



CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION ITEM

CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

AGENDA TOPIC: Consideration and possible action approving the first 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: January 16, 2025

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

PRESENTED BY: Kelsey Delgado, Project Manager

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. Based on Council feedback, an amending ordinance was drafted and is attached.

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:

Approved as to form.

RECOMMENDATION/PROPOSED MOTION:

I move to approve the first 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.