



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: City Council
Meeting Date: August 18th, 2025
From: AJ Thorne, Public Works Director
Subject: Overview: 2025 Water Management and Conservation Plan Update

DECISION TO BE MADE:

No decision is required at this meeting. This meeting is an opportunity for the Council to review the Water Management and Conservation Plan (WMCP) and comment before it is submitted to the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) in November.

APPLICABLE COUNCIL GOAL:

- **Goal 7.3:** Complete Water Management Conservation Plan Update.
- **Goal 7.4:** Explore a tiered rate structure for water consumption; review and update agreements with wholesale water customers.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT:

Required by the State of Oregon and administered by OWRD, the Water Management and Conservation Plan is a document that is intended as a guide for water conservation and water management programs for Sandy's water system. The guiding principles of this document are sustainable water use and planning for future water needs. The WMCP addresses topics such as water loss, promotion of water conservation throughout the City and planning efforts to be made to ensure Sandy remains efficient and sustainable. Sandy's Water Curtailment Plan is also contained within this document.

The sections of this document are as follows:

- Section 1 – Municipal Water Supplier Plan Elements
- Section 2 – Municipal Water Suppliers Descriptions
- Section 3 – Municipal Water Conservation Element
- Section 4 – Municipal Water Curtailment Element
- Section 5 – Municipal Water Supply Element

Sandy's current WMCP was approved by OWRD in 2016. One requirement of this plan is that an updated WMCP is to be submitted to OWRD by November 30, 2025. The City is also required to provide 5-year progress reports to OWRD on the benchmarks included in this plan.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS / ANALYSIS:

While the majority of this document is an update of the previous plan, there are some key changes. Most notably, the included curtailment plan has been rewritten to provide better response options for wildfire events threatening Sandy's water supply. Previously, it was written to respond to drought conditions. It will now allow the City to move through the curtailment steps at a more rapid pace in response to wildfires that could interrupt the production of water.

This draft of the WMCP also has language that supports council Goal 7.4: The exploration of tiered rates for the City of Sandy.

The purpose of this agenda item is to introduce this draft document to the Council for review and comment. Staff welcomes any feedback the Council may wish to provide on the draft document; a follow up discussion with the Council may be scheduled if necessary before the document is submitted to OWRD for review. Once approved by OWRD, the document will need to be adopted by Council. This could be as early as Q1 2026.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Implementation of a tiered rate structure would require careful analysis to ensure the City can continue to receive revenue adequate to meet our obligations. At this point, the City's stated intention is simply to "explore" such a rate structure.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council review the draft of Sandy's Water Management and Conservation Plan and provide feedback that can be addressed before the document is submitted to the Oregon Water Resources Department. A further discussion with the Council on this topic may be scheduled if necessary before the submission deadline.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

n/a

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS / EXHIBITS:

- 2025 Sandy Water Management and Conservation Plan