

**BENICIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**City Council Chambers
March 25, 2014
6:30 PM**

*Times set forth for the agenda items are estimates.
Items may be heard before or after the times designated.*

*Please Note:
Regardless of whether there is a Closed Session scheduled, the open session will begin
at 6:45 PM*

I. CALL TO ORDER (6:30 PM):

II. CLOSED SESSION (6:30 PM):

A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS

Property: Potential Contracts for Various Water Rights

Agency negotiator: City Manager, City Attorney, Interim Public Works

Negotiating parties: City of Benicia and various water providers

Under negotiation: Both price and terms of payment

B. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR

(Government Code Section 54957.6 (a))

Agency negotiators: City Manager and Assistant City Manager

Employee organizations: Senior Managers, Middle Management, Local 1,

Benicia Public Service Employees' Association (BPSEA), Benicia Police

Officers Association (BPOA), Benicia Firefighters Association (BFA),

Benicia Dispatchers Association (BDA), Police Management,

Unrepresented.

III. CONVENE OPEN SESSION (6:45 PM):

A. ROLL CALL.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

C. REFERENCE TO THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC.

A plaque stating the fundamental rights of each member of the public is posted at the entrance to this meeting room per section 4.04.030 of the City of Benicia's Open Government Ordinance.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

A. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1. **Announcement of action taken at Closed Session, if any.**
2. **Openings on Boards and Commissions:**
3. **Mayor's Office Hours:**
Mayor Patterson will maintain an open office every Monday (except holidays) in the Mayor's Office of City Hall from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary. Other meeting times may be scheduled through the City Hall office at 746-4200.

B. PROCLAMATIONS.

1. **IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK - APRIL 6-13, 2014**

IN RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - LARRY WHITNEY

2. **IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH - MARCH 2014**

3. **IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK - APRIL 13-19, 2014**

C. APPOINTMENTS (Continued from March 18, 2014 meeting).

1. **Appointment of Sharon Maher to the Community Sustainability Commission for a four year term ending January 31, 2018.**

D. PRESENTATIONS.

V. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

VI. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Council on any matter not on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City Council. State law prohibits the City Council from responding to or acting upon matters not listed on the agenda. Each speaker has a maximum of five minutes for public comment. If others have already expressed your position, you may simply indicate that you agree with a previous speaker. If appropriate, a spokesperson may present the views of your entire group. Speakers may not make personal attacks on council members, staff or members of the public, or make comments which are slanderous or which may invade an individual's personal privacy.

A. WRITTEN COMMENT.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT.

VII. BUSINESS ITEMS (7:00 PM):

**A. WATER SUPPLY AND PHASE I DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN UPDATE.
(City Manager)**

As of the date this staff report was written, the State Water Project (SWP) allocation remains at zero. The City is pursuing the purchase of additional water in order to meet the demand of its customers. City staff is moving forward with implementing the voluntary 20% water conservation citywide. The Public Works Department is currently working on water purchase agreements with neighboring agencies that may have Solano Project water to sell. Staff is exploring long-term remedies including groundwater for irrigation purposes and using reclaimed water for industrial processes.

Recommendation: This is an information item; direction, discussion, and questions are encouraged. No action is required.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT (8:00 PM):

Public Participation

The Benicia City Council welcomes public participation.

Pursuant to the Brown Act, each public agency must provide the public with an opportunity to speak on any matter within the subject matter jurisdiction of the agency and which is not on the agency's agenda for that meeting. The City Council allows speakers to speak on non-agendized matters under public comment, and on agendized items at the time the agenda item is addressed at the meeting. Comments are limited to no more than five minutes per speaker. By law, no action may be taken on any item raised during the public comment period although informational answers to questions

may be given and matters may be referred to staff for placement on a future agenda of the City Council.

Should you have material you wish to enter into the record, please submit it to the City Manager.

Disabled Access or Special Needs

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and to accommodate any special needs, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Anne Cardwell, the ADA Coordinator, at (707) 746-4211. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting.

