

# CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION



**MEETING DATE:** May 4, 2021

**ITEM NUMBER:** 6B

**SECOND READING:** N/A

{{customfields.ResoOrdNumber}}

**TYPE OF ITEM:** Study Session Items

**PRESENTED BY:**

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**SUBJECT/AGENDA TITLE:**

Accept the City of Longmont's 2021/2022 Water Supply and Drought Management Plan

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this communication is to request City Council's consideration of accepting the City of Longmont's 2021/2022 Water Supply and Drought Management Plan. Longmont's current water supply and drought management plan, adopted on May 26, 2020, calls for the City to operate under a sustainable conservation level at our current water supply ratio. Staff recommends that the City remain at the sustainable water conservation level. It is expected that Longmont will have sufficient potable municipal water supplies for 2021 and 2022 to meet the demands of its customers.

**Water Board voted unanimously to recommend City Council adopt the attached 2021/2022 Water Supply and Drought Management Plan.** At its April 19, 2021 Water Board meeting, the Board reviewed the attached 2021/2022 Water Supply and Drought Management Plan, recommending that Council accept the 2021/2022 Water Supply and Drought Management Plan and remain at a Sustainable Water Conservation Level. Staff recommends the same.

A number of metrics concerning water supply and drought management plans can be considered. Longmont's plan has been tailored specifically to represent the City's water supplies and demands. Staff has reviewed and evaluated other neighboring front range cities' plans. Longmont's plan is consistent with the general methodology and approach used by these other plans. Detailed metric information can be found within the Plan.

Though this item is not explicitly included in City Council's 2018-2020 Work Plan, it supports the work plan as follows:

- Goal A2 incentivizes housing to help end the risk of homelessness in our community and an adequate water supply is a prerequisite for that housing.

- Goal B1 incentivizes a diverse housing stock with higher densities, which will require a dependable water supply.
- Goals B3.1 and B3.2 include revitalization along the Main St. Corridor, redevelopment of the sugar mill and fairgrounds, and support for a convention center/hotel and bus/rail transit-oriented development, all of which will require a dependable water supply.

## **COUNCIL OPTIONS:**

1. Accept the 2021/2022 Water Supply and Drought Management Plan as presented.
2. Modify and accept an amended 2021/2022 Water Supply and Drought Management Plan.
3. Do not accept a plan at this time.

## **RECOMMENDED OPTIONS:**

Option 1. Accept the 2021/2022 Water Supply and Drought Management Plan, remaining at a sustainable water conservation level.

## **FISCAL IMPACT & FUND SOURCE FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

N/A

## **BACKGROUND AND ISSUE ANALYSIS:**

In an ongoing effort to inform the citizens and City Council about Longmont's projected available water supply and demand, staff first began preparing a formalized Water Supply & Drought Management Plan during the drought of 2002. Since that time, City Council has annually reviewed and accepted this plan. In addition, staff reviews the City's current and projected water supply status with the Longmont Water Board on a monthly basis.

Last year, Water Board recommended to City Council that the City remain at a Sustainable Conservation Level Drought Response. Council concurred with Water Board in May of 2020, and Longmont currently remains at that drought response level at this time.

The April 1, 2021 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) stream flow forecast for St. Vrain Creek at Lyons for the period of April-September is average. Current St. Vrain Creek Basin area storage is at 75% of capacity. Average basin storage for this time of year is typically around 70% of capacity.

On April 9, 2021, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District Board set the Colorado Big-Thompson project (CBT) quota for this year at 70%. With that quota, Longmont's 2021 transbasin water supply is 18,585 acre-feet of water. It is possible that the Northern Water Board could declare an additional supplemental quota, in which case the City's transbasin water supply for 2021 would increase. After subtracting historical leaseback, projections show the City's total water supply for 2021 to be a minimum of 26,248 acre-feet.

Staff has attached an updated water supply forecast for 2021/22 to this communication as part of the 2021/2022 Water Supply and Drought Management Plan. Tables A and B show the current projection for the City of Longmont's 2021 water supply to be 147% of demand, assuming a sustainable conservation level is maintained. In 2022, projections indicate that the City's water supply would be at 140%, still at a sustainable conservation level. These percentages represent a conservative estimate of water rights available and assume the maximum amount of Colorado Big-Thompson Project water is available for carryover into the following years. These projection numbers are all within thresholds set for a sustainable conservation level.

Also during 2021, Public Works & Natural Resources staff will continue to implement demand management strategies outlined in the Water Supply & Drought Management Plan and the Water Conservation Master Plan. The current water supply and projected demands indicate that it would be appropriate for the City to remain at a Sustainable Water Conservation level.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Att 1 - Proposed 2021/2022 Water Supply & Drought Management Plan
- Att 2 - Tables A & B for Drought Plan
- Att 3 - City's Guiding Water Principles
- Att 4 - South Platte & Upper Colorado River Basin Snowpack Summaries