

000031

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

1. CERTIFICATE NUMBER  
(FOR AUDITOR'S USE ONLY) 201  
10/8

TO: City Council

2. FROM (ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT):  
Council President Scott Peters

3. DATE:  
September 25, 2007

4. SUBJECT: Water Management Action Plan for City-owned Properties

5. PRIMARY CONTACT (NAME, PHONE & MAIL STA.)  
Keely Sweeney, 236-6611, MS 10A

6. SECONDARY CONTACT (NAME, PHONE & MAIL STA.)  
Christina Cameron, 236-6611, MS 10A

7. CHECK BOX IF REPORT TO COUNCIL IS ATTACHED

8. COMPLETE FOR ACCOUNTING PURPOSES

FUND			
DEPT.			
ORGANIZATION			
OBJECT ACCOUNT			
JOB ORDER			
C.I.P. NUMBER			
AMOUNT			

9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / ESTIMATED COST:

10. ROUTING AND APPROVALS

ROUTE (#)	APPROVING AUTHORITY	APPROVAL SIGNATURE	DATE SIGNED	ROUTE (#)	APPROVING AUTHORITY	APPROVAL SIGNATURE	DATE SIGNED	
1	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	 CHRIS CAMERON, ACTING CHIEF OF STAFF		8	DEPUTY CHIEF			
2	AUDITOR AND COMPTROLLER			9	COO			
3	EAS			10	CITY ATTORNEY			
4	LIAISON OFFICE			11	ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT	 CHRIS CAMERON, ACTING CHIEF OF STAFF		
5					DOCKET COORD: _____	COUNCIL LIAISON: _____		
6				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SPOB	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADOPTION
7					<input type="checkbox"/> REFER TO: _____	COUNCIL DATE: 10/8/07		

11. PREPARATION OF:  RESOLUTION(S)  ORDINANCE(S)  AGREEMENT(S)  DEED(S)

a. Request that the mayor prepare and present to City Council within ninety days an action plan to address water management and conservation with respect to City-owned properties

b. Direct the City Attorney to draft appropriate resolutions related to this action

11A. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

12. SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

**COUNCIL DISTRICT(S):** Citywide

**COMMUNITY AREA(S):**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:** THIS ACTIVITY IS NOT A "PROJECT" AND IS THEREFORE NOT SUBJECT TO CEQA PER CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15060(C)(2).

**HOUSING IMPACT:** NONE

**OTHER ISSUES:** NONE

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Attention: Honorable Mayor and City Council  
Origination Department: City Council President Scott Peters  
Subject: Water Conservation Action Plan for City-owned Properties  
Council District(s): Citywide  
Staff Contact: Keely Sweeney, (619) 236-6611

REQUESTED ACTION:

- a. Request that the mayor prepare and present to City Council within ninety days an action plan to address water management and conservation with respect to City-owned properties
- b. *Direct the City Attorney to draft appropriate resolutions related to this action*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Several factors have recently converged to highlight the need for the City of San Diego to closely examine its water usage. Due to its naturally arid climate, the City relies heavily on outside water sources to supplement its water supply, and its two main sources of water are threatened: the Colorado River is in the midst of its eighth year of drought, and a recent federal court ruling mandating protection of smelt in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta will likely further reduce our water supply by as much as 20-50%. Moreover, warmer-than-usual temperatures in the Sierra Nevada mountain range cause its snow caps to melt earlier in the year, at a time when our region's reservoirs are near capacity and unable to capture the precious runoff they produce.

As a result of these restrictions on the region's water supply, the state and regional water agencies that supply the City of San Diego have raised the possibility of mandatory water cutbacks. As a proactive measure, the County Water Authority and the Mayor have urged residents and business owners to voluntarily conserve.

Similarly, the City of San Diego has a responsibility to ensure it is using water as efficiently as possible. As a property owner of lands that include 39,441 acres of parks and open space, much of which contains regularly-irrigated landscaping, the City is a significant consumer with respect to the regional water supply and must contribute to the regional conservation effort.

A Water Management Action Plan for City-owned properties that evaluates opportunities for conservation in City buildings and, in particular, with respect to City-owned landscaping, will assist the City in its conservation efforts.

Today's action will direct the Mayor to develop a plan for the City of San Diego to identify water-saving practices for City-owned properties and activities. The plan should

also include a timeline for implementation. The Council further recommends that in developing this plan, the Mayor:

- Determine the City's current water use as a baseline against which future savings and the effectiveness of conservation efforts can be measured.
- To improve outdoor water efficiency, evaluate the feasibility of:
  - Inspecting irrigation systems at City facilities and parks in order to repair leaks and broken sprinkler heads and to correct overspray onto sidewalks and streets;
  - Ensuring that landscaping is irrigated in the most efficient and effective manner, and that watering schedules are timed to avoid water loss as a result of evaporation or wind interference; and
  - Converting regular irrigation systems to more effective irrigation methods, for example by using "smart" irrigation or drip irrigation technologies.
- To promote indoor water efficiency by, evaluate the feasibility of:
  - Replacing regular plumbing fixtures with low-flow devices and, where appropriate, with fixtures that operate automatically to shut off when not in use; and
  - Ensuring that City employees who live at City facilities as part of their job are trained in water-wise practices.
- Perfect and promote an efficient mechanism for reporting leaks and inefficient water use at City facilities and ensuring a response that is rapid, traceable, and accessible to City employees and members of the public.



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Originating Department