Meeting Procedures

All items listed on this agenda are for Council discussion and/or action. In accordance with the Brown Act, each item is listed and includes, where appropriate, further description of the item and/or a recommended action. The posting of a recommended action does not limit, or necessarily indicate, what action may be taken by the City Council.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge a decision of the City Council in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. You may also be limited by the ninety (90) day statute of limitations in which to challenge in court certain administrative decisions and orders (Code of Civil Procedure 1094.6) to file and serve a petition for administrative writ of mandate challenging any final City decisions regarding planning or zoning.

The decision of the City Council is final as of the date of its decision unless judicial review is initiated pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedures Section 1094.5. Any such petition for judicial review is subject to the provisions of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6.

Public Records

The agenda packet for this meeting is available at the City Manager's Office and the Benicia Public Library during regular working hours. To the extent feasible, the packet is also available on the City's web page at www.ci.benicia.ca.us under the heading "Agendas and Minutes." Public records related to an open session agenda item that are distributed after the agenda packet is prepared are available before the meeting at the City Manager's Office located at 250 East L Street, Benicia, or at the meeting held in the Council Chambers. If you wish to submit written information on an agenda item,

please submit to the City Clerk as soon as possible so that it may be distributed to the City Council. A complete proceeding of each meeting is also recorded and available through the City Clerk's Office.



PROCLAMATION

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK APRIL 6-13, 2014

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has proclaimed the week of April 6-13, as National Volunteer Week in order to “Honor the Spirit of Service” and recognize and honor the hard work and dedication of community volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the Benicia Police Department wishes to honor their Volunteer Police Program, which was established in 1995; and

WHEREAS, the Benicia Fire Department also wishes to honor their Volunteer Firefighter Program, which became the first Fire Department established in California in 1847, and BERT (Benicia Emergency Response Team); and

WHEREAS, the Benicia Public Library would also like to honor their Friends of the Library and Volunteer programs, which were both established in 1983; and

WHEREAS, the Parks & Community Services Department would like to honor their Volunteer program, which provides valuable recreation services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Benicia wishes to honor all volunteers working on Commissions, Committees, Boards and in other capacities for their commitment and hard work to make a real difference in their community; and

WHEREAS, volunteers are a valuable resource to the City of Benicia that annually devote thousands of hours of service to enhance our quality of life, promote community involvement, generate civic pride, and support our neighborhoods and families, thereby allowing our sworn police officers, firefighters and departmental staff to focus on professional duties; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, over 460 volunteers donated 27,840 hours providing an approximate value of \$616,377 in services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor of the City of Benicia, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim April 6-13 as National Volunteer Week. I urge my fellow citizens to join the volunteer effort in our community by volunteering and recognizing those who serve. Please join us in “Honoring the Spirit of Service” in our community.

Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor
March 25, 2014





PROCLAMATION

IN RECOGNITION OF

Larry Whitney

“RONNY RICE” Volunteer of the Year

WHEREAS, Larry Whitney has served as volunteer Benicia Emergency Response Team (BERT) Coordinator for approximately four years; and

WHEREAS, Larry had coordinated and delivered disaster preparedness training to approximately 120 residents; and

WHEREAS, Larry has also assisted with the design and development of multiple city-wide BERT exercises; and

WHEREAS, Larry continues to serve as liaison with Solano County for the purchase of grant-funded disaster preparedness equipment and supplies; and

WHEREAS, Larry staffs public information booths at various downtown events and the Fire Department annual open house; and

WHEREAS, Larry provides valuable training to the citizens of Benicia and is an asset to BERT.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor of the City of Benicia on behalf of the City Council, do hereby honor and recognize Larry Whitney who deserves this special City recognition because he has dedicated several years and has volunteered many hours to the Benicia Emergency Response Team (BERT). His volunteer service exemplifies “Excellent Service.”



Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor
March 25, 2014



PROCLAMATION

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH 2014

WHEREAS, March is American Red Cross Month. A special time to recognize and thank our Everyday Heroes; those who reach out to help their neighbors when they are need; and

WHEREAS, American Red Cross heroes are on the front lines every day. They volunteer their time, give blood, take life-saving courses or provide financial donations to help those in need; and

WHEREAS, we would like to remember our heroes here in the City of Benicia who give to help people in need. They work tirelessly to help in time of disaster, when someone needs life-saving blood, or the comfort of a helping hand. They provide round-the-clock support to members of the military, veterans and their families, and teach lifesaving classes in CPR, aquatics safety and first aid; and

WHEREAS, across the country and around the world, the American Red Cross responded to hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and wildfires, the tragedy at the Boston Marathon, and typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, when an injured service member ended up in a hospital far from home, the American Red Cross offered comfort. When a hospital patient needed blood, American Red Cross blood donors helped them. When a lifeguard jumped in to save a drowning child or someone stepped up to help a heart attack victim, the American Red Cross was there; and

WHEREAS, we dedicate the month of March to all those who support the American Red Cross mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies. Our community depends on the American Red Cross, which relies on donations of time, money and blood to fulfill its humanitarian mission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor of the City of Benicia on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim March 2014 as American Red Cross Month. I encourage all Americans to support this organization and its noble humanitarian mission.

Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor
March 25, 2014





PROCLAMATION

IN RECOGNITION OF

National Library Week

April 13-19, 2014

WHEREAS, this year's theme for National Library Week is "*Lives change @ your library*"; and

WHEREAS, libraries help lives change, with more than 21 million people using California's public libraries each year; and

WHEREAS, librarians work to meet the changing needs of local residents, by providing resources both in the library and in the community; and

WHEREAS, libraries and librarians bring together community members to enrich and shape the community and address local issues; and

WHEREAS, librarians are highly trained, tech-savvy professionals, providing technology training and access to downloadable content like e-books; and

WHEREAS, libraries offer programs to meet community needs, providing residents with resume writing classes, 24/7 homework help and financial planning services to everyone from teens applying for student loans to older adults planning their retirement; and

WHEREAS, libraries continuously grow and evolve in how they provide for the needs of every member of their communities; and

WHEREAS, libraries, librarians, library workers and supporters across America are celebrating National Library Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor of the City of Benicia on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim April 13-19, 2014 as National Library Week. I encourage all residents to visit the library this week to take advantage of the wonderful resources available at your library and to see how Lives Change @ Your Library.



Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor
March 25, 2014

RESOLUTION NO. 14-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENICIA CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF SHARON MAHER TO THE COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION FOR A FOUR YEAR TERM ENDING JANUARY 31, 2018

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Benicia that the appointment of Sharon Maher to the Community Sustainability Commission by Mayor Patterson is hereby confirmed.

The above Resolution was approved by roll call by the City Council of the City of Benicia at a regular meeting of said Council held on the 25th day of March 2014 and adopted by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

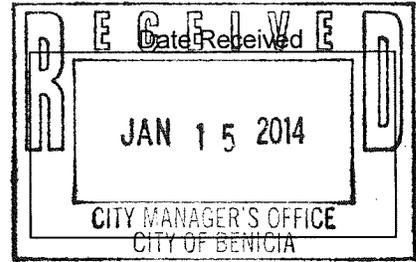
Absent:

Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa Wolfe, City Clerk

Date



City of Benicia Board/Commission/Committee Application

It is the intent of the City Council to have Boards, Commissions or Committees composed of people from all geographical, social, environmental and economic sectors of the community and to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

Please check the board, commission, or committee you wish to apply for:

- Arts and Culture Commission
- Benicia Housing Authority Board of Commissioners
- Board of Library Trustees
- Civil Service Commission
- Economic Development Board
- Finance, Audit & Budget Committee
- Historic Preservation Review Commission
- Human Services & Arts Board
- Open Government Commission
- Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Commission
- Planning Commission
- Sustainability Commission
- Sky Valley Open Space Committee
- Uniform Code Board of Appeals

Name: Sharon Maher

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: (Work) [REDACTED] (Home) [REDACTED]

(Cell) [REDACTED] Fax: _____

Email: [REDACTED] Years as Benicia resident: 14

Occupation/Employer: Business Performance Consultant & Coach; Matrix Point, Inc.

