City of Rohnert Park

Water Shortage Contingency Plan

Initial Adoption 2020

Update 2022

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The City of Rohnert Park's (City's) Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Shortage Plan) was first adopted by Ordinance in 2004. The Ordinance was described and appended to the City's 2005 and 2010 Urban Water Management Plans. In both 2014 and 2015 the City found it necessary to adopt interim urgency ordinances to respond to the State Water Resources Control Board's emergency drought regulations, because its codified plan was not sufficiently flexible to demonstrate comprehensive response to those emergency regulations. In 2016, the City adopted a revised and updated Water Shortage Contingency Plan with its 2015 UWMP. In 2017, the City undertook a comprehensive update of the water system provisions of its Municipal Code. Municipal Code Section 13.05.030 now refers to the City' independently adopted Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

Additionally, in 2018, new water conservation legislation was signed into law (AB 1668 - Friedman and SB 606 - Hertzberg), that among other things included enhanced drought preparedness and water shortage contingency planning for urban water suppliers.

This Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Shortage Plan) takes into consideration the changes to the City's Municipal Code, and the requirements of the new of the new water conservation legislation described above. It will be adopted with the City's 2020 UWMP and serve as the current Shortage Plan required by the Municipal Code.

SECTION 2: WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY ASSESSMENT

The City's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan includes a water supply reliability and drought risk assessment in Chapter 7. The 2020 UWMP concludes that the City's water supply is reliable under a range of hydrologic conditions both in the near term and through 2045. This section summarizes the findings of the 2020 UWMP and focuses on the City's potable water demands and potable water supplies. While the City also has a significant non-potable recycled water system, the recycled water only supplies non-essential irrigation uses and it is not analyzed in this Shortage Plan.

2.1 Water Use Characterization

The City's potable water use has ranged from 3,942 AFA to 5,375 AFA over the period from 2011 through 2020. Potable water use in 2020 was 4,575 AF. Potable use declined from 2014 through 2016, likely influenced by the historic drought conditions and mandatory state-wide restrictions. Potable water use remains below pre-drought conditions but has been increasing since 2016. While growth in water use may be associated with a degree of rebound following the drought, it is most likely the result of housing construction, including affordable housing construction, as required to meet the City's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), imposed by the state's Housing and Community Development agency. The City is one of the few agencies in California on track to meet its RHNA. Table 1 summarizes the City's historic water use pattern and illustrates that residential uses are the preponderant water use in the City.

TABLE 1 TOTAL PAST WATER USE, AF

	Water Use (AFA)									
Water Use Sector	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Single Family Residential	2,017	2,238	2,229	1,768	1,572	1,577	1,817	1,761	1,816	1,966
Multi-Family Residential	1,561	1,608	1,535	1,489	1,332	1,329	1,466	1,481	1,448	1,462
Commercial/Industrial/Institutional	1,020	851	1,239	726	641	801	748	776	778	455
Dedicated irrigation	319	391	372	316	397	325	397	402	413	408
Total Potable Consumption	**4,917**	**5,088**	**5,375**	**4,299**	**3,942**	**4,032**	**4,428**	**4,420**	**4,455**	**4,290**
Non Revenue Water	356	562	1,123	674	380	430	333	478	434	284
Total Potable Use	**5,273**	**5,650**	**6,498**	**4,973**	**4,322**	**4,462**	**4,761**	**4,898**	**4,889**	**4,575**
Recycled Water					1,100	1,047	1,149	1,403	1,091	1,429
Total Water Use	**5,273**	**5,650**	**6,498**	**4,973**	**5,422**	**5,509**	**5,910**	**6,301**	**5,980**	**6,004**

As required by the Urban Water Management Planning Act, the City projected water use through the year 2045 based on projections from the Association of Bay Area Government's Plan Area and validated with land use projections being developed as part of the City's General Plan 2040 Update. Potable water use is projected to grow from the current demand of 4,575 AF in 2020 to 5,879 AF in 2045. This is an average growth rate of a little over 1% per year and is consistent with the City's growth management ordinance that limits residential growth to 1% per year. Table 2 illustrates the City's projected potable water use as presented in its 2020 UWMP.

