



STAFF REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 11, 2014

To: Town Council

From: Town Manager

Subject: Town of Loomis Water Management Program

Date: February 28, 2014

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct staff to implement the attached Water Management Program

DISCUSSION:

Despite the recent rains, California remains in a severe drought. Recently, the Town Manager met with regional managers and SACOG staff to discuss unified steps the group could take regarding the conservation of water in each of our jurisdictions. A subcommittee was formed to look into standardizing language water purveyors use to describe stages of drought and what measures are being implemented at each stage. In addition, the subcommittee is reviewing measures each jurisdiction could impose on itself during drought conditions. The recommendations of the subcommittee are expected to go before the SACOG board and regional managers on March 20, 2014.

At the February 11, 2014 Town Council meeting, the PCWA made a presentation regarding the drought and actions (current and future) that PCWA was anticipating. After discussion, the Council directed staff to return at the March 11, 2014 Town Council meeting with recommendations on actions the Town could take to conserve water during the upcoming months.

Staff has prepared the attached "Town of Loomis Water Management Program" to address actions which can be undertaken to reduce water usage by the Town. Staff recommends the Council discuss the attached program and direct staff to implement it.

CEQA :

The proposed Water Management Program is exempt from CEQA.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There is no significant financial impact to the Town at this time.



Town of Loomis Water Management Program

- Reduce Spray Pad hours from last year's 10 am till 9:00 pm (11 hours) to noon to 6 pm (6 hours).
- Reduce time of spray pad running from 3 minutes per trigger to 1 minute per trigger
- Eliminate or reduce washing sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, patios and other exterior paved areas by direct hosing, except as may be necessary to prevent or eliminate materials which are dangerous to the public health and safety.
- Eliminate lawn sprinkling and irrigation which allows water to run off or overspray the lawn area.
- Eliminate sprinkling and irrigation of lawns, ground cover, or other plants between the hours of ten a.m. and six p.m. to reduce evapotranspiration.
- Maintain mulch around trees and plants
- To eliminate runoff, set the irrigation timer to cycle 2-4 start times (no longer than 5 minutes each), 1 to 2 hours apart to allow water to soak into the soil. For example: water 3 times for 5 minutes, instead of 15 minutes all at once.
- Adjust the watering times (number of minutes) and the frequency of watering (daily, twice a week, etc.) based on weather conditions and seasonal differences.
- Allow the grass to grow slightly taller will reduce water loss by providing more ground shade for the roots and by promoting water retention in the soil.

- Aerate in the spring and fall to loosen soil and reduce runoff.
- Adjust the watering times (number of minutes) and the frequency of watering (daily, twice a week, etc.) based on weather conditions and seasonal differences.