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MEMORANDUM

DT: March 5, 2013

TO: Mayor and City Councilmembers

FR: Darin Atteberry, City Manager *De*

RE: Water Supply Shortage Response Plan Exemption for Water Features – Agenda Item #33

At the March 5th meeting, Council will be considering an amendment to the City’s Water Supply Shortage Response Plan (WSSRP) to exclude public and private water features from the Plan’s restrictions. The Leadership Team requested information about the amount of water used by public facilities, their seasonal operation and community benefits.

The following public water features could be operated, with City Manager approval, if the proposed WSSRP amendments are approved:

Water Feature	Gallons Consumed	Season
The fountain at Old Town Square	265,000	12 months
Oak Street Plaza Splash Park	246,000	May-October
Spring Canyon Splash Park	372,000	Memorial-Labor Day
Fossil Creek Splash Park	96,000	Memorial-Labor Day
Giant Watering Can at The Gardens	60,000	April-October
City Park Pool Splash Features	unknown	Memorial-Labor Day

In total, these water features use ~1 million gallons of water annually or about 3 acre feet of water. The average single family household uses ~32,850 gallons per person each year. So, the water features use the amount of water typically used by 30 people annually.

These water features are very popular, especially with young families. The water features are enjoyed by thousands of young people each year who play, cool off and experience the sheer joy of splashing in the crisp, clean water on a hot summer day. The water features also act as a substitute for running through a lawn sprinkler at home. Yard sprinklers are prohibited from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm under the WSSRP. The City turned off the water features a few years ago due to budget constraints and the community responded by raising the funding needed to turn them back on.

Preparations to turn on the water features start two to four weeks before the features begin operating. The features generally operate during daylight hours, with the fountain in Old Town Plaza operating in the evening as well. The public water features use recirculating water, so most of the water consumed is through evaporation and wet swimsuits. Water from the giant watering can flows into the fish ponds at The Gardens and the water features at the City Park Pool operate with pool water.

The City will engage in a public education campaign to help the community understand why the public water features are operating and the benefits they provide. The campaign will also explain City irrigation practices, the use of untreated versus treated water and our overall water conservation efforts.