



Folsom City Council Staff Report

MEETING DATE:	2/28/2023
AGENDA SECTION:	New Business
SUBJECT:	Introduction of the City of Folsom Water Vision and Direction to Staff on the Water Vision Contents and Community Engagement Process
FROM:	Environmental and Water Resources Department

RECOMMENDATION / CITY COUNCIL ACTION

Staff recommends the City Council provide input and direction to the Environmental and Water Resources Director regarding the City of Folsom's Water Vision and community engagement process.

BACKGROUND / ISSUE

The Environmental and Water Resources (EWR) Department develops the City's Urban Water Management Plan, and this plan is updated every five years. On June 8, 2021, the Folsom City Council approved Resolution No. 10643 adopting the City's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) and Water Shortage Contingency Plan. All urban water suppliers, either publicly or privately owned, serving municipal water to 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 acre-feet annually, are required to prepare an UWMP. The UWMP is required for an urban water supplier to be eligible for California Department of Water Resources (DWR) state grants, loans, and drought assistance.

The UWMP has been used as the primary water supply planning document for the City. The 2020 UWMP identifies the City's water supplies and demands in five-year increments to the year 2045. In an effort to develop more reliable, resilient, and sustainable water supplies for the City, EWR staff is recommending a Water Vision planning process to evaluate water supply alternatives to meet customer demands during drought or infrastructure outages, and to consider water supply impacts due to climate change. The goal is to evaluate the adequacy and reliability of the City's water supplies and to develop City Council policy to provide long-term guidance for managing these supplies.

The EWR Director is requesting feedback from City Council to provide input and direction regarding the City of Folsom's Water Vision contents and community engagement process.

POLICY / RULE

The 2035 General Plan outlines the necessary public facilities and services (PFS) to serve the needs of existing and future residents and businesses. The policies within Section 7 of the General Plan seek to ensure that PFS are provided and maintained, so that Folsom can continue to grow and thrive to 2035 and beyond.

Folsom General Plan 2035, Goal PFS 3.1/Objective 3.1.5 – Coordinate with regional and sub-regional agencies to ensure the reliability of an adequate water supply.

Folsom General Plan 2035, Goal PFS 3.1/Objective 3.1.7 – Provide an adequate supply of water for all users in Folsom now and in the future.

Folsom General Plan 2035, Goal PFS 3.1/Objective 3.1.8 – Require water resources be developed in coordination with local flood management, water conservation, and groundwater agencies.

Folsom General Plan 2035, Goal PFS 3.1/Objective 3.1.11 – Ensure a resilient water storage and distribution system that can rapidly recover in the event of a disaster.

ANALYSIS

The intent of the Water Vision is to initiate a City-wide discussion and an opportunity for public participation in the planning of Folsom's future water supply. This effort will also include regular discussions with the Utility Commission and City Council as needed. EWR is recommending the development of a focused stakeholder group consisting of 15-20 members of the community. EWR proposes the program contents below that would be presented to the stakeholder group and the public in various workshops for public comment, feedback, and discussion.

- City water supplies and contracts.
- City's current and future water use.
- Statewide landscape regarding water usage.
- Potential threats to the City's water supplies.
- Opportunities for water supply reliability, resiliency, and redundancy.

The following identifies the objectives of Folsom Water Vision.

- Develop reliable, resilient, and sustainable water supply opportunities.
- Provide the opportunity for public participation and education related to the City's water supplies.

- Develop a targeted stakeholder group to provide feedback on the development of goals, objectives, and water supply opportunities.
- Update the Utility Commission and City Council during the process of developing the City's Water Vision.
- Develop a City-wide Water Vision based on City Council policy and direction.

Below is a potential list of participants for the stakeholder group. Staff recommends that no more than 20 participants be included.

- Utility Commissioner.
- Planning Commissioner.
- Parks and Recreation Commissioner.
- Folsom Cordova Unified School District representative.
- Folsom Lake College representative.
- Medical field representative.
- Choose Folsom representative.
- Environmental interest representative (Sierra Club, ECOS, Friends of the River).
- Citizen groups.
- Aerojet/Rocketdyne representative.
- Development Community representative.
- Large water user representative (Intel, Kikkoman, Gekkeikan).
- Landscape community.

Staff is specifically seeking direction on the following questions:

1. Are the listed contents appropriate for the Folsom Water Vision process?
2. Does the City Council desire to include a stakeholder group in the Water Vision process?
3. If so, what make-up of community stakeholder group is desired?
4. Is there a cap City Council would like to apply on the amount of participants for a stakeholder group?
5. Does the City Council desire councilmember (up to two) participation on the stakeholder group?
6. Would City Council like to bring this item back to a future City Council meeting for further discussion to confirm Council's water supply goals prior to developing the stakeholder group?

Staff anticipates that the City will issue a Request for Proposals to facilitate stakeholder involvement, to evaluate current and future water supplies and demands from the City's 2020 UWMP, to develop water supply planning objectives, analyze the City's water supplies and demands under climate change conditions to identify water shortages, if any, to develop and analyze future water supply portfolios, and to develop an implementation strategy based on policy direction from City Council.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to Fiscal Year 2022-23. The Environmental and Water Resources Department will include the necessary planning effort in Fiscal Year 2023-24 to develop the Folsom Water Vision plan and associated documents based on direction and feedback provided by City Council. If City Council would like the work to begin in FY 2023-24, a separate staff report will be brought back to City Council requesting funds to be appropriated for this effort.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This project is exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act, Section 15262 “Feasibility and Planning Studies”.

Submitted,

Marcus Yasutake, Director
ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT