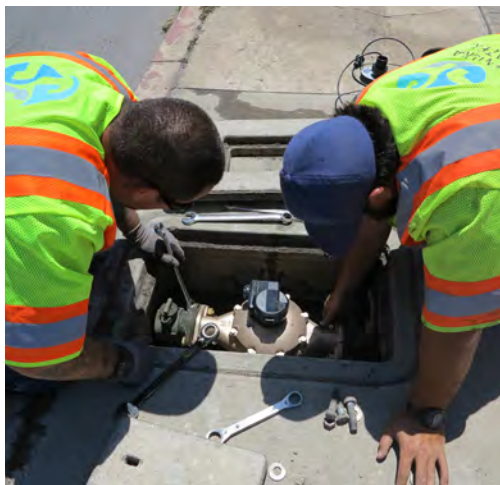


APRIL 2021



City of San Buenaventura

# Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan



[www.VenturaWater.net](http://www.VenturaWater.net)

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## **2020 Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan *Final Draft***

April 2021

Prepared for  
**Ventura Water**  
336 Sanjon Road  
Ventura, CA 93002

K/J Project No. 2044229\*00

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### Acronyms

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The following abbreviations and acronyms are used in this report.

|       |                                                                |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| AB    | Assembly Bill                                                  |
| Act   | Urban Water Management Planning Act                            |
| AWAVC | Association Water Agencies Ventura County                      |
| BMPs  | Best Management Practices                                      |
| CWRR  | Comprehensive Water Resources Report                           |
| DDW   | State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water |
| DMMs  | Demand Management Measures                                     |
| DWR   | Department of Water Resources                                  |
| ENSO  | El Niño Southern Oscillation                                   |
| EPA   | Environmental Protection Agency                                |
| ERP   | Emergency Response Plan                                        |

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|       |                                       |
|-------|---------------------------------------|
| ET    | evapotranspiration                    |
| GIS   | Geographic Information System         |
| GPCD  | gallons per capita per day            |
| GMA   | Groundwater Management Agency         |
| GSA   | Groundwater Sustainability Agency     |
| GWMP  | Groundwater Management Plan           |
| HCF   | hundred cubic feet                    |
| SWP   | State Water Project                   |
| UWMP  | Urban Water Management Plan           |
| VCMC  | Ventura County Medical Center         |
| VUSD  | Ventura Unified School District       |
| WSECP | Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan |

## Section 1: Introduction

---

This plan documents the City's Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan (WSECP) and Emergency Response Plan (ERP) per requirements of the Urban Water Management Act, Section 10632 of the California Water Code.

### 1.1 Policy of Water Efficiency

This WSECP recognizes the many Ventura Water customers who have voluntarily implemented water-saving practices, including water efficient landscapes, water efficient plumbing devices, and other changes to permanently conserve water. Actions in this WSECP acknowledge cutbacks already made and the difficulty in making additional significant cutbacks for customers who have already reduced water use and invested heavily in water conservation measures.

### 1.2 Declaration of Purpose of WSECP

The City of Ventura has developed this Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan to provide guidance if triggering events occur — whether from reduced supply, increased demand, or an emergency declaration — and identify corresponding actions to be taken during the various stages of a water shortage. The plan includes voluntary and mandatory stages which are intended to be fair to all water customers and users while having the least impact on business, employment, and quality of life for residents.

The purpose of this WSECP is to:

1. Monitor and compare anticipated supplies and demands consistent with Water Code Section Water Code Section 10632(a)(2);
2. Keep water use within supply and delivery capability;
3. Define procedures to be used when supply cannot meet demand or continuing pumping will result in harm to the supply source;
4. Familiarize all of Ventura Water's customers (residential, business, industrial, institutional/governmental and others) with procedures to be implemented when voluntary or mandatory water restrictions are in effect.

Using the procedures and protocols described in Section 2 (the Annual Assessment) the Ventura Water General Manager, or designated representative, shall keep the City Council informed of the conditions of water supply, system usage, delivery capacity, and the estimated water shortage stage (if any) and the enactment of initial restrictions or change to an appropriate stage in the WSECP.

### 1.3 Reduced Water Use During Water Shortage Events

This WSECP and other legal actions by the City establish measures that may be imposed on water users during Water Shortage Events. Such events may be a lengthy drought that has limited groundwater and surface water supplies, or an emergency condition brought about by an earthquake, fire, or other interruption in water delivery to the system. These actions are discussed in later sections of this WSECP.

A consideration for planning is water needed (gallons per capita per day [gpcd]) to maintain health and safety. The American Water Works Association (AWWA 2011) suggests that on the high end, water necessary for health and safety is 58 gpcd. AWWA suggests that with water savings fixtures and habit changes water needed for health and safety can be as low as 30 gpcd (AWWA 2011). These estimates are consistent with the amount of water recommended for health and safety by the US Bureau of Reclamation, which uses 50 gpcd for drought planning purposes (Reclamation 2010).

## 1.4 Coordination with City Facilities and Departments

Ventura Water will coordinate with the other City departments to ensure that City facilities, including parks, are being operated in a water efficient manner and to assist Ventura Water in attaining conservation goals. City facilities have a strong program of water and energy efficiency. Ventura Water and Parks will partner to review and reduce the irrigation of City property, and Ventura Water and Environmental Sustainability staff have a strong working relationship with our schools and will provide educational programs to teach students and school managers how to reduce water usage. Periodically Community Development, Economic Development, Public Works, the City Manager, and Ventura Water will continue to meet and share information on near-term and long-term changes in supply and demand for water supply and wastewater treatment, differentiated into areas within the Casitas Municipal Water District and non-Casitas areas of the Ventura Water service area, and additional sub-areas as determined by the Ventura Water General Manager.

## 1.5 Coordination with Other Agencies

Coordination also will include state and county agencies within the Ventura Water service area, such as County of Ventura, Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC), State Fairgrounds, Ventura Unified School District (VUSD), Ventura College, Ventura Harbor District, state parks and others.

## 1.6 Plan Preparation, Adoption, Submittal and Availability

Ventura Water began preparation of this Plan in September 2020. The public hearing for the Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan was noticed in 3 local newspapers (The Ventura County Star, VC Reporter, and Vida), as prescribed in Government Code 6066, which included the time and place of the hearing (hearing held through electronic meeting platform on April 26, 2021). Interested parties, including other local agencies, were notified of the public hearing. The 2020 WSECP was made available from the Ventura Water website for public inspection prior to the public hearing, so that comments could be received and discussed by the City Council ahead of adoption.

The final draft of the Plan was adopted by the City Council by Resolution No. 2021-0XX (provided in Appendix A) and was submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) within 30 days of approval. Additionally, the adopted plan will be made available per the requirements of the Water Code.

Starting in 2020, urban water suppliers are required to report and submit information related to the Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan in standardized tables developed by DWR. These standardized tables are provided as Appendix B of this document.

## 1.7 Relationship to the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan

Water Code Section 10632(a) requires that every urban water supplier prepare and adopt a water shortage contingency plan<sup>1</sup> as part of its urban water management plan. While the water shortage contingency plan is a stand-alone document it is updated and adopted in concert with the UWMP. Content of the water shortage are informed by the analysis of water supply reliability conducted pursuant to Water Code Section 10635 (contained in the 2020 UWMP). The reliability analysis of the 2020 UWMP considered “normal”, “single-dry”, and “5-year drought”. At the time of WSECP adoption, the 2020 UWMP was still in draft. The draft of the UWMP as well as the 2021 CWRR found that the factors in Ventura Water’s reliability include infrastructure (e.g., lack of wells, need for new wells) and drought. The analysis in the 2020 UWMP documents that it is necessary for the City to implement planned water supply projects in order to meet normal and dry-year demands. In the near term (2020 to 2025), until such time as planned supplies come on-line, there is only a small buffer between anticipated supplies and anticipated demands (see Table 1-1 from the Draft 2020 UWMP, subject to revision). The City may have to call on existing customers to undertake extraordinary conservation. After planned water supplies are available the potential for a water supply shortage is lessened.

The table below is taken from section 6.3 of the 2020 UWMP, specifically Table 6-11. For more information, the reader is directed to the 2020 UWMP.

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<sup>1</sup> Ventura Water uses the term “Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan” rather than “Water Shortage Contingency Plan.”

**Table 1-1  
Near Term Water Supply Reliability Assuming 5-Year Drought**

| <b>2021</b>                                                         | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Gross Water Use <sup>1</sup>                                        | 15,631       |
| Total Supplies (see Table 6-10)                                     | 16,345       |
| Surplus/Shortfall w/o WSCP Action                                   | 714          |
| <b>Planned WSCP Actions (use reduction and supply augmentation)</b> |              |
| WSCP - supply augmentation benefit                                  | 0            |
| WSCP - use reduction savings benefit                                | 0            |
| Revised Surplus/(shortfall)                                         | 0            |
| Resulting % Use Reduction from WSCP action                          | 0%           |

| <b>2022</b>                                                         | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Gross Water Use <sup>1</sup>                                        | 15,828       |
| Total Supplies (see Table 6-10)                                     | 17,580       |
| Surplus/Shortfall w/o WSCP Action                                   | 1,752        |
| <b>Planned WSCP Actions (use reduction and supply augmentation)</b> |              |
| WSCP - supply augmentation benefit                                  | 0            |
| WSCP - use reduction savings benefit                                | 0            |
| Revised Surplus/(shortfall)                                         | 0            |
| Resulting % Use Reduction from WSCP action                          | 0%           |

| <b>2023</b>                                                         | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Gross Water Use <sup>1</sup>                                        | 16,026       |
| Total Supplies (see Table 6-10)                                     | 16,962       |
| Surplus/Shortfall w/o WSCP Action                                   | 936          |
| <b>Planned WSCP Actions (use reduction and supply augmentation)</b> |              |
| WSCP - supply augmentation benefit                                  | 0            |
| WSCP - use reduction savings benefit                                | 0            |
| Revised Surplus/(shortfall)                                         | 0            |
| Resulting % Use Reduction from WSCP action                          | 0%           |

| <b>2024</b>                                                         | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Gross Water Use <sup>1</sup>                                        | 16,223       |
| Total Supplies (see Table 6-10)                                     | 16,335       |
| Surplus/Shortfall w/o WSCP Action                                   | 112          |
| <b>Planned WSCP Actions (use reduction and supply augmentation)</b> |              |
| WSCP - supply augmentation benefit                                  | 0            |
| WSCP - use reduction savings benefit                                | 0            |
| Revised Surplus/(shortfall)                                         | 0            |
| Resulting % Use Reduction from WSCP action                          | 0%           |

| <b>2025</b>                                                         | <b>Total</b>     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Gross Water Use <sup>1</sup>                                        | 16,421           |
| Total Supplies (see Table 6-10) <sup>2</sup>                        | 15,913           |
| Surplus/Shortfall w/o WSCP Action                                   | (508)            |
| <b>Planned WSCP Actions (use reduction and supply augmentation)</b> |                  |
| WSCP - supply augmentation benefit                                  | 0                |
| WSCP - use reduction savings benefit                                | 508 <sup>3</sup> |
| Revised Surplus/(shortfall)                                         | 0                |
| Resulting % Use Reduction from WSCP action                          | 0%               |

**Notes:**

- 1 The gross water use value assumes the worst-case scenario of less than 50% of normal rainfall and applies a 10% upward adjustment to the demand projections.
- 2 The total supplies for 2025 does not include any new water supplies from State Water Project or VenturaWaterPure.
- 3 Or augment supply with State Water, if available.

## 1.8 Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan Refinement Procedures

Ventura Water will convene the following departmental staff as needed to refine the Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan:

- Engineering Staff
- Administrative Staff
- Operational Staff

The WSECP will be updated and refined as appropriate and needed following significant changes to Ventura Water's supply portfolio or significant changes to the water allocation plans of its supply agencies (e.g., Casitas), but no less than every 5 years.

## Section 2: Procedures for Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment

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California Water Code Division 1, Section 350, states:

“The governing body of a distributor of a public water supply, whether publicly or privately owned and including a mutual water company, shall declare a water shortage emergency condition to prevail within the area served by such distributor whenever it finds and determines that the ordinary demands and requirements of water consumers cannot be satisfied without depleting the water supply of the distributor to the extent that there would be insufficient water for human consumption, sanitation, and fire protection.”

These Annual Assessment procedures described herein are one tool to be used to determine if a water shortage is to be declared.

New provisions in Water Code Section 10632.1 require that an urban water supplier such as Ventura Water, conduct an annual water supply and demand assessment (“Annual Assessment”), on or before July 1 of each year, to be submitted to DWR. An urban water supplier that relies on imported water from the State Water Project or the Bureau of Reclamation shall submit its Annual Assessment within 14 days of receiving its final allocations, or by July 1 of each year, whichever is later. The requirement to perform the Annual Assessment begins in July 2022.

Droughts occur with unpredictable frequency, intensity, and duration. Developing and maintaining a healthy water supply portfolio to serve its customers has always been an ongoing Ventura Water priority, and Ventura Water wants to be prepared for drought and water shortages. Ventura Water regularly monitors its water supplies and demands and has produced annual Comprehensive Water Resources Reports (CWRR) since 2013. The CWRR is intended to be a tool in the development review process as it pertains to water supply and demand. The CWRR tracks proposed development projects, consistently calculates the anticipated increase in water demand associated with each proposed development project, and then evaluates the impact on the current water supply. No later than Calendar Year 2022, the CWRR will include the tables and conclusions of shortage (either in the body of the report or as an appendix) required to comply with Water Code §10632.1. Until 2022, annual demand projections are summarized in Table 3-6: Projected Water Demand Growth of the CWRR and annual supply projections are summarized in Table 4-2: Summary of Current Water Supply of the CWRR.

Water supply projections and hydrologic conditions are significant components in deciding when a drought response is needed. The amount of the water supply shortage contributes to the severity of drought declared and the necessary level of response from Ventura Water and customers.

### 2.1 Timeline for Conducting the Annual Assessment

Table 2-1 provides targets for performing the Annual Assessment. The table outlines actions for the current year and one year of drought. By starting to plan in October, Ventura Water will get a snapshot of conditions and can start lining up the resources to mitigate supply and start outreach to customers to manage demand. Major actions are proposed in February, when an

initial estimate of supply is made and compared to demand. A final annual assessment is proposed in May.

**Table 2-1  
Calendar for Performing Annual Assessment**

| <b>Target Date</b> | <b>Action</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct-Jan            | Monitor supply sources<br>Monitor demand trends                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Feb                | Confirm anticipated weather (e.g., National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center, La Niña, US Drought Seasonal Outlook)<br>Confirm State Water Project (SWP initial allocation)<br>Make initial assessment of unconstrained demand ( <i>Demand Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4</i> )<br>Make initial estimate of shortage<br>If shortage anticipated, form Ventura Water Shortage Task Force. The Task Force would develop a communications and outreach plan to notify customers of shortage stage. The Task Force would be comprised of Ventura Water staff from the General Manager's office, and any other applicable divisions.<br>Prepare informational item to Water Commission |
| Mar                | Contact Casitas Municipal Water District, Mound Groundwater Sustainably Agency (GSA), Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency, Santa Paula Basin Technical Advisory Committee, and Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (GMA) to confirm assessment of supplies and identify any additional supply mitigations.<br>Collect data on rainfall to date for current water year from the Ventura County Watershed Protection District Hydrologic Data Webpage for Station ID 066E.<br>Prepare draft Annual Assessment for Water Commission review                                                                                                                                   |
| Apr                | Start public outreach<br>Identify supplier efficiency actions<br>Confirm current SWP allocation<br>Confirm Casitas Municipal Water District allocation<br>Complete Draft Annual Assessment and present to Water Commission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| May                | Continue public outreach<br>Update Annual Water Assessment with Water Commission input, present to City Council<br>Finalize Annual Water Assessment and submit to DWR<br>If necessary, prepare notices of public hearing on water shortage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

**Table 2-1 Cont.**

| <b>Target Date</b> | <b>Action</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jun-Sept           | Continue public outreach<br><br>If necessary, declare water shortage and implement supply mitigations and demand reduction actions<br><br>Monitor customer response to water shortage messaging and other actions |

## 2.2 Factors Affecting Demand and Supply

### 2.2.1 Climate Outlook

Climate affects the Ventura Water supplies in many ways. For many of the supplies the effects of climate are seen over the long-term and are reflected in reservoir levels and groundwater levels. For some of the local sources the impact of weather is near-term, such as flows in the Ventura River. While no long-term study or correlation between climate parameters and supply have been performed, there are general “rules of thumb” that can be considered when looking at supply.

- Potential for La Niña. ENSO (El Niño Southern Oscillation) is the warming and cooling of the ocean water along the Equator in the Eastern Pacific Ocean near South America. The warm phase is called El Niño and the cold phase is called La Niña. When the Eastern Pacific Ocean is 0.5 degrees Celsius above normal for 5 consecutive 3-month average periods, an El Niño is declared. When the Eastern Pacific Ocean is 0.5 degrees Celsius below normal for 5 consecutive 3-month average periods, a La Niña is declared. The El Niño and La Niña are declared as Weak, Moderate, or Strong depending on how far from normal the water temperature gets. When the temperature is above 1.5 degrees Celsius, it is declared as strong. When the temperature is above 1.0 degrees Celsius, it is declared as Moderate. When the temperature is above 0.5 degrees Celsius, it is declared as Weak. The effect on Ventura County trends to be wetter with El Niños and drier with La Niñas. The National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center provides information on potential for La Niña conditions.
- US Drought Information Seasonal Outlook. The National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center provides information geographically on drought conditions and categorizes geographies as “Drought Persists”, “Drought Remains but Improves”, “Drought Removal Likely”, and “Drought Development Likely”.

While there is not any specific analysis on how climate affects demand in the City of Ventura, a neighboring agency, Goleta Water District, performed an evaluation of factors influencing water use trends in its service area. Goleta Water District found that years with higher average evapotranspiration (ET) typically had higher water use. The Goleta Water District Drought Preparedness and Water Shortage Contingency Plan (July 2014), Appendix B Table 8 found that an increase in ET resulted in an increase in Single-Family water demands of 7%, an

increase in Multi-Family demands of 1%, an increase of Commercial demands of 3%, and increase of Institutional demands of 9%, and an increase of landscape demands of 19%.

## 2.3 Current Year Unconstrained Demand

DWR guidance for the Annual Assessment is to consider the expected water use in the upcoming year, based on recent water use, and before any projected response actions a supplier may trigger under its Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

### 2.3.1 Land Use

In order to evaluate water demand, Ventura Water will examine current and projected land uses. The land use evaluation will start with the current general plan and a summary of built dwelling-units (residential) and square footage (non-residential). Using known development projects constructed since the adoption of the general plan, a summarized total of the existing land use within the City service area through the end of the recent calendar year will be developed.

The City of Ventura maintains a database of projects that are in the City's planning process and categorizes the projects as: "In Planning Process," "In Plan Check," "Under Construction," or have "All Planning Approvals." Ventura Water will evaluate the database for projects that are either "Under Construction," or have "All Planning Approvals." In coordination with City Planning, Ventura Water will create a table of the "Under Construction and Approved Projects" anticipated to utilize water in the in current calendar year and one future calendar year.

### 2.3.2 Prior Year Demand

Ventura Water will create a table that will summarize the total water consumption (potable, recycled, and untreated) within the City's water service area for the previous calendar year by month (*Demand Table 1*).

### 2.3.3 Potential Demand

Ventura Water will create a table showing anticipated demands from "Under Construction and Approved Projects" (*Demand Table 2*). In *Demand Table 2* anticipated water use will be forecasted by month. The calculations in *Demand Table 2* will use the most recently developed demand factors inclusive of water loss and including a contingency to account for annual demand variations that are likely to occur. For example, the Water Demand Factor Study prepared by the City in April 2020 assumed a 6.5% water loss and included 20% to account for annual demand variations. The "Under Construction and Approved Projects" are assumed to be built over a 5-year period (or 20% a year over 5-years). It will be assumed 20% of the potential demand will come online, in the current calendar year and another 20% in the subsequent calendar year. *Demand Table 2* will reflect anticipated demands in the current calendar year and in the subsequent calendar year. Consistent with Water Code Section 10632(a)(2)(B)(ii), the subsequent year will be assumed to be a dry year.

