

California Department of Water Resources

URBAN STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE  
LANDSCAPE AREA MEASUREMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

CHARGE

Draft January 14, 2014

Senate Bill X7-7 set a statewide goal of reducing urban per capita water use by 20% by 2020 and directed urban water suppliers to set 2020 urban water use targets. The bill provided 3 methods for suppliers to use in setting targets and directed the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to develop a 4<sup>th</sup> method. DWR was also directed to develop methodologies and guidelines for the consistent implementation of SB X7-7 requirements. In implementing this part, DWR established an Urban Stakeholder Committee to provide guidance and input in the development of the methodologies. DWR released the *Technical Methodologies for Calculating Baseline and Compliance Urban per Capita Water Use* in October, 2010.

Additional 20% $\times$ 2020 criteria and methodologies are required for the 2015 UWMP cycle. DWR began drafting these guidelines and reconvened the USC in January 2015. Water use target method 2 requires water suppliers to accurately estimate the per capita residential and dedicated irrigation landscape area for their service area. In undertaking a pilot project on landscape area measurement and in discussions with water suppliers who were developing landscape area estimates for target method 2, DWR observed that additional guidance was needed for landscape area measurement. A landscape area subcommittee was established at the September, 2013 USC meeting, but did not meet in the Fall of 2013.

Charge:

The landscape area measurement subcommittee was formed to assist DWR in the development of guidance and tools for landscape area measurement. The committee will work with DWR to develop a protocol for the use of remote sensing technologies in the measurement of landscape area. The committee will consider and develop guidelines for factors such as tree canopy, shadows, distinguishing non irrigated native vegetation from irrigated landscape, and the use of parcel boundaries. This guidance is primarily for the landscape area requirements of target method 2, but could have implications for target method 4 and the calculation of landscape area for water budgets. To stay on timeline in advance of the 2015 UWMPs, the landscape area measurement subcommittee should complete its work by the Fall of 2014.