

Appendix D

Regional Planning and Reporting

Regional UWMP or Regional Alliance

Water suppliers coordinate with many regional entities when engaging in resource planning and even in day to day operations. This appendix addresses the specific opportunities for regional planning that relate to the 2015 Urban Water Management Plans.

In support of regional collaboration, both the UWMP Act (Section 10620(d)(1)) and the Water Conservation Bill of 2009 (Section 10608.20(a)(1) and 10608.20) provide mechanisms for supporting development of regional UWMPs and regional water conservation targets.

Suppliers may choose either or both of the two options below for regional reporting in the 2015 UWMP cycle:

- Regional Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP)
- Regional Alliance (Regional water use targets)

These options are described in fuller detail below.

Regional UWMP

CWC 10620 (d) (1) An urban water supplier may satisfy the requirements of this part by participation in area wide, regional, watershed, or basin wide urban water management planning where those plans will reduce preparation costs and contribute to the achievement of conservation and efficient water use.

The California Water Code allows water agencies a great deal of flexibility in determining which other agencies they will partner with and how much of the Regional UWMP will be a compilation of individual information versus common elements.

In 2010, several Regional UWMPs were prepared and submitted to DWR and these were prepared in a variety of ways. Examples are listed below. All of these methods fall within the requirements of the Water Code.

Regional UWMP Membership

- Regional wholesalers only
- Wholesaler with some or all of their associated retailer(s)
- Multiple retail agencies in the same area that are managed by one investor owned utility
- Agencies sharing a water source

Individual Information and Common Elements

- Regional UWMPs were prepared in addition to individual UWMPs for each water supplier.
- Regional UWMPs were prepared in place of individual UWMPs.
- The Regional UWMP provided water use data and target calculations for each individual agency, but addressed some elements as a region, such as climate, groundwater basin descriptions, water shortage contingency plans, and/or conservation activities. This may also have included total regional population and water use data.
- The Regional UWMP did not address the requirements for a Regional Alliance. Regional baselines and targets were not included in the Regional UWMP.
- The Regional UWMP addressed the requirements for a Regional Alliance by including regional baselines and targets (see more on Regional Alliance below).

Adoption of Regional UWMPs

Preparation of a regional UWMP requires that each participating water supplier adopt the plan. If a single document is prepared and adopted by each water supplier, then documentation from each water supplier adopting the plan must be included in the final UWMP. If a regional plan is prepared and an individual agency also prepares its own submit separate UWMP, then its governing board adopts both the individual and regional plans.

Regional UWMPs and Compliance with SBX7-7

Within a Regional UWMP, each water supplier will supply all of their individual information for compliance with the Water Conservation Bill of 2009. If the agencies that are collaborating on the Regional UWMP also wish to develop a regional baseline and target, in addition to the individual baselines and targets, this is accomplished by forming a Regional Alliance. See the below section for details on a Regional Alliance.

Regional Alliance (*Regional compliance with the Water Conservation Bill of 2009*)

CWC 10608.20 (a) (1) Each urban retail water supplier shall develop urban water use targets and an interim urban water use target by July 1, 2011. Urban retail water suppliers may elect to determine and report progress toward achieving these targets on an individual or regional basis, as provided in subdivision (a) of Section 10608.28...

A Regional Alliance addresses only the requirements of the Water Code that pertain to the baseline and target calculations for SBX7-7, The Water Conservation Act of 2009. (Appendix X) **All other requirements in the Water Code must be addressed in an individual or a Regional UWMP.**

DWR has prepared detailed guidance for agencies that choose to participate in a Regional Alliance. See Methodology 9: Regional Compliance in Methodologies for Calculating Baseline and Compliance Urban Per Capita Water Use, (DWR 2011).

Agencies that will be reporting as a Regional Alliance must refer to the Methodologies document in order to correctly calculate their regional baselines and targets. Key aspects of Methodology 9: Regional Compliance are summarized in the remainder of this Guidebook section.

Compliance Assessment for Water Suppliers Belonging to a Regional Alliance

- If a regional alliance meets its regional target, all suppliers in the alliance will be deemed compliant.
- If a regional alliance fails to meet its regional target, water suppliers in the alliance that meet their individual targets will be deemed compliant.
- Water suppliers in alliances that meet neither their individual targets nor their regional targets will be deemed noncompliant.

Eligibility for Regional Alliance Participation

To be eligible to form a regional alliance, water suppliers must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Water suppliers are recipients of water from a common wholesale water supplier. For this purpose, the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project are not considered wholesale water suppliers. Wholesale water suppliers are not required to establish and meet targets for daily per capita water use. Wholesale water suppliers serving in the role of a regional alliance are representing the urban retail water suppliers that are members of the alliance, and compliance with a regional target is on behalf of the member suppliers and not the wholesale water supplier itself.

- Water suppliers are partners with a common regional agency authorized to plan and implement water conservation.
- Water suppliers are part of a regional water management group as defined in CWC §10537.
- Water suppliers are part of an IRWM funding area, which for this purpose means an IRWM planning area formally accepted by DWR through its IRWM Region Acceptance Process.
- Water suppliers are located within the same hydrologic region, which for this purpose refers to the 10 hydrologic regions as shown in the California Water Plan. For situations where water suppliers may serve areas within more than one hydrologic region, the majority of each water supplier's Service Area Population must be located within the hydrologic region being identified as a regional alliance.
- Water suppliers have appropriate geographic scales for which methodologies developed by DWR can be applied. For this provision, water suppliers' service area boundaries must be contiguous.

Tiered Regional Alliances

In general, urban retail water suppliers can belong to only one regional alliance for the purpose of establishing and complying with urban water use targets. An exception is when regional alliances are tiered so that the members of the smallest alliance are all members of the larger alliance or alliances.

Calculation of Regional Targets and Compliance GPCD

Water suppliers in a regional alliance have three options for calculating their regional targets:

1. Each supplier calculates their individual target and the regional target is a weighted compilation of the individual targets.
2. Sum up the individual supplier's gross water use and service area population to develop regional gross water use and population. The alliance would then calculate a regional baseline GPCD and choose one target method to calculate a regional target.
3. Calculate regional gross water use or population directly for the entire regional alliance. Regional baseline GPCD and regional targets would then be derived.

In order for DWR to evaluate the adequacy of Regional Alliance targets and compliance, the data and calculations that were used to determine the Regional Alliance's baseline, target, and compliance GPCD must be submitted to DWR.

Reporting

Regional Alliance information will be reporting to DWR through three documents:

1. Individual UWMPs. If an agency within a regional alliance chooses to submit an individual UWMP rather than (or in addition to) a Regional UWMP, the individual UWMP must identify the regional alliance that the agency belongs to and the agency's individual baseline and target calculations.
2. Regional UWMPs. Members of a regional alliance can forgo submitting individual UWMPs and instead submit a Regional UWMP. The Regional UWMP will include baseline and target information for each individual agency as well as the aggregated baseline and target information for the Regional Alliance.
3. Regional Alliance Reports. A Regional Alliance must send DWR a letter stating that an Alliance has been formed and provide a list of the water supplier members. Regional Alliances that do not submit a Regional UWMP are required to submit a report to DWR that shall include all the water use target data elements for each individual agency in the Alliance and shall also include the alliance-level aggregates.

Withdrawing or Separating from a Regional Alliance

If a water supplier withdraws from or is a member of a regional alliance that is later dissolved, the water supplier must inform DWR and comply individually with interim and urban water use targets. The water suppliers remaining in the regional alliance may either submit revised regional baseline or target data, or dissolve the alliance.