### 2.3.4 Total Near-Term Demands

Demand Table 1 annual total and the total annual demand from the previous four years will be used to calculate the most recent 5-year average demand (*Demand Table 3*). Near Term

demands (Demand Table 4) will be the sum of the 5-Year average and the anticipated demands in the current calendar year and the subsequent year as documented in Demand Table 2.

If rainfall for the water year, as of March 15<sup>th</sup>, is less than 75% of normal, then a 5% upward adjustment will be made to the demand projections in Demand Table 4. If rainfall for the water year, as of March 15<sup>th</sup>, is less than 50% of normal, then a 10% upward adjustment will be made to the demand projections in Demand Table 4.

## 2.4 Assessing Supply in Current Year and One Dry Year

Ventura Water will evaluate the local water sources available including: Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas), Ventura River Foster Park Area (Foster Park), Mound Groundwater Basin (Mound Basin), Oxnard Plain Groundwater Basin (Fox Canyon Aquifer), Santa Paula Groundwater Basin (Santa Paula Basin), recycled water, and other sources as they are put into service (e.g., State Water Project Water, VenturaWaterPure). Table 2-2 summarizes the factors to be considered.

**Table 2-2  
Annual Assessment of Supply**

| <b>Source</b>                             | <b>Factors to be Evaluated<br/>in Current Year</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Establishing Supply in Assumed<br/>Subsequent Dry Year</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Casitas<br>Municipal<br>Water<br>District | <p>Water supply available under water purchase agreement</p> <p>Estimate of projected demand in Casitas service area (Casitas supply can only be used in Casitas service area). This is calculated as amount of City metered water within the Casitas boundaries for past five non-drought fiscal years with an assumed water loss of 6.5 percent added. Demand from proposed development projects in Casitas service area expected to utilize water in current year added</p> <p>City's anticipated allocation given Casitas' Water Efficiency and Allocation Program</p> <p>Any constraints on supply due to infrastructure or water quality</p> <p>Assume subsequent year will be dry year</p> | <p>Water supply available under water purchase agreement</p> <p>Estimate of projected demand in Casitas service area (Casitas supply can only be used in Casitas service area). This is calculated as amount of City metered water within the Casitas boundaries for past five non-drought fiscal years with an assumed water loss of 6.5 percent added. Demand from proposed development projects in Casitas service area expected to utilize water in current year added</p> <p>City's anticipated allocation assuming a Stage 1 allocation per the Casitas Water Efficiency and Allocation Program or current allocation (whichever is lower)</p> <p>Any constraints on supply due to infrastructure or water quality</p> |
| Ventura<br>River                          | <p>Regulatory limitations</p> <p>Post-2005 production capacity</p> <p>Any constraints on supply due to infrastructure or water quality</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>Regulatory limitations</p> <p>Repeat hydrology of 2015 (when supply limited to 1,298 AF)</p> <p>Any constraints on supply due to infrastructure or water quality</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

**Table 2-2 Cont.**

| <b>Source</b>                  | <b>Factors to be Evaluated in Current Year</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Establishing Supply in Assumed Subsequent Dry Year</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mound Groundwater Basin        | Regulatory limitations<br><br>Annual extractions past 10-years<br><br>Any constraints on supply due to infrastructure or water quality<br><br>Assume subsequent year will be dry year                                                                                                                                                                     | Regulatory limitations<br><br>Annual extractions past 10-years<br><br>Any constraints on supply due to infrastructure or water quality                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Oxnard Plain Groundwater Basin | Regulatory limitations<br><br>City's 2020 Pumping Allocation as adjusted for current year (City's allocation will be incrementally adjusted downward by 3.5 percent until a total decrease of 50 percent is achieved by year 2040)<br><br>Any constraints on supply due to infrastructure or water quality<br><br>Assume subsequent year will be dry year | Regulatory limitations<br><br>City's 2020 Pumping Allocation as adjusted for current year (City's allocation will be incrementally adjusted downward by 3.5 percent until a total decrease of 50 percent is achieved by year 2040)<br><br>Any constraints on supply due to infrastructure or water quality |
| Santa Paula Groundwater Basin  | Regulatory limitations<br><br>City's average pumping limitation per the Stipulated Judgement plus any water rights acquired in the basin since the Stipulated Judgement<br><br>Any constraints on supply due to infrastructure or water quality<br><br>Assume subsequent year will be dry year                                                            | Regulatory limitations<br><br>City's running seven-year average of extractions from the Basin (per Stipulated Judgement City can pump up to 21,000 AF over any running seven-year period)<br><br>Any constraints on supply due to infrastructure or water quality                                          |
| Recycled Water                 | What is current annual recycled water production capability<br><br>What is current annual demand + new (12 months) demand                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | What is current annual recycled water production capability<br><br>What is current annual demand + new (24 months) demand                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| SWP Water                      | What is anticipated SWP Allocation for upcoming 12 months<br><br>Any constraints on supply due to infrastructure or water quality<br><br>Any constraints on wheeling water to the Ventura system                                                                                                                                                          | What is anticipated SWP dry year allocation<br><br>Any constraints on supply due to infrastructure or water quality<br><br>Any constraints on wheeling water to the Ventura system                                                                                                                         |

**Table 2-2 Cont.**

| <b>Source</b>        | <b>Factors to be Evaluated<br/>in Current Year</b>                                                                                      | <b>Establishing Supply in Assumed<br/>Subsequent Dry Year</b>                                                                     |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ventura<br>WaterPure | Current and near-term production<br>rate of the Advanced Water<br>Purification Facility<br><br>Any constraints due to<br>infrastructure | Current and near-term production rate of<br>the Advanced Water Purification Facility<br><br>Any constraints due to infrastructure |

Using Table 2-2 as a guide, Ventura Water will develop a summary of each water source available in the upcoming year assuming the subsequent year will be a dry year. Ventura Water will develop *Supply Table 1*, in which a quantified summary of each anticipated supply source is provided for the upcoming year assuming the subsequent year is a dry year. Anticipated water supply will be forecasted by month using past supply patterns.

## **2.5 Assessing Water Supply Reliability**

Ventura Water will compare *Supply Table 1* and *Demand Table 4* and determine if a supply shortage is anticipated, the level of shortage, and prepare if necessary to implement its water shortage contingency plan.

## **2.6 Coordination with Cities and Counties**

Should a water shortage be declared, Ventura Water will coordinate with the City of Ventura and the County of Ventura for the possible proclamation of a local emergency, as defined in Section 8558 of the Government Code.

## Section 3: Causes for Restrictions

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### 3.1 Water Shortage Event

A water shortage event can be anything from a single occurrence as short as twenty-four hours to a multi-year climate condition. If water shortage event triggers identified in Table 4-1 are met the City will consider enacting voluntary and/or mandatory restrictions as listed in Table 4-1 targeted primarily at reducing outdoor watering activities. Any such restrictions would be enacted pursuant to San Buenaventura Municipal Code, Chapter 22.170 Water Conservation, Section 22.170.010, water waste prohibited, and enforced pursuant to applicable code provisions and the WSECP.

Other events, besides drought, that could trigger a water shortage event include an earthquake, water system failures, fire, contamination, regional power outage, state restrictions or other causes.

### 3.2 Definition of Drought

The following definition was written by the California Department of Water Resources:

*Defining drought is based on impacts to water users. California is a big state and impacts vary with location. Hydrologic conditions causing impacts for water users in one location may not represent drought for water users in a different part of California, or for users with a different water supply. Individual water agencies may use criteria such as rainfall/runoff, amount of water in storage, or expected supply from a water wholesaler to define their water supply conditions.*

*Drought is a gradual phenomenon, occurring slowly over a period of time. Storage, whether in surface water reservoirs or in groundwater basins, buffers drought impacts and influences the timing of when drought impacts occur. A single dry year isn't a drought for most Californians because of the state's extensive system of water infrastructure and groundwater resources buffer impacts.*

*Drought impacts are felt first by people most dependent on annual rainfall – such as ranchers using dryland range or rural residents relying on wells in low-yield rock formations. Drought impacts increase with the length of a drought, as carry-over supplies in reservoirs are depleted and water levels in groundwater basins decline.*

*Source: <https://water.ca.gov/Water-Basics/Drought>*

### 3.3 Natural Disaster or Failure of Water System Facilities

In the event of a natural disaster such as an earthquake, fire, toxic spill or flood, or should a catastrophic failure occur at any of Ventura Water System's facilities, the City will enact restrictions as addressed in Table 4-1 of this WSECP. Such restrictions would be based on the varying circumstances as determined necessary and appropriate by the City Council to respond to the emergency conditions, or by the City Manager in the event the City Council cannot act in

a timely manner. Any restrictions would be enacted pursuant to San Buenaventura Municipal Code, Chapter 22.170 Water Conservation, Section 22.170.010, Water waste prohibited, and enforced pursuant to applicable code provisions.

In order to prepare for catastrophic events, the City has prepared an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) in accordance with other state and federal regulations. The purpose of the ERP is to design actions necessary to minimize the impacts of supply interruptions due to catastrophic events.

The ERP includes Ventura Water's standardized response and recovery procedures to prevent, minimize, and mitigate injury and damage resulting from emergencies or disasters. The ERP includes incident response procedures for the following incidents:

- Evacuation
- Earthquake
- Fire
- Wildfire
- Flood/Tsunami
- Power Outage
- Drought
- HazMat Release
- Security Incidents
- Bomb Threat
- Single-Employee Security Incident
- Personnel Injury
- Contamination
- Transmission/Main Break
- Distribution Line Break
- Pandemic

The plan takes into account the various aspects of the City's Water System Protection Program pertaining to potential malevolent threats or actual terrorism. The information contained in the ERP is intended to guide staff and inform other emergency responding agencies and includes plans, procedures, lists, and identification of equipment, emergency contacts, etc.

In addition, the City's 2011 Water Master Plan analyzed seven different operational outage scenarios and provides an analysis of system impacts as well as long-term system improvements required to mitigate these impacts. An update to the 2011 Water Master Plan is currently being prepared and will reanalyze the various operational outage scenarios and related impacts.

In a disaster, prior notice of water use restrictions may not be possible; notice will be provided by other means. Appeals shall be processed as set forth in the established Water Waste Ordinance (Appendix C).

