

April 28, 2009

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

To FLOREY & ROUTING

APR 30 2009

City of Ukiah

Lynn Florey
Sonoma County Water Agency
Principal Program Specialist
P.O. Box 11628
Santa Rosa, CA 95406

File: 42-4.19&6.19-9 Correspondence Related to SWRCB
Order Approving Temporary Urgency Change in Permits
12947A, 12949, 12950 & 16596 (Order WR 2009-0027-DWR)

Dear Ms. Florey;

This letter is written in response to your letter dated April 17, 2009. I do not know when your letter was received by the City of Ukiah, but it arrived at our water treatment plant rather than in my office at City Hall. The letter was just brought to my attention late yesterday.

I had been expecting a request to respond to Sonoma County Water Agency for information related to the State Water Resources Control Board's ruling, and, therefore, am making an effort to meet your deadline of today's date. In future, it would be helpful if you could copy and/or address critical dated correspondence about these current drought conditions directly to my office, as that will assist us in making timely replies.

Attached, please find the diversion volumes information requested in your letter. You will see that overall annual water use since 2004 has been reduced by 11.4%. Water use in the months of April through October has been reduced since 2004 by 13%. Diversion volume during the months April through October has also been reduced, for some 25% between 2004 and 2007, and 16% between 2004 and 2008 use.

Reduced use over the last few years is a result of the City's commitment to institute conservation measures in both the irrigation and domestic use of water in our community. Attached please find the City of Ukiah's Water Conservation Program which outlines current activities the City is taking to address water conservation.

With regard to immediate drought related conditions, here are some technical and rate related factors that the City of Ukiah must deal with as the summer and high irrigation use time approaches:

- The City's water supply is obtained from a Ranney collector well and Wells #3 and #4. The Ranney and Well #3 draw water from an alluvial zone along the Russian River. The pumping capacity of both the Ranney collector and Well #3 are affected by the amount of flow in the river. If that water is not available during this summer, the only source of water available as of this date will be Well #4, which is percolated groundwater.
- On February 27, 2009 Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a water shortage. On February 26, 2009, the City received a letter from Victoria A.

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Whitney, Deputy Director for Water Resources of the State of California Water Resources Control Board, dated February 26, 2009, in which the City was advised that “there will not be sufficient surface water available during the year for those who hold water permits, licenses, and registrations issued by the State Water Board,” and that the city should look into acquiring a firm alternative source of water.

- The City Council acted to recognize that emergency conditions existed with regard to the availability of water for residents of the City of Ukiah, and with regard to the construction of a well. It passed a resolution on March 4, 2009 to have a well developed under emergency conditions related to public project bid procedures.. This well is known as the Gobbi Street Well. It is currently under construction.
- As of this writing, the City’s water use demand is being met by its current well resources. However, if there is no water available from the Russian River for the summer months, the City’s only drinking water source would be Well #4. This well can only provide 1 MGD. The City would be forced to declare a Stage 3 water emergency under its current ordinance. Stage 3 restricts water use to 50 gallons per permanent resident and prohibits all irrigation. Should the Gobbi Street Well be completed and functional for summer use, the City will use that resource to avoid the severe property damage and financial impacts to both its users and the water utility that would be experienced under a Stage 3 declaration.
- The City Council of Ukiah adopted a water shortage emergency declaration on April 15, 2009. This declaration allows the City Council to institute a number of measures to meet water conservation efforts short of instituting a full Stage 2 declaration under the City’s current drought ordinance. This means that turf watering could be restricted, or, if unavoidable, eliminated altogether. Irrigation of other types of landscaping could be restricted to drip irrigation, for example, or subject to other restrictions.
- The Council has instructed city staff to achieve turf watering restrictions for the largest irrigation customers of the water utility, namely, the City of Ukiah Parks, County of Mendocino, Ukiah Unified School District, Russian River Cemetery District, and the 12th District Agriculture Association Fairgrounds. That effort is in progress.
- The City has had in place alternate watering days for outside irrigation, and will enforce this measure for the summer high water use months.
- The City has engaged a consultant to conduct a water rate study. This study will include new water rates to increase incentives for water use conservation, over those already in place. It will also provide for revenues to address times of severely restricted water use, such as that faced by the utility for this summer.

- City staff is actively seeking stimulus funding for a system to deliver recycled water from the City's wastewater treatment plant. At the current time, it is anticipated that the wastewater treatment plant could begin to produce recycled water by August of 2009. A distribution system is under design and plans will be developed within the next few months. Funding for this important resource delivery project will be explored from all possible resources, as the City fully recognizes the value of using recycled water to lower the demand for surface water in our area. Although a recycled water distribution system cannot be in place for this summer, the City will pursue developing this resource.

