

**Resolution No. 5-2026**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE, COLORADO, ADOPTING THE PHASED DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN TO MANAGE WATER SHORTAGES, ESTABLISH CONSERVATION MEASURES, AND IMPLEMENT TIERED FINANCIAL STRUCTURES AS DICTATED BY ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Florence’s water supply is vulnerable to environmental stresses, including regional drought patterns, snowpack levels and timing of runoff, Arkansas River conditions, and legally binding priority water calls, as well as other circumstantial and important water supply factors; and

**WHEREAS**, heightened wildfire activity and local fire-restriction levels necessitate a structured response to ensure the continued protection of public health, safety, and economic stability; and

**WHEREAS**, while the City holds senior municipal water rights through the Union Ditch priority of November 30, 1861, it remains committed to responsible and necessary water stewardship and regional water stability; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has developed a Phased Drought Response Plan to optimize its response to emergent conditions through four levels of classification; and

**WHEREAS**, this plan includes tiered conservation and financial measures designed to encourage reduction in water use while ensuring essential household needs remain affordable.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLORENCE, COLORADO:**

**Section 1. Adoption.** The City Council hereby adopts the "Phased Drought Response Plan," dated April 6, 2026, as the official guide for water management during periods of shortage.

**Section 2. Implementation and Triggers.** The City Manager is authorized to implement the various levels of the plan based on the following automatic triggers or natural disasters affecting delivery capacity:

- **Level I:** Triggered by a March 5, 1884, priority call on the Coal Creek Pipe Water Right.
- **Level II:** Triggered by a May 15, 1874, priority call on a Rocky Ford water right.
- **Level III:** Triggered by a December 30, 1863, Canon City Water Works priority call.
- **Level IV:** Triggered by a November 30, 1861, Union Ditch priority water call.

**Section 3. Conservation and Financial Measures.** Upon declaration of a drought level, the corresponding conservation restrictions and financial surcharges shall apply:

- **Level II:** Mandatory watering schedules and a **20% increase** on water used above the 3,500-gallon minimum.
- **Level III:** Highly restricted watering (once per week) and a **100% increase** (doubled rate) on water used above the minimum.
- **Level IV:** Prohibition of all outdoor water use and a **200% increase** (tripled rate) on water used above the minimum.

**Section 4. Enforcement.** Violations of mandatory restrictions under Levels I through IV may be enforced through Municipal Court prosecution and/or disconnection of water service, following proper notice to the violator.

**Section 5. Modification.** The City may adjust or refine responses based on actual drought conditions, fire district restrictions, or other immediate safety considerations.

**RESOLVED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2026.

ATTEST:

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Cortlyne Huppe, City Clerk

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Steve Wolfe, Mayor