

**COUNCIL POLICY****CURRENT**

SUBJECT: ACTION PLAN FOR CITY'S FUTURE WATER SUPPLY  
POLICY NO.: 400-09  
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 6, 1998

**BACKGROUND:**

The San Diego Region has traditionally recognized the critical need for an adequate water supply and has consistently been farsighted in planning for and providing for future water needs. During the late nineteenth century and early part of the twentieth century the emphasis was on development of regional watershed areas to the maximum extent feasible both technologically and economically. The City also started looking toward the Colorado River system at this time and applied for water rights in 1926. The rapid population growth during World War II led to the formation of the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) in 1944. The CWA subsequently became a member of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) in 1946 in order to economically import water from the Colorado River. Today, MWD serves a 5,200 square mile area supplying water to nearly 13 million people by importing water from the Colorado River and northern California (State Water Project). Depending on climatic conditions, the City currently imports more than 90% of the water normally required to satisfy our annual needs. Because of our increasing water needs, runoff water from local rainfall has gradually contributed proportionately less and less towards our annual usage. Our local water supply is unpredictable and undependable because of extreme variations in annual rainfall. To a lesser degree, this is also a problem in many other parts of the State since California weather consists of alternating wet and dry cycles with below normal rainfall often occurring several years in a row. Droughts, both locally and statewide, are a constant threat. Since Arizona has begun to take its allocation of Colorado River water (thus reducing the amount available for Southern California) and since the State Water Project remains incomplete, it is imperative that San Diego develop other water sources and implement water conservation techniques in order to preclude and/or minimize water shortages in the future.

**PURPOSE:**

To establish policies to assure an adequate water supply for the City of San Diego.

**POLICY:**

For ease of organization, the following policies are categorized as either general, or related to water importation, conservation, surface runoff and groundwater development, or reclamation, re-use and desalination.

**A. General**

It is the policy of the City Council that:

1. The City Manager shall advise the Mayor and City Council annually on the status of the City's current and future water supplies.

2. The City Manager and Intergovernmental Relations Director shall monitor legislative actions, court decisions, and other events that could affect the City's water deliveries from the Colorado River or northern California and report, as necessary, to the City Council on critical issues.
3. The San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) is recognized as the lead agency for procuring imported water to meet the present and long term needs of the City and the San Diego region. As a member of CWA, the City of San Diego shall assist CWA as needed in working with the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), the State Department of Water Resources (DWR), the County of San Diego, other local water agencies, and the private sector in efforts to satisfy the future water requirements of the region.
4. The City Manager and the Water Utilities Director shall work closely with the City Council appointed representatives to the CWA Board of Directors in pursuit of an adequate water supply in the future.
5. The Public Facilities and Recreation Committee of the City Council shall schedule an annual meeting every February with the City appointees to the CWA Board of Directors for the purpose of discussing water issues. At this annual meeting, discussion will focus on a Work Program prepared by the CWA representatives with the assistance of the Water Utilities Director. The Work Program will outline proposals which the CWA representatives would recommend the City support to gain increased water supply.

B. Importation

It is the policy of the City Council to:

1. Support the concept that there is enough water available in California to meet foreseeable needs if the water is properly managed.
2. Support communication and cooperation among water policy groups in all regions of the state, with an emphasis on finding areas of statewide consensus.
3. Support cost effective and environmentally sound activities that will bring required additional water to Southern California without adversely affecting the interests of the areas of origin.
4. Support efforts by CWA and others to seek additional water supply sources.
5. Support development of water supply to meet present and future needs. Emphasis shall be placed on developing an increased water supply through means such as:
  - a. Water conservation and efficiency measures (e.g. lining canals where water would otherwise be lost through seepage).
  - b. Removal of institutional barriers that impede more efficient use of water.
  - c. Cost-effective off-stream storage of surplus water south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

