



**SAN BENITO COUNTY
AGENDA ITEM
TRANSMITTAL FORM**

Betsy Dirks
District No. 1

Kollin Kosmicki
District No. 2
Vice Chair

Peter Hernandez
District No. 3
Chair

Bob Tiffany
District No. 4

Bea Gonzales
District No. 5

MEETING DATE: 08/09/2022

DEPARTMENT: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Dulce Alonso

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Ray Espinosa

SUBJECT:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Approve proclamation urging all County of San Benito residents and businesses to adopt water conservation practices to reduce water usage.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 156

AGENDA SECTION:

d. Presentations and Recognitions

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

On April 12, 2021, the Governor declared a state of emergency for drought, listing San Benito County and other counties, stating it is necessary to expeditiously mitigate the effects of the drought conditions to ensure health and safety protections and the environment.

The San Benito County Water District will present the recent drought and provide history, what is being done, and actions to take. At the June 14, 2022, Board of Supervisors meeting, San Benito County Water District presented the current drought conditions in the County of San Benito. The Board requested that staff bring forth a drought proclamation and urge all residents and businesses in San Benito County to adopt water conservation practices.

Drought Risk

The entire population of San Benito County is vulnerable to drought events. Drought can affect people's health and safety, including health problems related to low water flows, poor water quality, or dust. Drought also is often accompanied by extreme heat, exposing people to the risk of sunstroke, heat cramps, and heat exhaustion. Other possible impacts include:

- recreational risks;

- effects on air quality;
- diminished living conditions related to energy, air quality, and hygiene;
- compromised food and nutrition; and
- increased incidence of illness and disease.

Water shortages can affect access to safe, affordable water, substantially impacting low-income families and communities burdened with environmental pollution. Drought causes the most significant economic impacts on industries that use or depend on water for their business, especially agriculture. San Benito County's agricultural sector is particularly vulnerable to drought conditions, with consequences that directly relate to the water available for irrigation. Drought-associated heat conditions exacerbate agricultural irrigation demands when water levels are at their lowest. Reduction in precipitation coupled with heat stress can adversely impact crop production. In addition to losses in yields in crop and livestock production, drought is associated with increased insect infestations, plant diseases, and wind erosion. Drought can lead to other losses because so many sectors are affected- losses that include reduction of income for farmers and reduced business for retailers and others who provide goods and services to farmers. Prices for food, energy, and other products may also increase as supplies decrease.

Prepare for Drought

The best way to prepare for a drought is to conserve water. Make conserving water a part of your daily life. The City of Hollister, Sunnyslope County Water District, and City of San Juan Bautista have implemented Water Customers New Emergency Water Conservation Regulations Stage II.

Stage II - Mandatory Water Conservation Measures

Outdoor Water Restrictions

- For Sunnyslope County WD and City of Hollister customers, landscape watering shall be limited and restricted to no more than two (2) days per week. Odd numbered addresses are hereby restricted to watering on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Even numbered addresses are hereby restricted to watering on Wednesdays and Sundays. San Juan Bautista customers are limited to landscape watering on Monday and Thursday ONLY.
- No landscaping watering between 9 am and 5 pm means other than drip irrigation or hand watering with a quick-acting positive shutoff nozzle.
- No washing down sidewalks, driveways, or other hardscape surfaces.
- No watering landscape in a manner that causes runoff to adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, or parking lots.
- No washing of cars without using a quick-acting, positive shutoff nozzle.
- No operation of decorative fountains or other water features unless the water is recirculated.

General

- Leaks, breaks, and malfunctions of irrigation systems and plumbing equipment causing waste of water shall be repaired and corrected within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the District Manager of Sunnyslope County Water District or the City Manager of the City of Hollister.

Prohibitions Affecting Commercial Businesses

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

Penalties for violating the outdoor water restrictions shall be:

1. First Violation - written notice with an opportunity to correct the Violation.
2. Second Violation - \$100 penalty for a violation within 12 months of First Violation.
3. Third Violation - \$250 penalty for a violation within 12 months of Second Violation Fourth Violation - \$500 penalty and installation of a flow restrictor at the water meter at the customer's expense for every Violation within 12 months of a Third Violation.

Adopt proclamation urging all County of San Benito residents and businesses to adopt water conservation practices to reduce water usage.

RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

N/A

CONTRACT NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

N/A

CONTRACT AND RFP HISTORY:

N/A

LAST CONTRACT AMOUNT OR N/A:

N/A

STATE IF THIS IS A NEW CONTRACT/ HOW MANY PAST AMENDED CONTRACTS/ OR N/A:

N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 1. Operational Development & Excellence

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 2. Planning And Sustainable Growth

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 3. Technology

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 4. Community Engagement

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 5. Health & Safe Community

Yes

BUDGETED:

N/A

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT NEEDED:

N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

UNFUNDED MANDATE:

No

SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:

N/A

CURRENT FY COST:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt proclamation urging all County of San Benito residents and businesses to adopt water conservation practices to reduce water usage.

ATTACHMENTS:

[2022 Drought Proclamation](#)
[Drought Monitor July 5, 2022](#)