



23.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

March 25, 2002

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 02-14, regarding a report on the effects of the drought on the City, please be advised of the following:

The reservoir (Hobbs, Stony and Fresh Pond) capacity is 84%, just about average for this time of year (as of March 11, 2002). There is not a problem with meeting the water demands of the City for the short term. The next few months will be critical in determining what will occur over the summer months. Therefore, the system demand, system capacity and precipitation quantities will be monitored daily as to how it affects the water supply status. If and when the need arises to implement water use restrictions the Water Department will develop these restrictions with the assistance of the Water Board and implement them through the City Managers office.

There are several levels of restrictions that can be applied ranging from voluntary to mandatory. Other options that are being considered by the Department to help conserve water are 1) restrict fire hydrant testing (performed annually w/Fire Department), 2) restrict flow tests, 3) minimize the use of water for treatment processes (when possible), 4) adjust the reservoirs to capture as much rainfall runoff as possible when storm events occur (attempt to limit water spill into the Charles River from the Stony Brook Reservoir).

The last time a water use restriction, resulting from a drought, was announced was in the summer of 1985. This restriction was imposed during the most recent drought of record (1985) and the Cambridge Water System storage capacity was at about 60%.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec

S-86

Consent Agenda #23

**Awaiting Report Item
Number 02-14**, regarding a
report on the effects of the
drought on the City.

In City Council March 25, 2002

PLACE ON FILE.