
- All parks and ball fields are currently irrigated on a 2 day/week schedule.
- The Community Park irrigation system is equipped with an ET Based Controller, which receives weather updates on a daily basis and adjusts the watering schedule accordingly.

Utilities

- Reduced the amount of flushing throughout the water distribution system.
- Suspended the cleaning of our water storage tanks for the second consecutive year.
- Suspended fire flow testing.
- Continued annual leak detection program to proactively identify small leaks in the water distribution system.
- Staff has been working directly with the HOAs and targeting high commercial water users with assessments of outside landscape watering needs, tracking of actual water use and identifying the water savings potential through the Large Landscape Audit Program.
- Staff continues to administer various regional water conservation rebate programs, including; High-Efficiency Residential Washing Machine Rebates, High-Efficiency Toilet Rebates, and Rain Barrel Rebates.
- Staff responds in the field to abnormal water use cases as identified by the Billing Department and assists the customer with investigating the problem.
- Field staff has continued to meet the Department's goal of repairing leaks in the water distribution system within 24 hours of initial notification.

Fiscal Impact:


The impact of reduced volume sales is reviewed on a regular basis. Staff anticipates bringing forward a proposed revision of the rate structure to the Water & Sewer Subcommittee for their consideration in the near future.

Attachments:

August 21, 2014 staff report



Director of Public Works/City Engineer



City Manager

A copy of supporting materials provided to the City Manager and Council Persons in connection with this agenda item is available for public inspection and copying at 50 Park Place, City of Brisbane Department of Public Works, Brisbane, CA, 94005. Telephone: (415) 508-2130.