

## Appendix F

### Summary of San Francisco's Response to 1987-92 Drought Experience

#### **Background:**

The 1987-92 six year drought provides an example of how the near-term drought management process works in times when the operational capabilities of Hetch Hetchy and other water supplies available to the SFPUC are taxed to a point that forces drastic actions to avoid running out of water. By the sixth year of that drought period, many of the programs and actions identified in San Francisco's current Retail Water Shortage Allocation Plan (adopted in December 2001) had been implemented. The following describes some of the major actions that occurred.

#### **Demand Reductions:**

The extended drought forced San Francisco to adopt a mandatory rationing program, enforced by stiff excess use charges and the threat of shut-off for continued violations of water use prohibitions. Mandatory rationing was in effect May of 1988 through May of 1989, re-instituted in May of 1990, and continued until March of 1993. A Water Shortage Emergency Resolution was passed by the SFPUC on April 28, 1988 declaring these rationing periods (Resolution No. 88-0155). A copy of this resolution can be found at the end of this appendix.

The SFPUC's water rationing program was one of the toughest in the state and the most stringent imposed by any major urban water supply agency. Although the specifics of the program varied over time, the basic outline of the mandatory rationing program was to achieve a 25 percent reduction to 1987 (pre-drought) consumption (system-wide), with water allocations set on an account-by-account basis.

To provide a strong incentive for customers to use no more water than their allotment, the SFPUC adopted a rate structure that incorporated excess use charges. Any customer that used less water than its allotment was charged the normal rate per unit of water consumption, while any customer who used more than its allotment was charged a multiple of the normal rate for every unit of consumption above its allotment. As of January 1, 1992 (the last year of the rationing program), the rate structure shown in the table below applied to SFPUC customers.

<b>Excess Use Charges</b>	
<b>If Water Consumption Is (Over Allotment)</b>	<b>Excess Use Charge Will Be (Times Normal Rate)</b>
Up to 10%	2
10.01 - 20%	8
20.01% or over	10

In the event that water was used in excess of the customer's specified allotment, the SFPUC could, after one written warning, install a flow restrictor on the customer's service line. The charge to install and remove the restricting device is shown in the table below. If a customer continued to consume water in excess of its allotment, the SFPUC had the authority to discontinue the customer's water service and require the customer to bear the cost for the re-connection of water service.

<b>Fee For Installing Flow Restricting Devices</b>	
Meter Size	Installation/Removal Cost
to 1"	\$95
1" to 2"	\$149
3" and larger	Actual cost

In addition to pricing disincentives for excess water use, numerous water use restrictions were adopted and enforced. San Francisco retail customers were required to comply with the following water use prohibitions and restrictions:

- Water waste, including but not limited to, any flooding or runoff into the street or gutters, was prohibited.
- Hoses could not be used to clean sidewalks, driveways, patios, plazas, homes, businesses, parking lots, roofs, awnings or other hard surfaces areas.
- Hoses used for any purpose had to have positive shutoff valves.
- Restaurants served water to customers only upon request.
- Potable water was not to be used to clean, fill or maintain levels in decorative fountains.
- Use of additional water was not allowed for new landscaping or expansion of existing facilities unless low water use landscaping designs and irrigation systems were employed.
- Water service connections for new construction were granted only if water saving fixtures or devices were incorporated into the plumbing system.
- Use of potable water for consolidation of backfill, dust control or other non-essential construction purposes was prohibited.
- Irrigation of lawns, play fields, parks, golf courses, cemeteries, and landscaping of any type with potable water would be reduced by at least the amount specified for outside use in the adopted rationing plan.
- Verified water waste as determined by the Water Department would serve as prima facie evidence that the allocation assigned to the water account is excessive; therefore, the allocation was subject to review and possible reduction, including termination of service.
- Water used for all cooling purposes was to be recycled.
- The use of groundwater and/or reclaimed water for irrigation of golf courses, median strips, and similar turf areas was strongly encouraged.
- The use of groundwater and/or reclaimed water for street sweepers/washers was strongly encouraged.

In addition to water use prohibitions and directives specifically responsive to the drought, the SFPUC coincidentally was implementing long-term conservation programs, which also lowered water demands during the drought period (refer to the Demand Management discussion). Following the drought, several of the measures described above were adopted by San Francisco into permanent, on-going programs.

**Water Management:**

In addition to effecting reductions to water demands, the SFPUC also employed water management activities to control the severity of water shortages to its customers.

During the drought and for the first time in history, the SFPUC utilized a Delta supply within its system. The SFPUC imported water from the Delta through use of State Water Project South Bay Aqueduct facilities. The sources of water transferred included transfers via the California Emergency Water Bank, Placer County and the Modesto Irrigation District. The waters were diverted from the South Bay Aqueduct into the SFPUC's San Antonio Reservoir and then treated and integrated into SFPUC's water distribution system.