- d. Underground storage, both in Southern California and in the San Joaquin Valley, subject to the development of the necessary management controls.
  - e. Support for the Lake Mead banking program proposed by the MWD, the Colorado River Board and DWR, which would involve using more state water in above-normal years and storing Colorado River water in Lake Mead for future use.
6. Support pricing and repayment policies for all future water contracts and all future projects that shall ensure that beneficiaries pay their full share of costs associated with development and operation of those facilities.
  7. Support MWD, through CWA, in its effort to pay for facilities to improve the efficiency of the Imperial Irrigation District Water System, in exchange for water which is saved.
  8. Support efforts to coordinate the State Water Project and Central Valley Project to maximize effective water usage.
  9. Support voluntary transfers of water between local and regional suppliers as authorized by State Water Code, Chapter 867, Statutes of 1982. Support efforts to authorize exchange of water by private individuals.
- C. Conservation
- It is the policy of the City Council to:
1. Revise and expand the City's Water Conservation Plan (Resolution 256583) to meet the requirements of the State Water Resources control board. After adoption and approval of the revised plan, review periodically for revision as necessary.
  2. Support and implement the City's revised Water Conservation Plan and work with the CWA to publicize and promote voluntary water conservation, using techniques such as drought resistant plants and efficient irrigation systems for landscaping, public education on the need for water conservation, and low flow water fixtures and appliances, as well as to evaluate water rate pricing measures and their effects on conservation.
  3. In the event of a local water shortage, implement intensified conservation measures such as distribution of water conservation devices; water awareness programs for presentation to schools, service organizations, etc.; media coverage to inform the public of water conservation needs and techniques; ordinances mandating conservation and establishing fines for water waste if voluntary conservation efforts fail; and water rate pricing disincentives that penalize excessive use of water.
  4. Support statewide requirements for agricultural water conservation and efficiency measures.
  5. Support efforts to emphasize regional conservation and reclamation programs through a county-wide coordination plan under the auspices of CWA or SANDAG (San Diego Association of Governments).

6. Support and implement the City of San Diego's Urban Water Management Plan which is to be adopted prior to December 31, 1985 as required by the State Water Code, Division 6, Sections 10610 through 10656.

D. Surface Runoff and Groundwater Development

It is the policy of the City Council to:

1. Maintain an emergency reserve storage of water as specified in City Council Policy 400-04 for the purpose of cushioning the impact of temporary interruptions in the delivery of imported water. Such storage to be in an amount sufficient to cover reasonably anticipated needs until repairs can be completed to supply lines in the event of unforeseen emergencies or natural disasters.
2. Support the construction of regional storage reservoirs or enlargement of existing reservoirs as needed.
3. Support programs to recharge and improve the yield from local groundwater basins.

E. Reclamation, Re-use and Desalination

It is the policy of the City Council to:

1. Support and fund the ongoing operation of an aquaculture and reverse osmosis test facility to develop technology for purifying wastewater to potable standards.
2. Support efforts to better define public health and environmental standards for water re-use and for reclaimed water use.
3. Support energy efficient water and water re-use programs.
4. Support simplification of regulatory approval for the use of treated wastewater for urban landscaping and agricultural irrigation.
5. Support secondary use of "gray water" for urban landscaping and agricultural irrigation.
6. Support development of a local seawater/brackish groundwater desalination facility when shown to be technically and economically feasible.
7. Monitor new technological developments in the field of water desalination.
8. Support and encourage the use of reclaimed water by exempting manufacturing, processing, and research and development firms from mandatory potable water use restrictions ("cutbacks"), if all of the following conditions are met: 1) the business is one of the types of businesses described in categories 2000 through 3999, 7390, and 8730 of the Standard Industrial Classification Code; 2) the business is located in an area where reclaimed water is available; 3) the business uses reclaimed water on its premises to the full extent possible; and

4) the business participates in all applicable City water conservation programs which are considered Best Management Practices by the California Urban Water Conservation Council.

F. Water Quality

It is the policy of the City Council to:

1. Provide potable water which fully meets all health standards as established by federal, state and county regulatory agencies.
2. Support efforts to maintain groundwater supplies, throughout the State, free of contaminants.

G. Water Supply vs. Demand

It is the policy of the City Council to:

1. Support the concept that there should be a balance between water demand and water supply and that both should be considered in planning for the future.