### 3.3.1 Seismic Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan

As part of the 2015 Ventura County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, Ventura Water evaluated seismic risk to water facilities and identified mitigation measures to lessen the risk. This plan, available at <http://www.vcfloodinfo.com/resources/ventura-county-hazards-mitigation-plan>, meets the requirements of the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) as well as the requirements of Water Code Section 10644. A copy of the 2015 Ventura County

Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan will be submitted to DWR with the adopted Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan.

Responses to a catastrophic interruption in water supply are part of the ERP explained below in Section 4.

## Section 4: Stages of Action to Respond to Water Shortage Event

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The City has developed a six-stage contingency plan to reduce demand up to 50 percent during a severe or extended water shortage event involving both voluntary and mandatory stages.

**Table 4-1**  
**Water Shortage Stages and Triggers/Demand Reduction Goals**

|                 |         | <b>Trigger</b>                                                                                     | <b>Demand Reduction Goal<br/>Based on Projected Demand</b> |
|-----------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Advisory</b> | Stage 1 | Annual Supply Projection is between 0 and 10% below Demand Projection                              | 10% Voluntary                                              |
|                 | Stage 2 | Annual Supply Projection is greater than or equal to 10% and less than 20% below Demand Projection | 10% Mandatory                                              |
| <b>Moderate</b> | Stage 3 | Annual Supply Projection is greater than or equal to 20% and less than 30% below Demand Projection | 20% Mandatory                                              |
|                 | Stage 4 | Annual Supply Projection is greater than or equal to 30% and less than 40% below Demand Projection | 30% Mandatory                                              |
| <b>Severe</b>   | Stage 5 | Annual Supply Projection is greater than or equal to 40% and less than 50% below Demand Projection | 40% Mandatory                                              |
|                 | Stage 6 | Annual Supply Projection is greater than or equal to 50% of Demand Projection                      | 50% Mandatory                                              |

Notes:

1. The Annual Supply Projection will be conducted as described in Section 2.4 or in an emergency situation be prepared by the Ventura Water General Manager.

## 4.1 Shortage Response Actions

The water shortage conditions in Table 4-1 are based on the Annual Assessment. Other circumstances may also be considered, including but not limited to the time of year, weather forecasts, river flow forecast, rainfall, temperature, past experience and economic feasibility, the volume of water available from Lake Casitas, volume available from groundwater wells, and quality of the water produced from each source.

Below is a brief discussion of shortage response actions. Section 9 provides a specific action plan for each water shortage stage.

### 4.1.1 Supply Augmentation

Any water shortage event should trigger a review of potential sources for supplemental water supply. Potential sources for supplemental water include the Oxnard Plain Basin (will incur fee), purchasing additional Casitas supplies and paying penalties, taking additional State Water Project water (infrastructure not currently available), and VenturaWaterPure (not currently available). Any supplemental water supply project or improvements to existing facilities to allow for entitled flows should be a priority for consideration in immediate capital projects if shortage (e.g., demands exceeding supplies) greater than ten percent is anticipated or when a Stage 3 Water Shortage Event continues for more than 18 months. Additional supply sources for consideration by the City Council include replacement or rehabilitated wells, seawater desalination, purchasing and importing state water, increased use of reclaimed water, and other alternatives based on the actual circumstances at that time.

In the near-term its assumed that in a water emergency Ventura Water could purchase additional water from Casitas or pump additional groundwater from the Mound, Oxnard Plain, or Santa Paula Basins. Additional purchases from Casitas would incur surcharges. Pumping additional groundwater may also incur penalties. Additional information on the amount of water that may be purchased or pumped is included in Appendix B.

### 4.1.2 Operational Changes

#### 4.1.2.1 Demand Reduction at City Owned Facilities

The City shall comply with the restrictions similar to those implemented for the public to the extent possible and not inconsistent with the restrictions provided for the City in this section. The City will encourage all water customers to cooperate with the water restrictions imposed by each stage.

The City shall limit use of potable water to irrigate newly planted street, park and/or golf course trees, street medians, and general irrigation on all City properties. Non-potable water from wastewater treatment shall be used by City personnel if available for such purposes. No new plantings shall be installed by the City during Stage 3 or higher Water Shortage Events, unless necessary for erosion control.

The City shall take reasonable effort to preserve permanent trees, shrubs and turf on City property. City parks have three priorities for watering during a shortage; comparable priorities apply to trees, shrubs and turf in non-park City owned facilities.

1. No or little reduction in watering of turf in sports fields shall be required where there are safety concerns due to continued use;
2. 20-30% reduction in watering for visitor areas of the City that need to look welcoming to visitors; and
3. 30-40% reduction in passive use areas, these are the areas that will turn brown first.

The City Manager shall review City operations to identify feasible water use reductions with the goal of matching allocation reductions imposed on residential customers.

During Stages 4 through 6, the decision to fill or refill City swimming pools or continue operation of said pools in a manner that is safe and expeditious will be separate from the restrictions in the WSECP. Changes shall be approved by the City Council with input from the Ventura Water General Manager, the Parks & Recreation Director following written notification to all contracted user groups of the city pools.

Ventura Water has invested in a Neutral Output Discharge Elimination System for hydrant flushing and water used for flushing is very low. During Stages 5 and 6, hydrant flushing shall be limited except as deemed necessary by the Ventura Water General Manager and City Fire Chief to enhance water quality or to conduct fire flow and large meter tests. Jet flushing of sanitary sewers, storm sewer flushing, and street sweeping shall be limited except as deemed necessary for health, safety, sanitation, or general welfare purposes.

Volume of water saved by reducing water use in City operations may be significant. It is estimated that reducing water use by 40% in the passive areas of City Parks would save approximately 75 AFY. These values are reflected in Table 4-3.

#### **4.1.2.2 Customer Demand Reduction**

Most of the shortage response actions taken by Ventura Water in the past, and to be taken in the near future, are focused on reducing demand. To assist customers with reducing water demand, Ventura Water maintains an active water use efficiency program as documented most recently in the 2021 Water Efficiency Plan.

Each Stage of water shortage has accompanying water reduction measures. Each stage shall remain in effect until conditions indicate a more or less restrictive stage is appropriate and action is taken by the City Council based on shortage criteria in Table 4-1. The City Council may enact any stage and need not proceed in order through the stages.

1. Enacting water use restrictions:  
Stages 2-6 of the WSECP shall be enacted by the Ventura City Council declaring an emergency water restriction. Water supply/demand conditions and goals for each restriction stage are outlined in Table 4-1.

2. Modifying and ending water use restrictions:

For each month that customer water use restrictions are in effect at Stage 4, 5, or 6 under this WSECP the City Manager shall report to the City Council on the status of the shortage and water use changes in the Ventura Water system, including a recommendation to maintain, change or end the water use restrictions. A water shortage event can be terminated by the City Council upon determination that “normal year” supplies have been secured by rainfall, basin replenishment or a new supply. A water shortage event involving sudden, unforeseen emergencies can be terminated by the City Manager or their designee upon a determination that the emergency no longer exists. As soon as practicably possible or at the next scheduled Council meeting, the City Manager or their designee shall share this termination decision with the City Council.

3. Water Shortage Surcharge Rates:

Customers (excluding reclaimed water users) are subject to water shortage surcharge rates after notification of a formal water shortage stage declaration. There are no water shortage surcharge rates during a Stage 1 water shortage (10% voluntary reduction). Water shortage surcharge rates are applicable in Stages 2-6. See Section 4.2.4 for further discussion.

## 4.2 Benefit of Shortage Response Actions

As discussed above, supply actions and actions within the City operations will help reduce water shortage. The Action Plan in Section 9 takes a multi-prong approach to closing the “gap” between supplies and demands through customer actions, including:

- Public Information
- Enforcement
- Restrictions on Non-Essential Water Uses
- Pricing

### 4.2.1 Public Information

Without exception, experience has shown that a well-informed public is generally more willing to heed requests to voluntarily conserve or alter water use patterns, and will be more likely to comply if mandatory water use restrictions become necessary. DWR (2008) estimates that public information campaigns have alone reduced demand in the range of **5 to 20** percent, depending on the time, money, and effort spent. Public information supports voluntary and mandatory measures by educating and convincing the public that a critical water shortage exists and provides information on how water is used and how they can help. The DWR Drought Guidebook highlights that when the public perceives a drought to be severe, they change behaviors (such as flushing the toilet less often).

The information provided to the public should include a description of the conditions that will trigger implementation of shortage stages as well as a description of what the plan entails (restrictions, enforcement provisions, etc.). It is also advisable to provide practical “consumer”

information that will help water users comply with the plan. For example, information about restrictions on lawn watering might be accompanied with information about proper lawn watering practices.

A water savings of 10 percent would mean Ventura Water would reduce demand by approximately 1,450 AFY; a water savings of 20 percent would mean Ventura Water could reduce demand by 2,900 AFY.

#### 4.2.2 Enforcement

A study examining the effectiveness of drought management programs in reducing residential water-use (Virginia Polytechnic Institute 2006) showed considerable variation in the effectiveness of drought management programs and highlighted the importance of public information and enforcement. Results, shown in Table 4-2, indicate that overall reductions in residential water-use ranged from 0-7 percent for voluntary restrictions and from 0-22 percent for mandatory restrictions. The observed differences were statistically attributed to information efforts for voluntary restrictions and both information and enforcement efforts for mandatory restrictions.

The analysis highlights the key role that public outreach and information plays in the success of drought response actions. Voluntary restriction programs with little to moderate levels of information dissemination had no appreciable effect on water-use. Voluntary restriction programs with active promotional efforts, however, reduced water-use by an estimated 7 percent from what would have otherwise occurred without any restriction program. Thus for voluntary restrictions, only the most intense programs had even a moderate level of success in reducing water-use.