The amount of water actually delivered to the SFPUC was constrained due to numerous factors including the lack of willing sellers, allocation procedures, lack of priority in use of the State transmission facilities, storage constraints in San Antonio Reservoir, and water treatment constraints within the SFPUC's system. The total water that was imported into the SFPUC's system amounted to a maximum of approximately 31,000 acre-feet in one year, and in total for the drought period amounted to 59,000 acre-feet.

The importation of additional water into the SFPUC's system allowed the continuation of a 25 percent system-wide rationing program as compared to a potentially higher level of rationing had the transfers not occurred.

**System Response and Effects:**

The system-wide goal of reducing water use by 25 percent was achieved. However, the reduction was not accomplished without cost or hardship.

To achieve its annual 25 percent system-wide rationing goal, the SFPUC targeted a reduction of indoor consumption by 10 percent and outdoor consumption by 60 percent.

Due to the nature of the allocation formula for water allotments and the level of system-wide reduction goals, instances occurred where individual users or wholesale water customers were burdened with up to twice the system-wide average in delivery reductions.

Some of the costs incurred by individuals, property owners and renters include:

- The cost of installing low-flow toilets, retrofit kits for toilets and showerheads, and special low-water use landscaping and irrigation systems
- The financial losses resulting from loss of lawns, plants and trees due to the 60 percent reduction in water available for irrigation
- The cost of excess use charges (\$12,300,000 in excess use charges was billed to retail accounts in fiscal year 1991-92 alone)

The ability of SFPUC's retail customers to achieve a 25 percent reduction in the future is highly unlikely due to the "hardening" of water demands that occurred during and subsequent to the drought. The rationing programs implemented by San Francisco during the 1987-92 drought were measured by comparison to calendar year 1987 water deliveries, i.e., pre-drought conditions.

During the 1987-92 drought San Francisco's retail and wholesale water customers implemented numerous conservation measures that have led to permanent per capita water usage savings. San Francisco's current

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water demand is likely hardened as compared to the 1987 level of water demand. This situation leads to a conclusion that comparable rationing goals (e.g., up to 25 percent reduction) would be more difficult to achieve since the drought, and would require measures in excess of those implemented during the 1987-92 drought to achieve a comparable percentage of delivery reduction.

As the level of rationing increases, the economic and societal impacts become more severe. The SFPUC has first hand experience in attempting to employ rationing to levels, which are intolerable to citizens and businesses.

In 1991, water storage had deteriorated and the SFPUC was forced to immediately adopt a 45 percent system-wide rationing plan. It was proposed the reduction would be achieved through a 33 percent reduction to inside water use and a 90 percent reduction to outside water use.

San Francisco's plan for meeting its rationing goal included the following minimum and maximum criteria:

- Maximum Allocation for Single and Multi-family Residences. No single-family residence shall receive an allocation of more than 300 gallons per day; no multi-family residence shall receive an allocation of more than 150 gallons per day times the number of living units in the building.
- Minimum Allocation for All Residential Accounts. A minimum of 50 gallons per day per documented resident will be allowed. However, a minimum allocation will not be approved to increase an allocation above current usage absent a documented change in circumstances.
- Irrigation Services. Accounts classified for irrigation only will be reduced by 90 percent.
- Commercial/Industrial Allocations. Commercial and industrial allocations will be reduced by 32 percent. Hospitals and other health care facilities may be subject to lesser restrictions subject to verification that all conservation measures are in place; such approval shall require an on-site conservation inspection.
- Allocations for New Accounts. Initial allocations will be established at 50 gallons per day. These allocations will be re-evaluated after customers have installed retrofit kits provided by the San Francisco Water Department. After verification of installation, allocations will be calculated on the basis of the number of documented residents within a household, or, in the case of commercial or industrial customers, on the basis of business data supplied to the Department.

Additional water use restrictions and prohibitions were enforced:

- The washing of all automobiles, motorcycles, RVS, trucks, transit vehicles, trailers, boats, trains and airplanes was prohibited outside of a commercial washing facility.
- Exceptions to the above use restriction were windows on all vehicles and such commercial or safety vehicles requiring cleaning for health and safety reasons.
- Water used for all cooling purposes or for commercial car washes had to be recycled.
- The use of potable water on golf courses was limited to the irrigation of putting greens. The use of groundwater and reclaimed water was permitted when approved by the Department of Health.

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- The filling of new swimming pools, spas, hot tubs or the draining and refilling of existing pools, etc., was prohibited; topping off was allowed to the extent that the designated allocation was not exceeded.
- The irrigation of median strips with potable water was prohibited. The use of groundwater and reclaimed water was permitted when approved by the Department of Health.
- The use of potable water for street sweepers/washers was prohibited. The use of groundwater and reclaimed water was permitted when approved by the Department of Health.

