



Staff Report

for the Board Meeting of June 23, 2021

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Chip Close, Water Operations Manager
DATE: June 14, 2021
SUBJECT: Drought Action Planning

OPERATIONS

RECOMMENDATION:

Review current water supply conditions and provide guidance to Staff on a potential escalation of water shortage actions.

BACKGROUND:

The severely dry hydrologic conditions across California continue to stress water resources statewide. On April 21, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a State of Emergency Proclamation, stating, "Much of the West is experiencing severe to exceptional drought". The drought emergency included multiple counties across California including all of NID's service area. NID declared its own drought emergency at the April 28, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting and conditions have deteriorated since that time.

At the May 26, 2021 Board of Directors meeting, the Board directed staff to explore options regarding an escalation of the drought emergency to mandatory levels. Staff responded with a recommended action plan at the June 9, 2021 Board of Directors meeting. The Board was receptive and supported implementation of the following Staff recommendations:

Treated Water

- Mandatory reduction of 20%
- Implement Stage 2 drought pricing
- Limit outdoor watering to every other day
 - Maximum of 3 days per week

Raw Water

- No new or increased summer sales or winter sales
- Implement Stage 2 drought pricing

- Accomplished through a supplemental billing at the end of irrigation season
- No Fall water sales

District Actions

- Continue and escalate media campaign
- No system flushing unless necessary for water quality
- Implement water waste patrols
- Water waste enforcement

The last item for discussion included mandatory reductions for seasonal raw water customers. Staff had recommended early termination of the irrigation season for all customers on October 1. The Board had some concerns agreeing to early termination, and requested additional information regarding alternatives. Specifically, how much water could be saved if year round canals went to 20% reductions immediately, and normally dry winter canals shut down two weeks early. Staff is calculating the data and will provide an end of season forecast for each scenario. Staff will also provide the number of customer affected by each scenario and convey the challenges associated with re-orificing service outlets in the remaining months of irrigation season.

Once a preferred option is selected, a new drought resolution will be developed and noticed to the public in a manner that follows the regulatory requirements for public hearings.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

To be discussed as part of the drought action plan implementation.