

# Background and Previous Council Direction

## Background

The Water Efficiency Plan builds on decades of Council direction related to water efficiency, drought preparedness, and water security. In alignment with Council’s direction to advance priority water demand strategies from the Drought Resilience Plan in the 2023-2026 business cycle (CD2023-0756), this report brings forward an updated Water Efficiency Plan and amendments to the Water Utility Bylaw (Bylaw 40M2006). These activities also support Calgary’s Water Security Framework (UCS2019-1539) and Calgary’s Climate Strategy: Pathways to 2050 (CD2022-0465).

At the Special Meeting of Council on 2026 February 17, Council acknowledged that Administration will deliver on the recommendations in the Bearspaw South Feedermain Review Panel: Final Report Implementation Update (EC2026-0104), including a recommendation to accelerate water demand-side management initiatives. Through this report, Administration is advancing this direction by identifying demand-side management actions to be accelerated in 2026.

## Previous Council Direction

DATE	REPORT NUMBER	DIRECTION/DESCRIPTION
2026 March 17	<b>EC2026-0173</b>	<b>Water Transformation Program Quarterly Update</b>  That Executive Committee recommend that Council receive this report at the 2026 March 17 Public Hearing Meeting of Council, and approve the 2026 operating budget adjustments, including funding to accelerate demand-side management.
2026 February 17	<b>EC2026-0104</b>	<b>Bearspaw South Feedermain Independent Review Panel – Implementation Plan Update</b>  Council acknowledged that Administration will deliver on the Bearspaw South Feedermain Review Panel: Final Report Implementation Update.
2025 March 18	<b>EC2025-0225</b>	<b>Bylaw 40M2006, the Water Utility Bylaw</b>  Council approved amendments to the Water Utility Bylaw, Schedule E.
2023 October 17	<b>CD2023-0756</b>	<b>Drought Resilience Plan</b>

		Council approval of the Drought Resilience Plan
2022 July 26	<b>CD2022-0465</b>	<b>Calgary Climate Strategy: Pathways to 2050</b>  Council approval of the Calgary Climate Strategy: Pathways to 2050
2021 June 23	<b>UCS2021-0841</b>	<b>Calgary Environment Strategy</b>  Council approval of the Calgary Environment Strategy
2019 December 18	<b>UCS2019-1539</b>	<b>One Calgary One Water: Water Security Framework</b>  Council approval of One Calgary One Water: Water Security Framework
2005 December 12	<b>UE2005-56</b>	<b>Water Efficiency Plan</b>  Council approval of the 30-in-30 Water Efficiency Plan

## Bylaws, Regulations, Council Policies

The Water Utility Bylaw (Bylaw 40M2006) was last amended at the 2025 March 18 Meeting of Council (EC2025-0225) with minor updates to expand activities and permissions in Schedule E – Outdoor Water Use Restrictions.

Relevant parts of the Water Utility Bylaw for this report include:

### **Water Utility Bylaw – Part IV: General Authority of the Directors**

Outlines the general authorities given to the Director, Water Services, and the Director, Community Planning as it relates to the operation and management of the Water System, including the ability to discontinue water service.

### **Water Utility Bylaw – Part VII: Water Conservation**

Mandates inclusion of water efficient fixtures in all new residential and industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) construction and for residential and ICI renovations requiring a plumbing permit.

### **Water Utility Bylaw – Part VIII: Emergencies and Outdoor Water Use Restrictions**

Provides authority to The City to declare mandatory outdoor water use restrictions should there be a reason to require reduced water usage. Schedule “E” of the Bylaw outlines water activities across the four stages of outdoor water use restrictions.