

COUNCIL AGENDA: SEPTEMBER 2, 2014

SUBJECT: WATER DELIVERIES OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS

SOURCE: Public Works Department - Engineering Division

COMMENT: A number of meetings have been held by the Office of Emergency Services and other meetings have been held at City Hall, chaired by the Mayor of Porterville, to discuss the wide range of issues related to the on-going drought.

The City Council has directed staff to work with the Porterville Area Coordinating Council (PACC) to provide non-potable water to the residents of East Porterville and the surrounding immediate area.

The PACC has suggested that in lieu of placing 5,000 gallon reservoirs at strategic locations in the East Porterville area, a better strategy would be to place meters on outlying City fire hydrants. Under this scenario, water discharged from fire hydrants is pressurized and can easily fill large water containers located in the back of pickup trucks without need of separate pumps. Staff agrees that this is a better strategy but this scenario has a few drawbacks.

Drawback #1 – Unattended outlying hydrants outfitted with meters are susceptible to abuse and waste. The hydrants can be opened and left running for any number of reasons such as, but not limited to, negligence, children wanting to cool off, or for watering down dusty neighborhoods.

Drawback #2 – The outlying hydrants outfitted with meters invite their use by private water haulers selling City water for profit with no restrictions on the water use or delivery location. Staff has been approached by water haulers seeking to purchase water by the acre-ft to serve farming operations in Terra Bella.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council provide direction to staff on:

- 1 The number of hydrants Council is willing to make available for PACC use; and
- 2 Direction on restrictions or conditions as to the use and amount of water made available to private water haulers.