

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL POLICY

CURRENT

SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE POLICY FOR A SUSTAINABLE WATER
SUPPLY IN SAN DIEGO
POLICY NO.: 400-15
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 25, 2011

BACKGROUND:

San Diego's economy and quality of life depend on a reliable and financially viable supply of water. The City of San Diego needs to establish guiding principles through which we will ensure that our water supply remains secure.

Our City and region are facing and will continue to face uncertainties and challenges to our water supply reliability because of issues related to trending drought, pumping restrictions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, shortages in the Colorado River watershed, and the effects of Climate Change. To prepare for the challenges facing our City and region, the San Diego City Council must have comprehensive policies that embrace new technologies and innovation, encourage collaboration on all levels, and contain performance measures and regular review to ensure that they are up-to-date. Additionally, the San Diego City Council should engage stakeholders to develop implementation goals with timelines and priorities to move forward with implementation of the policy.

PURPOSE:

To establish policies to assure an adequate water supply for the City of San Diego, including the following principles:

- Cohesive elements that are financially and environmentally sound.
- Goals which reflect current water treatment, system maintenance, storage, distribution and usage technologies and allow the consideration of new technologies or opportunities.
- Collaboration with local and regional stakeholders, agencies and partners for securing water reliability.
- Collaboration with private and public agencies for infrastructure financing.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL POLICY

CURRENT

- Balance of water demand and water supply in all future land-use and planning decisions.
- Emphasis on reliable, energy efficient and economically sound water supply strategies.

POLICY:

For ease of organization, the following policies are categorized as either general, or related to water quality; conservation; importation; City, local and regional supplies; and related City, local and state laws and policies.

A. General

It is the policy of the City Council that:

1. The Mayor, Public Utilities Department or the Mayor's designee, shall advise the City Council or Council committee regularly on the City's current and future water supplies.
2. The Mayor and Intergovernmental Relations Director, with assistance from the City Attorney's Office, shall monitor legislative and regulatory actions, court decisions, and other events that could affect the City's water supply and report to the City Council on a semiannual basis.
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 supplies and demands of the region.
4. The Mayor and the Public 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 and management of costs for ratepayers.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL POLICY

CURRENT

5. City of San Diego appointees to the CWA Board of Directors shall report to the City Council on a semiannual basis for the purpose of discussing water issues. At this semiannual meeting, discussion will focus on proposals which the CWA representatives would recommend the City support to gain a sustainable water supply.
6. The Independent Rates Oversight Committee (IROC) shall report to the City Council on a semiannual basis for the purpose of discussing water issues related to its activities as outlined in San Diego Municipal Code Chapter 2, Article 6, Division 20.
7. The City Council will revisit and update this Council Policy every 5-years in conjunction with the City's Urban Water Management Plan.

It is the policy of the City Council to:

1. Develop an Implementation Plan for water supply, conservation and reuse, which will contain priorities, goals, timelines and benchmarks.
2. Support economically sound activities that create an affordable and reliable water supply to attract, retain and expand business, and promote an excellent quality of life for our residents.
3. Support decisions that are aligned with the City's Urban Water Management Plan and the Conservation Element of the City's General Plan.
4. Support the use of Water Supply Assessments related to land-use decisions.
5. Support and consider partnerships with businesses and organizations that incubate practical new technologies and scientific research to assist the City in developing a sustainable water supply, and maximizing efficiencies and savings to ratepayers.
6. Seek input from, and consider partnerships with businesses and organizations that can provide assistance to the City in water, wastewater and storm water facilities planning in order to mitigate and prepare for Climate Change and other infrastructure challenges and uncertainties.
7. Support public-public and public-private partnerships to help finance and/or implement infrastructure projects.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL POLICY

CURRENT

8. Support an “integrated water management” concept that includes imported and local water supplies, storage, conservation, wastewater and rain water, which can be used together to ensure future water supplies.
9. Support the concept that reliable and inexpensive imported water sources are finite.

