

**Utilities**

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**M E M O R A N D U M**

**DATE:** July 28, 2021

**TO:** Mayor Arndt and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Mariel Miller, Water Conservation Specialist  7/28/2021

**THROUGH:** Darin Atteberry, City Manager  7/29/2021

Kelly DiMartino, Deputy City Manager  7/29/2021

Theresa Connor, Interim Utilities Executive Director  7/28/2021

Gretchen Stanford, Interim Utilities Deputy Director, Customer Connections  7/28/2021

**RE:** Voluntary Water Shortage Watch planned to continue through summer.

**Bottom Line:** The City Manager declared a voluntary Water Shortage Watch, effective April 29, pursuant to Fort Collins City Code Section 26-167(a) and the Water Shortage Action Plan (WSAP). After further evaluation, and the recent flooding in the Poudre River canyon, the City Manager has decided to continue the Watch through the summer, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

**Background:** With the recent flooding and predicted monsoon events continuing to impact the Poudre River water supplies, Fort Collins Utilities has evaluated our water availability to determine the outlook for the remaining water year. Utilities has intermittently relied on Horsetooth water supplies when Poudre River supplies were impacted by runoff bringing significant sediment and ash into the river from the burn areas. More recently, the flooding event has made Utilities more reliant on Horsetooth supplies. On the other hand, a wet spring reduced demands and we were able to treat and deliver more Poudre River water during spring run-off than we typically do. Considering all of these factors, Utilities is confident we can meet demands while working in concert with the community.

**Together, We Can Make a Difference:** Staff will continue to promote the voluntary Water Shortage Watch communication effort that includes information about post-wildfire watershed recovery activities and monitoring. Key messages include the importance of taking voluntary actions now to reduce water use, which helps protect our water supplies and lower the chance of mandatory water restrictions in future years. A comprehensive list of voluntary water-saving actions and frequently asked questions is at [fcgov.com/water-restrictions](http://fcgov.com/water-restrictions). The public can stay updated on the status of our water quality and supply at [fcgov.com/water-status](http://fcgov.com/water-status).



Staff continue to:

- 1) Share information and identify collaboration opportunities with local and regional providers on both water shortage and watershed recovery efforts
- 2) Monitor water quality and work to improve future water availability by pursuing watershed recovery actions and associated funding opportunities
- 3) Continue to provide safe, high-quality drinking water by managing our two water sources and our treatment processes.

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the voluntary Water Shortage Watch will continue until the end of the irrigation season. Given current and projected conditions, it is unlikely that mandatory water restrictions will be needed this summer. Continuing the voluntary Water Shortage Watch will continue public awareness and conservation efforts as we manage our water supplies and monitor our watersheds post-flood and monsoon season.

**CC:** Mark Kempton, Interim Utilities Deputy Director, Water Resources and Treatment  
Abbye Neel, Interim Water Conservation Manager  
Liesel Hans, Interim Utilities Deputy Director, Water Resources and Treatment  
Eric Potyondy, Assistant City Attorney