



MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Bill Robeson, Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director

BY: Shane Taylor, Utilities Manager

SUBJECT: Monthly Water Supply and Demand Update

DATE: August 23, 2022

SUMMARY OF ACTION:

The update reports the City's total water supply and demand for July, 2022. Current Lopez Reservoir level and projected levels are provided in the attachments.

IMPACT ON FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES:

Approximately two (2) hours of staff time is required to prepare the report.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the monthly Water Supply and Demand Report.

BACKGROUND:

On October 12, 2021, the City Council adopted a Resolution declaring a Stage 1 Water Shortage Emergency, and implementing emergency water conservation measures and restrictions as a result of the extreme drought conditions.

In July, the City's water use was 195.6 acre-feet with a per capita use of 104 gallons per day/per person. There was a total of 0 inches of rainfall in the City in July, 2022.

ANALYSIS OF ISSUES:

The United States Drought Monitor, as of August 8, 2022, shows San Luis Obispo County in a severe drought. Rainfall to date for the period July 1, 2022, through July 31, 2022, is 0 inches at the Corporation Yard rain gauge. Lopez Lake, as of August 8, 2022, is at 25.3% capacity (12,504 acre-feet).

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The new water year began on April 7, 2022, and the City's annual Lopez Lake contract supply had been reduced 10% on August 24, 2021, by the enactment of the Low Reservoir Response Plan (LRRP). On July 21, 2022, the Zone 3 Advisory Board approved the Technical Advisory Committee's recommendations to reduce contract deliveries by 20% prior to the lake reaching 10,000 acre feet. As a result, the City began reducing the flow of deliveries on July 26, 2022, to 1.7 million gallons per day compared to the normal flow of 2.2 million gallons per day.

In addition to Lopez Lake deliveries, the City has 1323 acre-feet of groundwater entitlement from the Santa Maria basin and wells within the Pismo formation that can produce 160 acre-feet per year. The third quarter monitoring for the Santa Maria Basin sentry wells was completed on July 11th. The deep well index was 5.34 feet above sea level, which is 2.16 feet below the deep well index threshold value of 7.5 feet and 1.91 feet lower than the index value on year ago. This is the first quarter that the level has been below the 7.5 threshold value. If the index level stays below the 7.5 level for six consecutive quarters, or if indication of sea water intrusion occurs, this could trigger additional water restrictions for Arroyo Grande.

This predicted use for water year 2022/23 is 2,213 acre-feet based on average rainfall. The July 2022 water use was 18% lower than the July 2021 water use. This reduction exceeds our goal of 10% overall reduction from the previous year.

ALTERNATIVES:

The following alternatives are provided for the Council's consideration:

1. Receive and file the report; or
2. Provide other direction to staff.

ADVANTAGES:

This report provides the City Council and the public with the current and projected conditions of our water supply and demand.

DISADVANTAGES:

No disadvantages noted at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

No environmental review is required for this item.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND COMMENTS:

The Agenda was posted at City Hall and on the City's website in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2

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Attachments:

1. Lopez Monthly Operations Report for July, 2022
2. Lopez Reservoir Storage Projection
3. Monthly Water Use Comparison
4. Monthly Monitoring Report