

**CITY OF GOODYEAR
COUNCIL ACTION REPORT**

SUBJECT: Water Conservation Committee Recommendations Plan	STAFF PRESENTER: Mark Holmes, Water Resource Manager CASE NUMBER: None OTHER PRESENTER: Mario Columbia, Chair of the Water Conservation Committee
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PROPOSED ACTION:

Provide the City Council with an overview of the Water Conservation Committee and staff recommendations and seek Council input and direction.

BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS ACTIONS:

On February 22, 2016, the City Council established a Water Conservation Committee via Resolution 16-1717. The charge of this committee included:

- Becoming familiar with the water usage patterns related to outdoor water conservation
- Reviewing the impact of future water conservation initiatives on stakeholders
- Reviewing the fiscal impact of recommended options
- Recommending conservation actions which may include changes to existing guidelines, ordinances, new programs and areas for further study

STAFF ANALYSIS:

The Water Conservation Committee is composed of diverse stakeholders representing 1) Home Owners Associations; 2) real estate; 3) builders; 4) landscape-intensive property owners; 5) landscape industry; 6) residential and non-residential land holdings.

This report presents a culmination of recommendations from the Water Conservation Committee (WCC) and city of Goodyear staff in a proposed 5-year implementation plan.

A total of 35,052 acre-feet of reduced water usage by build-out of the city, determined by the 2016 Integrated Water Master Plan, was the target evaluated by the WCC and staff. Because 60% of all water used within the city’s water service area is for outdoor water use, the focus of the WCC and staff recommendations only focused on reducing usage and/or increasing efficiencies in outdoor water usage for existing and future water customers.

This plan consists of 12 recommendations proposed for consideration for the Goodyear City Council. The recommendations are in priority order:

1. **The creation of a new landscape design committee** – establish a new committee to develop a new set of landscape design standards and guidelines for all development within the city.
2. **Water Conservation Rate Structure** – consider a new conservation water rate structure promoting efficient water use and could provide financial support for water conservation programs or projects.
3. **Comprehensive citywide Tree Plan** – mitigate the urban heat island effects, improve water efficiencies in outdoor water usage, and provide a strategy for improving the quality of life outdoors and walkability of the city.
4. **Advanced Metering Instrumentation (AMI)** – develop a citywide expansion of AMI that would allow water customers to see and interact real-time with their water consumption and not only catch water leaks but assist them in better managing their individual water budgets.
5. **Community Education and Awareness** – provide a comprehensive community education and awareness program that provide specific strategies for increasing water efficiency within Goodyear.
6. **A landscape incentive program** – establish a program for the conversion of existing water intensive landscapes to more efficient landscapes.
7. **Pool Committee** – establish a new committee to develop a new set of pool design standards and guidelines for all development that will increase pool water efficiency.
8. **Customer Friendly Services** – provide a more personalized approach to assist customers in the sustainable use of water and access water conserving programs.
9. **Water Main Flushing Program** – explore new technology that conserves and recycles water and enhances water quality within the water distribution system as part of a system-wide water-flushing program.
10. **Smart Controllers Pilot Program** – determine the average percentage of water savings realized by homes using smart irrigation controller technology.
11. **Home Irrigation Check-ups** – re-establish and expand the home irrigation check-up program with an emphasis towards the city’s highest residential water users.
12. **Water Intensive Exceptions** – develop new city policies that provide exceptions to certain water-intensive activities where the greater good of the city may have value that exceeds the value of the water resources, efficiencies, and conservation.

Staff plans to incorporate these recommendations into existing and future city projects, policies, and guidelines throughout city wide relevant efforts.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The Water Conservation Committee Recommendation Plan is a planning document that does not directly affect the budget. If the Council approves the Recommendation Plan, projects and/or programs identified in the plan will be brought back to Council within the budget process based on their priority and the plan's proposed schedule.

RECOMMENDATION:

Request that the City Council give staff comments and direction on the recommendations to be incorporated into current and future city projects, policies, and guidelines. Request that Council give staff direction as to how Council would like to be updated on the implementation of these concepts.

ATTACHMENTS:

Water Conservation Committee Recommendation Plan