HISTORY:

Adopted by Resolution R-259816 12/12/1983  
Amended by Resolution R-264706 12/16/1985  
Amended by Resolution R-290822 10/06/1998

SUBJECT: ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES  
POLICY NO.: 400-11  
EFFECTIVE DATE: September 21, 1987

BACKGROUND:

The City of San Diego has implemented water conservation programs when necessary throughout its history of service to the area. Burgeoning growth and seasonal dry periods furthered the conservation appeal which, by 1960, had become a standard public information program element.

During the drought emergency of 1976-77, when a 10% water use reduction was required, the City again made a major effort to implement conservation programs. In addition to special programs related to City customers, the City was involved in all of the regional efforts undertaken during the drought including public information kit distribution. Since then, most of the original water conservation programs have been continued, but on a public information level rather than a contingency or emergency level.

In 1982 the City adopted and implemented a Water Conservation Plan and Work Program per Resolution R-256583 which identified additional water conservation techniques to be implemented. Further water conservation measures were included in the City's Urban Water Management Plan and Conservation Program adopted in 1985. This Council Policy incorporates and updates the 1982 Water Conservation Plan and Work Program, and also includes concepts from the Urban Water Management Plan and Conservation Program.

PURPOSE:

To establish policies which assure that effective City water conservation techniques are identified and implemented.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the City Council that the following action plan for implementation of water conserving techniques be adhered to.

ACTION PLAN:

A. City Buildings and Facilities

Design of all City buildings and facilities will include appropriate water conservation devices.

- |        |    |  |
|--------|----|--|
| Action | 1. | City owned buildings and facilities will be retrofitted with faucet flow restrictors, reduced flush devices, self closing faucets and hot water pipe insulation where use of such devices are appropriate. |
|        | 2. | New buildings will be initially designed with such devices.  |

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
**COUNCIL POLICY**

**CURRENT**

Responsible

Department(s) Buildings Division of the General Services Department and the Housing Commission

Work Program

1. Evaluate plumbing fixtures in all City owned buildings.
2. Develop priority list for retrofit.
3. Retrofit City facilities during regular maintenance activities.

Timeline Initiated in FY 1983 and complete during FY 1987.

**B. Plumbing Code Amendments**

The Municipal Plumbing Code will be amended to increase the use of water conserving fixtures:

- Action
1. Amend the municipal plumbing code to require:
    - a. Self closing faucets to be installed in all unattended restrooms in new commercial, industrial buildings.
    - b. Hot water pipes located in unheated spaces such as attics and exterior walls are to be insulated except in locations under concrete floor slabs. This would apply to all new construction.

Responsible

Department(s) Building Inspection and City Attorney.

Work Program

1. Evaluate the benefits and the cost of proposed amendments.
2. Discuss amendments with plumbing and building industry.
3. Present code amendments to City Council.
4. Implement code amendments if enacted.

Timeline Initiated in FY 1983 and complete during FY 1987.

**C. Landscaping and Irrigation: Private Development**

The City will encourage enhancement of water conservation practices in private development of landscape and irrigation systems.

Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Revise City standards and specifications to encourage low water demand landscapes and efficient irrigation systems where landscaping is subject to City approval.</li> <li>2. Initiate an information/education program for developers and landscape and irrigation professionals to encourage this type of landscaping and irrigation as standard practice in situations where City approval is not required.</li> <li>3. Provide information to the public, particularly new homeowners, on landscaping and irrigation design and practices that minimize water consumption.</li> </ol>
Responsible Department(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The revisions to City standards will be accomplished through a coordinated effort by the Planning, Engineering and Development, and Park and Recreation Departments.</li> <li>2. The Planning Department will coordinate the information/education program for developers and landscape professionals.</li> <li>3. Information on landscaping and irrigation for the public will be provided by the Water Utilities Department as part of its general public information program, and by the Building Inspection Department at the time of issuing the certificate of occupancy for residential dwellings.</li> </ol>
Work Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evaluate City standards and specifications; identify changes that will reduce water demand and increase irrigation efficiency; review proposed changes with industry representatives; and present revisions for approval by the appropriate City authority.</li> <li>2. Contact industry associations to develop interest in an information/education program; identify a group(s) willing to sponsor the program; and provide assistance in designing, organizing, promoting and conducting the program.</li> <li>3. Obtain printed information from the State Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California, the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) and other appropriate sources; publicize availability of this information; distribute select brochures as appropriate and assemble and distribute information packets for new home owners.</li> </ol>
Timeline	Initiated Action 1 in FY 1983 and complete in FY 1987.

