

VENTURA WATER COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT

Date: April 20, 2021

Agenda Item No: 3

Meeting Date: April 27, 2021

To: Ventura Water Commission

From: Susan Rungren, Ventura Water General Manager

Subject: 2021 Final Draft Comprehensive Water Resources Report

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Water Commission:

- a. Receive this written report and oral presentation on the 2021 Final Draft Comprehensive Water Resources Report.
- b. Recommend to City Council to rescind the Stage 2 Water Shortage Event declaration, effective July 1, 2021.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS

June 3, 2013, the City Council approved the 2013 Comprehensive Water Resources Report (CWRR) and directed staff to provide an annual update on the City's projected water supply and demand.

The Water Commission/City Council subsequently received/approved the CWRRs for the years 2014 through 2019.

April 16, 2020, the Water Commission received the Final Draft 2020 CWRR and recommended approval to the City Council. The Water Commission also recommended moving to a Stage 2 from a Stage 3 Water Shortage Event.

March 23, 2021, the Water Commission received a written report and oral presentation of the 2021 Draft Comprehensive Water Resources Report.

DISCUSSION

Comprehensive Water Resources Report

Understanding and monitoring our water supply and demand is essential to planning for and managing a stable and reliable water system to support our community and economic growth. Our supply and demand play an important role and dramatically influence the planning for, development of, and investment of significant dollars in capital improvements, maintaining our current water supply and investing in new water supplies. The City Council approved the 2013 Comprehensive Water Resources Report (2013 CWRR) in June 2013 and directed staff to provide an annual update on the City's projected water supply and demand. With input from the Water Commission, subsequent annual reports have been prepared for the years 2014 through 2020.

During this iteration of the 2021 CWRR, updates to the City's *2020 Urban Water Management Plan*, *2020 Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan (WSECP)*, and *2021 Water and Wastewater Cost of Service and Rate Design Study* were underway, which have led to changes to this report. The Draft 2021 CWRR, dated March 16, 2021, was presented during the March 23, 2021 Water Commission meeting.

Updates to the 2021 Draft CWRR include:

- Updating the water loss factor to 6.15% based on the State-required draft water loss audit for calendar year 2020,
- Utilizing the 5-year average to calculate the baseline demand to align with the new normal of lower water usage and assumptions used in the *2021 Water and Wastewater Cost of Service and Rate Design Study*,
- Updating supply projections for each of the City's sources,
- Renaming Section 6 "Conclusions and Discussions" to "Comparison of Near-Term Demand and Supply Projections" to reflect the deletion of the long-term supply and demand comparison from the report because the 2020 UWMP will go into greater detail, and
- Incorporation of updated water shortage calculation methodology from the 2020 WSECP.

At the March 23, 2021 Water Commission meeting, staff discussed a potential modification to the Draft WSECP that would impact how a water shortage stage is determined in the CWRR. At the March 30, 2021 Water Commission special meeting, the Water Commission approved staff's recommendation to adjust the annual demand projections based on rainfall to capture potential demand fluctuations during drought conditions. If rainfall for the water year, as of March 15th, is less than 75% of normal, then the demand projection will be increased by 5 percent. If rainfall for the water year, as of March 15th, is less than 50% of normal, then the demand projection will be increased by 10 percent. The Final Draft Comprehensive Water Resources Report incorporates this change in Section 6.C Water Shortage Stage Calculation.

Following the March 23, 2021 meeting, written comments were received from the Water Commission on the 2021 Draft CWRR and staff summarized and responded to the comments in a Comment Matrix (Attachment A). Additional public comments were also received (Attachment B). The comments and feedback were incorporated, as feasible, into the 2021 Final Draft CWRR dated April 20, 2021 (Attachments C and D). Major changes incorporated in the 2021 Final Draft CWRR include:

- Addition of the Executive Summary, which has been significantly pared down to include only the major findings and conclusions of the report.
- Deletion of the 2013 outdated water demand factors, historical land use background, and varying water loss factors for prior years, so that the CWRR is focused on current data. Readers are referred to prior CWRRs for historical detail.
- Deletion of 2025 and 2030 normal supply projections from Section 4 Water Supply and Table 4-3: *Summary of Projected Future Water Supply from Existing and Potential New Sources* since water supply projections for various climatic scenarios through 2045 are presented in the City's 2020 UWMP.
- Addition of water savings in acre-feet per year for the City's water use efficiency programs.

The following minor changes have also been incorporated in the 2021 Final Draft CWR:

- Editorial changes for grammar and ease of reading.
- Renumbering of document section system.
- Expanded Acronyms and Abbreviations List and Glossary.

Water Shortage Stage Rescission

The following water shortage stage discussion requires direction from the Water Commission. The City was in a Stage 3 Water Shortage Event from 2015 to June 2020. From July 2020 through present, the City has been in a less restrictive Stage 2 Water Shortage Event.

The previous 2015 WSECP water storage stage trigger was based on comparing Annual Supply to Normal Supply. The updated 2020 WSECP specifies that the water shortage stage trigger is calculated by comparing the Annual Supply Projection to the Demand Projection.

Using the methodology in the updated 2020 WSECP, the 2021 CWRR includes the following calculation to determine the water shortage stage trigger for Fiscal Year 2021-22. The current supply projection from Table 4-2 of this report for 2021, assuming drought impact, is 16,345 acre feet (AF). The current demand projection from Table 3-8 of this report for 2021 is 14,210 AF. Rainfall for the current water year October 2020 – September 2021, as of March 15th, 2021, was 3.42", which is 23% of the normal rainfall of 14.73". Based on the methodology defined in the 2020 WSECP, if rainfall is less than 50% of normal, then a 10% upward adjustment will be made to the demand projection. Therefore,

the demand projection used for this calculation is 15,631 AF. This results in a supply projection that is 4.6% above demand projection for 2021.

Based on Table 4-1 of the 2020 WSECP, a water shortage event is not triggered, and the City may rescind the Stage 2 declaration from May 2020. If approved by the Water Commission, this recommendation will be taken to the City Council in May 2021. Although the City's supplies continue to be impacted by the current drought, Ventura Water customers have responded extraordinarily to the call for conservation over the previous years. Residents will continue to be encouraged to maintain similar levels of conservation and the City will continue to enforce water waste prohibitions and offer water efficiency programs and incentives as conservation is a California way of life.

Following Water Commission review of the 2021 Final Draft Comprehensive Water Resources Report, staff will forward the Final 2021 CWRR to the City Council in May 2021 and request that City Council rescind the Water Shortage Event Stage 2 Declaration, effective July 1, 2021.

Prepared by: Jennifer Tribo - Management Analyst II

Attachments:

- A. [Water Commission Comment and Response Matrix for the 2021 Draft CWRR](#)
- B. [Public Comments on the 2021 Draft CWRR](#)
- C. [2021 Final Draft Comprehensive Water Resources Report \(redline\)](#)
- D. [2021 Final Draft Comprehensive Water Resources Report \(clean\)](#)