

## 7.0 WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN

### 7.1 Water Shortage Response

As a result of a significant drought that occurred in Los Angeles County between 1987 and 1991 and the associated water supply shortage, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the Phased Water Conservation Plan (PWCP) on March 23, 1991. For a copy of the approved PWCP, see [Appendix C](#). Depending upon the severity of the situation, the BOS may use the PWCP to impose phases of voluntary and mandatory reductions of water use of up to 50%. The objective of the PWCP is to effectively manage the impacts of a water shortage on the District's and Marina del Rey's customers.

The PWCP is comprised of nine "Phases" that are designed to meet specific conservation targets through higher water rates for usage above the target. The PWCP has only been implemented once. Table 7.1 shows the various reduction stages of the PWCP.

**Table 7.1 Rationing Stages**

Phased Water Conservation Plan									
RATIONING STAGES									
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 6	Phase 7	Phase 8	Phase 9
Anticipated shortage in water supply	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%
Conservation Target as a Percent of Baseline Use	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%
Type of Rationing Program	Voluntary	Mandatory							

Source: Los Angeles County Ordinance No. 91-0075M

In the event that a conservation phase is declared by the BOS, the Plan also calls for the water conservation measures shown in Table 7.2, as water shortages increase.

**Table 7.2 Phased Water Conservation Plan**

<b>Phased Water Conservation Plan Water Conservation Measures in Phases</b>				
<b>Phase</b>	<b>Cutback %</b>	<b>Landscape Watering Restrictions</b>	<b>Construction Meter Restrictions</b>	<b>Other Restrictions</b>
I	10	None	None	None
II	15	None	None	None
III	20	None	No New Construction Meters	Issuance Of "Will Serve" Letter Discontinued*
IV	25	Every Other Day	No New Construction Meters	Issuance Of "Will Serve" Letter Discontinued*
V	30	Every Other Day	No New Construction Meters	Issuance Of "Will Serve" Letter Discontinued*
VI	35	Every Third Day	No New Construction Meters	Issuance Of "Will Serve" Letter Discontinued*
VII	40	Trees and Shrubs only by Bucket	Remove All Construction Meters	Issuance Of "Will Serve" Letter and Installation of all New Permanent Meters Discontinued*
VIII	45	Trees and Shrubs only by Bucket	Remove All Construction Meters	Issuance Of "Will Serve" Letter and Installation of all New Permanent Meters Discontinued*
IX	50	Trees and Shrubs only by Bucket	Remove All Construction Meters	Issuance Of "Will Serve" Letter and Installation of all New Permanent Meters Discontinued*

"Will Serve" letters will be issued that will allow recordation of final maps; however, permanent metered service to the newly created lots will not be authorized until the current drought is over (mandatory rationing discontinued).

## **7.2 Catastrophic Water Supply Interruption**

In the event of a catastrophe, the District will take the following measures to prevent water shortages: (1) utilizing the emergency interconnections with Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, (2) implementing the Phased Water Conservation Plan, and (3) enforcing the No Waste Ordinance.

The District has also prepared an Emergency Response Procedures (ERP) that includes response procedures for any foreseeable emergency. A copy of the table of contents for the ERP is included in [Appendix E](#).

### 7.3 Water Shortage Contingency Ordinances

On March 21 and May 23, 1991, the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance Nos. 91-0075M and 91-0046U to establish the Phased Water Conservation Plan and Water Wasting Prohibition. Copies of these ordinances and the applicable sections of the Los Angeles County Code (Title 11, Health and Safety) are included in [Appendix F](#).

### 7.4 Three Year Minimum Water Supply

The Urban Water Management Planning Act states that an UWMP must consider the upcoming three years as dry years, based on the driest three year historic sequence. Table 7.3 shows the current average/normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry water year supply for the District. The water supply for the District is made up of 11,587 AF/yr of imported water through a purchase agreement with West Basin MWD (included as Appendix G) and 140 AF/yr of recycled water.

**Table 7.3 Minimum Water Supply and Demand**

Minimum Water Supply (In Acre-Feet/Year)				
		Multiple Dry Water Years		
Average / Normal Water Year	Single Dry Water Year	Year	Year	Year
		2006	2007	2008
11,727	11,727	11,727	11,727	11,727

### 7.5 Water Shortage Stages Triggering Mechanisms

Prior to implementation of a phase of the PWCP, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (BOS) must determine the projected water shortage in the County. However, a public hearing must be held prior to the implementation of a phase for the purposes of determining whether a shortage exists in the District and which phase should be implemented. The determination can be influenced by the District’s water supplier, the West Basin MWD or by the regional supplier, MWD.

### 7.6 Mandatory Prohibitions on Water Wasting

On March 21, 1991, the BOS adopted No Waste Ordinance No. 91-0046U that specified a number of water saving measures that applied only to unincorporated areas

of the County. As shown in **Appendix F**, this Ordinance includes the following prohibitions:

- Washing down paved surfaces is prohibited unless required for health or safety
- Landscape watering is prohibited between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- Excessive landscape watering that results in runoff into adjoining streets, parking lots or alleys is prohibited
- Plumbing leaks must be repaired as soon as practical
- Washing of vehicles is prohibited excepted at a commercial carwash or with a hand-held bucket or hose equipped with an automatic shutoff nozzle
- Serving drinking water at public eating places is prohibited unless requested by customers
- Water used in decorative fountains must flow through a recycling system

This Ordinance was enacted on March 1991 and scheduled to sunset in January 1993.

### **7.7 Excessive Use Penalties**

Any customer that violates the regulations and restrictions on water use set forth in the “No Waste” Ordinance or Phased Water Conservation Plan shall be penalized. According to the Phased Water Conservation Plan, a customer that uses water in excess of the target quantity will be assessed a conservation surcharge on their next water bill. In the event a customer violates the provisions in the No Waste Ordinance, a progressive fine will be issued for infractions. In addition, the District may disconnect a customer’s water service if their water use continues to be excessive during drought periods.

### **7.8 Revenue and Expenditure Impacts and Measures to Overcome Impacts**

The implementation of the PWCP could result in a significant short-term reduction in the District’s revenue. The District’s sources of funding are structured into four categories: Service Charge, Facility Surcharge, Water Quantity Charge, and Standby Charge. The Service Charge is a fixed connection charge based on the size of the meter. The Facility Surcharge and Water Quantity Charge are based on the actual quantity of water used. The Standby Charge is assessed on all properties and is included on the property owner’s tax bill. A reduction in water sales will affect only the revenues from the Water Quantity Charge and Facility Surcharge. The District’s Service Charge and Stand by Charge are intended to provide adequate revenue for the District to ensure continuous operations and maintenance functions regardless of reductions in water sales.

However, if water sales do affect the operation and maintenance revenues, the District has the following measures to reduce such an impact:

- Extra revenues contributed by the conservation surcharge. During the 1991 drought, the revenues collected from the conservation surcharge generated funds which were used to offset a portion of the operation and maintenance costs.
- Delayed capital improvement projects. If necessary, the BOS can authorize the transfer of funds for capital improvement projects from the District's Accumulative Capital Outlay (ACO) Fund to the District's General Fund.
- Increased water rates. The BOS could increase water rates to meet operational needs.

### **7.9 Reduction Measuring Mechanism in Water Use**

Data on the District's water supply and demand is collected and analyzed on a bi-monthly basis. Water meters are read bi-monthly and readings are compiled into yearly summaries. Excessive water use is reported on the customer's bi-monthly bills and is compared to target conservation goals.