

ITP Straw Proposal #1 v.3b (10/15/13)

Simplified and Updated Reporting Requirements for Urban Water Management Planning Act Sections 10631(f) and (g)

Purpose: In 2009, the California Legislature adopted SBX 7 7 which required water suppliers to establish measurable goals for water conservation, increasing the overall accountability for urban water suppliers to reduce per capita consumption in California. This measure was necessary to ensure that adequate water supplies are available to meet future water needs. While this approach holds water suppliers accountable for implementing reductions in per capita water use, it has the ability to simplify the reporting of water supplier conservation programs, reduce regulatory costs and provide for flexibility in how water suppliers can advance conservation and meet the prescribed water use targets. Having water suppliers provide a narrative on the activities and programs that reduce water use will encourage creative solutions and inform the state about effective water agency programs.

The Urban Water Management Planning Act (UWMPA) should be revised to reflect the significant change in approach through SBX 7 7 for ensuring measurable water conservation in California. This proposal provides recommendations which encourage compliance with the water conservation targets by allowing less prescriptive requirements for how water suppliers achieve those targets. It will reduce the overall transactional costs of achieving required conservation targets and serve as a model for state oversight. Based on this, the following changes to the UWMPA are recommended:

1. Specific DMM requirements should only be applied to water suppliers that are not on track to meet their 2015 and 2020 targets.
2. Water suppliers implementing DMMs may propose a flex track approach as an alternative which allows them to choose the most appropriate conservation measures as long as they can achieve the same water savings goals as the DMMs.
3. Water suppliers that are on track to meet their 2015 and 2020 targets shall provide a narrative explanation in their urban water management plans of what is working for their agency and how they intend to remain on track to meet their targets. The narrative could include a description of the following types information:
 - a. The effect of new standards and anticipated growth patterns on GPCD.
 - b. Significant drivers for water conservation within the water supplier's service area, such as water rates, outreach to achieve a public conservation ethic, or local conservation ordinances;
 - c. Expected water reuse including recycled municipal wastewater, storm water and rain water reuse, and grey water reuse; and
 - d. Conservation programs that the water supplier expects will provide the greatest overall savings, including both traditional and innovative approaches.

Suggested Statutory Language

10631(f): Provide a description of the supplier's water demand management measures. For suppliers which are not in compliance with their targets as determined under Section 10608.20, the description of demand management measures shall include all of the following:

10631 (g): For suppliers that are in compliance with their targets as determined under 10608.20, the description of demand management measures shall include a narrative explanation of the demand management approaches that are being used and how the agency intends to remain on track to meet the targets. The narrative may consider the following:

- a. The effect of new standards and anticipated growth patterns on GPCD;
- b. The significant drivers for water conservation within the water supplier's service area, such as water rates, outreach to achieve a public conservation ethic, or local conservation ordinances;
- c. The effect of water reuse on GPCD, including recycled municipal wastewater, storm water and rain water reuse, and graywater reuse; and
- d. The conservation programs that the water supplier expects will provide the greatest overall savings, including both traditional and innovative approaches.