Actions 2 and 3 are ongoing activities which were initiated during FY 1983.

D. Public Information

The City will conduct a public information program which increases public participation in water conservation activities.

Action 1. Conduct a public information program in conjunction with CWA.

Responsible  
Department(s) Water Utilities and Citizens' Assistance.

Work Program

1. Distribute water conservation information provided by CWA.
2. Cooperate with CWA to provide City staff as speakers to community groups.
3. Develop and distribute specialized information for citizens of San Diego where appropriate, i.e. brochures, water bill stuffers.
4. Utilize space on the water bills to print a conservation message.
5. Provide water use information on water bills for the same billing period in the previous year.

Timeline This ongoing activity was initiated in FY 1983.

E. Reduce Water Softener Recharge and Backwash Cycles

The City will participate in efforts to encourage water efficient water softener usage.

Action 1. Provide information to the water softener industry and seek their cooperation to achieve the maximum efficiency of water softeners.

Responsible  
Department(s) Water Utilities

Work Program

1. Meet with representatives of the water softener industry to discuss a program to reduce backwash and recharge cycles.
2. Provide the industry with the necessary information to effect efficient use of water softeners.

3. Continue to work with the industry throughout the year.

Timeline This ongoing activity was initiated in FY 1983 and will be repeated periodically.

F. City Landscaping and Irrigation

Landscaping for all City owned property will include both low-water-use vegetation and irrigation systems.

- Action
1. Utilize low water demand landscaping and efficient irrigation systems in all new projects for City parks, streets, buildings and other public areas; also utilize where feasible in replacement situations.

Responsible

Department(s) Engineering and Development, Park and Recreation, General Services, and the Property Departments.

Work Program

1. Evaluate present procedures and specifications, identify changes that will reduce water demand and improve irrigation efficiency.
2. Incorporate revised standards and specifications in plans for landscape replacement or renovation.

Timeline This ongoing program was initiated during FY 1983.

G. Demonstration Gardens

The City will promote low water use demonstration gardens which encourage citizens to incorporate water conserving elements into residential landscape design.

- Action
1. Assist CWA in siting low-water-use demonstration gardens within the City.
  2. Develop demonstration gardens within City parks and public building landscape areas.

Responsible

Department(s) Park and Recreation, Water Utilities and Property Departments.

Work Program

1. Inventory and evaluate existing City park, public building and other publicly owned properties for appropriate garden locations.

2. Solicit community participation in development, maintenance and instructional use of demonstration gardens.
3. Prioritize locations appropriate for development by CWA and sites that should be developed locally.
4. Begin site development in FY 1986.

Timeline This ongoing activity was initiated in FY 1984.

H. Water Conservation Home Design Awards

The City will participate in a program to award citizens for use of water conservation techniques in home design.

- Action
1. Develop criteria for housing designs that can be designated as “Water Conservation Homes,” and sponsor annual awards for the best water conservation building and landscape design. This activity is to be a combined effort with the Energy Program’s Energy Award Program.

Responsible  
Department(s) Water Utilities, Planning and Energy Program.

Work Program

1. Work with CWA and the building industry to develop criteria for housing designs that can be designated as “Water Conservation Homes.”
2. Implement the designation in conjunction with the previously approved Energy Award Program.
3. Promote the criteria among the building industry.
4. Encourage building design award programs sponsored by professional organizations to include water conservation features in their judging criteria.
5. Sponsor an annual award for the best water conservation building and landscape design.

Timeline This ongoing program was initiated in FY 1983.

I. Emergencies

The City will participate in developing plans to manage water services during an emergency or drought conditions.

