



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Board of Directors or Committee Name
Title: Updated 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan
From: Paul Sellier, Director of Water Resources
Meeting Date: December 19, 2023

TYPE OF ACTION: X Action Information Review and Refer

RECOMMENDATION: Conduct a Public Hearing on the draft Updated 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan; and, Approve a resolution to adopt the Updated 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan

SUMMARY: In 1983, the California Legislature enacted the Urban Water Management Planning Act (Act). This law requires an urban water supplier to adopt an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) every five years demonstrating water supply reliability in normal, single dry, and multiple dry years. The 2020 UWMP was adopted on June 15, 2021. In this update to the UWMP, demand projections have been updated to include increased water demand as a result of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) 2023-2031 Final Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Plan. The RHNA incorporates increases in population due to planned housing developments within the District’s service area. Staff will present an overview of the District’s Updated 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and minor proposed amendments to the Water Shortage Contingency Plan for the Public Hearing.

DISCUSSION: Every five years, urban water suppliers in California are required by State law to prepare an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). This is a resource planning document to help ensure that adequate water supplies are available to meet existing and future water needs within its service area. Marin Municipal Water District (District) meets the definition of an urban water supplier and adopted the 2020 UWMP on June 15, 2021. The District’s Updated 2020 UWMP incorporates population projections and projected water demands through 2045 to account for housing allocations determined by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) 2023-2031 Final Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Plan. This updated UWMP is intended to address the impacts on demand due to the increase in numbers of dwellings called for in the RHNA and is not a comprehensive update which typically occurs every five years. The next full UWMP update is anticipated by June 2026 and will include additional changes that have occurred since the 2020 UWMP. Key elements of the 2025 UWMP will include a full review of the District’s water system, demand projections, existing and future water

supply, water supply reliability, water shortage contingency plan, and water conservation and demand management programs.

Water Demand Projections

Understanding water demands and how they may change over time allows the District to manage its water supply and appropriately plan infrastructure investments. The 2020 UWMP anticipated a 0.34% growth as determined by ABAG in 2018, which resulted in 2,028 new dwelling units in the service area by 2030. The most recent RHNA projections, which are the main reason for this update, reflect an increase of 11,458 new homes by 2030 in the District's service area. Staff assumed these new homes would align with the District's current housing makeup (93% single family and 7% multi-family, with the average of 5 dwelling units per multi-family account) in the service area. It is anticipated that these new homes will have the same level of demand per household as the new homes which were included in the 2020 UWMP.

In the 2020 UWMP, total potable and untreated water demand within the District (excluding environmental releases) was projected to be 26,915 AFY by 2045. Taking into account the additional RHNA housing allocations total potable and untreated water (excluding environmental releases) demand within the District is projected to increase to 29,316 AFY by 2045, an 8.1% increase. Based on the UWMP guidelines the District is able to support this new level of demand without additional water supplies or triggering special measures. The 2020 UWMP also included an extreme drought scenario, which would require implementation of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan to assure sufficient water supply during such periods. This is consistent with the District's recent Strategic Water Supply Assessment, which indicates that additional supply is needed to assure resiliency in the face of climate change and severe drought scenarios.

Water Shortage Contingency Plan

On February 21, 2023, the District updated its Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) to establish actions and procedures for managing water shortages due to droughts and other emergencies. The primary objective of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) is to ensure that the District has in place the necessary resources and management responses needed to protect health and human safety, minimize economic disruption, and preserve environmental and community assets during water supply shortages and interruptions.

The end user prohibitions activated at each level are designed to conserve water through restricting specific actions that align with the corresponding conservation target. The conservation target is a District-wide goal and may not be assigned to each specific individual water customer. The prohibitions escalate at each water shortage stage based on the anticipated reduction needed. District staff has received feedback from local golf courses regarding the Stage 3 restrictions. The Stage 3 restrictions as presently adopted unintentionally discourages the implementation of additional water use efficiency measures in non-drought years. The current stage 3 restriction for golf courses is a percentage reduction based on the last three normal years of usage and therefore an entity, such as a golf course, could prepare for drought conditions by increasing their use of water thus establishing a higher normal base usage. The District supports the continued implementation of ongoing water efficiency measures and therefore staff is proposing the following amendment to the WSCP Stage 3 restriction:

“Golf course irrigation, with potable or raw water, shall be reduced by either 30% compared to the average use of the last three normal years or shall be deficit irrigated by 30% of the sites Maximum Applied Water Allowance per District Water Efficient Landscape Code Appendix A.”

The Maximum Applied Water Allowance (MAWA) is defined in District Code 13.02.021 as the upper limit of annual applied water for the established landscape as determined by the District. When determining the MAWA for a site, District staff takes into consideration the following factors: plant water needs, size of the area requiring irrigation, and local weather conditions.



Pursuant to the implementing ordinances, the District may grant variances for use of water otherwise prohibited under the mandatory water use prohibitions if it is found and determined that a variance is warranted.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: None.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Proposed Resolution
2. DRAFT Updated 2020 UWMP and WSCP

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Water Resources		
	Paul Sellier Water Resources Director	Ben Horenstein General Manager