



STAFF REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of Town Council

Through: David L. Corliss, Town Manager

From: Mark Marlowe, P.E., Director of Castle Rock Water
Mark Henderson, Assistant Director of Castle Rock Water
Lauren Moore, Water Resources Manager
Adriana Alfaro, Water Resources Program Analyst

Title: **Resolution Approving Updates to the 2025 Drought Management Plan**

Executive Summary

The purpose of this memorandum is to request Town Council approval of a Resolution (**Attachment A**) adopting the updated Drought Management Plan ("Plan"). The Plan was last updated and approved in February 2025. This update to the Plan is intended to better align with ORD 2026-018, which amends the Castle Rock Municipal Code to prohibit any person and thus any common interest communities (such as HOAs or metro districts) from issuing fines or enforcement actions related to brown grass, dormant grass, or similar landscape conditions when such conditions result from compliance with Town-declared drought restrictions.

Discussion

One of Castle Rock Water's strategic goals is to have a water supply that is 75% renewable by 2050 and 100% renewable (in an average water year) by 2065. While these changes provide a more diverse and reliable long-term water supply, it also subjects the Town to potentially larger impacts from drought. The Plan focuses on long-term drought mitigation in addition to strategies that provide short-term responses to temporary drought-related water supply shortages. The Plan is intended to be a guide to facilitate water use decision-making. Plan objectives include:

- Planning for droughts before they occur;
- Protecting public health and safety, and minimizing the adverse effects of a water supply shortage;
- Providing comprehensive and flexible guidance for drought response, allowing for an appropriate range of actions to respond;

- Identifying and determining the severity of droughts through clear definitions of triggers;
- Providing effective communication to customers, the public and governmental departments/agencies, so they clearly understand the situation and the actions taken.

The primary update to the Plan is the incorporation of a proposed ordinance that would prohibit common interest community covenant enforcement during declared drought conditions that conflicts with the requirements of and compliance with the drought declaration. The ordinance would apply only during officially declared drought stages and would restrict any person from taking enforcement actions related to turf condition, irrigation practices, or other drought-related landscape impacts. The draft redline of the updated plan is provided as **Attachment B**. The outline below identifies the sections of the Plan that have been updated, while a more detailed summary of all changes is provided in **Attachment C**.

- Section 5.4 Drought Public Information and Education Campaign
- Section 7 Staged Drought Response Program
- Table 25. Mitigation Action Plan – Ordinances and Regulations
- Section 8.2 Drought Declarations
- Section 8.4.1 Homeowners Association (HOA) Enforcement During Drought Conditions
- Section 9.2.1 Ordinances

Notification and Outreach Efforts

Castle Rock Water sent an email communication on May 4, 2026, to HOAs and metro districts within Town which will describe the ordinance and provide an opportunity for comment and input through May 19, 2026.

History of Past Town Council, Boards, & Commissions, and other Discussions

On December 11, 2024, Castle Rock Water Commission recommended that Council adopt the 2025 Drought Management Plan.

On February 4, 2025, Town Council approved a resolution adopting the 2025 Drought Management Plan.

Castle Rock Water staff presented this item to the Castle Rock Water Commission at their meeting held on April 22, 2026, and the Castle Rock Water Commission voted unanimously, 7 to 0 to recommend Town Council approval of the Resolution as presented.

Budget Impact

There is no direct budget impact for the updates to the 2025 Drought Management Plan.

Recommendations

Staff and Castle Rock Water Commission recommend that the updates to the 2025 Drought Management Plan be approved by Town Council.

Proposed Motion

“I move to approve the Resolution as introduced by title.”

Alternative Motions

“I move to approve the Resolution as introduced by title, with the following conditions: (list conditions).”

“I move to continue this item to the Town Council meeting on _____ date to allow additional time to (list information needed).”

Attachments

- Attachment A: Resolution
- Attachment B: Drought Management Plan Revision 1 – redlines
- Attachment C: Summary of Changes to 2025 Drought Management Plan