



City of Colusa California

STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 17, 2022
TO: City of Colusa Mayor and Council Members
FROM: Jesse Cain, City Manager

AGENDA ITEM:

Subject: City of Colusa Drought Response Plan.

Recommendation: Council to consider approving Resolution Approving the 2022 City of Colusa Drought Response plan.

BACKGROUND ANALYSIS:

In 2015 The City of Colusa adopted an emergency drought response plan, it was updated in 2017. With the State's current drought situation, I thought it would be a good time to look at our current plan and update it to meet our current needs.

The State of California in the next two to three years is planning on coming out with a lot of new water restrictions in California that we will have to adhere to overtime, so this is a great time to look at our plan. The City currently has a request for proposal (RFP) out to update the water master plan and address long-term droughts in the future. The plan will consider the condition of the wells' water production and the declining of the groundwater along with the City's current assets and make recommendations to the City.

One of the best things that the City has done in the past two years was to help the Roberts ditch company to have access to the river instead of pumping groundwater. They normally pump hundreds of acre-feet of groundwater a year for the irrigation season now that they have access to the river they are only planning on pumping about a third of the normal groundwater that they use. This is a great partnership in the sense that they helped create a rooftop launch and preserved water in our basin for future use.

The updated drought response plan now has 6 stages instead of four. Really nothing has changed from our original plan other than that two more stages were added. The drought response plan is designed for the City of Colusa and only looks at our current groundwater levels and what needs to happen when we start to see a decline in them.

Although our current groundwater level are good, I am recommending that the City moves directly into stage two of the drought response plan with the state's current water shortage and

the lack of snowpack and lake levels I feel that it would be best to be proactive and try and preserve as much groundwater right now as we can without being a burden on our citizens. I believe that if and when the groundwater starts to decline in our area it will happen fast and we need to be ready for that stage two is something that we should be doing anyway.

BUDGET IMPACT: Unknown at this time

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Council to approve the Resolution approving the drought response plan.

Attachment : Resolution