SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

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

FROM: Steve Mack, General Manager

Meeting Date: May 7, 2015

SUBJECT: DECLARATION OF STAGE I WATER SHORTAGE

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Resolution 15-10 which continues and revises Stage I of the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan with certain water use restrictions with the goal of 16% reduction in water production, based on the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) Resolution and regulations requiring implementation of Water Shortage Contingency Plans and certain mandatory water conservation measures.

FISCAL IMPACT: A 16% reduction in water sales would have approximately a $100,000 reduction in District revenues if done for the 270 day period of the State Board resolution. There would be additional, relatively small District expenses associated with the water conservation effort.

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 include the following mandatory restrictions:

- 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.

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 this year, the State has taken several actions that extend their 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 latest version of the State Board regulations, the District will be required to reduce its water production by 16% compared to 2013. The State Board direction also includes some new water use restrictions:

- Urban water suppliers must now limit the number of days per week that customers can irrigate outdoors. The limit must either be specified in their drought contingency plans; or if their plan contains no specific limit, irrigation is limited to no more than two days per week.
- Irrigating turf or ornamental landscapes during and 48 hours following measurable precipitation is prohibited.
- Water agencies will also be required to notify customers when they are aware of leaks that are within the customer's control.
- Restaurants and other food service establishments can only serve water to customers on request; and
- 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.

These regulations are currently a proposal; the State Board will meet on May 5-6, 2015 to consider approval of the proposed approach.

Table A-2 shows the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan stages from the 2010 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). Stage I is appropriate for a reduction of 15-25%.

Table A-2
Emergency Response Stages and Reduction Goals

Shortage Condition	Stage	Customer Reduction Goal	Type of Rationing Program
15 – 25%	I	25%	Voluntary
26 – 35%	II	35%	Mandatory
36 – 50%	III	50% or >	Mandatory

The biggest compliance issue appears to be introducing turf watering restrictions into Stage I of the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan. Staff recommend adding a restriction of 3 days per week outside watering of turn and ornamental plants with customers choosing which 3 days to water. This will be in compliance with State Board direction and send the message to customers to be careful with outside watering. Our service area is relatively small and we should become aware of customers who are not following the 3 day per week approach.

Exhibit A to Resolution 15-10 is revised from Resolution 14-14 to add the additional restrictions expected to be required by the State. This plan is based on staff experience of working in the conservation field and discussions with SCWA staff of

what is available for regional programs. Because of the decentralized nature of this conservation effort, possible changes in direction from the State, and the current lack of an overall regional coordination of regional water conservation, the Plan must be considered subject to change. As we find better ways to achieve results, we would implement those better ways.

Observations:

- The easiest (at least mathematically) way to save water is to reduce system leaks which is outside the conservation effort required by the State. We have direct control over that effort - in that regard the District is moving forward with its capital projects and had recently ordered the purchase of correlator equipment which will allow District staff to proactively look for non-surfacing leaks in the distribution system.
- The District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan is short on details for Stage I. In the revision of the Urban Water Management Plan which is due in July 2016, that part of the plan should be expanded to include the experience of this drought.

Resolution 15-10

A Resolution of the Sweetwater Springs Water District Revising Restrictions in the Stage I Water Shortage Program

WHEREAS, the California State Water Resources Board adopted Resolution 2014-0038 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 Direction and District customers have responded with an overall reduction of 14% in water production; and

WHEREAS, the Statewide drought is continuing and the California State Water Resources Board has adopted a new resolution calling for an overall 25% reduction in statewide water use and added certain additional water use restrictions in May 2015; and

WHEREAS, in this revised statewide program which recognizes conservation achievements based on water agency historical performance and the District has been assigned a 16% reduction target based on 2013 water production; and

WHEREAS, the reservoirs in the Russian River system and the flows in the River are low and projections indicate that conditions will deteriorate further later in the summer and fall of 2015; and

WHEREAS, it is in the District's and all regional water purveyors' interest that a cooperative effort be developed to address the water shortage situation in the Russian River system and statewide; and

WHEREAS, the District adopted the 2010 Urban Water Conservation Plan (the "Plan") by Resolution 11-25 on October 6, 2011, which includes a water shortage contingency element: and

WHEREAS, the Plan's voluntary and mandatory rationing stages may be triggered by a water supply shortage; and

WHEREAS, the California State Water Resources Board (State Board) Resolutions find that a water supply shortage exists and directs the District to enact its Water Shortage Contingency Plan to the level that includes the mandatory measures; and

WHEREAS, the Plan has a three stage response plan and provides that Stage I level should be declared when the conservation goal target is between 15-25%; and

WHEREAS, Stage I conservation by District customers has achieved the conservation amount directed by the State yet the Program needs to be amended to included the added measures required by the State; and

WHEREAS, the State Board added requirements include:

- Limiting the number of days per week that customers can irrigate outdoors.
- Prohibiting irrigating turf or ornamental landscapes during and 48 hours following measurable precipitation.

