

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-060

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
CASTLE ROCK DECLARING AN ADVISORY DROUGHT STAGE
(STAGE 1) WITHIN THE CASTLE ROCK WATER SERVICE AREA**

WHEREAS, the Town of Castle Rock (the “Town”) owns and operates a municipal water system by and through its Water Enterprise (“Castle Rock Water”); and

WHEREAS, Castle Rock Water’s service area is currently experiencing drought conditions, which conditions persist both regionally and throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 100% of Douglas County is in an abnormally dry condition, with approximately 65% in severe drought and 25% in extreme drought; and

WHEREAS, as of May 10, 2026, Castle Rock Water’s 10-day Water Supply Index (WSI) is at 3.73, indicating sufficient water supply at present; and

WHEREAS, this metric, however, does not account for anticipated seasonal increases in demand or the potential for reduced imported supplies, including deliveries from the Water Infrastructure Supply Efficiency (WISE) project; and

WHEREAS, snowpack conditions throughout Colorado are historically low, increasing concern for reduced runoff and increasing constraints on future long-term renewable water supplies; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2026, in response to worsening statewide conditions, Governor Jared Polis activated Colorado’s Drought Task Force and initiated Phase 2 of the State Drought Response Plan; and

WHEREAS, other water providers along the Front Range have already implemented or are planning drought restrictions, including Castle Rock Water’s partners in the WISE project, the City of Aurora and Denver Water; and

WHEREAS, as a result, the continued availability of the Castle Rock Water’s WISE project water supply, which is interruptible two out of every ten years for drought conditions, is in serious question this year; and

WHEREAS, emerging regional and statewide drought indicators demonstrate a need for Castle Rock Water to take proactive action to preserve water resources and support other regional water providers, with the goal of avoiding more severe restrictions later this summer; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Castle Rock Municipal Code Chapter 13.15, the Director of Castle Rock Water, recommends that the Town Council take immediate action to declare an Advisory Drought Stage (“Stage 1”) within Castle Rock Water’s service area; and

WHEREAS, according to the Drought Management Plan approved by Town Council in February 2025, Stage 1 consists of voluntary conservation and early water demand reduction, with a target of achieving approximately 10% in water savings; and

WHEREAS, declaring a Stage 1 drought will reinforce existing conservation practices, increase public awareness, and encourage early behavioral changes, all of which will position Castle Rock Water to respond more effectively should drought conditions worsen; and

WHEREAS, at their meeting held on April 22, 2026, the Castle Rock Water Commission voted to recommend that Town Council act to declare a Stage 1 drought; and

WHEREAS, based upon the recommendations of the Director of Castle Rock Water and the Castle Rock Water Commission, the Town Council finds and determines that declaration of a Stage 1 drought is in the best interest of the Town and its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK, COLORADO AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Declaration. Effective immediately, the Town Council hereby declares an Advisory Drought Stage (“Stage 1”) within Castle Rock Water’s service area. The Director of Castle Rock Water, in his capacity as Program Administrator, is hereby authorized to take all steps necessary and proper to implement the declared Stage 1 drought, including, but not limited to:

- Providing formal notice of the declared drought by publishing the drought declaration on the Town website;
- Conducting outreach to the public concerning the drought via the Town website, newsletters, social media, electronic signage and press releases;
- Providing guidance on voluntary conservation measures;
- Continuing customer education through existing programs; and
- Coordinating messaging concerning the drought with regional partners as appropriate.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 19th day of May, 2026, by the Town Council of the Town of Castle Rock, Colorado, on first and final reading, by a vote of ___ for and ___ against.

ATTEST:

TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK

Lisa Anderson, Town Clerk

Jason Gray, Mayor

Approved as to form:

Approved as to content:

Michael J. Hyman, Town Attorney

Mark Marlowe, Director of Castle Rock Water