SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

TO: Board of Directors **AGENDA NO. V-A**

FROM: Steve Mack, General Manager

Meeting Date: July 7, 2016

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 16-07 RESCINDING STAGE 1 OF DISTRICT WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Resolution 16-07 rescinding Stage 1 of the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan, based on the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) allowance for self-certification of local water supplies, the region's adequate rainfall during the past rain season, and adequate storage in regional reservoirs to support minimum flows in the Russian River.

FISCAL IMPACT: May result in a small increase in revenue from increased water use.

DISCUSSION:

At the August 7, 2014 Board meeting the District Board passed Resolution 14-14 which implemented the then current State Board regulations requiring the District to enact the appropriate level of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan to achieve a 20% reduction in water production compared to the same month in 2013 and implement certain mandatory water conservation measures. The State Board resolution and attached regulations prohibited the following actions:

1. The application of potable water to any driveway or sidewalk.
2. Using potable water to water outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff to adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots or structures.
3. Using a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle.
4. Using potable water in a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is recirculated.

Resolution 14-14 put the District into Stage 1 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan and the response by District customers resulted in a production reduction of approximately 14% through March 2015.

In March and April of 2015, the State took several actions that extended its drought regulations. The State Board reaffirmed the water use restrictions to achieve 20% reductions in water use by urban water suppliers in March, and in early April Governor Brown increased the reduction to 25% but stated the reduction program should recognize programs that have been doing water conservation all along. In

the 2015 version of the State Board regulations, the District was required to reduce its water production by 16% compared to 2013. The amended State Board regulations also included some new water use restrictions:

5. Urban water suppliers must limit the number of days per week that customers can irrigate outdoors.
6. Irrigating turf or ornamental landscapes during and 48 hours following measurable precipitation was prohibited.
7. Water agencies were required to notify customers when they are aware of leaks that are within the customer's control.
8. Restaurants and other food service establishments could only serve water to customers on request; and
9. Operators of hotels and motels must provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily and prominently display notice of this option.

On May 7, 2015 the District Board approved Resolution 15-10 which continued Stage 1 and revised it to conform to the amended State Board regulations. This Resolution included the additional State Board restrictions and specifically restricted outside watering to 3 days per week. During this period District customers have responded well and have reduced their water use by approximately 22% compared to the same months in 2013.

This past winter the precipitation that fell in most of California was enough to fill many reservoirs and that has taken off the edge of the emergency aspect of the Statewide drought, although one can't say the drought is over Statewide and many localities still are in very serious situations. However, the State Board has recognized that having a Statewide target is not meaningful for many water suppliers. In response to the current situation, the State Board has continued the drought emergency but has amended its regulations to allow large urban water suppliers (and the District falls into this category) to self-certify the level of available water supply they have assuming three additional dry years, and the level of conservation necessary to assure adequate supply over that time period. Water suppliers that can demonstrate that they will not have a shortfall in their supplies after three additional dry years do not need to meet a conservation target.

The District falls into this category. We have gone through this process and have successfully demonstrated that our water supply for the next 3 years is more than sufficient without a mandatory water use reduction target. This self-certification is based on the following:

- The District receives its water supply from underflow of the Russian River via the El Bonita and Monte Rio well fields.
- Summer is the critical period for having enough flow in the River for the District's water supply needs.
- Minimum summer flow is 70 cubic feet per second (cfs), according to the Biological Opinion for endangered salmonid species in the Russian River.
- The Sonoma County Water Agency has self-certified its wholesale water supply for its contractors which means SCWA can make releases to meet the required minimum flows.

- District maximum pumping in the summer is 2 cfs and any relatively small increase or decrease (for example, 20% decrease) in that amount would not be measurable compared to the 70 cfs minimum flow.

While the State Board has allowed self-certification, the State still requires the enforcement of certain restrictions through its emergency regulations. Those include all the ones listed above, except number 5. The continued restrictions are mostly within the general conservation practices, drought or no drought, of the District, and do not need formal implementation of a water shortage contingency plan.

Resolution 16-07 has been crafted to rescind implementation of the State 1 condition but recognize that certain water use restrictions required by the State Board are still in place. These restrictions will remain in place until January 2017 unless rescinded by the State before then (unlikely because of the timing with the precipitation season; we need snow and rain statewide or continued because the needed precipitation is not happening.