TABLE 2 (DWR TABLE 4-2) PROJECTED DEMANDS FOR POTABLE AND RAW WATER

Submittal Table 4-2 Retail: Use for Potable and Non-Potable[1] Water - Projected						
Use Type	Additional Description (as needed)	Projected Water Use[2] *Report To the Extent that Records are Available*				
Drop down list May select each use multiple times These are the only Use Types that will be recognized by the WUEdata online submittal tool		2025	2030	2035	2040	2045 (opt)
Add additional rows as needed						
Single Family		2,142	2,248	2,298	2,390	2,486
Multi-Family		1,640	1,722	1,760	1,830	1,904
Commercial	see notes	1,045	1,059	1,073	1,088	1,103
Landscape	Dedicated meters	442	448	454	460	467
Losses	Estimated at 8.5%	491	510	520	537	555
Other	Passive Savings	-221	-358	-458	-533	-636
TOTAL		5,539	5,629	5,647	5,772	5,879

[1] *Recycled water demands are NOT reported in this table. Recycled water demands are reported in Table 6-4.* [2] *Units of measure (AF, CCF, MG) must remain consistent throughout the UWMP as reported in Table 2-3.*

NOTES: Commerical estimate includes industrial and institutional use

2.2 Water Supply Characterization

The City currently has two potable water supply sources: a 7,500 acre-feet per year (AFY) entitlement from the Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water), which the City discounts when analyzing reliability and 2,577 AFY of groundwater from the City's wells, which is highly reliable under all hydrologic conditions.

As described in the City's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, the City's supply from Sonoma Water is constrained by the Agency's water rights and by hydrologic and environmental constraints. While the City's has a 7,500 AFY allocation under the Restructured Agreement for Water Supply the City considers its "reliable" supply

from the Agency to be approximately 6,250 AFY under normal and multiple dry year scenarios and 4,573 AFY under single dry year conditions. The City uses these projections in its multi-year planning and drought risk assessment.

The City's groundwater supply is from the Santa Rosa Plain Subbasin of the Santa Rosa Valley Groundwater Basin. The City has conducted a number of technical studies since the late 1990s which concluded that the reliable yield from the City's wellfield is 2,577 AFY. The City adopted this supply limit in its 2004 Water Policy Resolution and manages its pumping to this limit. The USGS's recent technical study, *The Hydrologic and Geochemical Characterization of the Santa Rosa Plain Watershed, Sonoma County California* (U. S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2013-5118), confirms that this pumping rate is sustainable under a range of hydrologic conditions based on both modelling work and analysis of ongoing groundwater level data. The developing Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the basin also takes into account the City's managed pumping practices.

Table 3 below, presents the City's water supply that is available under normal, single dry and multiple dry year conditions, which informed the reliability and drought risk analysis in the City's UMWP.

TABLE 3 –POTABLE WATER SUPPLY AVAILABLE THROUGH 2045 UNDER VARIOUS HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS

Supply Description	Supply Available in AFY				
	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Normal Year					
Sonoma Water	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250
Groundwater	2,577	2,577	2,577	2,577	2,577
Total	8,827	8,827	8,827	8,827	8,827
Single Dry Year					
Sonoma Water	4,573	4,573	4,573	4,573	4,573
Groundwater	2,577	2,577	2,577	2,577	2,577
Total	7,150	7,150	7,150	7,150	7,150
Multiple Dry Years					
Sonoma Water	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250
Groundwater	2,577	2,577	2,577	2,577	2,577
Total	8,827	8,827	8,827	8,827	8,827

2.3 Water Service Reliability Findings

The City's 2020 UMWP concludes that both the potable water supply and the recycled water supply are sufficient to meet demand through 2045. Table 4 summarizes the findings of the 2020 UWMP. While the City maintains this Shortage Plan to assist it in responding to emergencies and regulatory requirements to reduce demands, the City does not anticipate the need to utilize this Shortage Plan to manage hydrologic supply insufficiency before 2045.

