



**Date:** May 1, 2023

**To:** Wanda S. Page, City Manager  
**Through:** Bertha Johnson, Deputy City Manager  
**From:** Donald F. Greeley, Director, Water Management  
**Subject:** Resolution to Readopt Water Shortage Response Plan

**Executive Summary**

The City of Durham’s Water Shortage Response Plan (WSRP) outlines proactive and regionally coordinated steps to ensure a more reliable water supply during times of drought. It is written and approved in accordance with NC General Statute 143-355 (I), the rules governing Water Use During Drought and Other Water Emergencies (15A NCAC 02E. 0607), and the Water Shortage Response Plan Guidelines provided by the Division of Water Resources.

The City of Durham is required to review and readopt its WSRP every five years. The Department of Water Management has reviewed the City of Durham’s current WSRP that was adopted in 2016, has determined the current WSRP continues to be effective, and that the current WSRP should be readopted.

**Motion**

To readopt the Water Shortage Response Plan by resolution.

**Background**

In contrast to Durham’s year-round water efficiency and conservation program, the purpose of the WSRP is to deal with short-term water shortages. The City of Durham’s Water Shortage Response Plan was first developed and adopted in 2009. The purpose of the WSRP is to address short-term water shortages, which may be caused by drought, extreme service disruptions, or facility operations. This plan directs the implementation of the City’s Water Efficiency Ordinance during a water shortage. Durham’s plan meets the requirements stipulated by Rules governing Water Use During Drought and Other Water Emergencies (15A NCAC 02E) and was approved by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Division of Water Resources (DWR).

The WSRP includes triggers that activate increasingly stringent stages of water shortage response in which our community’s water use is increasingly restricted. In 2016, the Department of Water Management developed new triggers for these stages that are based on future projections of diminishing water supply based on a probabilistic model. The new water shortage response triggers are activated less frequently than the previous WSRP triggers while maintaining our water supply storage just as reliably. The new triggers were incorporated into an updated WSRP that was approved by the NC Department of Environmental Quality - Division of Water Resources in 2016. Otherwise, the updated WSRP was unchanged from the WSRP adopted in 2009.

**Issues and Analysis**

The City of Durham, as a local government provider of drinking water, is subject to NC General Statute 143-355 (l), and therefore required to review and readopt its water shortage response plan every five years. The Department of Water Management has reviewed the City of Durham's current WSRP that was adopted in 2016, has determined the current WSRP continues to be effective, and that the current WSRP should be readopted.

**Alternatives**

There are two alternatives available. The recommended alternative is to readopt the Water Shortage Response Plan by resolution. The second alternative, failure to readopt the WSRP would make the City of Durham non-compliant with NC General Statute 143-355 (l).

**Financial Impact**

There will be no financial impact as a result of readopting the Water Shortage Response Plan.

**Equal Business Opportunity Summary**

This is a request for resolution (City's Water Shortage Response Plan) that was not reviewed for compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting.

**Contractor Workforce Diversity & Hiring Practices**

Due to the nature of this agenda item, Contractor Workforce Diversity & Hiring Practices information is not applicable.

**Attachments**

1. Resolution to Readopt Updated Water Shortage Response
2. Water Shortage Response Plan