



City of Santa Barbara

Public Works Department

www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov

September 10, 2008

Main Offices
630 Garden Street
P.O. Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA
93102-1990

20x2020 Agency Team on Water Conservation
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

SUBJECT: URBAN WATER CONSERVATION BASELINES AND TARGETS

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the City of Santa Barbara, I am pleased to provide initial comments on the 20x2020 Statewide Implementation Plan for water conservation.

Administration
Tel: 805.564.5377
Fax: 805.897.2613

Engineering
Tel: 805.564.5363
Fax: 805.564.5467

Facilities
Tel: 805.564.5415
Fax: 805.897.2577

Street Maintenance
Tel: 805.564.5413
Fax: 805.897.1991

Transportation Operations
Transportation Planning
Tel: 805.564.5385
Fax: 805.564.5467

Water Resources
Tel: 805.564.5387
Fax: 805.897.2613

Granada Offices
1221 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Environmental Services
(Recycling Programs)
Tel: 805.564.5587
Fax: 805.564.5688

Downtown Parking
1221 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Tel: 805.564.5656
Fax: 805.564.5655

- We salute the State's recognition of the importance of water conservation in response to the current drought and projected long-term supply deficits.
- We support the strategy of setting water conservation targets on a hydrological regional basis, given regional differences in climate, and commercial and industrial characteristics.
- For the program to be equitable, it is imperative that baseline information be set in a way that does not penalize agencies that have had an active and long standing commitment to reducing water demand. For example, the City of Santa Barbara has a comprehensive Water Conservation Program that offers 21 water conservation components, including rebates, incentives, and assistance. The program has been active and growing for over 20 years. Therefore the City's baseline for measuring success is the mid-1980s and the proposed 20% targets should reflect that fact.
- Year-to-year weather variations can significantly affect water usage. We recommend that the baseline process account for this, as well as allowing for short term variability in demand in response to unusual or atypical weather patterns.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to ongoing involvement in the effort to increase the State's water use efficiency.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Bjork
Acting Water Resources Manager

BF/AJ/spm

cc: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director