



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting of June 23, 2015
Second Reading Ordinance for City Council Meeting July 14, 2015

DATE: June 12, 2015

TO: Ronald L. Olson, City Manager

THROUGH: Gustavo Gonzalez, P.E., Assistant City Manager

FROM: Daniel McGinn, Assistant Director of Environment and Strategic Initiatives
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Ordinance amending Chapter 55 of the City Code of Ordinances and Drought Contingency Plan regarding extension of Stage 2 best management practices
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CAPTION:

Ordinance amending City Code of Ordinances, Sections 55-152 and 55-153, Water Resource Management, to revise drought contingency triggers for Stage 1 and Stage 2 and drought best management practices; and authorizing amendment to the Drought Contingency Plan approved by Ordinance No. 029846 to reflect changes to Sections 55-152 and 55-153.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this amendment is to continue the overwhelming success and effectiveness of the drought measures implemented during Stage 2 by extending them until the combined lake levels reach a higher percentage.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The Water Resource Management Ordinance (Article XII of Chapter 55) provides the City legal authority to implement the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) and Water Conservation Plan. The DCP outlines the best management practices to be taken by the City and Region to meet water demand during a period of water shortage or other emergency situation.

In May of 2013, City Council passed the current version of the DCP and Water Resource Management Ordinance. Since the DCP was implemented, the City has been in Stage 2 Drought response for 15 months and Stage 1 for eight months. During that entire period of 23 months, residential customers reduced demand by 18% compared to the pre-drought average. This equates to 2.4 billion gallons or approximately 7,200 acre-feet of water saved.

These savings were primarily achieved through the one-day-per-week sprinkler irrigation drought measure. Even when the City went back to voluntary measures for eight months, water consumption did not significantly increase, as many citizens realized that one-day-per-week irrigation is more than enough to keep landscapes healthy in South Texas.

Because one-day-per-week watering was found to be successful in conserving water and does

not negatively impact landscapes, this amendment seeks to extend the period of Stage 2 as follows:

- Requirements for initiation - The combined storage level for Choke Canyon Reservoir and Lake Corpus Christi declines to below eighty (80) per cent.
- Requirement for termination - Stage 2 of the plan may be rescinded when the combined storage level increases above ninety (90) per cent for a period of fifteen (15) consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1 becomes operative.

Stage 1 measures become year-round. They include voluntary one-day-per-week sprinkler irrigation.

In addition, because water savings from certain drought measures were negligible and caused unnecessary burden on customers and staff, the following drought measures are removed during Stages 1-3:

- Limiting vehicle washing to one-day-per week
- Limiting pool refilling to one-day-per week
- Restrictions on fountains
- Restrictions on power washing

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Implement existing Stage 1 drought measures at the current assigned trigger point of 50%.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

Customers can continue to water any day by means of hand-held hose or drip irrigation.

Wholesale customers of the City are required to implement drought measures equal to or more stringent than the City, by contract within 30 days. On June 9, they were sent copies of the Drought Contingency Plan to review. Comments received will be considered prior to final adoption.

CONFORMITY TO CITY POLICY:

Yes this conforms to applicable regulations.

EMERGENCY / NON-EMERGENCY:

Non-emergency

DEPARTMENTAL CLEARANCES:

Legal

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

☐ Operating ☐ Revenue ☐ Capital X Not applicable

Fiscal Year: 2014-2015	Project to Date Expenditures (CIP only)	Current Year	Future Years	TOTALS
Line Item Budget				

Encumbered / Expended Amount				
This item				
BALANCE				

Fund(s): N/A

Comments: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of ordinance amendment as proposed, with acknowledgment that a full revision will be performed by the end of the year.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Amended ordinance
Presentation
Amended Drought Contingency Plan