Please note your most recent community or civic volunteer experience: _____

I have facilitated community & public agency meetings, coached officials/public servants (including Police Services, ECB, etc), & have facilitated a Chief Justice appointed Task Force for the State of Calif.

Please describe any applicable experience/training: _____

I have project committee experience; I am skilled in re-framing technical information into "English" for us all, bringing disparate points of view to common ground, and moving groups to action.

All applications are considered public records and will be retained in an active file for at least one year from date of receipt.

Signature: Sharon Maher Digitally signed by Sharon Maher
DN: cn=Sharon Maher, o, ou,
email=sharon@maheronline.com, c=US
Date: 2014.01.15 18:50:46 -08'00' Date: Jan 15, 2014



Community Sustainability Commission Application

In addition to completing the City of Benicia Board/Commission/Committee Application form, please respond to the following questions:

1. What interests you about this Commission?

The purpose of the Commission is to bring a vision and direction to the very serious topic of our environmental future for us, our children, our grandchildren and beyond. It has the financial funds, and opportunity of those funds, to establish Benicia as a local and statewide leader in this effort. Great progress has already been made. I would like to offer my services to assist in this important effort.

2. Please describe any background or experience you may have in one or more of the following areas: (1) water quality, (2) water use efficiency and conservation; (3) air quality; (4) local and regional ecology; (5) energy; (6) mobility; (7) land use/stewardship; (8) green site planning and building; (9) waste management; (10) community and regional economics/finance; (11) social justice; (12) public relations, and/or, (13) local based business management (merchants, etc):

My background and experience is not professional, but rather is as a concerned citizen who has been pro-active in taking such actions as: participating in the Wattz On Audit and subsequent suggestions, purchasing a low-energy washer/dryer, establishing a climate-controlled garden watering system, installed various energy and water saving devices in my home (Nest, auto-faucets, low-flow toilets, etc). I have attended several of the CSC meetings, follow their activities, and have occasionally assisted with their think-tank meetings.

3. Have you read the City's Climate Action Plan? What aspects of this plan do you find important and why?

Yes. Aspects important to me: highlights categories of emissions to evaluate & address; ties Benicia to the national ICLEI effort; gives us the facts & negative impacts of accelerating GHG in understandable terms; highlights the importance of helping the community understand the issues and to be part of the solutions; provides a roadmap for GHG reductions- in the city, in industrial/commercial, etc; gives us focus for education, behavior change, & systems change; helps us understand this is an issue that will not allow us to ignore it- even if we wanted to.

4. How do you see the Community Sustainability Commission supporting sustainability and climate protection planning in the Benicia community?

I think this is an exciting area. Even though the Commission has made great strides, there is SO much to help the general public understand. Our children are now beginning to force our recognition of the issues, if we haven't already done so. The wave is moving and is gaining momentum -- from our children, other communities, our State, the Nation, and beyond. There are incredible ideas coming from everywhere. What a wonderful time and opportunity to harness what works for Benicia, declare us as forward thinkers, and take actions that show evidence of that. I see opportunities for us to blend community segments and our children in new ways toward this effort.

****Please limit each response to 250 words and attach separately, if necessary****

AGENDA ITEM
CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE - MARCH 25, 2014
BUSINESS ITEMS

DATE : March 19, 2014

TO : Mayor and Council

FROM : City Manager

SUBJECT : **WATER SUPPLY AND PHASE I DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN UPDATE**

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item; direction, discussion, and questions are encouraged. No action is required.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As of the date this staff report was written, the State Water Project (SWP) allocation remains at zero. The City is pursuing the purchase of additional water in order to meet the demand of its customers. City staff is moving forward with implementing the voluntary 20% water conservation citywide.

The Public Works Department is in contractual stages with a well-respected water conservation consultant to design and assist in the implementation of the program. The Department is currently working on water purchase agreements with neighboring agencies that may have Solano Project water to sell. Staff is exploring long-term remedies including groundwater for irrigation purposes and using reclaimed water for industrial processes.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

No budget information to report at this meeting.

