



City Council Report

Date: June 18, 2018
To: City Council
Through: Karolyn Kent, Assistant City Manager
From: Jake West, Water Resources Department Director
Subject: Approving Mesa's Revised Water Shortage Management Plan

Purpose and Recommendation

The proposed Water Shortage Management Plan establishes four stages of water conservation measures that increase in severity. Each stage is triggered by a predetermined reduction in water supplies and outlines actions that can be implemented by the Council. The Plan is aimed at giving residents a greater sense of security and allows officials to look ahead at the implications of water supply interruptions.

The Sustainability and Transportation Committee approved the Plan 3-0. The Water Resources Department recommends that the Mesa City Council approve the Water Shortage Management Plan. The Plan is attached as Exhibit A.

Background and Discussion

The City of Mesa relies on and distributes three major sources of water to its citizens and businesses. Surface water from the Salt/Verde system, Colorado River Water delivered through the Central Arizona Project, and groundwater. Each provides a critical resource for the City. In 2002, the Salt River water supplies were at 26% capacity, and the Salt River Project reduced water deliveries to all the member cities. Following this water shortage, the City of Mesa adopted its original Drought Plan in the fall of 2003 and adopted revisions to the Plan in 2009. Staff recommends that the 2018 Water Shortage Management Plan be adopted to replace the 2009 Plan in its entirety.

One important revision is that the proposed Water Shortage Management Plan captures the possibility of multiple situations that could reduce availability of water supplies, and not just drought conditions. The plan also clarifies the triggers that would invoke a declaration of shortage stage. Additionally, within each stage are now detailed examples of conservation measures that the Council may select. Finally, many organizational changes have occurred since 2009. The Plan has been revised to reflect these changes.

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Alternatives

The City of Mesa could continue with its existing Drought Plan, however, the 2009 plan is mainly focused on drought related shortages. In addition, the 2009 Plan identifies job titles that are obsolete.

Fiscal Impact

There is no cost to approve the Water Shortage Management Plan.

Coordinated With

Development of the City of Mesa Water Shortage Management Plan was coordinated with the Water Shortage Management Team.