



CENTENNIAL
WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2021

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Kari Larese 720-240-4909

Centennial Water joins regional group to address potential drought conditions

Fourteen Front Range water utilities met last week to collaborate about the locally dry conditions and the potential drought situation ahead. Centennial Water & Sanitation District, the water and wastewater provider for Highlands Ranch and Solstice, was at the table.

“The Drought Coordination Group reconvenes when drought conditions worsen, as determined by the US Drought Monitor,” said Swithin Dick, water resources administrator for Centennial Water. “The objective is to coordinate and offer cooperation around local water utilities sharing ideas, tools and messaging.”

According to the latest drought monitor (droughtmonitor.unl.edu/), released Feb. 11, Douglas County is currently experiencing exceptional drought conditions. When looking at Colorado, the entire state is experiencing some level of drought from moderate conditions to exceptional.

“As part of our annual planning we look at our water resources including water storage in reservoirs, groundwater supply, and estimating potential runoff from snowpack,” said Dick.

Centennial Water’s storage capacity is below average going into March. Over the last five years the district’s average has been 8,489 acre feet and it is currently at 5,750 acre feet. To put that in perspective, the average demand annually by Centennial Water customers is 16,500 acre feet. Centennial Water relies on spring precipitation and runoff to boost its water storage, but the reality is that might not come this year.

“April is when we find out where we are at,” said Dick. “Things do not look good at this point. We are beginning to plan now for a low runoff year, which puts us on a drought watch.”

“Centennial Water staff are working diligently in case these dry conditions continue,” said General Manager John Kaufman. “We are currently in a drought and we are taking steps now in anticipation of a dry summer. We are asking customers to start conservation planning and take steps at home to use water more efficiently.

“Small things you can do at home include checking for leaks throughout your home and being patient with your outdoor watering. Water budgets for outdoor irrigation begin in April; there is no reason to turn on irrigation before then,” added Kaufman.

For water conservation tips and information and to get the latest news from Centennial Water, customers are encouraged to sign up to receive its monthly Water eNewsletter. To sign up, send an email to info@highlandsranch.org.

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Centennial Water & Sanitation District is the water and wastewater utility serving Highlands Ranch and Mirabelle, Colo. Centennial Water provides high quality water through the Joseph B. Blake Water Treatment Plant located in Highlands Ranch. Wastewater is treated at the Marcy Gulch Wastewater Treatment Plant to meet stringent water quality standards before it is discharged. Over the past 40 years, Centennial Water has built a reliable and highly-respected water portfolio, based on a conjunctive use system, to serve its customers. Its major water source is surface water from the South Platte River, supplemented with groundwater from deep aquifer wells throughout Highlands Ranch. For more information about Centennial Water & Sanitation District please visit www.centennialwater.org, or call 303-791-0430.