

Motion Regarding Adoption of Water Forward 2024 and Updates to
Austin's Water Conservation Plan and Drought Contingency Plan

Austin Water Oversight Committee 11/12/2024

Motion Offered by: Mayor Pro Tem Pool
Second by: Council Member Alison Alter
Vote: 3 in favor (MPT Pool, A. Alter, R. Alter), 1 absent (Mayor)

WHEREAS, in November of 2018 Council adopted “Water Forward: An Integrated Water Resource Plan”, a culmination of over three years of effort by a task force, staff, and consultants, which represents a transformational plan to guide Austin’s water future for the next one hundred years; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Water Forward 2024 plan was developed by Austin Water, working in collaboration with the Austin Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task Force (aka Water Forward Task Force), while incorporating the values and feedback of the Austin community; and

WHEREAS, Water Forward 2024 builds on the 2018 plan and subsequent implementation activities and provides a roadmap to provide a sustainable, resilient, equitable, and affordable water future for Austin, with most of the 2018 strategies continued in the Water Forward 2024 plan; and

WHEREAS, Water Forward 2024 includes an updated 50-year portfolio of conservation, reuse, and supply strategies and an updated 100-year adaptive management framework to respond to changing conditions and stretch our current Colorado River and Highland Lakes supplies; and

WHEREAS, Updates to Austin’s Water Conservation Plan and Drought Contingency Plan, last approved by Council in May 2024, have also been completed by Austin Water, in collaboration with the Water Forward Task Force and with community feedback, resulting in additional water conservation measures and drought restrictions to complement the strategies in the Water Forward 2024 Plan.

MOTION: I move that we recommend to Council approval of the following items on the November 21, 2024 Council agenda:

- **Item #3:** Approve adoption of Water Forward 2024, Austin’s Integrated Water Resource Plan, which includes conservation, reuse, and supply strategies and an adaptive management framework to respond to changing conditions to meet Austin’s water needs for the next 100 years.
- **Item #4:** Approve a resolution repealing Resolution No. 20240502-005, which adopted the prior Water Conservation Plan for Municipal and Wholesale Water Use, and adopting an updated Water Conservation Plan, which describes Austin Water’s ongoing water conservation strategies, programs and goals, as required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.
- **Item #5:** Approve a resolution repealing Resolution No. 20240502-004, which adopted a revised Drought Contingency Plan, and adopting an updated Drought Contingency Plan, which includes drought or emergency response stages due to water supply shortages, sets targets for water use reduction and other elements required by state law, as required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.
- **Item #6:** Approve an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 6-4 (Water Conservation) to provide for new water restrictions for drip irrigation systems; create exemptions from certain water conservation and drought response regulations related to drip irrigation; provide for the hours of operation of splash pads during certain drought response stages; and enact other related provisions.