GENERAL PLAN:

Relevant General Plan Goals:

- α Overarching Goal of the General Plan: Sustainability
- α Goal 2.36: Ensure an adequate water supply for current and future residents and businesses.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

Relevant Strategic Plan Issue and Strategy:

- α Strategic Issue #1: Protecting Community Health and Safety
- α Strategy #5: Promote community and personal health

BACKGROUND:

Staff does not recommend instituting mandatory conservation at this time. Staff

believes that time would be better spent on education, outreach, and developing conservation efforts. Third, an outdoor water use ordinance, which will be brought to Council for consideration at a future date, has the potential to save significant water and be more practical to administer. Additionally, Some carryover water from the SWP is being made available.

The Public Works Department and its Water Division are assembling a water conservation effort, evaluating the available water supply, creating a plan to respond to a true water shortage this summer, estimating the loss of revenue once the community begins conserving and considering a drought surcharge to compensate for the cost of water and power as well as offset the loss in water revenue. It is becoming apparent that the State will direct the Department of Water Resources to shut off the North Bay Aqueduct, possibly as early as May 1, based on information transmitted by the Solano County Water Agency. The Water Division has projected how much water the City currently owns, how much water will be needed after water conservation efforts have been accounted for, and ultimately, how much water the City will need to purchase this year to cover the deficit. Collateral costs related to the water shortage include the additional cost of electrical power to pump the water to the City from its Cordelia Pump Station, Benicia's share of an automatic bar strainer at its Terminal Reservoir location, and the improvements to the pump station in order to deliver the maximum amount of Solano Project water to the City and its industrial customer. The primary focus is to promote an aggressive water conservation message.

Short-Term Water Purchases

At the March 4, 2014 meeting Council authorized a \$900,000 advance from the water enterprise fund for additional water purchases. The current plan is to purchase up to 6,000 acre-feet of water to use in 2014.

Long-Term Water Purchases

The City needs to diversify long-term reliable water sources. It is in the City's best interest economically to purchase this water supply when the drought is over and other short and medium term measures have been implemented.

Water Demand and Supply for 2014 and 2015

Below is a water demand and supply table for 2014 and 2015 that shows the water deficit for each year, which could either be met by purchasing additional water or by drawing down our water supply reserves from our "banked" water.

**Table 1
Water Demand and Supply for 2014 and 2015**

Source Supply	2014 Working Water Supply (AF)	2015 Working Water Supply (AF)
State Water Project	1,500	?
Solano Irrigation District (SID)	2,000	2,000
Vallejo Agreement (Solano Project Water)	1,100	1,100
Lake Herman	600	600
<i>Total Supply</i>	<i>5,200</i>	<i>3,700</i>
City Demand	5,838	5,838
Valero Raw Water Demand	4,750	4,750
Conservation	-1,200	-1,200
<i>Total Demand</i>	<i>9,388</i>	<i>9,388</i>
Water Deficit (to be purchased or drawn down from the 4,990 "bank")	4,188	5,688

Terminal Reservoir in Cordelia

The Public Works Department is commissioning Stantec Consulting to evaluate the Cordelia Pump Station on the City's need for future pumping capacity and hydraulic delivery through its raw water transmission line. Stantec will also determine the cost for engineering, construction, and management costs for the eventual upgraded pump station. Stantec has proposed a cost estimate of \$40,672 to perform the tasks, and \$115,000 was budgeted in FY 2013-14 for Cordelia Pump Station Improvements.