**Table 4-2**  
**Drought Program Management Variables Effect on Residential Water-Use**

| <b>Classification</b>                           | <b>Estimated Change in Water-Use</b> | <b>Statistically Different than No Effect?</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Voluntary Restrictions</b>                   |                                      |                                                |
| Little or no information disseminated           | -2%                                  | No                                             |
| Moderate level of information                   | -2%                                  | No                                             |
| Aggressive information dissemination            | -7%                                  | Yes                                            |
| <b>Mandatory Restrictions</b>                   |                                      |                                                |
| Low information and low enforcement             | -5%                                  | No                                             |
| Moderate information and low enforcement        | -6%                                  | Yes                                            |
| Aggressive information and low enforcement      | -12%                                 | Yes                                            |
| Low information and moderate enforcement        | -4%                                  | No                                             |
| Moderate information and enforcement            | -9%                                  | Yes                                            |
| Aggressive information and moderate enforcement | -15%                                 | Yes                                            |
| Moderate information and aggressive enforcement | -20%                                 | Yes                                            |
| Aggressive information and enforcement          | -22%                                 | Yes                                            |

Source: Virginia Polytechnic Institute 2006

Mandatory restriction programs without a significant enforcement component broadly mirrored the outcomes achieved by the voluntary programs. Programs with mandatory restrictions that invested minimal effort in information dissemination did not appreciably reduce residential water-use. Programs with no active enforcement efforts but with moderate to high levels of informational dissemination achieved 6 and 12 percent reductions in water-use, respectively. These estimated reductions are similar to those achieved by voluntary programs with aggressive informational campaigns.

The experience the City of Santa Cruz had implementing its Drought Contingency Plan and successfully reaching its reduction goals supports the importance of a strong public information program. Analysis of the implementation program identified the key ingredient to its success was "the public's understanding, awareness, and belief that the City was confronted with a true water shortage problem. Media coverage of water problems across California reinforced the situation. Without that sense of a real and imminent problem, it's likely the level of cooperation and willingness demonstrated by the community in making changes they did might have been considerably reduced." (Santa Cruz 2010)

Delivering accurate and timely information to water users, news media and local governments with updates on conditions, restrictions, and helpful contact information is key. With aggressive information dissemination and enforcement, it is assumed Ventura Water could achieve a 22 percent water savings or about 3,190 AFY.

### 4.2.3 Restrictions on Non-Essential Water Uses

Ventura Water's Action Plan (see Section 9) focuses on curtailing water waste and non-essential water use. Outdoor water use, including washing sidewalks and watering ornamental landscapes is targeted. These uses are typically considered to be discretionary or nonessential, are highly visible, and therefore relatively easy to monitor, and often are a substantial component of water demand, particularly during the summer months when drought conditions are likely most severe.

Given the significance and visibility of lawn watering as the predominant component of seasonal use, best management practices in drought contingency plans typically prescribe time-of-use and other restrictions on lawn watering. This often involves placing water users on a schedule which allows for staggered lawn watering days, as well as restrictions on the times during the day when lawns can be watered.

The American Waterworks Association estimates that voluntary outdoor water use limits can result in a water savings of **up to 10 percent** and mandatory outdoor water limits can achieve **up to a 56 percent** reduction in outdoor water use (AWWA 2008, AWWA 2011). Specifically, case studies found that:

- Restricting water use to every third day reduced water use by 22 percent
- Restricting water use to twice a week reduced water use by 33 percent
- Restricting water use to once a week saved 56 percent

There have not been detailed studies on outdoor water use in the Ventura Water service area. However, a comparison of low water use months, when water use is assumed to be primarily indoor use (January and February) with high-water use months when outdoor water use is greatest has been used to estimate the percent of outdoor water demand. Based on this comparison, it is estimated that outdoor water use may make up between 20 to 50 percent of City water use. The Water Demand Factor Study performed in conjunction with the 2020 CWRR estimated outdoor water use of 53% based on general data from DWR; to be conservative and so as to not overestimate the savings that could be achieved by curtailing outdoor water use, this WSECP assumes outdoor water use is 20% of the Ventura Water demand:

- Voluntary outdoor water limits could save 10% of outdoor water use or about 300 AFY
- Restricting water use to twice a week could reduce outdoor water use by 33 percent or about 956 AFY
- Restricting water use to once a week could reduce outdoor water use by 56 percent or about 1,623 AFY.

#### 4.2.3.1 Additional Mandatory Restrictions

The State, through the State Water Board, adopted drought emergency conservation regulations in July 2014. The Board expanded, updated, extended, and readopted the emergency regulations several times and the prohibitions on wasteful water use practices were in place until November 25th, 2017.

As directed by Executive Order B-40-17, the State Water Board is conducting a rulemaking to put in place permanent prohibitions on wasteful water use practices. This rulemaking is part of the broader legislation, *Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life*.

The specific outcome of the permanent prohibitions cannot be known at this time. The emergency conservation regulations in effect through November 2017 included the following prohibitions:

- Application of potable water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures
- The use of a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, except where the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use
- The application of potable water to driveways and sidewalks
- The use of potable water in a fountain or other decorative water feature except where the water is part of a recirculating system
- The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall
- The serving of drinking water other than upon request in eating or drinking establishments
- Irrigation with potable water of ornamental turf on public street medians.

The emergency conservation regulations further required that:

- The irrigation with potable water of landscapes outside of newly constructed homes and buildings be done in a manner consistent with regulations or other requirements established by the California Building Standards Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development
- Commercial, industrial, and institutional properties shall limit outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with potable water to no more than two days per week

Ventura Water's water use restrictions are consistent with the State's prohibitions to prevent water waste. However, dependent on the declared drought stage, Ventura Water may have restrictions and requirements in addition to those of the State such as:

- Limiting outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscape or turf with potable water to certain hours and to certain days of the week (all customer types, not just Commercial, Industrial, or Institutional properties)
- Prohibiting all outdoor irrigation with potable water
- Prohibiting filling of swimming pools, spas, and wading pools

#### 4.2.4 Water Shortage Surcharge Rates

Past studies reveal that water use decreases when utilities install water meters and impose commodity charges. AWWA estimates that water use decreases between 15 to 40 percent when customers are charged a commodity rate rather than a flat rate (AWWA 2008). This indicates that customers are price sensitive and will adjust habits to reduce their cost of water. The actual extent that increasing rates during a drought can result in decreased water use is uncertain.

AWWA studies indicate that the effectiveness of pricing to reduce water use is very dependent on the affluence of the water utility customer base. As a rule of thumb, AWWA estimates that marginal price increases in water (up to 10 percent) reduce water use by 1.5 to 7 percent; price increases greater than 10 percent are necessary to achieve water use reductions greater than 10 percent (AWWA 2008).

Ventura Water uses Water Shortage Surcharge Rates for the purpose of recouping additional costs incurred during a drought and not for the purpose of reducing customer demands, but incidentally the water shortage surcharge rates do send a price signal to customers and do encourage water conservation. Based on AWWA data it's assumed that water use reductions of 10 to 15 percent will be achieved with water shortage surcharge rates.

Table 4-3 summarizes the anticipated water use reductions from Ventura Water's planned shortage response actions.

**Table 4-3  
Demand Reduction Actions**

| <b>Shortage Level</b> | <b>Demand Reduction Actions</b>                        | <b>Reduction in Shortage Gap</b> | <b>Explanation</b>                                          | <b>Penalty, Charge, or Other Enforcement?</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1                     | Expand Public Information Campaign                     | 10% or 1,450 AFY                 | Based on AWWA 2008 assumes savings of 10%                   | No                                            |
| 2                     | Expand Public Information Campaign                     | 22% or 3,190 AFY                 | Based on AWWA 2008 assumes savings of 22% with enforcement  | Yes                                           |
| 2                     | Implement or Modify Water Shortage Surcharge Rates     | 10% or 1,450 AFY                 | Based on AWWA 2011 assumes savings of 10%                   | Yes                                           |
| 3                     | Expand Public Information Campaign                     | 22% or 3,190 AFY                 | Based on AWWA 2008 assumes savings of 22% with enforcement  | Yes                                           |
| 3                     | Implement or Modify Water Shortage Surcharge Rates     | 10% or 1,450 AFY                 | Based on AWWA 2011 assumes savings of 10%                   | Yes                                           |
| 3                     | Landscape - Other landscape restriction or prohibition | 75 AFY                           | City reduces water use in City parks                        | No                                            |
| 3                     | Landscape – Other landscape restriction or prohibition | 6% of 580 AFY                    | Require municipal customers reduce outdoor water use by 20% | Yes                                           |
| 4                     | Expand Public Information Campaign                     | 22% or 3,190 AFY                 | Based on AWWA 2008 assumes savings of 22% with enforcement  | Yes                                           |
| 4                     | Implement or Modify Water Shortage Surcharge Rates     | 15% or 2,175 AFY                 | Based on AWWA 2011 assumes savings of 15%                   | Yes                                           |
| 4                     | Landscape - Other landscape restriction or prohibition | 75 AFY                           | City reduces water use in City parks                        | No                                            |
| 4                     | Landscape - Other landscape restriction or prohibition | 6% or 870 AFY                    | Require municipal customers reduce outdoor water use by 30% | Yes                                           |
| 5                     | Expand Public Information Campaign                     | 22% or 3,190 AFY                 | Based on AWWA 2008 assumes savings of 22% with enforcement  | Yes                                           |
| 5                     | Implement or Modify Water Shortage Surcharge Rates     | 15% or 2,175 AFY                 | Based on AWWA 2011 assumes savings of 15%                   | Yes                                           |
| 5                     | Landscape - Other landscape restriction or prohibition | 75 AFY                           | City reduces water use in City parks                        | No                                            |

Table 4-3. cont.

| Shortage Level | Demand Reduction Actions                                | Reduction in Shortage Gap      | Explanation                                                    | Penalty, Charge, or Other Enforcement? |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 5              | Landscape – Other landscape restriction or prohibition  | 10% or 1,450                   | Require municipal customers reduce outdoor water use by 50%    | Yes                                    |
| 5              | Landscape - Limit landscape irrigation to specific days | 0, accounted for in row above. |                                                                | No                                     |
| 6              | Expand Public Information Campaign                      | 22% or 3,190 AFY               | Based on AWWA 2008 assumes savings of 22% with enforcement     | Yes                                    |
| 6              | Implement or Modify Water Shortage Surcharge Rates      | 15% or 2,175 AFY               | Based on AWWA 2011 assumes savings of 15%                      | Yes                                    |
| 6              | Landscape - Other landscape restriction or prohibition  | 184 AFY                        | City eliminates potable water use for irrigation in City parks | No                                     |
| 6              | Landscape - Prohibit all landscape irrigation           | 20% or 2,900 AFY               | Require municipal customers eliminate outdoor water use        | Yes                                    |

## Section 5: Communications Protocols

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Successful implementation of this Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan will require coordination with agencies that supply Ventura Water, neighboring retail water agencies, land use agencies, and customers.

