

# Folsom City Council Staff Report

<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	5/25/2021
<b>AGENDA SECTION:</b>	New Business
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Governor Gavin Newsom's Drought State of Emergency and Direction to Staff
<b>FROM:</b>	Environmental and Water Resources Department

## **RECOMMENDATION / CITY COUNCIL ACTION**

The Environmental and Water Resources Department is requesting direction from the City Council regarding potential water use reduction actions in 2021.

## **BACKGROUND / ISSUE**

The City of Folsom receives its water supply from the American River at Folsom Reservoir. On May 10, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a proclamation of a State of Emergency to mitigate the effects of drought conditions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed counties including El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter and Yolo. Hydrologic conditions in 2021 are currently the second driest year since 1977. Folsom Reservoir storage is projected to remain above the lake level that would require emergency operations from Reclamation, but there is regional concern that if dry conditions persist into the fall and winter months, emergency operations to deliver water to the cities of Folsom and Roseville, San Juan Water District, and Folsom State Prison, may be necessary.

On May 13, 2021, the Regional Water Authority (RWA) Board of Directors approved Resolution 2021-01, a Resolution of the Regional Water Authority Regarding Response to Dry Conditions in 2021. One of the key components of the resolution is a request from RWA to its member agencies asking for a reduction in surface water diversions from the American River watershed. The RWA resolution also asks water agencies to shift from surface water supplies to groundwater supplies to keep more surface water in Folsom Reservoir. While there are water agencies within the region that can shift to groundwater supplies, the City does not have access to groundwater supplies.

Below are some historic diversions for the City and the annual gallons per capita per day (GPCD) that shows the City’s reduction in water use when compared to the years prior to the recent drought.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Water Use Total (AF)</b>	<b>GPCD</b>
2011	26,406	389
2012	25,510	371
2013	26,094	373
2014	20,515	288
2015	17,871	246
2016	19,608	264
2017	20,404	270
2018	19,351	256
2019	18,817	247
2020	19,898	256

The table above shows how the City’s customers have responded recently when compared to pre-drought conditions. There is an overall trend in reduced water use when compared to the pre-drought years.

**ANALYSIS**

One of the potential actions listed in the RWA Resolution includes a request for customers to voluntarily reduce water use by up to 10%. Folsom Municipal Code (FMC) Section 13.26.020 provides the City with the right to manage water demands within the City’s water service area. FMC Section 13.26.070 authorizes the City Manager to implement and enforce whatever conservation measures are deemed necessary to achieve water reduction requirements of a declared conservation stage. In an effort to align with the voluntary 10% reduction in water use identified in the RWA resolution, the Environmental and Water Resources staff provides the following options to help customers achieve the requested reduction from RWA.

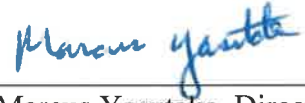
- Increase outreach and messaging related to water use efficiency, wasteful uses of water, and services offered by the City’s Water Conservation Division
- Identify water use reduction strategies for customers such as reducing the number of days per week for outdoor watering or reducing the run time of one’s irrigation system
- Future City Council consideration of a budget appropriation to increase funding for water conservation or water use efficiency rebates

While the FMC Section 13.26 conservation measures are mandatory when declared by the City Manager, City staff is seeking feedback and direction as it pertains to achieving a voluntary 10% reduction to align with the RWA resolution, or some other reduction target identified by the City Council. A Stage 2 conservation stage strives to achieve up to a 12% reduction in water use, which most closely aligns with the 10% voluntary target from the RWA Resolution.