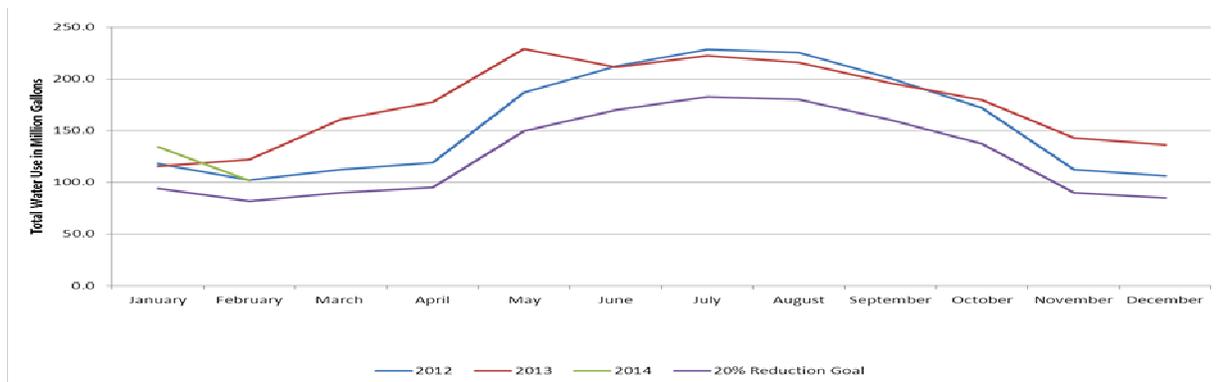
The Public Works Department will be negotiating with the City of Vallejo on a proportional cost of the shared Terminal Reservoir Automated Inlet Screen Cleaner Replacement in Cordelia. Currently, weeds and debris pass through the grated bar screen and clog the suction pipes of both pump stations. This reduces capacity and efficiency of the pumps. An automated travelling screen would continuously remove such debris and deposit in by conveyor to a

designated site on land. Vallejo estimates the cost of the project at \$200,000 and installation will occur in early May. Future costs will include power and residue removal.

Table 2
2014 Source & Water Use Update Since 1/1/2014

Month	State Water Project	Solano Project	Lake Herman	Total Used
January	779-AF	0-AF		779 AF
February	182-AF	212-AF	91-AF	485-AF
March	0-AF	428-AF	308-AF	736-AF
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>961-AF</i>	<i>640-AF</i>	<i>398-AF</i>	<i>2000-AF</i>

Graph 1
2014 Treated Water Demand



Public Outreach Campaign Plan

The Public Works Department is working with a public outreach consultant to help get the word out about water conservation. The goal is to increase knowledge about using water wisely, especially outdoors where most water use occurs and to motivate customers to reduce water use by 20% or more. The consultant is IN Communications, an award-winning public outreach firm with a proven track record for building creative and innovative outreach strategies, programs and materials designed to change behavior, inform, educate and engage.

The City, working with IN Communications, will focus on a positive approach educating customers about where water is used at home, easy ways to effectively reduce water use and the collective impact of small actions. Primary emphasis will be placed on outdoor water use. However, materials will offer a menu of actions that also include indoor tips so that those without landscaping can also participate.

Priority activities include website enhancements, direct mail postcards to all customers that explains why and how customers can reduce water use, a banner for the City Park entrance (corner of First Street and Military), yard signs for community members and businesses to display their commitment to using water efficiently, and vehicle magnets for City vehicles to carry a water conservation message throughout Benicia. Community outreach and partnerships will be particularly important to educating audiences and building support for water efficiency. The goal of this outreach is to encourage partners to distribute conservation information to their customers, thereby extending the City's reach.

The public outreach consultant's activities will include:

- Working with City staff to identify and prioritize key Benicia business/residential/school district for targeted outreach.
- Conducting outreach to targeted partners to educate them about the drought/water supply situation and ways they can reduce their water use and to provide them with city materials such as tip cards, window clings and/or table toppers).
- Writing, designing and printing a tip card to promote water savings tips, rebates and key messages for distribution to partners. Tip card may also be used as a bill stuffer.
- Designing and printing window clings that uses the program's creative theme and identity for placement at partner locations and city sites. Clings may be placed in windows and/or bathroom mirrors.
- Designing and printing table toppers for restaurants to serve water only upon request.

Additionally, City staff has put a daily water saving tip on the homepage of the City's website that links to saveourh2o.org (both courtesy of the statewide Save Our Water program), created a dedicated email address (water@ci.benicia.ca.us) for questions, put a message on utility bills (starts with end of March billing), and included information in the monthly City Manager's Report. Staff has also been working on water conservation displays for both City Hall and the Benicia Public Library, which will be on display soon.

