



2019 Seasonal Water Supply Augmentation and Contingency Plan Update

August 16, 2019

The following are highlights related to key components of the 2019 Seasonal Supply Plan. Drawdown and demand curves updated to reflect the latest conditions are included at the end of this update (Figures 1 and 2).

Weather Forecasts: The current forecasts go through the end of October and indicate that it will generally be warmer than average and equal chances of being wetter or drier than average through the forecast period.

Bull Run Status: Bull Run reservoirs started drawing down on May 7, which is about eight weeks earlier than the average onset of drawdown. As of August 16, there were 5.6 billion gallons, or about 57% of usable storage, remaining in the Bull Run reservoirs. Figure 1 shows the 2019 Bull Run drawdown curve.

Demand: Demand averaged 118.7 million gallons a day (MGD) in July. July demand was 9.4% below July 2018 demand and 9.1% below the average July demand for the previous five years (2014-2018). Figure 2 shows the 2019 demand curve compared to the previous five years.

Groundwater Status: In response to earlier than expected drawdown of the Bull Run reservoirs (Figure 1), the Portland Water Bureau (PWB) began operating the Columbia South Shore Well Field (CSSWF) on July 10. Groundwater from the CSSWF is currently pumping at 40 MGD, supplying approximately 25% to 35% of daily demands. PWB will continue to monitor supply and demand conditions and intends to operate the CSSWF as long as conditions indicate the need.

Fish Releases/Downstream Flows: The PWB manages water releases downstream of Bull Run Reservoir 2 to meet minimum flow requirements and water temperature targets for the lower Bull Run River required by the Bull Run Water Supply Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Minimum flow levels were 120 cubic feet per second (cfs) through May 30, 30 cfs in June, and 20 cfs starting July 1. Since June 1, flow releases in the lower Bull Run River were changed twice a day (between 30 and 90 cfs in June and typically within the range of 20 to 50 cfs from July through present) to meet downstream water temperature targets.

Water Efficiency Activities: The Portland Water Bureau's water efficiency program provides information, technical assistance, and incentives to all Portlanders. Water efficiency programs are ongoing efforts and include residential, commercial and regional activities as shown below:

- PWB distributes water efficiency devices and information at community events, the customer service walk-in center, and through online-orders. These devices include showerheads, aerators, and toilet leak tablets.
- PWB provides commercial and multi-family site visits to assess water savings opportunities.
- PWB offers commercial customers detailed water consumption trend analysis to identify causes of increased water use and to look for opportunities for water savings.
- PWB provides custom incentives for commercial customers for water efficiency improvements.
- PWB provides toilet rebates, irrigation controller rebates, multi-stream irrigation head rebates, and rebates for replacing water-cooled ice machines with EnergyStar-labeled air-cooled ice machines.
- PWB publishes a summer Customer Newsletter (bill insert) with water conservation information, monthly blogs, and regular social media messages regarding water conservation.

- PWB maintains the water-wise demonstration garden at the Hazelwood HydroPark to showcase water-efficient plant choices and irrigation technology.

The PWB is a member of the Regional Water Providers Consortium (RWPC), and an active participant in the Conservation subcommittee. In addition to the programs listed above, Portland participates in the following regional conservation efforts:

- RWPC partners with the following television stations and shows: KGW Channel 8, Garden Time and KUNP (Univision – Spanish language television) to run water conservation advertisement spots and news stories on all programs from June through August. Messaging is done through a series of stories in English and Spanish. RWPC places water conservation radio ads through Alpha Media Portland on approximately seven Portland-area radio stations. Ad spots will air from June through August.
- RWPC sends out quarterly e-newsletters.
- On its website, the RWPC publishes the Weekly Watering Number to guide customers on how much water to put down each week on one's landscape and garden. The Weekly Watering Number is available on the RWPC's website: www.conserveh2o.org and can also be emailed and texted directly to users. The Weekly Watering Number is published from April – September. Also, all Consortium members have received the Weekly Watering Number widget to place directly on their entity's respective websites.

Figure 1. 2019 Bull Run Drawdown

2019 Drawdown

As of August 6

Usable Storage in Bull Run Reservoirs (BGal)

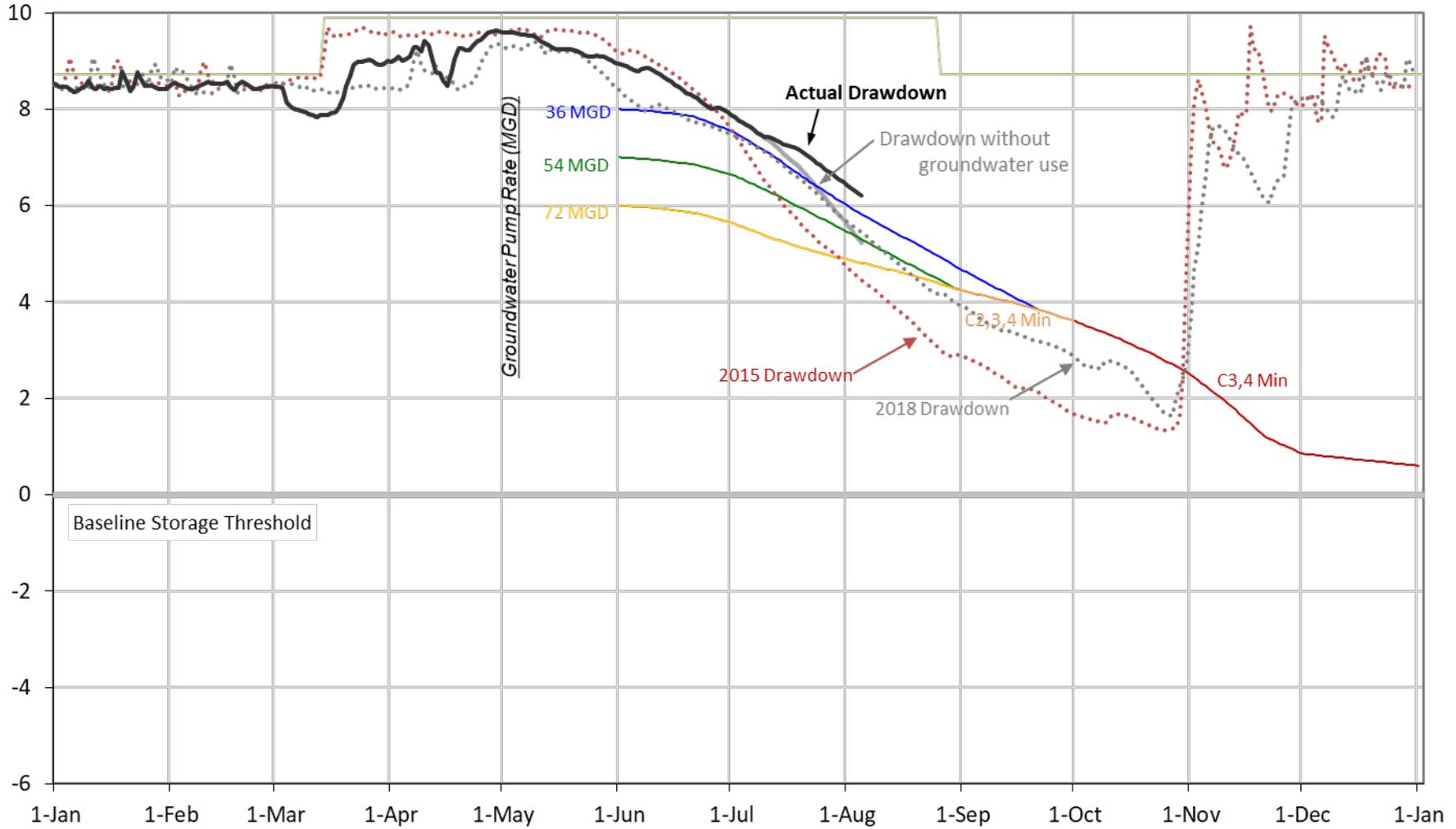


Figure 2. 2019 Demand Curve