- Notifying customers when they are aware of leaks that are within the customer's control.
- Restaurants and other food service establishments can only serve water to customers on request; and
- 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.

WHEREAS, the combination of the District's Plan and the added State Board required restrictions are programs and activities that will help the District and its customers achieve a conservation target of 16% based on the 2013 usage; and

WHEREAS, attached as Exhibit A is a list of the programs and activities that will be undertaken by the District to assist its customers in achieving water savings under the Stage I conservation program and includes the new requirements; and

WHEREAS, certain District customers may need to use water in a way prohibited by the Plan restrictions and the State Board Resolution allows for exceptions for health and safety reasons; and

WHEREAS, the newest State Board Resolution declares that the emergency resolution and regulations shall be in place for 270 unless modified by the State Board.

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

1. District staff shall implement the revised Stage I of the District's 2010 Urban Water Conservation Plan and directs staff to begin implementation the programs and activities listed in Exhibit A with a goal of decreasing water production by 16%.

2. The following water uses are prohibited by the Stage I Plan:

- 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.
- Outside watering of turf and ornamental landscape more than 3 times per week.
- Irrigating turf or ornamental landscapes during and 48 hours following measurable precipitation.
- Restaurants and other food service establishments can only serve water to customers on request; and
- 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

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.

4. This Stage I Plan and water use restrictions shall be in place until February 1, 2016 unless other direction is received from the State Board.

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 May 7, 2015, by the following vote.

Director	**Aye**	**No**
Sukey Robb-Wilder	_____	_____
Tim Lipinski	_____	_____
Richard Holmer	_____	_____
Gaylord Schaap	_____	_____
Victoria Wikle	_____	_____

_____
Gaylord Schaap
President of the Board of Directors

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

Exhibit A
Resolution 15-10
Sweetwater Springs Water District Water Shortage Contingency Plan
Revised Stage I Water Shortage
May 7, 2015

Reduction Target is 16%. According to 2010 Urban Water Management Plan, this is Stage 1 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan

Triggering Mechanism is State Board Order directing enactment of Water Shortage Contingency Plan level that contains mandatory measures, a 16% water use reduction by Sweetwater Springs Water District, and requiring certain water use restrictions.

The approach/strategy is voluntary conservation whereby District customers are encouraged and offered resources to use water wisely, and to search for and fix leaks on their property combined with a limited number of outside watering restrictions. The District will continue with its capital projects aimed at reducing system losses, pay attention to water wasting in the District, fix surfacing leaks as quickly as possible, and look for other opportunities to reduce system losses.

Plan Elements:

- Public Education/Information
    - Work with SCWA and other water providers in the region for coordinated message
    - Information on website
    - Home Water Audits – self and assisted:
        - Instructions on meter reading.
        - Check for leaks inside and outside.
        - Evaluate all water uses in your facility or home.
        - Provide information on rebates, incentive programs, and water conservation strategies for residents/businesses.
    - Reduce outside watering of ornamental plants and turf.
    - Office Display with handouts – rebates, low flow showerheads, faucet aerators.
    - Water Wise Gardening
    - Media Spots – press releases, PSA's done on a regional basis
    - Connect with Statewide effort
- Waste of Water Prohibited, staff will be alerted to be on the lookout for wastage of water. In the approved Stage I Plan and as required by the State, waste of water includes:
    - 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.
    - Outside watering is restricted to 3 times per week.
    - Irrigating turf or ornamental landscapes during and 48 hours following measurable precipitation is prohibited.

- Restaurants and other food service establishments can only serve water to customers on request; and
- 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.

- Rate incentives – rates have financial incentive to reduce water use (steep incline to tiered rates).
- District staff will notify customers of possible leaks on their property as soon as possible.
- Capital Improvement Program – 2016 CIP is replacing water distribution mains and approximately 75 services on Canyon One Road in Rio Nido starting in June 2015.
- District staff fix reported and found leaks on a priority basis, search for leaks using correlation equipment, and continue to implement the District effort to decrease water losses.