With regard to efforts to identify and prevent water waste and unreasonable use: Typical water waster penalties include, in the order implemented:

1. Educational letter or visit
2. Educational visit and warning
3. Citation
4. Installation of flow restrictor and possible fine
5. Shutoff and reconnection fee

The City will identify water wasters through monitoring the water meters and citizen reports.

In closing, please review all aspects of the attached conservation measures and water use detail in addressing the four questions of your letter, in addition to the specific issues addressed in the above bullet points.

Please call me at 707- 463- 6213 if you have questions regarding this information.

Sincerely,



Jane A. Chambers
City Manager

Attachments: 1. City of Ukiah Water Use
2. City of Ukiah Water Conservation Program 2009

City of Ukiah Water Use

Annual Water Use

	MG	
2008	1192.968	-11.4% 2008/2004
2007	1219.964	-9.3% 2007/2004
2006	1248.424	-7.2% 2006/2004
2005	1223.542	-9.1% 2005/2004
2004	1345.744	

Water Use (MG)

	2004	2007	2008	2009	2007/2004	2008/2004
April	96.743	87.507	87.865		-10%	-9%
May	145.402	121.506	132.345		-16%	-9%
June	162.897	149.782	143.469		-8%	-12%
July	185.876	164.473	158.899		-12%	-15%
August	179.326	162.859	157.056		-9%	-12%
Sept.	156.798	134.481	130.508		-14%	-17%
Oct.	109.224	83.777	91.724		-23%	-16%
Total						
MG	1036.266	904.385	901.866		-13%	-13%
ac-ft	3180	2775	2768			

Diversion Volume (MG)

	2004	2007	2008	2009	2007/2004	2008/2004
April	57.046	27.598	62.754		-52%	10%
May	112.803	72.833	111.365		-35%	-1%
June	129.493	109.976	102.115		-15%	-21%
July	131.935	105.631	109.09		-20%	-17%
August	126.768	104.658	101.593		-17%	-20%
Sept.	117.755	88.134	85.313		-25%	-28%
Oct.	96.734	72.864	73.465		-25%	-24%
Total						
MG	772.534	581.694	645.695		-25%	-16%
ac-ft	2371	1785	1982			

The City of Ukiah
Water Conservation Program
2009

The unpredictability of its water supplies and ever increasing demand on California's complex water resources have resulted in a coordinated effort by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), water utilities, environmental organizations, and other interested groups to develop a list of urban water conservation demand management measures (DMM) for conserving water. This consensus building effort resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Regarding Urban Water Conservation in California, as amended September 16, 1999, among parties, which formalizes an agreement to implement these DMMs and makes a cooperative effort to reduce the consumption of California's water resources. The MOU is administered by the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC). The DMMs as defined in the MOU are generally recognized as standard definitions of water conservation measures.

I. CUWCC Demand Management Measures Implemented

The existing conservation The City of Ukiah has had a water conservation program in place since the late 1970's. During the past five years, the City has expanded its program and public outreach. The City reduced the amount of water it used by over 9.3% in 2007 and 11.4% in 2008 compared to 2004.

Currently, the City's conservation program includes the following DMMs:

DMM 1. Water survey programs for single-family residential and multi-family residential connections.

The City tests customer meters upon request and instructs customers in how to use their water meter to determine if there is a leak on the demand side of the meter. The City provides toilet leak detection tablets to customers.

DMM 3. System water audits, leak detection, and repair.

The City performs leak detection and repair on an ongoing basis. The City, also, calculates system water losses annually and reports this information to DWR.

DMM 4. Metering with commodity rates for all new connections and retrofit of existing connections.

The City water distribution system is fully metered. The City is currently replacing old meters in the system. The new meters will provide a more accurate reading of water use within the City. The City recently went through a rate re-structuring that is believed will reduce water uses in the future.

DMM 5. Large landscape conservation programs and incentives.

The City's Planning Department reviews all landscape plans proposed for new developments.

Included in the City's Municipal Code is a requirement for all landscape planting to be "those which grow well in Ukiah's climate without extensive irrigation." City staff reviews the water use of its top 5 water users and holds meetings with them on a regular basis to discuss landscape conservation programs.

DMM 7. Public information programs.