TABLE 4 – POTABLE WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND COMPARISON IN 2045 UNDER VARIOUS HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS

Hydrologic Condition	Supply and Demand Comparison				
	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Normal Year					
Water Supply	8,827	8,827	8,827	8,827	8,827
Water Demand	5,539	5,629	5,647	5,772	5,879
Surplus (Deficit)	3,288	3,198	3,180	3,055	2,948
Single Dry Year					
Sonoma Water	7,150	7,150	7,150	7,150	7,150
Groundwater	5,539	5,269	5,647	5,772	5,879
Total					
Multiple Dry Years					
Sonoma Water	8,827	8,827	8,827	8,827	8,827
Groundwater	5,539	5,269	5,647	5,772	5,879
Total	3,288	3,198	3,180	3,055	2,948

2.3.1 Drought Risk Assessment

As required by state law, the City's 2020 UWMP includes a comparison of multiple dry year supply versus projected demands over the next five years. The 2020 UWMP concludes that supplies are sufficient to meet demand. While the City maintains this Shortage Plan to assist it in responding to emergencies and regulatory requirements to reduce demands, the City does not anticipate the need to utilize this Shortage Plan to manage hydrologic supply insufficiency before 2025.

2.4 Demand Management Tools and Options

The City implements a range of demand management measures which are described below.

Water Waste Ordinance – the purpose of this ordinance is to promote the efficient use of the water and recycled water supply provided by the city; to eliminate the intentional or unintentional waste of water when a reasonable alternative solution is available; to prohibit the use of equipment that is wasteful and to outline the city's policy with respect to water shortages.

Recycled Water Use Required – the City requires new development to connect to the recycled water system where feasible, reducing new demands on its potable water supply.

Metering – the City requires that all active service connections be metered.

Conservation Pricing – the City has tiered utility rates for water customers which incentivizes customers to use less than 4,000 gallons per month.

Public Education and Outreach – the City is a member of the Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership who performs education and outreach to K-12 students. City staff performs education and outreach through social media, print advertising and community events.

Water Loss Management – City staff is actively managing water loss by repairing leaks, breaks and faulty meters as they are discovered.

Water Conservation Program Coordination and Staffing Support – the City has a dedicated Environmental Coordinator who is tasked with implementing the City's water conservation program.

Rebate Programs – the City offers monetary rebates to customers who replace older toilets and clothes washers with water efficient units. The City offers Green House Calls to residents who wish to have a technician evaluate their home water use and receive water and energy efficient fixtures.

Development Standards – the City enforces building and plumbing codes and the model water efficient landscape ordinance for new development.

2.5 Emergency Response Planning

In addition to responding to drought conditions, the City's Shortage Plan can be used to respond to emergency conditions that interrupt water supplies. Water supplies may be interrupted in the future due to water supply contamination, major transmission pipeline break, regional power outage, or a natural disaster such as an earthquake. In accordance with the Emergency Services Act, the City has developed an Emergency Operation Plan (EOP). This EOP guides response to unpredicted catastrophic events that might impact water delivery including regional power outages, earthquakes or other disasters. The EOP outlines standard operating procedures for all levels of emergency, from minor accidents to major disasters. The EOP has been coordinated with the Agency and neighboring water purveyors. Table 5 summarizes the City's documented emergency planning actions.

TABLE 5 – EMERGENCY PLANNING ACTIONS

Possible Catastrophe	Summary of Actions
Earthquake	Shut-off isolation valves and use of spare piping for ruptured mains
	Storage supplies for service interruption
	Portable and emergency generators available for City facilities
	Procedures for assessing water quality, notifying public and disinfecting system
Flooding	Portable and emergency generators available for City facilities
	Storage supplies for service interruption
	Procedures for assessing water quality, notifying public and disinfecting system
Toxic Spill (interrupts Agency Supply)	Use of local groundwater
	Procedures for assessing water quality, notifying public and disinfecting system
Fire	Storage supplies for fire flows
	Mutual aid plans and responders identified
	Portable and emergency generators available for City facilities
Power outage or grid failure	Portable and emergency generators available for City facilities
Sever winter storms	Portable and emergency generators available for City facilities
Hot weather	Portable and emergency generators available for City facilities

In addition to the EOP, the City also utilizes a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) to assess water system vulnerabilities and mitigate those vulnerabilities. The City's 2018 LHMP was adopted by City Council on September 10, 2019 by Resolution No. 2019-116.

SECTION 3: ANNUAL WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND ASSESSMENT

The Annual Assessment is required to be submitted annually to DWR beginning on July 1, 2022. The Annual Assessment forecasts near-term water supply conditions (12 months) to ensure shortage response action are triggered in a timely manner. The Annual Assessment will provide a description and quantification of each source of the City's water supply compared to water demands for the current year and on subsequent dry year. The decision-making process and data and methodologies are described in this section. These procedures may be modified overtime. While the City does not anticipate true hydrologic shortages, both emergencies and regulatory requirements, particularly with respect to its Sonoma Water supply, could trigger the need to implement demand management measures in any given year.

Decision-Making Process. This section presents the decision-making process and timeline that the City will use each year to determine its water supply reliability. The assessment will be conducted annually and completed by July 1 of each year.

Develop Annual Assessment. Sonoma Water staff will provide a draft of their Annual Assessment of water supply conditions, considering demand projections for their contractors, by April. City staff will work with Sonoma Water and its contractors to provide City demand projections and review Sonoma Water's draft Annual Assessment, which is to be released as final in June. City staff will complete the Annual Assessment based on projected demands for the current year and one subsequent dry year, the availability of Sonoma Water supply and the availability of groundwater supplies. City staff will present a draft of the Annual Assessment to the Director of Public Works & Utilities (Director) for review and approval by June, or an earlier date determined by the release date of the Agency's final Annual Assessment. If the Annual Assessment determines that projected supply will not meet projected demand, the Director may decide to present the Annual Assessment to the City Council, and request input on the findings and staff recommendations for specific shortage response actions resulting from the assessment.

Submit Annual Assessment to DWR. The City will submit the Annual Assessment to DWR by July 1 of each year.

Data and Methodologies. Data and methodologies present the data inputs and assessment methodology that will be used to evaluate the City's water supply. The evaluation criteria, water supply, unconstrained demand, water supply, planned water use, and infrastructure considerations are described.

Evaluation Criteria. Evaluation criteria are determined by forecasted demand and Sonoma Water's supply conditions and factors that may impact the City's groundwater supply. The recycled water supply will be evaluated informally to ensure the City' remains in compliance with its allocation from Santa Rosa Water. The criteria include the key data inputs and the constraints imposed on water supply and demand. Key data inputs used by the City to forecast water supply and demand for the remainder of the current year and a subsequent dry year include the items described below.

Unconstrained customer demand. Current and subsequent year unconstrained demand considering growth, weather, prior-year conditions, anticipated new demands, policy, and other influencing factors.

Sonoma Water Supply. Sonoma Water's Russian River system is controlled and influenced by a variety of agreements and decisions. There are several constraints, requirements, and restrictions on water supply that will be considered as part of Sonoma Water's Annual Assessment.

Groundwater Supply. Planned groundwater supply and quantity will be described and consistent with supply projections in the UWMP, and will consider growth, weather, prior-year conditions, water quality, infrastructure, coordination with the Santa Rosa Plain GSA, and other influencing factors.

Recycled Water Supply. Planned recycled water supply and quantity will be described and consistent with supply projections in the UWMP, and will consider growth, weather, prior-year conditions, anticipated new demand, infrastructure, and other influencing factors.

Water Supply. Water supply sources will be described, and estimates made of the availability of supply sources, in the Annual Assessment. Water supply source and quantity will be consistent with the supply projections in the UWMP and based on the Agency's Annual Assessment results for the City of Rohnert Park. The City may adjust water supply projections to account for weather, prior year conditions, Agency supply availability, water quality, infrastructure, or other influencing factors.

Unconstrained Customer Demand. Unconstrained customer demand refers to anticipated customer water needs for the year, prior to any water shortage response actions that might be necessary to ensure demand does not exceed supply. Unconstrained customer demand projections will be consistent with the demand projections in Chapter 4 of the City's UWMP. The City may adjust water demand projections to account for weather, prior-year conditions, Agency supply availability, infrastructure, or other influencing factors.

Planned Water Use for Current Year Considering Dry Subsequent Year. The Annual Assessment will provide an evaluation of the amount of anticipated water supply for the current year as well as how supply will be used, while anticipating that the following year will be dry. The assessment of planned water use will be based on evaluating the key data inputs to determine availability and reliability of each water supply source.

Infrastructure Considerations. The Annual Assessment will include an evaluation of how infrastructure capabilities and constraints may affect the City's ability to deliver supply to meet expected customer water use needs in the coming year. Evaluation will include anticipated capital projects that may influence capabilities, such as repairs or new projects.

Other Factors. The City will describe any specific locally applicable factors that can influence or disrupt supply, along with other unique local considerations that are considered as part of the Annual Assessment.

SECTION 4: WATER SHORTAGE LEVELS

Per Water Code Section 10632 (a) (3)(A), the City must include the six standard water shortage levels that represent shortages from the normal reliability as determined in the Annual Assessment. The shortage levels have been standardized to provide a consistent regional and statewide approach to conveying the relative severity of water supply shortage conditions. The six standard water shortage levels correspond to progressively increasing estimated shortage conditions (up to 10-, 20-, 30-, 40-, 50-percent, and greater than 50-percent shortage compared to the normal reliability condition) and align with the response actions the supplier would implement to meet the severity of the impending shortages.

For each of the State's standard shortage levels, Table 6 (DWR Table 8-1) summarizes the water shortage range (i.e., percent shortage from normal supplies) and description of water shortage conditions and response actions. These water shortage stages apply to both foreseeable and unforeseeable water supply shortage conditions.

TABLE 6 (DWR TABLE 8-1) – WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN LEVELS

Submittal Table 8-1 Water Shortage Contingency Plan Levels		
Shortage Level	Percent Shortage Range	Shortage Response Actions (Narrative description)
1	Up to 10%	Voluntary compliance is sought. City will expand education and outreach, increase water waste patrols and target high water users (top 100 users)
2	Up to 20%	Compliance is Mandatory. City will continue Stage 1 activities and expand education and outreach, require restaurants to serve water on request, require hotels to allow guests to opt out of linen service, prohibit filling new pools, prohibit new water hauler accounts and consider implementing rate surcharges, enact water waste ordinance, prohibit ornamental water features without a circulating pump, limit landscaping to between 8pm and 6am
3	Up to 30%	Compliance is Mandatory. City will continue Stage 1 and 2 activities and expand education and outreach, prohibit potable water irrigation except for Tuesdays and Saturdays between 8pm and 6am, implement a 5% surcharge.
4	Up to 40%	Compliance is Mandatory. City will continue Stage 1, 2 and 3 activities and expand education and outreach, prohibit new landscaping installation, implement a 10% surcharge rate, prohibit replanting of any landscaping, require street sweepers to use recycled water, require construction to use recycled water for dust control.
5	Up to 50%	Compliance is Mandatory. City will continue Stage 1, 2, 3, and 4 activities and expand education and outreach, prohibit landscaping irrigation except for food gardens and mature trees, limit public irrigation, require no net water increase for development, implement a surcharge of 15%.
6	>50%	Compliance is Mandatory. City will continue Stage 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 activities and expand education and outreach, and prohibit all landscape irrigation with minor public exceptions, implement a surcharge of 20%
Notes:		

SECTION 5: SHORTAGE RESPONSE ACTIONS

Per Water Code Section 10632 (a)(4), the City must implement shortage response actions that align with the defined shortage levels. These response actions include a combination of locally appropriate supply augmentation, demand reduction, operational changes and mandatory prohibitions against specific water use practices that are in addition to state-mandated prohibitions and appropriate to the local conditions. Each of these response actions include an estimate, when feasible, of the extent to which the gap between supplies and demand will be reduced by implementation of the action.

5.1 Demand Reduction Actions

Table 7 (DWR Table 8-2) lists the demand reduction actions that the City may implement in response to water shortage conditions and their corresponding estimated reduction in shortage gap between water supply and water demand. In addition these demand reduction actions, the City may implement additional mandatory water restrictions as they currently exist within the City's municipal code.

City of Rohnert Park
2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan

Shortage Level	Additional Explanation	Penalty, Charge, Other Enforcement?
1	Expand Public Information Campaign	No
1	Increase Water Waste Patrols	No
2	Limit Landscape Irrigation to between 8pm and 6am	Yes
2	Lodging establishments must offer opt out of linen service	Yes
2	Restaurants may only serve water upon request	Yes
2	Prohibiting filling new pools	Yes
2	Prohibiting vehicle washing except at facilities using recycled or recirculating water	Yes
2	No new potable water hauler accounts authorized except as required by state regulations	Yes
2	Level 1 actions remain	Yes
3	Require no net water use for development	Yes
3	Prohibit potable water irrigation except for Tuesdays and Saturdays between 8 pm and 6 am	Yes
3	Implement 5% surcharge rate	Yes
3	Level 1 and 2 actions remain	Yes
4	Prohibit new landscape installation	Yes
4	Implement 10% drought rate surcharge	Yes
4	Recycled water must be used for construction dust control if it is available and a filling station is within one mile of the construction site	Yes
4	Installation or replanting of any landscaping is prohibited.	Yes
4	Level 1, 2, and 3 actions	Yes
5	No landscape irrigation except for food gardens and mature trees. Public ornamental irrigation limited to 2 days per week between 8pm and 6 am	Yes
5	Require no net water use for development	Yes
5	Public ornamental irrigation limited to 1 day per week	Yes
5	Drought Surcharge of 15%	No
5	Level 1,2,3, and4 actions	No
6	Drought Surcharge of 20%	No
11 6	Prohibit all landscaping irrigation except for parks for public use as determined by the Director of Public Works	Yes
6	Level 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 actions	Yes

5.2 Supply Augmentation Actions

Because the City has access to relatively reliable contract and groundwater supplies, the City uses these supplies conjunctively to manage demand. In the event of constraints on the Sonoma Water supply, the City can expand its groundwater pumping to meet demands. In the event that the City's wellfield experiences disruptions, the City can utilize Sonoma Water supply to meet demands. Table 8 (DWR Table 8-3) summarizes this strategy.

TABLE 8 (DWR TABLE 8-3) SUPPLY AUGMENTATION ACTIONS

Submittal Table 8-3: Supply Augmentation and Other Actions			
Shortage Level	Supply Augmentation Methods and Other Actions by Water Supplier ***Drop down list*** *These are the only categories that will be accepted by the WUEdata online submittal tool*	How much is this going to reduce the shortage gap? *Include units used (volume type or percentage)*	Additional Explanation or Reference *(optional)*
Add additional rows as needed			
Any	Other Actions - utilize conjunctive use capacity to offset Sonoma Water shortages with groundwater or groundwater disruptions with Sonoma Water supply	Up to 100%	Groundwater can meet winter water demands in absense of Sonoma Water Supply. Sonoma Water supply, when available, can meet all potable water demands if groundwater supply is disrupted
NOTES:			

5.3 Operational Changes

Because the City has two sources of potable water supply that it operates conjunctively, the City's first response to water shortage emergencies is often to modify its operational strategy.

Under normal circumstances, the City supplies baseline demands from water purchased from Sonoma Water and utilizes its groundwater to manage peaking. When the Sonoma Water supply is constrain, the City will supply baselines demands from groundwater and utilize its Sonoma Water supply only when necessary.

Other operational changes that the City can undertake include but may not be limited to the following:

- Minimize hydrant and line flushing
- Expand public information campaign
- Expand incentive programs for water users
- Increase frequency of water waste patrols
- Increase enforcement of municipal code and water waste ordinance

SECTION 6: COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS

In accordance with the Water Code Section 10632 (a) (5), the City has well established communication protocols and procedures to inform customers, the public, interested parties, and local, regional, and state governments, regarding any current or predicted shortages, shortage response actions triggered or anticipated to be triggered by the annual water supply and demand assessment, or any other relevant communications.

The City has a Public Information Officer and several other staff that routinely disseminate a variety of information to the public through several mediums including digital, print, radio and interactive, and is available in both English and Spanish. The City is a member of the Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership and is a Co-Permittee to the Phase I MS4 Stormwater Permit for Sonoma and Mendocino counties and is thus frequently engaged in collaborative outreach with our regional partners to ensure consistent messaging within the region.

In the event of a water shortage, the City and its partners in the region will initiate an expanded public outreach campaign to alert the community of the water shortage and any response actions the City has implemented. The public outreach campaign will include but is not limited to the following actions:

- Frequent postings on social media – Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor
- Updated information posted on the City website
- Targeted outreach to high water users
- Direct mailing to all water users – postcards, bill inserts, newsletters
- Informational articles in the local newspaper
- Information messaging on fixed signs throughout the City
- Information messaging on two digital billboards in the City
- Interactive outreach at local events – Farmers Markets, local events
- Presentations to community groups and City Council

SECTION 7: COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

The City maintains the authority through its municipal code (RPMC) to enforce penalties for violations of the water waste ordinance and the Shortage Plan. Customer compliance is initially sought through education and outreach but ultimately the City has the ability to achieve compliance through RPMC. Chapter 13.05 – Water Waste and Water Shortage Contingency Plan of RPMC provides the authority for enforcement as well as appeal procedures and exemptions.

SECTION 8: LEGAL AUTHORITIES

The City of Rohnert Park maintains the authority through RPMC to implement and enforce its shortage response actions and shall declare a water shortage emergency in accordance with Chapter 3 of Division 1 of the water code. In the event of a water shortage emergency the City Council shall declare a water shortage emergency and implement the Shortage Plan to respond to water shortages caused by drought or other natural or manmade disaster.

SECTION 9: FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES AND RESPONSES

In the event the City declares a water shortage emergency and implements its Shortage Plan and associated response actions, the City would potentially experience a temporary reduction in revenue from water sales, however this would be balanced by some reduction in costs, since the City would be purchasing less water from the Agency while relying more heavily on local groundwater supplies. Additionally, the City would have the option of deferring planned capital expenditures and utilizing its utility system reserves to cover operational expenses.

In 2015, the City adopted procedures to automatically adjust water rates each January to incorporate the effects of changes in the Agency's water rate and the cost of water supply purchases, and to counter the effects of general inflation and appear adequate to meet the water utility's financial needs for operating and maintenance and debt service. The City has also established a Rate Stabilization Reserve which is intended to provide additional protections for the water utility against financial risk that may be associated with drought-related water supply shortages, earthquakes and related water system damage, or other emergency conditions.

Under modest shortage conditions and voluntary use restrictions, the City would rely on its Operating Reserve and/or Rate Stabilization Reserve to bridge the deficit gap. Under more significant conditions with mandatory use restrictions, the City would implement temporary water shortage rate surcharges to provide supplemental water rate revenue, thereby minimizing the impact on reserves. By invoking the temporary water shortage surcharge during periods of mandatory use restrictions the City would provide customers with a financial incentive for meeting use reduction goals, and also preserve its water system reserves as protection against extended droughts or other risks.

SECTION 10: MONITORING AND REPORTING

City staff has the capability through its metering and billing systems to monitor, track and analyze water consumption data for all customer classes for the purposes of customer compliance and to meet state reporting requirements. The City provides monthly reporting to both the state and the Agency as required by law. City staff regularly ensures that the appropriate water supply and demand data is gathered, stored and reported when necessary. During a water shortage emergency, the frequency of monitoring is increased in order to assess the effectiveness of demand reduction response actions and to consider implementing other mitigation strategies.

SECTION 11 REEVALUATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROCEDURES

The City's Shortage Plan is intended to be an adaptively managed plan that allows for changes to be made if needed. Based on the effectiveness of the City's demand reduction response actions and through the monitoring process, the City may elect to adjust its methods in order to achieve greater demand reduction. Any revisions to the Shortage Plan would be reviewed by the City Council prior to adoption.

For the purposes of this Shortage Plan, the City defines water features that are artificially supplied with potable water, including ponds, lakes, waterfalls, and fountains, separately from swimming pools and spas, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 115921 of the Health and Safety Code.

SECTION 12: PLAN ADOPTION, SUBMITTAL AND AVAILABILITY

This Water Shortage Contingency plan was made available with the City's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan. All notices and public hearings for the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan included information on this Updated Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

This Water Shortage Contingency Plan was submitted to state agencies together with the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan.