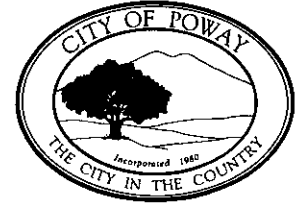


CITY OF POWAY

STEVE VAUS, Mayor
JIM CUNNINGHAM, Deputy Mayor
DAVE GROSCH, Councilmember
BARRY LEONARD, Councilmember
JOHN MULLIN, Councilmember

Public Comment
ELAP Regulations Development/Laboratory Standard
Deadline: 9/16/16 12:00 noon



September 15, 2016

California Department of Water Resources
Attn: Marty Berbach, Senior Environmental Scientist
Water Use Efficiency
901 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

State Water Resources Control Board
Attn: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIA EMAIL: WUE@water.ca.gov; commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Comment Letter – Proposal to Implement Executive Order B-37-16 through Water Shortage Contingency Plans and Long-Term Water Use Targets

Dear Mr. Berbach and Ms. Townsend,

On behalf of the City of Poway, we would like to thank the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for initiating an open and collaborative process in the development of Water Shortage Contingency Plans (WSCP) and new Long-Term Water Use Targets for urban water agencies.

The City of Poway provides recycled water distribution, wastewater collection, and potable water production and distribution services. The City operates a T-5 conventional water treatment plant that feeds 13,885 active metered connections through diverse topographical terrain.

The City of Poway has demonstrated the capability of achieving a reduction in water use compliant with SWRCB mandates, **exceeding** the 24 percent reduction assigned to Poway by **5.3 percent** between June 2015 and May 2016. Furthermore, through the recent self-certifying process where Poway's conservation standard was set at zero percent, Poway's water customers have continued to conserve cumulatively reducing water use by **25.5 percent** compared to 2013 usage from June 2016 through August 2016.

Poway's customers have chosen to conserve water this summer without a declared supply shortage or state mandate, and have made conservation a way of life. In light of this fact, the City of Poway strongly encourages DWR and the SWRCB to consider the following recommendations when developing a framework for Water Shortage Contingency Plans and Long-Term Water Use Targets:

Water Shortage Contingency Plans

- Water agencies should have the flexibility to create a WSCP that best suits the needs of its local service area, supplies, demands and resources. Specifically, one of the proposals being considered for the WSCP is to have agencies conduct a 5-year look ahead "stress test" for supply and demand. An agency's conservation target should be based on the supplies that it certifies are available in its 5-year "stress test".

- Agencies that pass a 5-year “stress test” should not be required to perform an annual report. This will allow DWR to focus its time and energy on agencies that are in need of their support the most.
- Triggers should be set at the local level rather than by the state. Simply stated, when projected supplies do not meet projected demand for a given year, WSCP measures and required reporting should be required. Given the diverse water supply conditions throughout the state, it would be impractical to develop a set of statewide criteria for triggers that fairly apply to all water agencies. The City of Poway is deeply concerned about being forced into a higher WSCP shortage level than local supply conditions merit.

Long-Term Water Use Targets

- The City of Poway urges DWR and the SWRCB to consider issuing a framework by January 2017, but also to extend the deadline for the full development of the permanent requirements. This will allow for adequate feedback and adjustments to the permanent regulations. Water agencies will need time to evaluate both indoor and outdoor standards, as well as the pilot testing. The framework should provide a broad policy outline on the method to calculate new targets. The details of these calculations should be based on the findings of ongoing studies and tests. Additionally, we strongly recommend the earliest compliance year for the new target be 2025.
- Water targets should only apply to imported water and exclude drought-resilient supplies. Excluding sources such as recycled water, potable re-use and desalinated water will further promote the importance in developing these sources. But, including these supplies in the targets would only discourage further investment in these supplies and misalign with the Governor’s Executive Order which states agencies need to “strengthen local drought resilience”.
- The targets should exempt agricultural water use, or consider setting a separate goal for this sector that provides human and economic benefit.

Indoor Residential

- Future indoor standards (i.e., plumbing codes, appliance standards) must be developed based on sound technical studies that clearly demonstrate how efficiency will be achieved.
- Future standard GPCD need to take into account the adverse impact to wastewater systems. Within the City’s wastewater collections system there has been an increase in sewer odor issues as a result of reduced flows. This has already resulted in unexpected costs with consultant studies and mitigation measures (bioxide treatments and charcoal filter systems). Further reduced wastewater flows will only exacerbate sewer odor issues. Additionally, although not directly related to indoor residential use, our wastewater collections system has seen a significant increase in root intrusion over this last year due to drought conditions. Overall, impacts from further reduced flows and increased concentration could cause detrimental damage and hamper regulatory compliance.

Outdoor Landscape

- Poway supports the use of irrigable acres rather than irrigated acres. Irrigated acreage represents properties that have reduced outdoor water use both through voluntary efforts and as mandated. Additionally, a multitude of customers are in the process of converting to water efficient landscaping to replace turfed areas.
- Outdoor landscape budget must accurately account for “non-landscape” water uses, such as livestock or medical needs.

- Using multiple evapotranspiration adjustment factors (ETAFs) based on the actual date the home was built becomes very complicated and impractical as water agencies may not have data on when a home was built and landscaping was installed. Therefore, all existing landscape areas should start at an ETAF of 0.8. New homes could start at the appropriate ETAF based on the state and local landscape ordinance in place at the time of land-use approval.
- The proposed method would require additional water agency resources. Even with state provided satellite imaging on total landscape area, we will have to verify the findings as an obligation to our customers and likely have to process relevant variances. We estimate this effort will require at least four full-time employees at an average annual cost of \$416,415.

Commercial, Industrial and Institutional (CII)

- The City recommends that the state conduct an economic study including input from the impacted trade organizations before implementing statewide CII water budgets. The costs involved in installing, maintaining and reading separate indoor and outdoor meters coupled with forcing CII to change processes to meet targets could have huge financial implications and economic impacts.
- In the City of Poway, rate structure incentives for water conservation already exist, as sewer rates are tied to directly to water consumption. As a result, in order to operate as efficiently as possible, it is already in the best interest of our local CII to conserve water through their existing operational processes.

System Water Loss

- The framework must contain clear definitions on types of water loss, consistent with AWWA M36, Water Audits and Loss Control Programs.

In a state as large and diverse as California, one size will not fit all when it comes to drought response or measures to achieve water reductions. It is evident that water conservation will continue to be a priority for Poway residents, as our cumulative water use (residential and CII) **has reduced by 44 percent since 2008.**

If you need additional details, please contact Mike Obermiller, Assistant Director of Public Works, at 858-668-4716 or mobermiller@poway.org.

Regards,



Tina White
City Manager

Senator Joel Anderson, Fax (916) 651-4938
 Assemblymember Brian Maienschein, Fax (916) 319-2177
 San Diego County Water Authority, Board Chairman, Mark Weston, Fax (858) 522-6568
 San Diego County Water Authority, General Manager, Maureen Stapleton, (858) 522-6568