Public and commercial response to 45 percent rationing was overwhelmingly negative. During the first weeks after notification of the program, SFPUC received over 2,000 appeal letters per day. In the month before rationing was returned to 25 percent, 19,000 appeals, 12,000 telephone calls, and 1,500 walk-in complaints occurred.

Both the allocation levels and new prohibitions required to meet this level of rationing would have had a devastating effect on commercial enterprises. Some water uses would have simply been prohibited. Simply put, rationing had been taken to a level that was considered intolerable to citizens and had become economically disastrous.

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

RESOLUTION No. 88-0155

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Water Department obtains water from the reservoirs operated by the Hetch Hetchy Water and Power and from local Bay Area reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, Due to critically low supplies of water within the reservoirs and anticipated low levels of inflow into the reservoirs, such that unless consumption is decreased there may be insufficient water supplies for human consumption, sanitation and fire protection; and

WHEREAS, Decreases in water consumption may be accomplished by reducing allocations to the Water Department's wholesale customers and by imposing water use restrictions on the Water Department's retail customers, as set forth in the Water Rationing Rules and Regulations, issued on April 21, 1988 and attached hereto as Water Rationing Rules and Regulations; and

WHEREAS, This Commission recognizes the need to declare a Water Shortage Emergency (Water Code Sec. 350, et. seq.) due to critically low water supplies now available, and the need for a reduction in water use by the San Francisco Water Department's Suburban Wholesale Customers; and

WHEREAS, This Commission recognizes the need to adopt a Water Conservation Program (Water Code Sec. 375, et. seq.) due to the critically low water supplies now available, and the need for a reduction in water use by the San Francisco Water Department's retail customers; and

WHEREAS, The City of San Jose is, by Resolution 85-0256, a temporary and interruptible wholesale customer of the Water Department, and the Settlement Agreement and Master Water Sales Contract between the City and County of San Francisco and certain Suburban Purchasers in San Mateo County, Santa Clara County and Alameda County (Settlement Agreement) requires action by the Commission to interrupt service to the City of San Jose (Section 8.17); and

WHEREAS, The City of Santa Clara is, by Resolution 85-0257, a temporary and interruptible wholesale customer of the Water Department, and the Settlement Agreement requires action by the Commission to interrupt service to the City of Santa Clara (Section 8.17); and

WHEREAS, Additional funding in the amount of \$648,780 for FY 1988/89 has been identified by the Water Department for implementation of a mandatory water rationing program; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 1988, the Water Department submitted to this Commission a Water Conservation Program; and

WHEREAS, The Conservation Program shall cease to exist in whole or in part at such time as the Commission finds that the supply of water available to the Water Department's service area has been replenished or augmented so that there are sufficient supplies to meet the needs of the Water Department's customers without the continued implementation of these measures; and

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I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission  
at its meeting of APRIL 23 1988

  
Secretary, Public Utilities Commission

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

RESOLUTION No. ~~89~~-0155

WHEREAS, The recommended Water Conservation Program has received wide-spread public distribution; and

WHEREAS, Members of the public have been given an opportunity to, and have expressed their views on the recommended Water Conservation Program in a public hearing; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Commission declares a Water Shortage Emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Commission adopts a Water Conservation Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Commission approves the Water Conservation Program dated April 21, 1988 as amended April 28, 1988, and directs that it be placed in force on May 1, 1988; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That it is not the Commission's intention to interrupt water service to the cities of San Jose and/or Santa Clara; however, pursuant to its obligation under the Settlement Agreement and Master Water Sales Contract this Commission authorizes the General Manager of the Water Department to interrupt water service to the cities of San Jose and/or Santa Clara if necessary to achieve the required water saving, however, prior to actual interruption of service to either the City of San Jose or Santa Clara, the General Manager of the Water Department shall report to the Commission the need for interruption and receive affirmation from the Commission prior to institution of the interruption; and the Commission further directs the General Manager of the Water Department to mitigate the effect of the interruptions to the extent possible and consistent with the needs of San Francisco's permanent customers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Commission hereby authorizes the additional budget needs to be added to the Water Department's Conservation Programmatic Budget, thus amending the Water Department's budget request for FY 1988/89; and

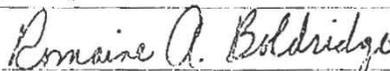
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Commission hereby designates Tuesday, May 24, 1988 as the date for a public hearing by the Public Utilities Commission for considering proposals for rate increases and additional charges for water service and water supplied by the San Francisco Water Department to retail customers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Commission hereby designates Tuesday, May 24, 1988 as the date for a public hearing by the Public Utilities Commission for considering proposals for rate structure adjustments for water service and water supplied by the San Francisco Water Department to wholesale customers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the revenue requirements and an analysis of the rate increases, rate structure adjustments and additional charges be made available for public inspection and review beginning Monday, May 16, 1988 in Room 287, City Hall, San Francisco.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission  
at its meeting of APRIL 23 1988

  
Secretary, Public Utilities Commission