In the future, City staff plans on updating the City's website, creating a dedicated hotline phone number, posting public service announcements on Channel 27, creating a second display case in City Hall, including a brochure as a utility bill stuffer, and hosting a booth at the Farmers' Market.

Existing Water Conservation Programs

Below are existing ongoing water conservation programs offered by Solano County Water Agency (SCWA). As a partner agency with SCWA, City of Benicia residents and businesses are eligible to participate in these programs designed

to conserve water.

- High Efficiency Washing Machine Rebates up to \$75
- High Efficiency Toilet Rebates up to \$100
- Turf Replacement Rebates - \$1 per square foot of turf replaced up to \$1,000
- Smart Irrigation Controller Rebates – 50% of the cost of the controller. Depending on the number of stations the controller has rebates are available up to \$300, \$700, or \$1,000
- Residential Survey Program – Direct marketed to the top 20% users of single family residential customers. All customers are eligible to participate.
- Business and Commercial water use surveys available for inside and outside water use
- Commercial Water Savings Incentive Program – Businesses are given a 50% rebate of expenditures, excluding labor, on a pre-approved basis up to \$5,000 for water conservation projects
- Maintains the SolanoSavesWater.org website with water saving tips and rebate program details.
- Running water conservation radio advertisements on KUIK 96.5 radio station

Below is a table of rebate program participation for the City of Benicia.

Table 3
SCWA Water Conservation Program Participation

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Totals
High Efficiency Washer Rebates	90	220	387	54	46	76	95	968
High Efficiency Toilet Rebates	3	55	75	139	56	74	130	532
Residential Surveys			138	143	61	143	65	550
Turf Replacement Rebates					2	5	14	21
Commercial High Efficient Toilet Replacement		99				300		399

Additionally, 10 rebates have been approved of which 5 rebates are completed (3 toilet rebates and 2 washing machine rebates) through the Valero/Good Neighbor Steering Committee Settlement Agreement funds.

City Departments Response to Water Conservation

City Departments have been asked to do their part to help reduce water use by 20%. The majority of water used by City facilities is for irrigation at City parks, buildings, and median strips. The other big City water user is the wastewater treatment plant. An internal Water Conservation Task Force has been established with staff from Parks & Community Services and Public Works. This task force is meeting regularly to work on water saving strategies.

Below are water saving strategies that Departments have implemented to date.

Parks and Community Services

- Reduce water use in City Parks by 20% from the 2010 – 2012 average water use. This would save over 11,000,000 gallons or almost 34 acre feet of water
- All City buildings have been updated with water efficient fixtures

Wastewater Treatment Plant

- Has reduced the treated water flow through the odor scrubber by 5 gallons per minute. This will save 7,200 gallons per day or 8 acre feet of water per year.

Public Works Maintenance Division

- Water main flushing only conducted when necessary

Fire Department

- Will reduce flow test when conducting hydrant maintenance
- Will schedule pumper and hose testing at water treatment plant so flows can be recycled back through the water plant

Library

- Turned fountain off in front of library

Community Development

- Enforce uniform plumbing code to require low flow appliances.
- Performs water and energy surveys for customers

Water Conservation Project/Program Ideas

Below are immediate, short, medium and long range project/program ideas.

Table 4
Water Conservation Project Ideas by City Department/Division

<i>Department or Division</i>	<i>Short-Term</i>	<i>Medium Term</i>	<i>Long Term</i>
Public Works Wastewater	Reduce treated water use in the odor scrubber by 33%		
Public Works Wastewater		Research using reclaimed wastewater for irrigation use at WWTP and other alternatives uses such as, flushing sanitary sewers and/or dust control for roads	
Public Works Wastewater			Upgrade treatment levels so that water can be reused
Parks & Community Services	Reduce irrigation at City parks by 20%		
Parks & Community Services	Install Evapotranspiration at remaining parks in City		
Parks & Community Services	Feasibility study for irrigating Benicia Community Park with groundwater		
Parks & Community Services	Install additional drip irrigation in median strips		
Parks & Community Services	Install additional drought tolerant plants at City facilities		
Public Works Maintenance	Contract with a leak detection firm to perform comprehensive leak detection study		
Public Works Maintenance		Replace all water meters and install an AMI system	
Public Works Maintenance			Install meters at un-metered sites