Observations:

- District customers are to be commended for their exemplary performance during the Stage 1 period. Water use reductions exceeded the State targets, but more importantly there was great cooperation by District customers in complying with the State required restrictions. Staff had very few instances of needing to get customers to comply with the restrictions and in all situations I can remember it only took one call or visit.
- Because of the District's situation of pumping from the underflow of the Russian River, there is no conceivable drought situation that would actually cause water supply problems for the District. However, there are conceivable drought situations that would cause water supply issues for the region, and the District should participate in the regional solutions for those issues which would likely include water conservation efforts aiming for a target reduction in water use.
- There are other possible water shortage situations that are real for the District - earthquakes which damage District supply lines and other facilities, contamination of the River from a variety of sources, and other situations. We need to be prepared for these too.
- The District should use this experience to improve or modify the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Plan) which is included in the District's Urban Water Management Plan. For example, the current Plan does not anticipate the State requiring a certain conservation target including certain mandatory water use restrictions. We now know this should be provided for in the Plan.
- For most places in California the drought is not over even if the conservation effort has been toned down. For the Russian River area, we are still in a period of lower than average rainfall, but whether a regional conservation program is needed is a year to year thing. We're waiting on revisions to Decision 1610 which may add clarity to long-term reservoir operations and flow regimes that can get us off the year to year approach.
- The State Board has taken this current approach because it recognizes - it got lots of feedback on this issue - that having unnecessary restrictions in place

was like crying wolf - when we need assistance from our customers in meeting water supply demand, our customers need to know it's for real.

Resolution 16-07

A Resolution of the Sweetwater Springs Water District Rescinding Resolution 15-10 Implementing Stage 1 of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan

WHEREAS, the California State Water Resources Board (State Board) adopted a resolution calling for an overall 20% reduction in statewide water use and enacting certain outside watering restrictions in July 2014; and

WHEREAS, at its August 7, 2014 meeting the District Board adopted Resolution 14-14 which complied with the State Board Drought Emergency Water Conservation Regulations (Regulations) and District customers responded with an overall reduction of 14% in water production; and

WHEREAS, in May 2015 the State Board adopted a new resolution calling for an overall 25% general reduction in statewide water use and amending its Regulations to add certain additional water use restrictions, and specifically require the District to achieve a 16% reduction target based on 2013 water production; and

WHEREAS, in response, the District adopted Resolution 15-10, implementing Stage 1 of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan, and included the required mandatory restrictions in the Stage 1 proclamation; and

WHEREAS, this past winter, precipitation in the region has replenished Russian River reservoirs and generally statewide water supplies are much better than one year ago; and

WHEREAS, the State Board has amended its Regulations to allow urban water suppliers such as the District to self-certify their water supplies, assuming three additional dry years, to determine what level of local water use reduction is needed to meet supply over that time period ; and

WHEREAS, the District has gone through the self certification process and determined that a water use reduction target is not needed to meet local supply over the next three years; and

WHEREAS, the State Board has extended its Regulations through the end of January 2017; and

WHEREAS, the State Board has continued the following restrictions:

1. The application of potable water to any driveway or sidewalk is prohibited.
2. Using potable water to water outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff to adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots or structures is prohibited.
3. Using a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle is prohibited.
4. Using potable water in a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is recirculated, is prohibited.

5. Irrigating turf or ornamental landscapes during and 48 hours following measurable precipitation is prohibited.
6. Water agencies are required to notify customers when they are aware of leaks that are within the customer's control.
7. Restaurants and other food service establishments can only serve water to customers on request; and
8. Operators of hotels and motels must provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily and prominently display notice of this option.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT THAT

1. Resolution 15-10 implementing Stage 1 of the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan is rescinded.

2. The following water uses continue to be prohibited by the District while the Statewide Drought Emergency continues or until these restrictions are modified by the State Board:

- The application of potable water to any driveway or sidewalk.
- Using potable water to water outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff to adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots or structures.
- Using a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle.
- Using potable water in a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is recirculated. Recycled water is not mandated, but encouraged for fountain use.
- Irrigating turf or ornamental landscapes during and 48 hours following measurable precipitation.

3. These restrictions may be waived by the General Manager where necessary to address an immediate health and safety need or to comply with a term or condition in a permit issued by a State or federal agency.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution duly and regularly adopted and passed by the Board of Directors of the SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT, Sonoma County, California, at a meeting held on July 7, 2016, by the following vote.

Director	**Aye**	**No**
Sukey Robb-Wilder	_____	_____
Tim Lipinski	_____	_____
Richard Holmer	_____	_____
Gaylord Schaap	_____	_____
Pip Marquez de la Plata	_____	_____

_____
Tim Lipinski
President of the Board of Directors

_____
Attest: Julie A. Kenny
Clerk of the Board of Directors
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