

**California Water Plan Update 2009**  
**Notes from Urban Water Use Efficiency Management Strategy Workshop**  
**July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**I. Urban Water Use Efficiency in California**

- *Include* a purpose statement explaining why this should be done and why it is a priority – e.g., future demands, agriculture-urban conflicts, infrastructure weaknesses, moral imperative, sustainability
  - *mention major policy drivers*
  - *also mention successes – conservation, education, funding*

**A) Governor’s 20 percent Reduction Target by 2020**

- Clarify estimated net gains of water savings given population increase (see particularly figures on page 4)
  - Table of figures Page 4: Are these numbers taking population increase into account?
  - Include examples where water use has stayed the same even with increase

**B) New section begins on page 3 – needs heading**

- *Clarification needed* on page 3, paragraph 4: What does the “44 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions” average include?
  - When does measuring begin and end?
  - Does this include home water heating?
  - Are these end user numbers?
  - What is the breakdown for different uses?
- Suggestion to add figures for the volume of fuel (as available), and also for the costs of different water types – desalinated, groundwater, etc
- *Mention* the connection between this strategy and the goals of to AB 32 and WETCAT
- *Consider* including the higher end of the range for initial target – 1 .11 maf is the lower end of the range
  - Governor’s mandate was for year 2020, keep in mind that the CWP is a 50 year plan (generally, aim high rather than low)
  - language can note that the CWP is consistent and supportive of the mandate, but has a different timeframe
- Footnote 1 is possibly missing a reference
- Page 4 paragraphs 2 and 3: different data sources give different figures (e.g., Pacific Institute versus CALFED), so clarify that the figures reflect what can be achieved given specific assumptions (and note these)
- Figures on page 4: suggestion to clarify these in terms relevant to people – real terms like gallons, or acres of lawns

**II. Potential Benefits of Urban Water Use Efficiency**

- *Page 7: Clarify* time frame – This strategy is working from multiple time frames (e.g., 2020, 2050, and ?)

- Define “urgent actions” in terms of these different timelines
- *Page 8: Call out tradeoffs: conservation (potentially) means less groundwater, so will impact opportunities for reuse (with counter-claims involving contaminant loads, energy costs, and the efficiency of groundwater recharge)*
  - *in this regard, present a full cost equation that highlights potential net effects through a water balance*
- *Page 10: When discussing alternative supplies, look into water supply, quality, and reliability drawbacks, especially when compared to alternative water supplies*
  - **ACTION:** Ray Hoagland to provide text on this

### III. Potential Costs of Urban Water Use Efficiency

- *Page 11: Break down benefits and costs by hydrologic region, and update figures if possible*
- *Page 12: again, clarify possible negative impacts on water reuse, and potential increases in costs (associated with contaminants, etc)*
  - *clarify that the strategy is more appropriate in some regions than others for these regions*
- *Call out issue of over irrigation of lawns and underground storage*
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### IV. Major Issues Facing Urban Water Use Efficiency

**new issue: local government ordinances that impede conservation efforts;** having these repealed may require legislation

#### a) Funding

- *Add language about the lack of funding for public-private partnerships (e.g., “Pay as you Save”)*
- *Mention drought assistance funding*
- *Note that IRWM program funds a variety of activities and may encourage the use of subsidized water*
  - (a) *suggestion that there should be a recommendation that biases funding toward conservation and reuse*

#### b) Program Implementation

#### c) Data Collection

- i) *identify the most important urban uses because these are the ones that people will act upon (e.g., do they want their showers or their lawns?)*

#### d) Education and Motivation

#### e) Innovation

### V. Recommendations to Achieve Additional Urban Water Use Efficiency

- *Correction at bottom of page 15 should be labeled recommendation #4, top of page 16 should be recommendation #5 (and other numbers fixed accordingly)*

- *Add recommendation for ending the funding of subsidized water (via IRWM, etc)*
- *Add recommendation that encourages public-private partnerships*
- #3: *Use stronger language than “consider”*
- #3: *Specify the use of “climate appropriate” plants in landscaping*
- #4: *Add a bullet point for the development of standards for large landscape users like schools, parks and golf courses*
- #5:
  - *use stronger language than “consider”, and clarify to whom this is directed*
  - *Each bullet reads like a stand alone recommendation, and should be raised to the level of recommendations*
  - *phrasing is unclear*
  - *Add sub-metering for institutions and landscapes (and mention/define it earlier in the text)*
- *Consider adding of mandatory residential retrofitting at the point of sale (the approach was debated)*
  - *comprehensive communitywide rollouts can help avoid overburdening and unfairly targeting home-sellers*
  - *if retrofitting is required, there is a need for tracking and enforcement, setting dates for turnover, and addressing rental housing*
- *Add recommendation to address local ordinances which impede water use efficiency – such as green lawn ordinances*
  - *Identify these barriers in the issues section*

## **Participants**

### **In Room:**

Sarah Agahi, County of San Diego  
 Rick Breitenbach, CALFED  
 Evon Chambers, PCL  
 Sharif Choudhury, CEC  
 Steven Cruz, CBIA  
 Elizabeth Garvic, CAR  
 Rebecca Kanegawa, MWH  
 Richard Mills, SWRCB  
 Betty Yee, Central Valley RWQCB

Chriss Fakund, DWR  
 Megan Fidell, DWR  
 Dorian Fougères, CCP  
 Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR  
 Ray Hoagland, DWR  
 Jennifer Kofoid, DWR  
 Lew Moeller, DWR  
 Dave Todd, DWR

### **DWR and CCP:**

Lisa Beutler, CCP  
 Tito Cervantes, DWR  
 Charlotte Chorneau, CCP

### **On Phone:**

Melanie Powers  
 Leighanne Resser  
 Terry Stubbings  
 Jack Sullivan, League of Women Voters