Ivins City Staff Report
City Council Meeting 10/16/2025

Agenda Item: Discussion regarding the current modifications to the water shortage contingency plan

Submitted by: Thomas Jorgensen, P.E., City Engineer

Recommended City Council Action:
Not Applicable – Provide any comments you might have regarding the modifications to the current plan.

BACKGROUND:
The draft Water Shortage Contingency Plan shifts to a board-governed framework in which the District Board (with AAC input and Task Force recommendations) is the only body that can declare, advance, or repeal a shortage; adoption of the plan does not itself declare one.

The drought tool/model is advisory and informs stage determinations (Stages 0–4 with response targets of 0%, 10%, 20%, 40%, and 60% reductions, respectively). During a declared shortage, each municipality receives an annual Equivalent Residential Connection (ERC) based budget calculated from the regional average annual use per ERC over the most recent three non-shortage years, multiplied by the city's average ERC count and a stage-appropriate shortage coefficient.

Budgets are non-transferable; cities use municipal sources first, and the District augments the remainder. Monthly targets are used for tracking, and a 90-day persistence guideline helps avoid "whiplash," though the Board may act at any time based on conditions..

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS:

The framework emphasizes accountability without shutoffs: if a city exceeds its annual budget, a year-end wholesale true-up applies punitive rates (conceptually 3x–5x) based on the percent overage, making excess consumption more expensive rather than interrupting supply. Each city would be accountable for ensuring that reduction goals are met based on each stage of drought, rather than have every city being forced to implement the same water reduction measures.

Early stages won't affect low-demand cities—favorable for Ivins—while the budget structure and monthly tracking enable targeted local actions. There are several tools Ivins could implement to reduce usage, some might include more aggressive tiered rates, irrigation management or ornamental-lawn irrigation limits, outreach to high users (who account for 20–30% of demand).

To enhance compliance and engagement, staff would likely leverage communications (Yoppify) and the city's future AMI deployment. These tools would help improve leak detection, high-use notifications, and month-to-month budget adherence.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:
- Draft Water Shortage Contingency Plan – October 2025

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
Not Applicable

Respectfully Submitted:

Thomas Jorgensen, P.E., City Engineer