### 5.1 Coordination with Agencies that Supply Ventura Water

Ventura Water will need to interact with Casitas Municipal Water District, Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency, Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Santa Paula Basin Technical Advisory Committee, Calleguas Municipal Water District, and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Interaction with these agencies has two main goals:

- to confirm water supplies potentially available to Ventura Water
- to identify any infrastructure or agreements needed to make additional supplies available

In addition, Ventura Water will monitor the Department of Water Resources news releases for State Water Project allocation notifications. Ventura Water will also coordinate with any other agencies as needed.

The implementation calendar in Table 2-1 proposes holding meetings with these agencies in January and February, but meetings would extend for several months more if supply alternatives or supply enhancement options were identified. Subsequent meetings would be used to refine any concepts and to resolve any necessary contractual issues. Coordination with supply agencies should occur when any water shortage is anticipated. Ventura Water will take responsibility for setting up the coordination meetings and ensuring appropriate Ventura Water staff (planners, operators) participate. If supply alternatives are developed, Ventura Water staff with specific expertise (civil engineering, water treatment) should participate in these meetings to assess technical feasibility and costs.

Coordination with supply agencies is summarized below:

| Participants                                   | Goals of Coordination                                       | Schedule                                 |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Casitas Municipal Water District               | Confirm water supplies                                      | Jan and Feb, additional months as needed |
| Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency         | Identify supply alternatives and supply enhancement options |                                          |
| Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency       |                                                             |                                          |
| Mound Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency  |                                                             |                                          |
| Santa Paula Basin Technical Advisory Committee |                                                             |                                          |

## 5.2 Neighboring Retail Water Agencies and Land Use Agencies

The purpose of meeting with neighboring water agencies and land use agencies is to ensure that residents in the City of Ventura are receiving consistent messages about the drought, drought severity, and are aware of the actions they can take to reduce demand. Key agencies would include the City of Ventura Community Development Department, Casitas Municipal Water District, Calleguas Municipal Water District, and United Water Conservation District. All the agencies listed below participate in the Association Water Agencies Ventura County (AWAVC), the members are known to each other, and it would be relatively simple to add a special drought subcommittee to this group. Ventura Water will be responsible for coordinating with AWAVC to establish a drought subcommittee. The intent of these meetings will be to develop a common message to the community about the drought and to find opportunities to share costs (e.g., share costs of radio announcements and newspaper advertisements). As the drought progresses, the meetings will serve to refine the drought messaging to address any common misconceptions or common customer questions. Monthly meetings are proposed, starting in February, and ongoing through the drought.

Should a water shortage be declared, Ventura Water will coordinate with any city or county within which it provides water supply services for the possible proclamation of a local emergency, as defined in Section 8558 of the Government Code.

Proposed coordination with retail water agencies, special districts and land use agencies is summarized below:

| Participants                                     | Goals of Coordination                                 | Schedule   |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| City of Ventura Community Development Department | Identify opportunities to share public outreach costs | Feb to Aug |
| Casitas Municipal Water District                 | Develop common brochures                              |            |
| Calleguas Municipal Water District               | Develop common website messages                       |            |
| United Water Conservation District               | Refine drought messaging based on customer response   |            |
| County of Ventura                                | Determine need for proclamation of local emergency    |            |

### 5.3 Customer Outreach

Customer participation is a key element in responding to a supply shortage. While general media coverage of a drought is likely to increase awareness, Ventura Water should still develop and implement a specific and comprehensive outreach program. The goals of the outreach program will be to:

- Educate customers and public about state and local drought conditions
- Make water shortage stages and customer responsibilities clear
- Target specific customer groups with specialized messaging
- Provide information to customers and general public that will assist them in reducing water demand

Ventura Water regularly communicates with its customers and has a long history of promoting conservation. The Ventura City Council adopted a five-year Water Efficiency Plan in 2011 and this began a broad customer outreach program to engage customers in the pursuit of greater water efficiency. Ventura Water is in the process of updating and refining the Water Efficiency Plan. Staff will continue to implement customer outreach programs. Ongoing outreach activities are summarized in Table 5-1. Conservation giveaways also provide a means for Ventura Water to interact with customers for water efficiency messaging.

**Table 5-1  
Ventura Water Outreach Programs**

| Action                      | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Years Implemented |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|
|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 2016              | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Monthly E-Newsletter        | The monthly Pipeline Newsletter provides information on capital improvement projects, conservation programs, public meetings, workshops, and special events.                                                                                              | X                 | X    | X    | X    | X    |
| Website                     | Ventura Water regularly updates the website with FAQs, public notices, water quality data, water conservation information, public meeting information, project updates, and more.                                                                         | X                 | X    | X    | X    | X    |
| Outreach Events             | 15-20 public outreach events per year, consisting of job fairs, City-sponsored events, Chamber of Commerce events, with giveaways and informational handouts.                                                                                             | X                 | X    | X    | X    | X    |
| Social Media                | Ventura Water maintains an active and engaged presence on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram.                                                                                                                                                      | X                 | X    | X    | X    | X    |
| Public Engagement Materials | Water quality Consumer Confidence Report. Brochures “Protecting our Pipes”; “Understanding Water and Wastewater Charges”; “Customer Assistance Program”; “Water Disaster Preparedness”; and “Fats, Oils, and Grease”.                                     | X                 | X    | X    | X    | X    |
| Targeted Outreach           | Brochures, annual mailer, postcards, and door hangers.                                                                                                                                                                                                    | X                 | X    | X    | X    | X    |
| Conservation Giveaways      | Ventura Water continues to offer customers water conservation giveaways including materials such as “Doing Our Part to Save Water” yard signs, low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, toilet leak detection kits, shower times, dish squeegees, and more. | X                 | X    | X    | X    | X    |
| Water Efficiency Surveys    | Free Water Efficiency Surveys are available to residential and commercial customers to support water conservation and water waste mitigation.                                                                                                             | X                 | X    | X    | X    | X    |
| Rebates and Incentives      | Ventura Water continues to offer a variety of rebates and incentives programs designed to support water efficiency for residential and commercial customers.                                                                                              | X                 | X    | X    | X    | X    |

Public outreach will be enhanced during anticipated water shortages. In addition to traditional outreach (monthly e newsletter, billing statements), Ventura Water will consider utilizing new and innovative outreach efforts and advertise water conservation programs and opportunities as outlined in the 2021 Water Efficiency Plan. Proposed outreach may include, but not be limited to:

- Multi-media *Conservation Stories*, a campaign that will include testimonial water conservation case studies, experiences and lessons learned from a variety of Ventura Water customer types (residential, institutional, and commercial). This campaign can be prepared in video, audio, print, and web formats.
- Social media sites (YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram) to distribute *Conservation Stories* and other messaging
- Specific Ventura Water website section dedicated to the drought
- Customized state and regional partner outreach materials and links
- Water shortage declarations provided as inserts to monthly water bills
- Post-cards and mailings to Ventura Water customers.
- Targeted outreach (contact by letters and phone calls) to high-use water customers
- Employee outreach and education to ensure consistent organization messages concerning drought and conservation
- Enhanced community presence of Ventura Water materials (handouts at schools, plumbing centers, hardware stores, City of Ventura, farmers markets, and community festivals)
- Water efficiency surveys for commercial and residential customers
- Rebate and incentive programs (turf replacement, high efficiency appliances and irrigation devices)

Proposed coordination with customers is summarized below:

| Outreach Target                                  | Goals of Coordination                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Schedule                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| All customers of Ventura Water<br>General Public | Educate customers and public about drought conditions<br>Make water shortage stages and customer responsibilities clear<br>Target specific customer groups with specialized messaging<br>Provide information to customers and general public that will assist them in reducing water demand | Feb of first year of drought and ongoing through drought |

## Section 6: Enforcement

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Enforcement of restrictions shall be in accordance with San Buenaventura Municipal Code, Chapter 22.170 Water Conservation, Section 22.170.010, Water Waste Prohibited (Appendix C). The provisions of the section apply to all persons using city water within the City water service areas. The Ventura Water General Manager, with the approval of the City Manager, may prescribe rules and regulations for the implementation of ordinance provisions. The Water Conservation Regulations and Water Shortage Regulations and Rates Relating Thereto Ordinance included as Appendix C is currently being updated and will be considered for approval by City Council in May 2021 and is expected to become effective July 1, 2021. Appendix C will be replaced with the updated Ordinance once it is approved.

### 6.1 Enforcement of the Water Waste Prohibition

Prohibited actions and penalties for violating the City's Water Waste Ordinance are specified in the Municipal Code.

#### 6.1.1 Civil Penalties

For a description of civil penalties, refer to the Municipal Code (Appendix C).

#### 6.1.2 Notices

For a description of notices given to customers in violation, refer to the Municipal Code (Appendix C).

#### 6.1.3 Hearings and Appeals

The Municipal Code describes the process of requesting an appeal. The Municipal Code explains that where water service is disconnected because of a penalty, it will be reconnected upon correction of the condition or activity and the payment of the estimated reconnection charge.

For a detailed description of hearings and appeals, refer to the Municipal Code (Appendix C).

## Section 7: Financial Consequences of WSECP

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Consumption reduction will impact revenues by decreasing the amount of water sold to customers. Water shortages may also impact construction activities. A reduction in construction activities will reduce water service connection fees collected by the City.

As consumption decreases, some expenditures are expected to increase. Staff costs for community education, enforcement of ordinances, monitoring and evaluation of water use, drought planning, and dealing with customer questions and complaints are expected to rise. A shift to alternative sources would change pumping, purchase, and treatment costs as different water supplies incur different purchase, treatment, and distribution costs.

Ventura Water regularly reviews and updates rates to make sure costs are equitably apportioned to customers and reflect the cost of operating, maintaining, and improving the water system. In 2020-21 Ventura Water is performing a rate study and the results of that study will be reviewed by the City Council and any new rates codified in Chapter 22.171 of the San Buenaventura Municipal Code.

