ADJOURNED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL, 291 N. MAIN STREET
PORTERVILLE, CALIFORNIA
APRIL 12, 2016, 5:30 PM

Call to Order
Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance Led by Mayor Stowe
Invocation

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
This is the opportunity to address the Council on any matter of interest, whether on the agenda or not. Unless additional time is authorized by the Council, all commentary shall be limited to three minutes.

STUDY SESSION

1. **Water Fund Study Session**
   Re: Study Session to discuss and provide direction pertaining to the City's Water Fund.

ADJOURNMENT - to the meeting of April 19, 2016.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the California Ralph M. Brown Act, if you need special assis□tance to participate in this meeting, or to be able to access this agenda and documents in the agenda packet, please contact the Office of City Clerk at (559) 782-7464. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting and/or provision of an appropriate alternative format of the agenda and documents in the agenda packet.

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the City Council after distribution of the Agenda packet are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Office of City Clerk, 291 North Main Street, Porterville, CA 93257, and on the City's website at www.ci.porterville.ca.us.

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA – APRIL 12, 2016

SUBJECT: Water Fund Study Session

SOURCE: Public Works

COMMENT: The drought, and issues resulting from its length and severity, continues to effect water production and policy. Agencies at all levels, and particularly the State, have adopted new polices and regulations that are changing the playing field for water purveyors throughout California. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, reduced revenues to fund infrastructure, and the Executive Orders defining water conservation requirements are three of the most pressing issues for Porterville, in addition to our own drought response efforts.

In order to address the issues stated above, Council, at the April 5, 2016 meeting, authorized three distinct efforts.

First, the Governor's Executive Orders and subsequent regulation adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board, required the City to reduce our production by 32% for the time period of June 2015 through February 2016. The current regulation requires that Porterville maintain an average production of 26% less than the volume of water produced in our system in 2013. To achieve this, the focus of water conservation must be maintained. Council has authorize scheduling a public hearing for the meeting of May 3, 2016, to review and consider adjusting the phase of water conservation expected of Porterville residents and water users as we approach the summer months.

Secondly, in light of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the resulting Groundwater Sustainability Agency(ies) that will be formed as a result of the SGMA, the topic of individual wells must be addressed. Staff has prepared a preliminary draft of an ordinance that would amend Chapter 26 of the Municipal Code, and require abandonment of a well (with some possible limited exemptions) upon connection to the City's water system. Council has authorized the scheduling of a public hearing to adopt a well abandonment ordinance at the meeting of May 3, 2016.

Lastly, the City of Porterville has worked for many years to keep our water rates lower than adjacent systems, as a benefit to our community. Unfortunately, reduced water usage in response to the drought has adversely affected water enterprise revenues. Compounding the situation, SGMA implementation has multiple associated – and previously unnecessary – costs, including significant water purchases for recharge, well monitoring, reporting, and new infrastructure. Furthermore, as we now pursue loans to develop additional water

infrastructure to respond to this drought, we are being advised that our water rates are below the state requirement to qualify for loans. Council has scheduled a separate study session for Tuesday, April 12, 2016, to discuss the merits and challenges of raising water rates.

It is staff's intent to provide an interactive presentation and discussion with Council to determine the direction of the Water Fund.

RECOMMENDATION: Informational Item

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Monthly Production Status March 2016

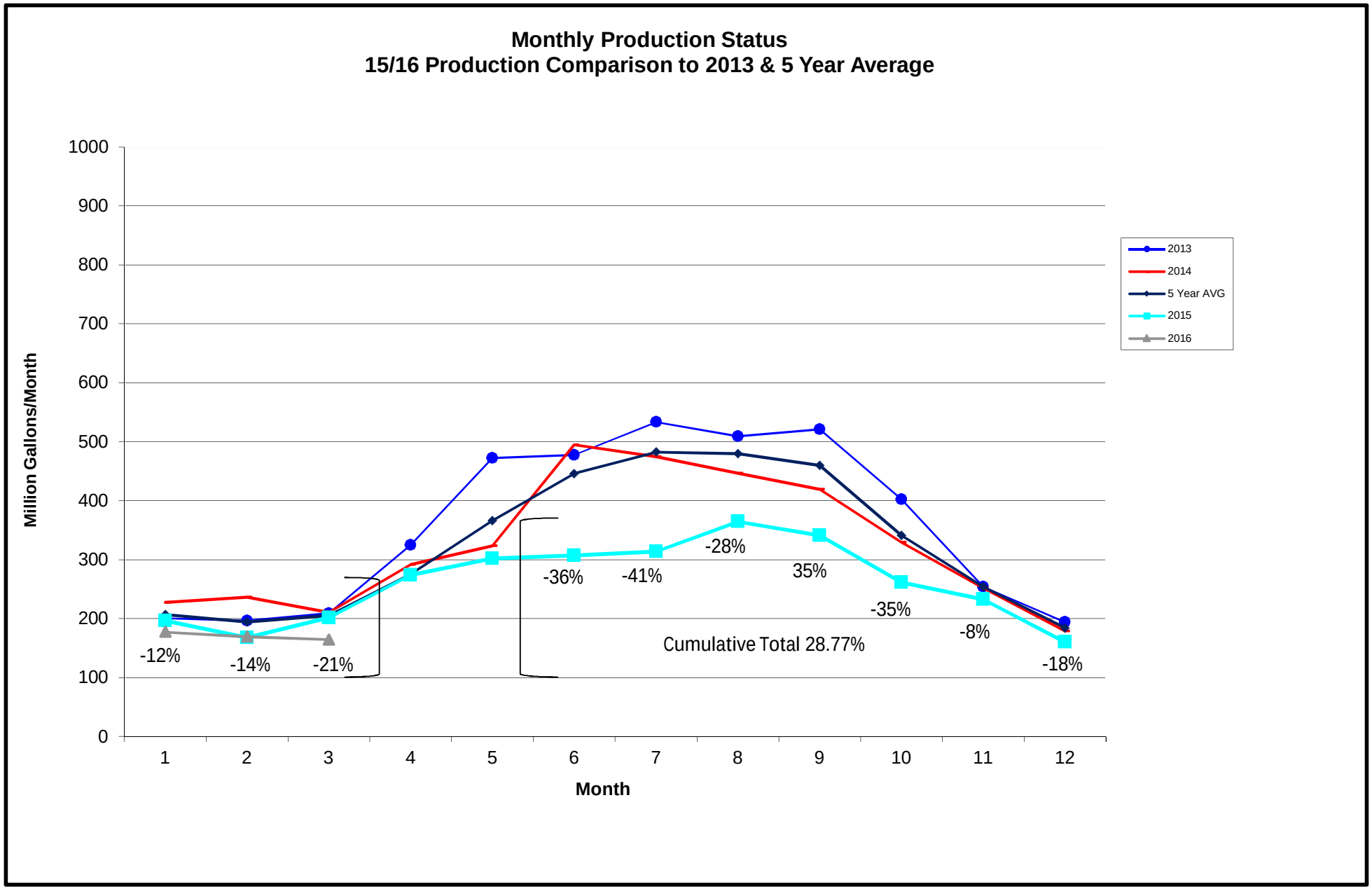
Appropriated/Funded:

Review By:

Department Director:

Mike Reed, City Engineer

Final Approver: John Lollis, City Manager



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