The City believes public awareness of water conservation issues is an important factor in ensuring a reliable water supply. The City promotes public awareness of water conservation through occasional bill stuffers, distribution of the Consumer Confidence Report, radio broadcasts, newspaper articles, the City of Ukiah's "Activity and Recreation Guide", distribution of brochures and additional information at local expositions and fairs, and on the City website advertised to the community on a banner across a City thoroughfare. The City also provides free of charge water conservation yard signs to encourage minimal use of water for lawn irrigation.

Water conservation information and assistance is routinely provided to the public by the water utility maintenance staff and meter readers while in the field. Field staff receives conservation training to better assist customers and promote conservation. Door hangers are used to remind customers of Ukiah's Voluntary Water Conservation Program measures and to provide notice of problems with outdoor water use.

DMM 8. School education programs.

City staff presents information on water conservation to elementary school children in the classroom. The City offers local schools tours of its water treatment plant and also provides educational materials. Four science classes on public water supply at the high school are offered once a year.

DMM 9. Conservation programs for commercial, industrial, and institutional accounts.

The City has only two industrial customers: Maverick Industries and Red Tail Ale Brewery. The City surveys the water usage of these industries. Any new commercial, industrial, or institutional developments will be reviewed by the City Planning Department and must meet all requirements of the Municipal Code.

DMM 11. Conservation pricing.

In 2005, the City increased and re-structured its water rates to encourage more conservation. The City has simplified its rate structure by eliminating rate codes and classifying customers according to their meter size. The new rate structure incorporates the American Water Works Association (AWWA) demand capacity guidelines so that price increases across meter size in proportion to the potential demand a customer can place on the water system.

DMM 12. Conservation Coordinator.

The City's Conservation Coordinator is essential to sustaining and improving Ukiah's ongoing water conservation program. The conservation coordinator is responsible for implementing and monitoring the City's water conservation activities. In practice, the City's water conservation program includes the efforts of the Conservation Coordinator and all staff.

DMM 13. Water waste prohibition.

The City has adopted regulations that state in part: "Where negligent or wasteful use of water exists on a customer's premises...the City may discontinue the service..." (City Municipal Code Article 7, Section 3571). The City first sends customers a letter calling their attention to the wasteful practice and asking for correction. If the condition is not corrected within five days after the written notice, service may be discontinued if necessary.

DMM 14. Residential ULFT replacement programs.

Since October 1992, the sale of toilets using more than 1.6 gallons per flush has been prohibited by State and Federal regulations. These regulations are enforced in the City.

II. Additional Water Conservation Measures

In addition to the DMMs, the City has also taken the following actions:

1. Installation of five waterless urinals in the Ukiah Civic Center to support and promote the use of waterless urinals in all City facilities and in the public sector. The use of these urinals has received very positive feedback from Facilities staff who would like to install these in the Ukiah Valley Conference Center.
2. Cooperative water conservation programs have been developed between the City and the Mendocino County Water Agency, the Russian River Public Water Agencies, and the Sonoma County Water Agency.
3. The Ukiah City Council adopted the Ahwahnee Water Principles on April 4, 2007. The Principles contain ideas for protecting and enhancing water quality, improving water availability, making more efficient use of water, and conserving water as a scarce resource. The Principles suggest a process for improving decision-making as it impacts water-related issues. The City Council reviewed the Principles and determined the ideas and suggestions promote the Council's stated goals.

III. Future Water Conservation Activities

The City has recently undertaken a rate and revenue study of its water utility. A tiered inclining block rate structure and excess use charge are being evaluated to encourage water conservation.

The City has submitted a pre-application to the State Water Resources Control Board State Revolving Fund to construct a recycled water system. The City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project is scheduled to be completed by June 2009. After the project is completed, the plant will be capable of producing 2 million gallons per day (MGD) in the summer and up to 7.5 MGD in the winter of Title 22 unrestricted use recycled water.

Other immediate and long-term conservation measures include:

- Installation of waterless urinals and dual flush toilets in all City buildings (immediate)
- Sign the California Urban Water Conservation Council's Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Urban Water Conservation and implement the 14 best management practices (long term)

- Water efficiency standards for new single-family development (long term)
- Water-efficient landscaping (long term)
- Water waste ordinance prohibiting: (immediate)
 1. gutter flooding
 2. carwash fundraisers
 3. non-recycling decorative water fountains
 4. breaks or leaks in the water delivery system
- Incentives for Retrofits (long term)
 1. low flow shower heads
 2. toilet displacement devices
 3. toilet flappers
 4. faucet aerators
 5. high efficiency washing machines
 6. ultra-low flow toilets