



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

Public Works Department

Water Division

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MEMO

To: Mayor Shaw and City Council Members

From: John Wagner, Water Superintendent

Date: February 20, 2006

Re: Water Waivers/Exemptions

Cc: Dirk Jablonski, Public Works Director

 Since May of 1994 when the ordinance addressing water conservation measures went into effect, the Public Works Department has been granting water waivers to those individuals that plant new sod or new seed for their lawns. Water waivers are issued so customers could water everyday or outside the designated hours covered in the ordinance. This courtesy practice is not covered in ordinance or resolution adopted by Council.

Although the original intent of this courtesy practice was to accommodate newly planted lawns, it has evolved into requests for many other exemptions not related to new sod or new seed. Last year alone, the Public Works Department granted over 500 exemptions. This not only took a considerable amount of staff time to issue these exemptions but also took much tracking time for our temporary water monitor.

Currently Pactola Reservoir contains 36,410 acre feet, is 26.3 feet from full and is at 64% of capacity. According to the ordinance, Pactola reservoir is in the concern status. Conservation measures shall apply April 1 through September 30, 2006.

As the drought cycle continues, it is important to evaluate ways to conserve water. By placing limitations on the number of water waivers issued, water can be saved. The Public Works Department is requesting that the Council instruct the Water Task Force to look at this issue of limiting the number of water waivers given each year and formulate a resolution or ordinance change for the council to consider.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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