

Declaration of Drought Emergency in San Carlos

RICAPS

February 24, 2015



Conservation Measures

- The City of San Carlos and its residents and business were asked to reduce water use by 20% when the Governor declared an emergency in January 2014
- With outreach and cooperation, we are currently meeting this reduction goal in our community
- However, our Council feels that our community must take additional steps as the drought continues



Partnership

- The California Water Company, the water supplier to most of San Carlos, established Rule 14.1 and is taking some measures to encourage its customers to conserve. It takes water waster reports, investigates waste and educates wasters
- Cal Water supported the City's efforts to encourage our residents to conserve and adhere to Rule 14.1
- Cal Water commented on our draft Ordinance, came to Council meetings and supplied some materials (restaurant table tents, door hangers and flyers)



Ordinance 1479

- In November 2014, Council passed this ordinance to establish water conservation measures (Cal Water Rule 14.1) in the time of drought or emergency to give the City some tools for enforcement of water restrictions
- The ordinance requires a declaration of a drought emergency by Council to implement the measures. Council declared the Drought Emergency on 2/9/15, effective 5/15/15



Penalties for Violators

- San Carlos Municipal Code Chapter 1.20 outlines the penalties for violations of this ordinance, including:
 - \$100 for the first violation;
 - \$200 for the second violation within the same year;
 - \$500 for each additional violation within the same year;
 - For each day a violator continues the unlawful action, he or she is guilty of a separate offense



Impacts on City Resources

- The Community Compliance section of the City's Community Development Department will be enforcing this ordinance. The Finance Department will be processing the fines
- Direct costs include a hotline to take reports, outreach and educational materials and travel for investigations
- Staff will absorb all additional costs until it is determined just how much enforcing this ordinance will impact resources. May return to Council later to request additional funds



Impacts on City Resources

- Outreach includes printing and mail two postcards to the community (14,000). One is going out in the next few weeks and will be repeated in early May just before the emergency takes effect
- City is already doing things to ensure we are even more water conscious than before, i.e., Community events will restrict water use, uses of water are being looked at more carefully (washing exterior windows at City Hall)



Community Reaction

- It is too early to tell how the community will respond. We received no negative comments when the declaration of emergency was declared and we've started outreach, but don't expect real input until the postcards reach homes and businesses



Resources

- The City of San Carlos website has a Water Conservation page with a number of links (Rule 14.1, Ordinance 1479, etc.)
http://www.cityofsancarlos.org/depts/cm/water_conservation/default.asp
- Cal Water can be reached at (650) 558-7800 or by visiting Cal Water's website at <https://www.calwater.com/>
- Tara Peterson can be reached at (650) 802-4230 or tpeterson@cityofsancarlos.org

