



## CITY NOTES

August 13, 2015

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**CITY DECLARES WATER EMERGENCY>>** On Monday night, the Fort Bragg City Council declared a Stage 1 Water Emergency and established a goal of an immediate 20% decrease in water consumption. Despite the best efforts of our hard-working water treatment operators, the City is having difficulties keeping up with water usage. At present, the City's three raw water sources can supply a little over 1,000,000 gallons of water a day. Currently, the water treatment plant is producing as much as 900,000 gallons on a busy day. This provides very little buffer for reductions in supply, leaks, fire-fighting and other emergency situations. As the City's raw water sources continue to decline, we are concerned about our ability to keep the water system fully functional.

The City's water system draws water from three surface water sources. At this time of year, about half of our water supply comes from the Noyo River diversion, and the other half is split between the Newman Gulch diversion and the Waterfall Gulch diversion. All three water sources rely on surface water and, as the drought continues through its fourth summer, the stream flows are continuing to diminish. At this time, reducing water usage is necessary to address the declining water supplies.

In addition, the City is actively pursuing any and all water leaks starting with the largest and working our way down. Last week, staff determined that there was a significant mismatch between the amount of water produced at the treatment plant and the amount of water delivered to customers based on meter readings. Our Public Works staff tracked down and repaired a major leak on an unmapped and unmetered water line on the mill site property. Fixing it saved as much as 100,000 gallons a day.

Besides a rainy winter, one solution to the City's cyclical water shortages is to establish more water storage. The Summers Lane Reservoir project has been in the works for several years. It is designed to store 45 acre-feet (nearly 15 million gallons) of water which will help to carry Fort Bragg through dry summers. The project is on schedule for construction next year and will be ready to fill during the winter of 2016/2017.

**WATER CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS>>** The Stage 1 Water Emergency requires all City water users to be very frugal with their water use. It is clear from our billing records that most customers are conserving. But more needs to be done, particularly in the commercial sector. Fort Bragg is having an excellent summer tourism season and water consumption is peaking. We really need for everyone, especially commercial customers, to get creative and conserve as much water as possible.

The City's Water Conservation Ordinance establishes the following requirements during a Stage 1 Water Emergency:

- Limit outdoor landscape irrigation; do not use defective equipment; do not allow excess runoff into gutters.
- No outdoor irrigation between the hours of 10 AM and 6 PM.
- No washing of sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots or other hard-surfaced areas by direct hosing.

- No washing of vehicles except at carwashes.
- No washing of building exteriors except for preparation for painting.
- No use of hydrant water for construction, fire drills, or contests.
- No water service at restaurants, except by request.
- The City also requests that operators of lodging establishments provide guests with the option of choosing to not have towels and linens laundered daily.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS>>** Check out the “Upcoming Agenda Items” pages on the City’s website or sign up for meeting notifications using the “Notify Me” feature on the website <https://city.fortbragg.com>. The following public meetings are coming up:

- Monday, August 24 @ 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall – City Council Meeting. Tentative agenda includes: CV Starr Center Budget Amendment; Lease and Grant Agreements for Noyo Center for Marine Science;
- Wednesday, August 26 @ 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall – Planning Commission Meeting. Agenda includes Use Permit for Overtime Brewing, Inc., a small microbrewery and tasting room on North Franklin at Elm Street.
- Monday, September 14 @ 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall – City Council Meeting. Tentative agenda includes: Report Regarding Ballot Measure Prohibiting Social Service Organizations in the Central Business District; Consideration of Operable Units C and D Remedial Action Plan; Mobile Food Vending Ordinance

*City Notes is published on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. If you have questions or suggestions regarding the column, feel free to contact City Manager Linda Ruffing at (707) 961-2823, ext. 118 or [LRuffing@fortbraqq.com](mailto:LRuffing@fortbraqq.com).*