**ATTACHMENT**

1. Regional Water Authority Resolution 2021-01

Submitted,



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Marcus Yasutake, Director  
ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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**RESOLUTION 2021-01**

**A Resolution of the Regional Water Authority  
Regarding Response to Dry Conditions in 2021**

**WHEREAS**, the Regional Water Authority's (RWA) mission includes protecting and enhancing the reliability, availability, affordability, and quality of water resources; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 10, 2021, the Governor issued a proclamation of a State of Emergency to mitigate the effects of drought conditions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed counties including El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter and Yolo counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the current hydrological situation in California is dire, with 2021 being the driest year since 1977, and the driest year since regulations governing Delta outflow requirements were enacted; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the hydrological conditions, the fishery on the Lower American River is expected to be under stress this summer and fall due to changes in flow and water temperature; and

**WHEREAS**, hydrologic conditions for 2022 are uncertain and should dry conditions continue, such a situation will exacerbate fishery conditions and lead to potential water shortages; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sacramento Region embraces the Water Forum Agreement and the partnerships it has developed for regional stewardship of the American River over several decades; and

**WHEREAS**, due to decades of proactive, long-term, integrated planning and investment in water supply reliability, the Sacramento Region water supply has been secure and reliable. These investments include building groundwater infrastructure that can both extract and recharge water as a means to meet water customers' consumptive needs while also reducing surface water demand off the American River during dry conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sacramento Region's water customers have significantly reduced water use since the 2012 – 2016 drought; and

**WHEREAS**, given the hydrological conditions within the State of California and its impacts to both people and the environment, the Sacramento Region affirms its commitment to the environment by taking responsible actions to conserve water and

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make operational changes to lessen the impacts of dry conditions on the people we serve and the American River and its fishery; and

**WHEREAS**, a number of the RWA members are regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC); and

**WHEREAS**, This Resolution is advisory to the RWA member agencies, since RWA member agencies may need authorization from their governing board or council or the CPUC to take actions recommended in this Resolution; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, RWA immediately calls on its member agencies to take actions that will result in reductions in surface water diversions from the American River watershed to protect the environment of the lower American River during the current conditions and to preserve local water supplies should dry conditions persist. These actions may include, as appropriate: request customers to voluntarily reduce their water use by 10 percent; shifting of diversions from the lower American River to the Sacramento River; and/or shifting from using surface water to groundwater as a supply source as part of the region's plan for sustainability; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, certain RWA member agencies have significantly reduced customer demands since the last drought and those demands have not significantly recovered, and, therefore, those agencies should be recognized in meeting the call to reduce water use; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the RWA requests its member agencies provide assistance to RWA member agencies that require assistance in meeting their water supply needs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, RWA will work closely with the Water Forum to monitor fishery conditions on the Lower American River, inform its member agencies, and adjust messaging accordingly; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, RWA will continue to support the Water Forum and the Bureau of Reclamation by working collaboratively and providing input to inform decisions related to operations at Folsom Reservoir, such as storing conserved water and making beneficial flow releases; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, RWA will take expedited and enhanced actions to communicate about water efficiency, and where needed, water conservation, for the benefit of the Sacramento Region's water customers and the health of the Lower American River; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, RWA will seek partnerships with Sacramento's media market to enhance regional communication and messaging; and

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, RWA member agencies agree that RWA staff in concert with Water Forum staff should lead on communicating with the media regarding dry year conditions; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, RWA member agencies will continue their efforts in coordinating through RWA to clearly and consistently communicate actions that member agencies' customers can take in the Sacramento Region to conserve water; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, RWA's Executive Director is authorized to proactively communicate with the public consistent with this resolution for timely, consistent, and clear communications. This includes mobilizing existing resources and may include future requests to the RWA Board of Directors for additional funding, as needed; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, RWA encourages member agencies to provide direct and in-kind communications support to amplify the Sacramento Region's messaging, as managed by RWA; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, RWA will take expedited actions to advocate for State and Federal actions and funding that support its member agencies' efforts to conserve water and take other urgent water supply reliability actions, including building water reliability infrastructure within the Sacramento Region; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, RWA will support efforts to enhance dry year operations to the extent practicable and to minimize regional impacts in coordination with State and Federal partners; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, RWA will undertake expedited and enhanced efforts to work with the Water Forum and its members to find additional ways to promote greater water efficiency, water conservation, and water supply reliability; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, RWA member agencies regulated by the CPUC will manage customer demands in accordance with the requirements of the CPUC; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the RWA Executive Director is authorized, in coordination with the RWA Board Chair, to call a Special RWA Board meeting to revise this resolution and the actions therein, to adaptively manage through dry conditions as needed.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a meeting of the Authority held on May 13, 2021.