



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: June 13, 2024

In Control: City Council Special Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Finance Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Troy Elliott

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

SAWS Drought and Conservation Rules Update

SUMMARY:

Briefing by the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) on proposed changes to Chapter 34 of the City Code on the updated drought and conservation rules, including the addition of a Non-Compliance Charge and an update to the existing Drought Surcharge.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

SAWS is required to update its Water Conservation and Drought Plan (Plan) at least every five years pursuant to 30 T.A.C. §288. An updated Plan is required in 2024. SAWS has proposed several updates to Chapter 34 of City Code to help meet conservation targets established for the community, updates which will be accounted for in the 2024 Plan.

SAWS staff have been working with stakeholder groups, council members, and the SAWS Board since July of 2023 to develop the proposed changes. In fall of 2023 SAWS began working with Carollo Engineers, a professional engineering firm, to develop the Non-Compliance rate structure and update the Drought Surcharge rate structure that reflected the cost of drought rule enforcement and the impact of high demand during drought, respectively.

As of May 15, 2024, SAWS Conservation Staff had made 85 public presentations to nearly 1,300 community members. SAWS Staff met with 53 unique organizations to develop proposed changes that were meaningful and acceptable. In addition, SAWS developed the website WateringRules.com to share information, video explainers, copies of the proposed changes, and host a public survey. More than 900 responses were documented by survey conveying overall support of the changes and providing feedback directly to conservation staff.

A public hearing on the proposed changes was held during the SAWS Board of Trustees Meeting on May 7, 2024. A Special Meeting of the Board was held on May 23, 2024, during which the proposed changes to Chapter 34 were conditionally approved by the Board; the SAWS Board approved a resolution accepting and recommending City Council approval of the proposed changes, which is scheduled for June 20.

ISSUE:

SAWS staff will provide a briefing on proposed changes to Chapter 34 of the City Code on the updated drought and conservation rules, including the addition of a Non-Compliance Charge and an update to the existing Drought Surcharge.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing purposes only.