



AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Water Utilities
CM/DCM/ACM: Cassandra Ogden
DATE: April 8, 2024

SUBJECT

Consider recommending adoption of an ordinance of the City of Denton, A Texas Home-Rule Corporation (“City”), amending the City’s Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan previously adopted by the City Council in Ordinance No. 19-863 enacted on April 16, 2019, providing an effective date.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This action supports Key Focus Area: Promote Sustainability and the Environment.

BACKGROUND

The Water Conservation Plan must be updated every 5 years, with the next deadline for update as May 1, 2024. The Water Utilities Department seeks Public Utility Board and Council Approval for the updated document. The approved plan will then be submitted to the Water Development Board.

The Water Conservation Plan is comprised of two separate guidance documents, the Conservation Plan and the Drought Contingency Plan.

The purpose of the Drought Contingency Plan is to enhance the resilience of our community and our water system during times of drought, to minimize water related risks and ensure the sustainable management of water resources during times of water scarcity. This plan defines what constitutes a drought situation, the severity of the situation, and the appropriate mitigation measures.

The purpose of the Conservation Plan is to provide a framework that will allow the City’s Water Utilities Department to effectively manage and preserve the water resources in its portfolio. By conserving water, The City of Denton can better ensure sustainable access to clean water for current and future generations. To achieve this purpose, the department will implement a comprehensive and integrated approach that addresses the multiple drivers of water consumption and incorporates a range of strategies tailored to the City’s use profile. The plan leverages tools and programs such as proactive leak detection and repair; aggressive meter testing, maintenance and repair; defined customer outdoor watering schedules; robust public education and outreach to encourage water conservation.

As part of the review and update process for 2024, staff tested the practical application of the existing content by reviewing each drought mitigation strategy, then identifying and discussing with the impacted department(s). Departments were given the opportunity to eliminate or modify any restriction measures deemed non-feasible, however throughout this process, all measures were deemed actionable and appropriate.

The Conservation Plan was modified with a single substantial update, adoption of a twice-per-week outdoor irrigation schedule. To support this update, the department is recruiting a public outreach and water efficiency coordinator. Additionally, a Discuss Denton website was created specifically for water conservation, this website is updated daily with actual usage volumes, as well as conservation opportunities and other water utility updates.

OPTIONS

The plan may be adopted as presented. If the plan is not adopted, staff will return with revisions based on comments received.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the updated Water Conservation Plan.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

On April 5, 2024, a draft of this report was attached to an Informal Staff Report and included in the Friday Report.

EXHIBITS

1. Agenda Information Sheet
2. Presentation
3. 2024 Draft Water Conservation Plan
4. Ordinance

Respectfully submitted:
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