B. Quality

It is the policy of the City Council to:

1. Provide its potable water customers with potable water that meets or exceeds all regulations and health standards established by Federal, State and County regulatory agencies.
2. Provide its recycled water customers with recycled water that meets or exceeds all health and industrial standards established by State and County regulatory agencies. In addition, support source control of high saline, residential and commercial water softening devices and cost-effective municipal infrastructure improvements that decrease salinity and other contaminants that may adversely affect facilities that use recycled water.
3. Monitor the review and potential promulgation of regulations pertaining to Contaminants of Emerging Concern by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

C. Conservation

It is the policy of the City Council to:

1. Support water conservation during wet and dry weather periods.
2. Support a, tiered rate or allocation pricing structure for single-family residential water customers that encourages conservation and discourages waste; and supports the needs of private sector businesses and agriculture.
3. Consider using customer specific data, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data, geographic zones and evapotranspiration information for single-family residential customer rates.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL POLICY

CURRENT

4. Support the development of grant programs for economic incentive programs to encourage water conservation; and partner with the CWA, MWD, State and Federal Government when possible. To ensure the public is aware, economic incentive programs should be included in outreach and education programs.
5. Support local and regional education and outreach programs emphasizing conservation and water efficient landscaping. Public outreach on water awareness should stress the mutual benefit of use reduction efforts and water efficient technologies, as well as demonstration projects.
6. Support the development of market-based programs that encourage conservation.
7. Support the voluntary practice of pre-treatment of industrial wastewater to conserve potable water normally used for dilution.
8. Support new technological improvements in the field of water conservation.
9. Support and encourage low-water use plumbing, landscaping and irrigation materials in public and private development.

D. Importation

1. Support economically sound activities that reduce the City's reliance on imported sources of water and increase local supplies.
2. Support efforts by CWA and others to seek new, cost-effective water supply sources.
3. 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.

E. City, Local and Regional Supplies

1. Support the economically sound development of a diverse portfolio of local water supplies to meet the City's present and future needs.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL POLICY

CURRENT

2. Support a rate structure for non-potable recycled water that encourages such use and facilitates cost-effective expansion of non-potable recycled water infrastructure while meeting the City's "Guaranteed Water for Industry" program goals.
3. Support simplification of regulatory approval for the use of non-potable recycled water and potable reuse projects.
4. Support indirect potable reuse (IPR) if the Water Purification Demonstration Project is successful.
5. Support the cost-effective expansion of the City's non-potable recycled water distribution system.
6. Support the use of graywater for irrigation.
7. Support rainwater collection and reuse for irrigation.
8. Support the development of grant programs for economic incentive programs for residential and commercial graywater and rainwater collection systems, partnering with the CWA, MWD, State and Federal Government where possible.
9. Support and consider partnerships with regional partners and with Mexico to investigate the development of water supply projects.
10. Support local and regional brackish groundwater and ocean water desalination projects.
11. Support new technological improvements in the field of groundwater, wastewater and ocean water desalination, water recycling, water reuse and IPR.
12. Explore cost-effective activities that help divert storm water to local reservoirs and underground aquifers, including Low Impact Development (LID) projects and policies, while meeting water quality regulations.
13. Support the construction of regional storage reservoirs or enlargement of existing reservoirs as needed.
14. Support cost-effective programs to recharge, protect and improve the yield from local and regional groundwater basins.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL POLICY

CURRENT

F. Related City, Local and State Laws and Policies

1. Maintain an emergency reserve storage of water as specified in City Council Policy 400-04 to minimize the impact of temporary interruptions in the delivery of imported water in the event of unforeseen emergencies or natural disasters.
2. Support implementation of Council Policy 900-14, Sustainable Building Policy for municipal development, and other sustainable building and landscaping policies to help the City conserve water.
3. Support the implementation and update all of the City's water planning documents, including the Long-Range Water Resources Management Plan, Recycled Water Master Plan (San Diego Municipal Code Chapter 6, Article 4, Division 8) and Urban Water Management Plan (State Water Code, Division 6, Sections 10610 through 10656).
4. Support and implement the City of San Diego's Drought Emergency Restrictions in Municipal Code Chapter 6, Article 7, Division 38 as necessary.
5. Support voluntary transfers of water between local and regional suppliers as authorized by State Water Code Division 1, Chapter 7.
6. Support the use of non-potable recycled water for purposes allowed under Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 3, Article 3 of the California Code of Regulations.

HISTORY:

Adopted by Resolution R-307054 - 10/25/2011