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## CITY COUNCIL CONSENT ITEM

### CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

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AGENDA TOPIC: Approval of the second reading of an ordinance amending the City of Fair Oaks Ranch Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13 Utilities, Article 13.03 Water and Sewer System, Division 3, Part II Drought Contingency Plan and amending Appendix A Fee Schedule, Article A9 (v) and (w) Drought Surcharge Rates to include a fourth stage

DATE: February 6, 2025

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

PRESENTED BY: Consent Item: Kelsey Delgado, Project Manager

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#### **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:**

In May 2023, the City Council amended the Drought Contingency Plan to include updated triggers, drought surcharges, and a drought surcharge appeal process. Since the amendments were adopted, the prolonged drought has continued and several surrounding entities, including the City's triggers – Guadalupe Blanco River Authority (GBRA) and Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District (TGRGCD), have also implemented Drought Contingency Plan updates.

On December 5, 2024, the City Council held a workshop regarding potential updates to the City's Drought Contingency Plan to better align with triggering entities and expand flexibility in response to ongoing drought conditions. The updates included expansion of the number of drought stages from three to four, and limitations on drip irrigation in the revised Stages 3 and 4.

At the January 16, 2025 City Council meeting, the amended Drought Contingency Plan draft was approved with a revision to specify that ornamental fountains are banned at Stage 2 with the exception of fountains that use recirculating technology. This revision has been reflected in **Exhibit A**.

If approved, the amended Drought Contingency Plan shall go into effect on April 1, 2025. The delayed implementation provides adequate time to notify utility customers of the upcoming changes. The communication plan consists of updates to the City's website, newsflashes and social media posts, inclusion in the City's newsletter, and a bill insert.

#### **POLICY ANALYSIS/BENEFIT(S) TO CITIZENS:**

- Supports 3.1 of the Strategic Action Plan to Enhance and Ensure Continuity of Reliable Water Resources.
- Establishes a new stage between the current Stages 2 and 3 of the Drought Contingency Plan to expand flexibility and response to drought conditions.
- Better aligns drought stages with the City's triggering entities.

**LONGTERM FINANCIAL & BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

Not Applicable

**LEGAL ANALYSIS:**

Legal as to form

**RECOMMENDATION/PROPOSED MOTION:**

Consent Item: I move to approve the second reading of an ordinance amending the City of Fair Oaks Ranch Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13 Utilities, Article 13.03 Water and Sewer System, Division 3, Part II Drought Contingency Plan and Appendix A Fee Schedule, Article A9 (v) and (w) Drought Surcharge Rates to include a fourth stage.