Ventura Water has structured its rates into two main components: a fixed service charge and a commodity rate. The fixed service charge has been set with the intent of covering the water utility's fixed costs (meter infrastructure, billing, administration). The fixed service charge is meant to provide a fixed amount of income to Ventura Water independent of water consumption. Currently about 25 percent of Ventura Water's revenue comes from the fixed service charge. The commodity rate is a cost per unit consumed by the customer and is meant to recover the City's variable costs for providing water service and a portion of fixed costs. The commodity charge also sends the customer a price signal and rewards customers who conserve water. A decrease in consumption would impact revenue from the commodity charges as estimated in Table 7-1 below:

**Table 7-1**  
**Revenue Impacts of Reduced Water Demand**

| <b>Demand Reduction</b> | <b>Annual Revenue Reduction (\$ million)</b> | <b>% of ~\$21M Water Base Revenue</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 10%                     | -\$1.96 M                                    | - 11%                                 |
| 20%                     | -\$3.77 M                                    | - 23%                                 |
| 30%                     | -\$5.63 M                                    | - 41%                                 |
| 40%                     | -\$7.45 M                                    | - 64%                                 |
| 50%                     | - \$8.75 M                                   | - 89%                                 |

A reduction in water revenue could be mitigated substantially through deferral or avoidance of capital fund expenditures. This would meet short-term cash flow needs, although it should only be considered on a short-term basis.

The water purchases, utility costs and chemical costs are not a linear function of the water usage reduction. However, in order to provide an estimate of the cost savings, it is assumed

that if there is a ten percent reduction in usage, there will also be a ten percent reduction in associated costs.

A summary of measures to overcome revenue and expenditure impacts is provided in Table 7-2.

**Table 7-2**  
**Measures to Overcome Revenue Impacts During Shortage**

| <b>Measure</b>                                          | <b>Summary of Effects</b>                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Use of Reserve Funds                                    | Use of reserves may provide short-term rate stabilization, but would require delays in capital expenditures and rebuilding of reserves after the water shortage. |
| Re-evaluate Capital Expenditure Plans                   | Delay major construction projects for facilities as well as upgrades and replacements.                                                                           |
| Shift Water Sources to Less Costly Supplies if Possible | Reduce costs associated with purchase, treatment, and distribution of water.                                                                                     |
| Shortage Rates                                          | Increase revenue.                                                                                                                                                |

Rate adjustments could also be employed either solely or in conjunction with capital expenditure reductions.

## 7.1 Water Shortage Surcharge Rates for Revenue Loss Recovery

Water Shortage Surcharge Rates would be implemented when mandatory stages are enacted by the City Council. A rate schedule has been created for each mandatory stage of this plan. The rates would resume to normal rates once the Water Shortage Event is retracted based on triggers in this plan.

1. Goals of Water Shortage Surcharge Rates:
  - Meet community expectations to provide safe and reliable water supply during shortages at rates that are fair and as low as possible.
  - Maintain fiscal stability in the event of a sudden or long-term water shortage.
  - Achieve state mandates and legal requirements.
2. Principles of the Water Shortage Surcharge Rates:
  - The rates will be increased for each stage of mandatory conservation to ensure full revenue loss recovery.
3. Codifying the Water Shortage Surcharge Rates:
  - Customers will be given 30 days-notice prior to the rates going in effect unless the City Council takes extraordinary action.

Ventura Water prepared water shortage rates as part of its 2015 Water Shortage Rates Study. Ventura Water implemented drought shortage rates in FY16, FY17, FY18, FY19, FY20. An update to the water shortage rates is being studied as part of Ventura Water's current rate study. The City Council will consider proposed water and wastewater rates, including updates to the water shortage rates, at the May 17, 2021 Council Meeting. If approved, the water and wastewater rates, including the water shortage surcharge rates, would be implemented July 1, 2021.

## Section 8: Monitoring and Reporting

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Certain aspects of water conservation can be readily monitored and evaluated, such as metered water use and production quantities. Other aspects such as public education are more difficult to measure in terms of effectiveness. Additionally, weather patterns make it more difficult to compare one year's water demand and conservation results with another year's usage.

When severe shortages occur and some degree of mandatory reduction is required, a program's effectiveness can be judged directly by water billings. In these cases, targeted results must be met and even reluctant customers will, on the whole, meet the goals. Specific methods to evaluate effectiveness of water conservation programs to be employed by the City are:

1. Monitoring of Metered Water Usage – This will determine how much has been used. Compiling statistics to track usage of customer groups to determine trends is currently being done through the water billing computer system. Meter readings/billings can be compared and analyzed to determine the effectiveness of conservation for all customer classes.
2. Monitoring Production Quantities – In normal water supply conditions, production figures are recorded daily by the City's automated system. The Water Production Supervisor and the Production Lead monitor the accuracy of the monthly production totals. The totals are incorporated into the monthly water supply report to the State by Ventura Water.

To verify that conservation reduction goals are being met, production and metered usage reports will be evaluated during each stage of the conservation period. Water production figures will be compared to previous year production figures for the same time period to ascertain if conservation goals are being reached. Results will be posted on the Ventura Water website.

Additional actions available to Ventura Water include:

1. Completing the transition to "smart meters" to allow timely monitoring by customers of water use patterns. In conjunction with the smart meters, Ventura Water can provide customers the guidance to meet conservation goals.
2. Providing incentives to property owners to install individual meters or sub-meters in multi-family structures to enable residents and property owners to track water usage.
3. Promoting the mobile reuse program. Through this program customers can fill and haul recycled water for landscape irrigation and other non-potable uses.

## Section 9: Action Plan

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At each of the stages of action within the Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan shown in Table 4-1, Ventura Water and its customers each have certain actions they must undertake.

1. Ventura Water actions involve increasing public awareness and education, recommending to the City Council activation of ordinances prohibiting water waste, activating mandatory water conservation regulations, and periodically reviewing triggering events and stages.
2. Water customer actions involve implementing water conservation measures and complying with water conservation ordinances and regulations.

These measures at the six stages of the City's Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan are described below.

### 9.1 Stage 1 & 2: 0-10 Percent Reduction Goal (Voluntary/Mandatory)

#### City Actions

1. Monitor conservation levels and increase public awareness.
2. Notify customers of shortage conditions and disseminate water conservation information and kits.
3. Publicize Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan stages and the possible actions per stage including water use reduction goals.
4. Provide information on customer's bill as to what they should be using for the needed cutback.
5. Implement water shortage surcharge rates commencing with Stage 2 consistent with Code Section 22.171.110.
6. At Stage 2, prepare a resolution for City Council consideration that will initiate the appropriate mandatory conservation stage addressed in the City's Water Shortage Regulations and Rates Relating Thereto Ordinance.
7. Enforce mandatory water consumption reduction program for all customers and users.
8. Promote efficient water use through education, incentives, and other actions.
9. Implement water conservation programs as outlined in the Water Efficiency Plan, including providing rebates or incentives for water wise landscape changes and high efficiency irrigation technology.
10. Enforce Water Waste Ordinance (Appendix C).
11. Inform new development applicants of Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan and its restrictions, including notice that if conditions worsen issuance of permits and development approvals may be delayed until additional supply becomes available or conditions significantly improve.

12. Provide ways to increase use of recycled water to reduce potable water usage.

#### Water Customer Actions

1. Monitor water usage.
2. Repair indoor and outdoor leaks
3. Implement conservation measures to reduce usage.
4. Comply with City's Water Waste Ordinance (Appendix C).
5. Where feasible, use non-potable water to perform dust control, irrigate street landscaping, parks, and other areas.
6. For customers who own and/or operate hotels and motels, the customer shall provide their guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily. The customer shall prominently display notice of this option in each guest room using clear and easily understood language.

### 9.2 Stage 3: 20 Percent Reduction Goal (Mandatory)

#### City Actions (In addition to actions established in previous Stage)

1. Prepare a resolution for City Council consideration that will initiate the appropriate mandatory conservation stage addressed in the City's Municipal Code or this WSECP.
2. Make reasonable efforts to provide low-cost recycled water for irrigation and other non-potable uses as approved by regulatory agency.
3. Municipal customers will reduce outdoor use of potable water by 20 percent.
4. Use recycled water on City parks and landscaping using contract trucks or other equipment.
5. Provide incentives to single metered multi-family units to install individual meters or sub-meters.
6. Send written notification of increase to Stage 3 to all development project applicants.
7. Change outdoor watering limitations to specific days of the week to aid enforcement.
8. Coordinate with City and County to determine need for local state of emergency.

#### Water Customer Actions (In addition to actions established in previous Stage)

1. Comply with mandatory water conservation regulations.
2. Do not wash sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots or any other hard-surfaced areas by hose or flooding, except as otherwise necessary to prevent or eliminate conditions dangerous to the public health and safety or for other legitimate necessity.
3. Comply with prohibited outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscape or turf with potable water through an irrigation system between the hours of 9:00 am and 6:00 pm and limiting the use of irrigation systems to two days a week.

4. Comply with these on other requirements of the Water Waste Ordinance:
  - Do not allow water to run and be wasted during outdoor use. (Adjust or reduce sprinklers so the water does not run onto the pavement or street.)
  - Do not allow leaks to persist past 48 hours.
  - Handheld hoses used to wash a vehicle must have an automatic shutoff nozzle.
  - Water service in all restaurants is by customer request only.
  - Do not operate fountains unless the water is recirculating.
  - Do not knowingly waste water in any way.

### 9.3 Stage 4: 30 Percent Reduction Goal (Mandatory)

#### City Actions (In addition to actions established in previous Stages)

1. Prepare a resolution for City Council consideration initiating the appropriate mandatory conservation stage addressed in the City's Municipal Code or this WSECP.
2. Ensure efficient use of potable water for street sweeping, power washing, and other activities that otherwise consume potable water.
3. Municipal customers will reduce outdoor use of potable water by 30 percent.
4. Implement baseline/use appeal process for hardship cases.
5. New development that does not have a water supply to serve their project which supplements the City's water supply will be required to offset any impact to water supply during the Stage 4 (or higher) Water Shortage Event if they wish to continue the entitlement process during a Water Shortage Event.

#### Water Customer Actions (In addition to actions established in previous Stages)

1. Comply with mandatory water conservation regulations.

### 9.4 Stage 5: 40 Percent Reduction Goal (Mandatory)

#### City Actions (In addition to actions established in previous Stage)

1. Prepare a resolution for City Council consideration initiating the appropriate mandatory conservation stage addressed in the City's Municipal Code or this WSECP.
2. Municipal customers will reduce outdoor use of potable water by at least 40 percent.
3. Prepare a resolution for City Council consideration directing the Community Development Department to stop processing development approvals in order to conduct a public hearing regarding water allocation to development applications.
4. Limit outdoor watering to 1 day per week.

