

**PUBLIC WORKS MEMORANDUM**  
**#15-2021**

**DATE:** April 12, 2021

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members

**THROUGH:** Heather Geyer, City Manager *hmg*

**FROM:** Kent Kisselman PE, Director of Public Works *KK*  
Tamara Moon, Environmental Manager

**SUBJECT:** CR-42 – Stage 1 Drought Declaration – Voluntary Restrictions

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**PURPOSE**

To consider CR-42, a resolution declaring Stage 1 Drought in the City of Northglenn.

**BACKGROUND**

During 2020 and early 2021, staff has been closely watching the water supply conditions within the Clear Creek watershed basin. This basin supplies drinking water to the City. The Clear Creek watershed basin, along with about 60% of the State of Colorado, is experiencing drought conditions.

Despite recent precipitation events, snowpack conditions in the Clear Creek watershed remain below average. This lower than normal snowpack indicates that there will be less water available for storage by the City during the spring run-off. Additionally, low precipitation during the winter months has also resulted in lower than average winter storage in Standley Lake.

The City's storage model, which uses historical Standley Lake storage, snow water equivalents, stream flow, precipitation factors and soil moisture, is predicting a peak June storage amount that is below normal for the City.

The City's proposed Drought Mitigation and Response Plan calls for voluntary water restrictions by residents and a 10% reduction in water use at City facilities and parks in the case of Stage 1 Drought. The plan is scheduled for adoption at the April 12, 2021 Council meeting (CR-41).

The City's Waste of Water Ordinance will be used to support the Stage 1 Drought declaration as needed. This action will allow the City's water supply to be more sustainable through the summer, and may help prevent the need for a Stage 2 Drought declaration later in the summer.

Stage 1 Drought as described in the City's Drought Mitigation and Response Plan is comparable to the "Drought Watch" conditions that have been declared in neighboring communities Westminster and Thornton.

**NEXT STEPS**

Water Resources staff will work with Communications staff to begin messaging to residents on the ways residents and businesses can save water, and that there is a potential for drought conditions to develop. There will be targeted communications to the City's largest water users (both residential and commercial).

Also, City facilities during Stage 1 Drought will work to reduce use by 10%.

### **BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial impacts to the City. Any costs and staff time can be absorbed as part of day-to-day activities. Funds for conservation tools or outreach materials are currently available in the 2021 Budget.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approval of CR-42, declaring Stage 1 Drought conditions in the City of Northglenn, and authorizing the drought response actions as described in the City's Drought Mitigation and Response Plan. These actions include:

- Increased communication regarding conservation and the value of water
- Targeted outreach to high water users
- Recommend two or three days per week lawn watering
- Encourage new landscape installation, unless it is xeric
- At city facilities reduce overall consumption by 10%
- Plan for further irrigation reductions at parks and city facilities

### **STAFF REFERENCE**

If Council members have any questions, please contact Kent Kisselman, Director of Public Works, at [kkisselman@northglenn.org](mailto:kkisselman@northglenn.org) or 303.450.4005.

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR LEIGHTY

COUNCILMAN'S RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO.

No. CR-42  
Series of 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Series of 2021

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A STAGE 1 DROUGHT AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO IMPLEMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN

WHEREAS, the watersheds and water storage facilities from which the City of Northglenn receives its water supply are experiencing below-average precipitation and stream flows; and

WHEREAS, drought management and water conservation efforts are necessary to protect and preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the City's residents and water system customers, protect the City's valuable water resources, and minimize adverse impacts to City services; and

WHEREAS, the Northglenn Municipal Code provides the authority for the City Council to declare that a drought is occurring and authorizes the City Manager to promulgate rules and regulations to preserve and protect the water resources of the City upon such declaration;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that a Stage 1 Drought declaration, as described in the City's Drought Mitigation and Response Plan, is appropriate given the current water supply conditions; and

WHEREAS, during Stage 1: Voluntary Restrictions, the City urges all water customers to reduce water use and engage in water conservation programs, and requests all City facilities to reduce water consumption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. A Stage 1 Drought is hereby declared for the City of Northglenn, effective upon passage of this resolution.

Section 2. The City Manager is authorized to implement rules and regulations governing water usage by all customers of the Northglenn water system in response to the Stage 1 Drought declaration pursuant to Section 16-23-1 of the Northglenn Municipal Code.

DATED at Northglenn, Colorado, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

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MEREDITH LEIGHTY  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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JOHANNA SMALL, CMC  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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COREY Y. HOFFMANN  
City Attorney