

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: June 9, 2015

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 15-0002-S37
Assignment No: 15-04-0302

SUBJECT: Resolution (Koretz - Bonin - Huizar - Wesson) to SUPPORT the Governor's Executive Order concerning drought conditions

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Koretz - Bonin - Huizar - Wesson) to include in the City's 2015-2016 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for the Governor's Executive Order which will help the City and state endure historic drought conditions.

SUMMARY:

Resolution (Koretz - Bonin - Huizar - Wesson), introduced on April 14, 2015, stresses that the state is currently experiencing historic and unprecedented drought conditions. The snowpack in the state's mountains is less than a quarter of the normal average and the majority of the state's largest water reservoirs are filled below their seasonal average.

The Resolution follows that the drought has already cost the state billions of dollars in economic damage and led to the loss of thousands of jobs. Given this, on April 1, 2015, the Governor issued an Executive Order directing the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to implement mandatory water use restrictions to reduce water use by 25% statewide.

The Resolution notes that the Executive Order is critical to ensuring that enough water remains available for human health and safety, growing food, fighting fires and protecting fish and wildlife. Therefore, the Resolution requests that the City support the Governor's Executive Order concerning drought conditions.

BACKGROUND:

Subsequent to the Executive Order's announcement, the SWRCB released a proposed regulatory framework for implementing the 25% statewide water conservation standard. The framework identifies the specific conservation targets that each jurisdiction/water supplier must meet to obtain the overall standard.

The SWRCB identified a 16% conservation target for the City's Department of Water and Power (DWP). This amount factored in conservation gains obtained from the 2013 base line year.

The Council introduced a Motion (Fuentes - Blumenfield; CF 15-0501) requesting the DWP to report on the SWRCB's proposed regulatory framework for implementing the statewide water conservation standard; and how the DWP plans to meet it.

In response to the Motion, the DWP reported that it has implemented multiple conservation strategies to work towards meeting water conservation goals. Its primary strategy concerned amending the City's Emergency Water Conservation Ordinance to add a new Phase which limits outdoor watering to two days per week. The current Phase limits outdoor watering to three days per week. Adding the new Phase will improve the Ordinance's flexibility in responding to potentially worsening drought conditions.

In addition to this, the DWP reported that it increased its budget for water conservation outreach from \$2 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14 to \$4 million in FY 2014-15 to more effectively educate customers about water conservation. Its outreach methods consist of program literature and media campaigns.

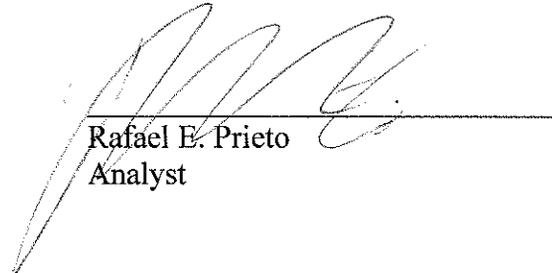
The DWP noted that this effort would be coupled with an extensive water conservation rebate and incentive program for commercial and residential customers. The program provides rebates for the installation of water conservation equipment in businesses and homes; including turf removal.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

Department of Water and Power

BILL STATUS

Not applicable



Rafael E. Prieto
Analyst

Attachment: 1. Resolution (Koretz - Bonin - Huizar - Wesson)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the state of California is currently experiencing historic and unprecedented drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, snowpack in California's mountains is less than a quarter of the normal average and all of California's largest water reservoirs are filled below their seasonal average; and

WHEREAS, the drought has already cost California billions of dollars in economic damage and led to the loss of thousands of jobs; and

WHEREAS, there is a distinct possibility the drought extends into a fifth year in 2016, and beyond; and

WHEREAS, on Wednesday April 1, California Governor Jerry Brown issued executive order B-29-15, which directs the State Water Resources Control Board to implement mandatory water reductions to reduce water usage by 25 percent statewide; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's order also implements new statewide initiatives to increase enforcement against wasteful water use, invest in new water saving technologies, and streamline the response of governments; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's order is critical to ensuring that enough water remains available human health and safety, growing food, fighting fires and protecting fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles has been a leader in reducing water consumption, consuming less water than it did in 1970, and will continue to lead California towards a more sustainable future.

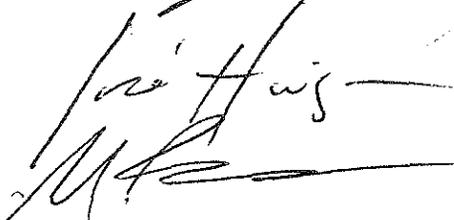
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, with concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-16 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for Governor Jerry Brown's Executive Order B-29-15, which will help Los Angeles and California endure historic drought conditions.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:



APR 14 2015