

Independent Technical Panel on Demand Management Measures: Draft Recommendations

Proposed Recommendation: Authorize the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to Require Electronic Filing of Urban Water Management Plans Including Standardized Forms

The intent of this recommendation is to amend the Urban Water Management Planning Act to require water suppliers to submit urban water management plan data in consistent format to facilitate regional and statewide water planning.

Background:

The Urban Water Management Planning Act (UWMP Act) requires urban water suppliers to prepare and adopt Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs) through a public process in accordance with a list of specified content. After plan adoption, urban water suppliers are required to submit copies of their adopted UWMPs to the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the California State Library, as well as cities or counties that receive water supplies from the water suppliers.

UWMPs are written primarily as local planning documents, but the data in the plans is also critical for regional and state water planning. The plans contain data on current and future water supply and demands, recycled water and other alternative water supply projects and water conservation and drought contingency measures. This local data is aggregated and rolled up and used to develop regional and state estimates on water management implementation and water supply reliability.

DWR develops guidance and guidebooks to assist urban water suppliers in the preparation of UWMPs to comply with requirements of the UWMP Act, as well as other related legislation including: SB X7-7 Water Conservation Bill of 2009, SB 610 Water Supply Assessments, SB 221 Written Verifications of Water Supply, and AB 1420 Implementation of Water Demand Management Measures. The UWMP guidebooks include numerous (38 in the 2010 guidebook) data tables to facilitate the compilation, reporting, and review of the required information. Although DWR encourages water suppliers to use these tables and submit them electronically, standardized reporting is not required in statute. As a result, water suppliers present and submit data in different formats making the data review and aggregation more difficult.

Section 10608.52 of the Water Code directs DWR to develop a standardized water use form for water suppliers to report on progress towards meeting water conservation targets specified by SB X7-7. Section 10608.40 of the Water Code requires urban water retail suppliers to include the standardized water use form as part of their 2015 and 2020 UWMPs. DWR is currently developing the standardized water use reporting form in coordination with its Urban Stakeholder Committee.

ITP Recommendation #_:

The Independent Technical Panel on Demand Management Measures (ITP) recommends that the Legislature revise the Urban Water Management Planning Act to authorize the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to require electronic submission of Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs)

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including standardized forms, tables, or displays, in order to enable easier review and data aggregation of the plans by DWR, and to provide easier access to the plans by the public. Clarification of the Department's authority to specify forms and tables for reporting key parameters would enable a more efficient method of tabulation and analysis of the plans with a higher degree of consistency and accuracy.

Suggested statutory language: *Add the following language shown in underlined and italicized text to Section 10644(a) of the Water Code: **(this version incorporated comments at 11/22/13 ITP meeting)***

10644. (a) An urban water supplier shall submit to the department, the California State Library, and any city or county within which the supplier provides water supplies a copy of its plan, no later than 30 days after adoption. *An electronic copy of the plan shall be submitted to the department, including any standardized forms, tables, or displays specified by the department.* Copies of amendments or changes to the plans shall be submitted to the department, the California State Library, and any city or county within which the supplier provides water supplies within 30 days after adoption. *An electronic copy of amendments or changes to the plan, including any data forms, tables, or displays, shall be submitted to the department.*