**Table 4 Cont.
Water Conservation Project Ideas by City Department/Division**

Department or Division	Short-Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Public Works	Feasibility study of a greywater demonstration program		
Public Works Engineering	Ordinance to require use of recycled water at construction sites		
Public Works Water	Install low flow toilets		
Public Works Water	Install hot water circulation system for Ops Building and Lab		

Potential Drought Surcharge Implementation

The City Water Enterprise budget will be affected in a number of ways by the drought. If the community is successful in its conservation efforts, revenue will drop between 10% to 20%. The City is trying to purchase water, an unbudgeted item. There will also be unbudgeted costs for power and capital. The staff will recommend in April, that these be recovered through a temporary drought surcharge. Some budgeted capital expenditures will also be recommended for deferral. A substantial decrease in water sales revenues coupled with a large increase in costs for emergency water supply and conservation initiatives support the need to implement the drought rates.

Proposition 218 process will be proposed, that would enable the Council to implement a temporary drought surcharge if they choose to for the current situation and in the event of a future drought.

Valero

The Valero Refinery is the City's largest customer and uses over 4000 acre feet of water a year. The staff has met with Valero and they are well aware of the water situation. They plan to propose capital expenditures, which will reduce water usage.

Attachment:

- a Water Supply Contract Information

Water Supply Contract Information

The City has five water purchase agreements. This attachment provides more detail about the allocations and cost of each agreement.

1. State Water Project (Table A) – The City’s contract is for 17,200-acre-feet (AF) per year of Sacramento Delta water. However, the City never receives the full amount. The annual allocation is usually between 50-80% of the 17,200 AF due to below-normal snow pack levels and environmental protection requirements. The allocation for 2014 has been reduced to zero percent. The City pays \$352,600 per year for this contract, no matter what the allocation is.

This contract also allows for “carry over” where the City can carry over unused allocated water from year to year. The City currently has 3,357 AF of carry over water. It is unknown if this entire amount will be available in 2014 as it depends on if the drought situation gets worse. Assuming some or all of it is available, staff recommends only using some of it to save the rest for future year(s) in the event the drought continues.

2. Settlement Agreement with the State – The City was successful in petitioning the California State Water Resources Control Board to secure “area of origin” water rights for additional Sacramento Delta water when the State Water Project (Table A) allocation is greater than 20%. The City has an allocation of 10,500 acre-feet (AF) of “area of origin” delta water at \$32.48/AF. However, due to the drought conditions, this water is not available to the City in 2014.
3. Mojave Water Agency – This exchange agreement allowed the City to bank unused surplus water during wet years with the Mojave Water Agency. For every 2 units of water “banked” (a paper transfer), the City could draw 1 unit of water when necessary. Although this agreement has been terminated, the City still has 2,000 acre-feet (AF) banked. The plan has been to use 1,000 AF in 2014 and 1,000 AF in 2015 as the water must be used by 2015. It is unknown what quantity will be available to be used in 2014. It may be possible to extend the 2015 deadline if the water is not received in 2014.
4. City of Vallejo 1962 Agreement - The City’s contract with the City of Vallejo is for 1,100 acre-feet (AF) per water year (March 1 through February 28) of Lake Berryessa water at \$40/AF or \$44,000 per year. This contract is “use it or lose it” and carryover is not an option.
5. Solano Irrigation District 2009 Agreement – The City’s contract with Solano Irrigation District is for 2,000 acre-feet (AF) per water year of Lake Berryessa water at \$69.74/AF or \$139,480 per year.

This contract also allows for “carry over” where the City can carry over unused allocated water from year to year. The City currently has 3,990 AF available. It is unknown if this entire amount will be available in 2014.

- Additionally, the City has Lake Herman that can hold up to 1,392 acre-feet of water. The lake’s current volume is 1,076 AF. Staff will fill the lake to a full pool. It is estimated that a full pool lake could provide enough water for the City for 30 days.

