



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

AGENDA TOPIC: Drought Contingency Plan Workshop
DATE: December 5, 2024
DEPARTMENT: Public Works
PRESENTED BY: Kelsey Delgado, Environmental Program Manager

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

In May 2023, the City Council adopted amendments to 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 have also implemented Drought Contingency Plan updates to better protect water availability now and into the future.

Through research on the best management practices and from lessons learned, staff recommends creating an additional drought stage between Stage 2 and 3 to better align with our triggering entities, Guadalupe Blanco River Authority (GBRA) and Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District (TGRGCD). The proposed new stage includes additional drought measures such as an every-other-week watering schedule to assist with lowering water usage before the initiation of a critical drought stage. This workshop will provide a brief overview of the drought the City is facing, review the current Drought Contingency Plan, and provide details on the proposed four-stage plan.

Staff seeks City Council direction regarding a future Drought Contingency Plan update to include a fourth stage. No formal action is required as part of this workshop. If updates are supported, staff will present a draft ordinance amending the Drought Contingency Plan at a future meeting.

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:

N/A