



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: January 13, 2006 REPORT NO. 06-003

ATTENTION: Natural Resource and Culture Committee
Agenda of January 18, 2006

SUBJECT: 2005 Urban Water Management Plan

REFERENCE: Draft 2005 Urban Water Management Plan

SUMMARY

Issue: Should the City Council adopt the Draft 2005 Urban Water Management Plan and authorize the Mayor to submit the approved Plan to the California Department of Water Resources?

Staff Recommendation: Adopt the Draft 2005 Urban Water Management Plan and authorize the Mayor to submit the approved Plan to the California Department of Water Resources.

Other Recommendations: Approval recommended by the Public Utility Advisory Committee at its October 17, 2005 meeting.

Fiscal Impact: The Draft 2005 Urban Water Management Plan contains historical and forecast information on water demand and supply, and on programs that are intended to manage water demand. Failure to submit an approved plan to the California Department of Water Resources will jeopardize eligibility for California Department of Water Resources grant funding and for drought assistance.

BACKGROUND

The City of San Diego has prepared a 2005 Urban Water Management Plan (Plan) in response to the Urban Water Management Planning Act (Act), Water Code sections 10610 through 10656. The Act requires "every urban water supplier providing water for municipal purposes to more than 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually, to prepare and adopt . . . an urban water management plan." The act requires

suppliers to describe and evaluate sources of water supply, efficient uses of water, demand management measures, implementation strategies and schedules, and other relevant information and programs. The City's 2005 Plan covers all these topics and it includes all the required attachments. (See attached).

DISCUSSION

The City's 2005 Plan describes historic and projected water supply and demand scenarios, water supply reliability, water usage trends, current and planned facilities to support demand, current and planned demand management programs, water shortage contingency plans, water recycling efforts, groundwater use, and alternative sources of water that the City is considering. Although the Plan describes planned programs, each of these proposed programs is carefully studied and approved separately by the City Council. The Draft 2005 Plan shows progress on previously reported programs and the introduction of new programs.

The City of San Diego has complied with the requirements of the Act every year since its inception 20 years ago. Historically, the Plan has served as a key reference document for citizens in understanding the City's water resource management efforts. In addition, the Plan has served as source data in the development and integration of regional water plans, and as a source in the development and preparation of the City's General Plans. However, the purpose and importance of the Plan has grown based upon the enactment of new state laws linking water supply availability to large land-use development approval.

The Plan is considered a source of information for the Water Supply Assessments, Water Code Section 10613 et seq. (Added by Stats, 2001, c. 643) and Written Verifications of Water Supply, Water Code Section 66473.7 (Added by Stats, 2001, c.642). Both statutes required detailed information regarding water availability to be provided to City/ County decision makers prior to approval of specified large development projects. Both statutes identify the Plan as a document that can be used by a water supplier to meet the standards set forth in both statutes. Thorough and complete Plans will allow water suppliers to use the Plan as a foundation to fulfill the specific requirements of these two statutes.

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is tasked with collecting and reviewing all 2005 Plans received from water agencies. The Plan is reviewed by DWR staff to determine whether or not they are complete pursuant to the Urban Water Management Planning Act. Agencies must have adopted a complete Plan that meets the requirements of the law and must have submitted it to DWR to be eligible for drought assistance or to receive grant funds through DWR. Results of the DWR review are provided to submitters through a review letter. Submitters then have the opportunity to use the review letter to revise their Plan for re-submittal. DWR provides a Legislative Report to the California Legislature one year after the Plans are due to the Department, detailing the status of and outstanding elements of the Plans. The DWR also prepares reports and provides data for any legislative hearings designed to consider the effectiveness of the submitted Plans. The City's 2005 Plan was due to DWR on December 31, 2005. However, the Water Department has contacted DWR regarding the delay in the City's submission and our intent to present the Plan to the City Council in early 2006.

The 2005 Plan was presented to and approved by the Public Utilities Advisory Committee

during their publicly noticed October 17, 2005 meeting.

ALTERNATIVES

Do not approve the draft Urban Water Management Plan. This alternative is not recommended as failure to submit a Plan as required will make the City ineligible for DWR drought assistance or ineligible to receive grant funds through DWR.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Yackly
Acting Water Department Director

Approved: R. F. Haas
Deputy Chief of Public Works

CY/cdr

Attachment: [Draft 2005 City of San Diego Urban Water Management Plan](#)