



CITY OF DOVER

288 CENTRAL AVENUE
DOVER, NH 03820
WWW.DOVER.NH.GOV
603.516.6000

DECLARATION OF WATER EMERGENCY (2020 DROUGHT)

WHEREAS, the City of Dover operates a public, municipal water system that depends, in significant part, on continual recharge through periodic rainfall throughout the year;

WHEREAS, following reduced winter precipitation in New Hampshire during the winter of 2019 to 2020, many areas in New Hampshire also experienced abnormally low precipitation in the late spring and summer of 2020, as a result of which portions of New Hampshire, including Strafford County, have experienced persistent drought conditions;

WHEREAS, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (“NHDES”) has notified the City that, as of this declaration, 69% of the State of New Hampshire is now experiencing drought;

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2020, NHDES further notified the City that over half of Strafford County, including virtually all of the City of Dover, is currently experiencing severe drought (D2);

WHEREAS, NHDES projects little to no near-term relief from drought conditions based on anticipated weather conditions;

WHEREAS, NHDES has urged municipalities such as the City of Dover to implement water restrictions in order to protect water supply;

WHEREAS, City staff have reviewed current water capacity and future weather forecasts and concur with NHDES that certain water restrictions are necessary and prudent;

WHEREAS, state law authorizes public water suppliers such as the City of Dover to restrict non-essential water use when there is a threat of demand exceeding supply, *see* RSA 38:26; RSA chapter 485; *see also* N.H. Code of Admin. Rules, Env-Dw chapter 503;

WHEREAS, the City of Dover has enacted a local ordinance to address such emergency water shortages, *see* Dover Code § 121-51 *et seq.*;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY MANAGER FOR THE CITY OF DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, by the authority vested in me pursuant to Dover Code § 121-51 *et seq.*, does hereby declare that:

1. A “water emergency” exists in the City of Dover by reason of a shortage of water due to drought conditions.
2. Due to ongoing drought conditions, the City of Dover’s public water system is unable to or will, within 60 days of this declaration, become unable to supply the full commercial