#### Water Customer Actions (In addition to actions established in previous Stage)

1. Comply with mandatory water conservation regulations.

## 9.5 Stage 6: 50 Percent Reduction Goal (Mandatory)

### City Actions (In addition to actions established in previous Stages)

1. Prepare a resolution for City Council approval initiating the appropriate mandatory conservation stage addressed in the City's Municipal Code or this WSECP.
2. No outdoor irrigation using potable water will be allowed.
3. All water use not required for health and safety is prohibited.
4. Suspend the issuance of any new development approvals and new water connections other than those required to be processed by state law. Building permits which do not create new demand for water or which are for emergencies, public safety and water conservation may be exempted by the City Manager.

### Water Customer Actions (In addition to actions established in previous Stages)

1. Comply with mandatory water conservation regulations.
2. Prohibition of all outside water use unless necessary for the preservation of health and safety and the public welfare.
3. Watering with hand-held five gallon maximum bucket, filled at exterior hose bib or interior faucet (not by hose) for the preservation of vegetable gardens or fruit trees shall be allowed at any time.
4. The filling of swimming pools, spas, hot tubs, and wading pools is prohibited.

## 9.6 Priorities for Water Use

The following priorities for use of available water, based on Chapter 3 of the California Water Code (Water Shortage Emergencies, Sections 350-359) and community input, were used in establishing consumption limits. In order of preference they are:

1. Health and Safety - interior residential use and firefighting.
2. Commercial, Industrial and Governmental Uses - maintain jobs and economic base.
3. Permanent Crops.
4. Annual Crops. Existing Landscaping - especially trees and shrubs.
5. New Demand - projects without permits when shortage declared.

The State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Public Health and the Ventura County Health Care Agency may assist in determining whether an exception to any restrictions imposed according to the WSECP is necessary for the welfare, health, and safety of the public.

## Section 10: References

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<http://water.ky.gov/wa/Documents/AdditlDroughtResources/VirginiaStudyonDroughtProgramEffectiveness.pdf>

## Appendix A: City Council Adoption of the 2020 WSECP

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## Appendix B: DWR Submittal Tables

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| DRAFT Submittal Table 8-1<br>Water Shortage Contingency Plan Levels                                 |                                                                            |                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Shortage Level                                                                                      | Complete Both                                                              |                                                            |
|                                                                                                     | Percent Shortage Range <sup>1</sup><br><i>Numerical value as a percent</i> | Water Shortage Condition<br><i>(Narrative description)</i> |
| <i>Add additional rows as needed</i>                                                                |                                                                            |                                                            |
| 1                                                                                                   | Up to 10%                                                                  | 10% Reduction                                              |
| 2                                                                                                   | Up to 20%                                                                  | 10% Reduction                                              |
| 3                                                                                                   | Up to 30%                                                                  | 20% Reduction                                              |
| 4                                                                                                   | Up to 40%                                                                  | 30% Reduction                                              |
| 5                                                                                                   | Up to 50%                                                                  | 40% Reduction                                              |
| 6                                                                                                   | >50%                                                                       | 50+% Reduction                                             |
| <sup>1</sup> One stage in the Water Shortage Contingency Plan must address a water shortage of 50%. |                                                                            |                                                            |
| NOTES:                                                                                              |                                                                            |                                                            |

**DRAFT Submittal Table 8-2: Demand Reduction Actions**

| Shortage Level                       | Demand Reduction Actions<br><i><b>Drop down list</b></i><br><i>These are the only categories that will be accepted by the WUEdata online submittal tool. Select those that apply to you.</i> | How much is this going to reduce the shortage gap?<br><i>Include volume units used.</i> | Additional Explanation or Reference<br><i>(optional)</i>    | Penalty, Charge, or Other Enforcement?<br><i>Drop Down List</i> |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Add additional rows as needed</i> |                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                         |                                                             |                                                                 |
| 1                                    | Expand Public Information Campaign                                                                                                                                                           | 10% or 1,450 AFY                                                                        | Based on AWWA 2008 assumes savings of 10%                   | No                                                              |
| 2                                    | Expand Public Information Campaign                                                                                                                                                           | 22% or 3,190 AFY                                                                        | Based on AWWA 2008 assumes savings of 22% with enforcement  | Yes                                                             |
| 2                                    | Implement or Modify Drought Rate Structure or Surcharge                                                                                                                                      | 10% or 1,450 AFY                                                                        | Based on AWWA 2011 assumes savings of 10%                   | Yes                                                             |
| 3                                    | Expand Public Information Campaign                                                                                                                                                           | 22% or 3,190 AFY                                                                        | Based on AWWA 2008 assumes savings of 22% with enforcement  | Yes                                                             |
| 3                                    | Implement or Modify Drought Rate Structure or Surcharge                                                                                                                                      | 10% or 1,450 AFY                                                                        | Based on AWWA 2011 assumes savings of 10%                   | Yes                                                             |
| 3                                    | Landscape - Other landscape restriction or prohibition                                                                                                                                       | 75 AFY                                                                                  | City reduces water use in City parks                        | No                                                              |
| 3                                    | Landscape - Other landscape restriction or prohibition                                                                                                                                       | 6% or 580 AFY                                                                           | Require municipal customers reduce outdoor water use by 20% | Yes                                                             |
| 4                                    | Expand Public Information Campaign                                                                                                                                                           | 22% or 3,190 AFY                                                                        | Based on AWWA 2008 assumes savings of 22% with enforcement  | Yes                                                             |
| 4                                    | Implement or Modify Drought Rate Structure or Surcharge                                                                                                                                      | 15% or 2,175 AFY                                                                        | Based on AWWA 2011 assumes savings of 15%                   | Yes                                                             |
| 4                                    | Landscape - Other landscape restriction or prohibition                                                                                                                                       | 75 AFY                                                                                  | City reduces water use in City parks                        | No                                                              |
| 4                                    | Landscape - Other landscape restriction or prohibition                                                                                                                                       | 6% or 870 AFY                                                                           | Require municipal customers reduce outdoor water use by 30% | Yes                                                             |
| 5                                    | Expand Public Information Campaign                                                                                                                                                           | 22% or 3,190 AFY                                                                        | Based on AWWA 2008 assumes savings of 22% with enforcement  | Yes                                                             |

**Draft DWR Submittal Table 8-2 cont.**

| Shortage Level | Demand Reduction Actions<br><i><b>Drop down list</b></i><br><i>These are the only categories that will be accepted by the WUEdata online submittal tool. Select those that apply to you.</i> | How much is this going to reduce the shortage gap?<br><i>Include volume units used.</i> | Additional Explanation or Reference<br><i>(optional)</i>       | Penalty, Charge, or Other Enforcement?<br><i>Drop Down List</i> |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5              | Implement or Modify Drought Rate Structure or Surcharge                                                                                                                                      | 15% or 2,175 AFY                                                                        | Based on AWWA 2011 assumes savings of 15%                      | Yes                                                             |
| 5              | Landscape - Other landscape restriction or prohibition                                                                                                                                       | 75 AFY                                                                                  | City reduces water use in City parks                           | No                                                              |
| 5              | Landscape - Other landscape restriction or prohibition                                                                                                                                       | 10% or 1,450 AFY                                                                        | Require municipal customers reduce outdoor water use by 50%    | Yes                                                             |
| 5              | Landscape - Limit landscape irrigation to specific days                                                                                                                                      | 0, accounted for in row above.                                                          |                                                                | No                                                              |
| 6              | Expand Public Information Campaign                                                                                                                                                           | 22% or 3,190 AFY                                                                        | Based on AWWA 2008 assumes savings of 22% with enforcement     | Yes                                                             |
| 6              | Implement or Modify Drought Rate Structure or Surcharge                                                                                                                                      | 15% or 2,175 AFY                                                                        | Based on AWWA 2011 assumes savings of 15%                      | Yes                                                             |
| 6              | Landscape - Other landscape restriction or prohibition                                                                                                                                       | 184 AFY                                                                                 | City eliminates potable water use for irrigation in City parks | No                                                              |
| 6              | Landscape - Prohibit all landscape irrigation                                                                                                                                                | 20% or 2,900 AFY                                                                        | Require municipal customers eliminate outdoor water use        | Yes                                                             |
| NOTES:         |                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                         |                                                                |                                                                 |

**Table 8-3: Supply Augmentation and Other Actions**

| Shortage Level                | Supply Augmentation Methods and Other Actions by Water Supplier<br><i>Drop down list</i><br><i>These are the only categories that will be accepted by the WUEdata online submittal tool</i> | How much is this going to reduce the shortage gap? Include volume units used. | Additional Explanation or Reference (optional)                                                                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Add additional rows as needed |                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                               |                                                                                                                      |
| 2                             | Other actions (describe)                                                                                                                                                                    | 1000 AF                                                                       | Purchase SWP water, if not available, then pump additional groundwater and/or purchase additional water from Casitas |
| 3                             | Other actions (describe)                                                                                                                                                                    | 1000 AF                                                                       | Purchase SWP water, if not available, then pump additional groundwater and/or purchase additional water from Casitas |
| 4                             | Other actions (describe)                                                                                                                                                                    | 1000 AF                                                                       | Purchase SWP water, if not available, then pump additional groundwater and/or purchase additional water from Casitas |
| 5                             | Other actions (describe)                                                                                                                                                                    | 1000 AF                                                                       | Purchase SWP water, if not available, then pump additional groundwater and/or purchase additional water from Casitas |
| 6                             | Other actions (describe)                                                                                                                                                                    | 1000 AF                                                                       | Purchase SWP water, if not available, then pump additional groundwater and/or purchase additional water from Casitas |
| NOTES:                        |                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                               |                                                                                                                      |

## Appendix C: City of Ventura Water Waste Ordinance<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The Water Conservation Regulations and Water Shortage Regulations and Rates Relating Thereto Ordinance included as Appendix C is currently being updated and will be considered for approval by City Council in May 2021 and is expected to become effective July 1, 2021. Appendix C will be replaced with the updated Ordinance once it is approved.

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