



CITY OF

NEWPORT BEACH

City Council Staff Report

June 8, 2021
Agenda Item No. 18

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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TITLE: Resolution Nos. 2021-54, 2021-55, and 2021-56: Public Hearing and Adoption of the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan

ABSTRACT:

California requires all urban water suppliers to prepare an Urban Water Management Plan every five years. The water plan is used to support long-term resource planning and ensure adequate water supplies are available to meet existing and future water demands. California has also required a new, additional plan, known as the Water Shortage Contingency Plan. This is another strategic planning document in order to prepare for and respond to water shortages. In conjunction with regional water agencies, the Utilities Department staff prepared these documents for public review at the May 25, 2021 City Council meeting, requests a Public Hearing be held, and recommends adoption by City Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

- a) Conduct a public hearing;
- b) Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly;
- c) Adopt Resolution No. 2021-54, *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, Adopting the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan*;
- d) Adopt Resolution No. 2021-55, *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, Adopting a Water Shortage Contingency Plan*;
- e) Adopt Resolution No. 2021-56, *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, Adopting an Addendum to the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan*; and
- f) Direct staff to fulfill the notification requirements set forth by the Water Code after the Urban Water Management Plan is adopted.

DISCUSSION:

What is an Urban Water Management Plan?

Every urban water supplier providing water for municipal purposes is required to prepare, adopt, and file an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) (Attachment A) with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) every five years. The purpose of the UWMP is to update the existing and planned water supplies, maintain efficient use of urban water supplies, continue to promote water conservation, ensure sufficient water supplies are available, and provide a mechanism for response during drought conditions. The DWR reviews the submitted plans to assure compliance requirements identified in the Urban Water Management Planning Act (Division 6 Part 2.6 of the Water Code §10610 - 10656). The 2020 UWMP is required to be updated and submitted to the DWR by July 1, 2021.

What is the Water Shortage Contingency Plan?

The Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) (Attachment B) is a newly required strategic planning document designed to prepare for and respond to water shortages. This WSCP complies with California Water Code Section 10632, which requires that every urban water supplier shall prepare and adopt a WSCP as part of its Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). This level of detailed planning and preparation is intended to help maintain reliable supplies and reduce the impacts of supply interruptions.

Similar to the City of Newport Beach (City) Municipal Code, the WSCP includes structured steps for the City to respond to water shortages or drought conditions. Because the WSCP is a State of California (State) requirement and is similar to the City's existing Water Conservation and Supply Regulations, (i.e. City Municipal Code section 14.16) the City submitted a crosswalk between the two plans. This meets the State's requirement of developing and submitting a WSCP, without having to update the City's existing Municipal Code at this time. Following approval of the UWMP and WSCP, an update to the Municipal Code is planned for City Council consideration in the near future.

What is the Addendum to 2015 UWMP to add Appendix J Reduced Delta Reliance Reporting?

The noted Addendum (Attachment C) is complicated. In summary, the Addendum certifies that the City's actions as a recipient of water from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California will be consistent with applicable Delta Plan policies of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009. State and local public agencies are required to certify this, and all local public agencies are submitting this Addendum to their 2015 UWMP. The 2020 UWMP meets the requirement and will not require an Addendum on this matter in the future.

Summary

The City, along with 23 other local agencies, participated in a cooperative agreement with the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) to update and develop UWMPs for individual agencies. The agencies contracted with Arcadis in August 2020. This joint effort minimized consultant costs through economies of scale due to the similarity of regional information and shared requirements. Our proposed UWMP has been tailored to the City's needs and meet all elements required by the California Water Code. The City's UWMP is a comprehensive document that presents an evaluation of our water supply reliability over a long-term (20-25 year) horizon. Much of our water supply reliability comes from imported water and groundwater managed by other agencies.

In summary, the 2020 UWMP is a planning and verification document. The City and our UWMP and WSP meet State requirements. We have planned our water resource needs, conducted our water reliability assessment, implemented our water use efficiency programs, and implemented our planned strategies to mitigate future water shortage conditions.

The UWMP document is voluminous and as part of this staff report only the title, table of contents and executive summary has been attached (Attachment A). The full-length UWMP document is available on the City's website at the link provided below. It will be available there during the next five-year operational period.

[2020 UWMP Document](#)

FISCAL IMPACT:

The adopted budget includes sufficient funding for the cost to prepare the plan. It was expensed to the 701 Water Enterprise Fund professional services account. Implementation is carried out and funded through the Water Fund's operational and capital improvement accounts. Without an approved UWMP, the City would jeopardize State grant funding, and could be subject to penalties.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Staff recommends the City Council find this action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

NOTICING:

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Council considers the item). Also, notice of this hearing was published in the Daily Pilot, twice, at least 14 days before the scheduled meeting, consistent with the provisions of the State Water Code.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – 2020 Draft Urban Water Management Plan Executive Summary

Attachment B – 2020 Draft Water Shortage Contingency Plan

Attachment C – Addendum to Add Appendix J to 2015 Urban Water Management Plan

Attachment D – Resolution No. 2021-54

Attachment E – Resolution No. 2021-55

Attachment F – Resolution No. 2021-56

Attachment G – UWMP and WSP Presentation