



Agenda Report

Agenda of: March 25, 2025
Department: Public Works
Subject: Revisions to Drought Contingency Plan

Recommended Motion:

- A. Move to remove item No. 5, b, 1 – Stage 4 Response – Extreme water shortage conditions from Sec. 110-149 – Drought response stages of the Drought Contingency Plan for no new, addition, expanded or increased-in-size water services, thereby eliminating the prohibition on new water services.
- B. Move to exclude healthcare providers/facilities, emergency service providers and accounts held by the City of Castroville from drought surcharge in Drought Contingency Plan, Sec. 110-151 – Enforcement, adding section “F” and including definitions of exclusion type

Background:

Request to Remove Sec. 110-149 – Stage 4 Response: this motion aims to eliminate the prohibition on new water services during extreme water shortage conditions. This could potentially allow for new developments and services even during severe drought stages

Council wanted to review possible customers to exclude from the drought surcharge, suggesting healthcare facilities and medical offices. Based on state health requirements for facilities such as nursing homes and assisted living facilities, we propose excluding these facilities from the surcharge.

Our research shows that none of our current medical or emergency services facilities had usage that exceeded the surcharge thresholds, we recommend excluding them as there may be emergency events that result in higher usage. Also, future medical facilities/offices might be larger and have higher usage but have healthcare mandates that require higher water usage.

We also recommend exclusion for accounts held by the City of Castroville as the city accounts that typically exceed the threshold are community services related for the city pool, city park and city sports fields (Lion’s Park). Adding these fees would increase the cost of operations, which might result in increase in fees/rates charged to our residents.

Approved exclusion will be added to the Drought Contingency Plan and include definition of exclusion types.

Discussion regarding direction the council would like to take regarding specific surcharge for vehicle wash facilities.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown

Budgeted **Requires Budget Amendment**

Source of Funding: Account Code:

Attachments:

Attachment A: Drought Contingency Plan- Surcharge

Attachment B: Ordinance Revision to Article VI – Drought Contingency Plan (red lined)

Urgency (0-5 = Low Urgency to High Urgency):

Impact (0-5 = Low Impact to High Impact):

Submitted by: