



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: May 11, 2021

Item Number: _____
Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

**Concurrent Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County Of Sonoma and the
Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency Urging a 20% Voluntary Reduction
in Water Use and Directing Other Actions in Response to the Drought Conditions**

WHEREAS, the State of California, and the Russian River Watershed in particular, is in the second consecutive year of extremely dry conditions due to historically low rainfall totals; and

WHEREAS, to date in the region, rainfall totals for the current water year are merely 38 percent of average for Santa Rosa, and 38 percent for Ukiah; and

WHEREAS, Lake Mendocino's water supply storage capacity is currently 43 percent, with a significant threat of going dry this year or being so low that releases cannot be made, and Lake Sonoma's water supply capacity is currently 61 percent, the lowest on record for this time of year; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2021, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture designated 50 California counties, including Sonoma County, as primary natural disaster areas due to drought; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2021 the State Water Resources Control Board reported that 95% of California is experiencing Moderate to Exceptional Drought and called upon all water users to prepare for drought impacts; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2021 the Governor proclaimed a regional drought emergency for the Russian River watershed in Sonoma and Mendocino counties, where reservoirs are at record lows following two critically dry years and accelerated action may be needed to protect public health, safety and the environment in the near future and long-term; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2021, the Board of Supervisors proclaimed a local emergency in Sonoma County due to drought conditions because the adverse environmental, economic, health, welfare and social impacts of the drought pose an imminent threat of disaster and threaten to cause widespread potential harm to people, businesses, agriculture, property, communities, the environment, wildlife and recreation in the County of Sonoma; and

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2021, the U.S. Drought Monitor was updated, and the entirety of Sonoma County was categorized to be in Extreme Drought; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2021, Sonoma Water staff convened a Sonoma County Drought Planning meeting with County department/agency representatives to provide a current situation update, discuss impacts of drought conditions, and establish a mechanism for continued coordination and information sharing; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Restructured Agreement for Water Supply between Sonoma Water and its Water Contractors established the Water Advisory Committee consisting of the cities of Cotati, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, and Sonoma, the North Marin and Valley of the Moon Water Districts and the Town of Windsor; and

WHEREAS, Sonoma Water and its Water Contractors, along with Cal-American Water, City of Healdsburg and Marin Municipal Water District, are members of the Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership (Partnership), through which these members have joined together to provide a regional approach to water use efficiency; and

WHEREAS, these Partnership members recognize that establishing common water conservation projects on a regional basis and applicable across the political and jurisdictional

boundaries of each member efficiently and cost effectively conserves more water than would otherwise be conserved on an individual member-by-member basis; and

WHEREAS, on May 3, 2021, the Water Advisory Committee adopted a Resolution supporting the Partnership's efforts, requesting all water users increase water use efficiency by fixing leaks and eliminating water waste to help protect and preserve reliable drinking water supplies stored in Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma, and urging water customers to reduce water use by 20%.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and Sonoma Water Board of Directors hereby:

1. Pledges to support the Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership, its many water efficiency programs, educational seminars, and outreach programs, working to educate our communities about the importance of conserving water resources and eliminating water-wasting behaviors; and
2. Encourages the community to increase water use efficiency by fixing leaks and eliminating unnecessary outdoor irrigation to help protect and preserve reliable drinking water supplies stored in Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma; and
3. Urges the community to reduce water use by at least 20%, regardless of water source; and
4. Directs Sonoma Water and County staff to explore ways to further reduce water use at Sonoma Water and County facilities; and
5. Directs Sonoma Water and County staff to continue engaging stakeholders in Sonoma, Marin, and Mendocino counties to coordinate on drought-related issues; and
6. Directs Sonoma Water and County staff to continue to monitor and collaborate with state and federal legislative drought relief efforts; and
7. Directs Sonoma Water and County staff to continue to collaborate on countywide groundwater management issues, including exploring opportunities for groundwater recharge and aquifer storage and recovery to provide for resiliency now and in the future; and

Resolution #

Date:

Page 4

8. Directs Sonoma Water staff to continue to build drought resiliency through improving scientific understanding of weather and climate variability in relation to how water is delivered and used; using forecasts in coordinated reservoir operations; pursuing integrated water resource management; and overcoming fragmentation of water management by strengthening partnerships.

Supervisors:

Gorin: Rabbitt: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.

Directors:

Gorin: Rabbitt: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.