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NEWS RELEASE

City updates council on drought conditions

Durango, CO: At Tuesday's City Council meeting city staff provided council with an update on drought conditions heading into the summer season, finding that limited precipitation earlier in the year coupled with an early melting of the snowpack has caused the city to operate under stage one of its Drought Master Plan.

Stage one of the city's Drought Master Plan includes the regular pumping of water from the Animas River, communication to reduce consumption throughout city operations, and outreach to the city's largest water consumers to discuss potential limitations.

Reports show that Lemon Reservoir is already at 0% snowpack, melting one month faster than it usually does on average.

At Tuesday's meeting, council also finalized an update to the Sustainability Master Plan.

"This has been a focus of our strategic plan, It's important to note that this was a priority of councils" said councilor Jessika Buell. "I'm excited to see its implementation in the coming years

The goals prioritized in plan, including reducing greenhouse gas emission, increasing our renewable energy generation, and becoming more resilient to the impacts of climate change. For more information on the [Sustainability Plan](#) check out the city's website.

"I wanted to thank the community for working with staff, and staff working with the community," said councilor Kim Baxter. "It takes everybody's vision to make it happen."

As a response to recent national tragedies involving gun violence, city council proclaimed June 3 through June 11, Durango Gun Violence Awareness Days. During Gun Violence Awareness Days council asks residents to dress in orange to recognize that victims of gun violence. This week of awareness will happen annually on the first full week of June.

Durango High School students have planned a Wear Orange march on Saturday, June 11, at 2p.m. to support local community efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence.

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