- Action
1. Continue to develop programs to manage City operations in the event of emergencies from natural disaster or drought conditions.
  2. Develop emergency plans for the management of area-wide emergencies relating to water shortage.

Responsible

Department(s) Water Utilities, Emergency Management Office and CWA.

Work Program

1. Continue to develop emergency plans for operation of City facilities.
2. Work with CWA to develop plans for emergencies.
3. Design public information literature to be used in the event of emergencies.
4. Conduct exercises to simulate disasters to test City department responses.

Timeline This ongoing program was initiated in FY 1983.

ACTION PLAN REVIEW:

Council will review progress in implementation of water conservation techniques identified in this plan on an annual basis.

HISTORY:

Adopted by Resolution R-269291 09/21/1987

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER RECLAMATION/REUSE  
POLICY NO.: 400-12  
EFFECTIVE DATE: November 28, 1988

BACKGROUND:

The City of San Diego currently faces the twin challenges of assuring an adequate future water supply and upgrading its sewage treatment to the secondary level. Federal and state statutes mandate secondary levels of treatment, while the City's position at the end of the water supply system makes future supplies precarious. The City of San Diego's decision to upgrade the level of treatment provides the opportunity to incorporate water reclamation as a major focus of the project. Treatment of sewage within the Metropolitan Sewerage System offers the ability to provide another source of water for the future. The San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) imports approximately 90% of the region's water needs through the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California. CWA currently purchases approximately 30% of MWD's supplies; however, under the Metropolitan Water District Act, the CWA is only entitled to approximately 11% of the supplies available. Region-wide population growth will increase demands for water in the future and MWD is predicting a shortfall in the water supply. It is imperative that water reclamation be implemented to supplement the available supplies and help keep pace with the projected demand.

PURPOSE:

To establish policies to encourage water reclamation/reuse.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the City Council to:

A. Prepare a Reclamation Facilities Master Plan.

1. The Reclamation Facilities Master Plan shall be prepared as an element of the City's secondary treatment/water reclamation facilities planning effort. It shall delineate the location and size of future facilities for conveyance, treatment, and utilization of reclaimed water.
2. The goal of the Master Plan will be to develop and require a plan for major water reclamation throughout the Metropolitan Sewerage System.
3. The Master Plan should incorporate to the extent possible the planning and research work on reclamation already completed.
4. The Master Plan shall delineate present and future reclaimed water sources.
5. The Master Plan shall define present and future reclamation markets.

B. Target Goals for Water Reclamation and Reuse.

The City of San Diego has established a goal to reclaim and reuse a minimum of 70,000 acre-feet/year (approximately 64 mdg average) of reclaimed water by the year 2010.

C. Draft a Mandatory Use Ordinance.

1. A mandatory use ordinance shall be drafted to require the use of reclaimed water rather than potable water where it is available.
2. Dual piping shall be required in new developments if future reclamation facilities are proposed in the masterplan which could serve the development.
3. Turf-related facilities, i.e. golf courses and parks, shall be required to use reclaimed water for irrigation where it is proposed in the master plan.
4. Artificial lakes and man-made decorative ponds where public contact is restricted shall be required to use reclaimed water where it is available.

D. Require a Mandatory Water Quality Management Plan.

1. A mandatory water quality management plan shall be established to ensure the quality of the reclaimed water.
2. Industrial wastes which might adversely effect the quality of the reclaimed water shall be identified, monitored, and controlled.
3. If it is determined that the salt discharges from regenerative type water softeners or conditioners adversely affects the quality of reclaimed water, the Water Utilities Director or his/her designee shall introduce an ordinance to restrict the use of, or require a use permit and a treatment fee for the additional costs associated with adequately treating the wastewater.

E. Public Information

The City will conduct a public information program which increases public education and awareness of the need for water reclamation. Included will be information about the restriction of regenerative type water softeners or conditioners.

F. Rules and Regulations

The Water Utilities Department will work with Building Inspection, Planning and Engineering and Development to develop rules and regulations to implement this policy. This includes drafting plan review and permitting procedures required to implement a mandatory use ordinance.

HISTORY:

Adopted by Resolution R-272439 11/28/1988