

STAFF REPORT

To: Board of Directors

From: Cathleen Brennan, Water Resources Analyst

Agenda: January 14, 2020

Report: January 7, 2020

Subject: Water Resources Informational Report

Attachments: Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Update on Regional Water Demand Study

Coastside County Water District (District) is participating in the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency's (BAWSCA) regional water demand study with Maddaus Water Management. This work will support the District's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan. The regional water demand projections through 2045 will also help BAWSCA's efforts to implement a long-term reliable water supply strategy.

The District has provided production, consumption (sales), and rate data for the demand modeling. The demand projections for the region and each BAWSCA agency uses two different models – the **Econometric Model** and the **Least Cost Planning Decision Support System (DSS Model) Model**. In May of this year, Maddaus Water Management, Inc. and BAWSCA will produce a final Water Demand and Conservation Report with the results of the demand study.

Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Advisory

The District received a few phone calls during the first week in January enquiring about the new water efficiency laws being implemented within the next decade. Recent news media reports have provided inaccurate or misleading information about how these new standards will be implemented. To assist water agencies with providing the correct information to the public, ACWA created a fact sheet to clarify the intent and implementation of the new laws. Attached to this staff report is ACWA's fact sheet and frequently asked questions regarding the water efficiency laws.

On May 31, 2018, two long-term water-use efficiency/conservation bills (SB 606 and AB 1668) were signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown that are intended to help the state better prepare for droughts and climate change.

One of the biggest components of the bills is the creation of water-use objectives for water agencies (not individual households or businesses).

Local water agencies will be responsible for calculating their water-use objective and determining whether their systemwide, aggregate water use meets that objective. If necessary, they will also have flexibility in how best to help customers use water more efficiently, such as conservation rebates and educational programs.

Starting in 2027, the State Water Board could issue fines to local water agencies that have not meet their water-use objectives. These fines would be levied on agencies, not individuals.

The bills also establish new planning and submittal requirements for Agricultural Water Management and Urban Water Management plans.

ACWA and its members worked tirelessly to help shape these bills into a framework that is a step in the right direction while maintaining local control over water management decisions. Overall, ACWA believes these bills will build on the state's ongoing efforts to "make water conservation a California way of life."

Water agencies must calculate their system-wide, water-use objectives by November 2023 based on the following components:



Water efficiency standards for indoor water use

This will be based on a provisional standard of 55 gallons of water a day per person served by the water agency.



Outdoor water use

This standard is still being determined, but will account for local climate and irrigable acres.



Commercial, industrial and institutional landscape irrigation



Water loss (system leaks)



Unique local circumstances (ie: livestock water use)



Credit for recycled water use

Make water conservation a California way of life.

On May 31, 2018, two long-term water-use efficiency conservation bills (SB 606 and AB 1668) were signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown that call for the creation of indoor and outdoor water-use targets for water agencies. The following information provides an overview of how these bills will affect water agencies and residents across the state.

Q. What are urban water use objectives?

- A. Starting in 2023, urban water suppliers (which have 3,000 or more service connections or annually serve more than 3,000 acre feet of water) will be required to submit a calculated urban water-use objective to the state. Urban water suppliers will be required to meet their urban water use objective by 2024. The urban water use objective will be based on residential water use efficiency standards for indoor and outdoor water use, and system-wide water loss standards.

Q. Will the state issue these urban water-use objectives for individual water users?

- A. No. The water-use objectives are for local water suppliers' system-wide, aggregate water use. There is no requirement in these bills that individual households must adhere to a specific water-use standard.

Q. Will individual water users be fined for exceeding water-use objectives?

- A. No. The bills establish possible fines, starting in 2027, on local water agencies that do not meet their water-use objectives. These fines would be levied on the agencies, not individuals.

Q. How will local water agencies meet these new urban water use objectives?

- A. Each year, local water agencies will be responsible for ensuring whether their system-wide, aggregate water use meets the objective, and how to best help their customers use water more efficiently to help the water agency meet the objective.

Q. How will the state's water efficiency standards be calculated?

- A. In an effort to ensure the water efficiency goals are fair, they will be calculated using water efficiency standards for indoor and outdoor water use that are developed through research and public input. The indoor calculation will initially be based on a provisional standard of 55 gallons of water a day per person in each household. The outdoor calculation is still being determined, but will account for local climate and the number of irrigable acres, including residential and commercial outdoor landscaping

in the district's service area. Variances for special circumstances will also be allowed.

In 2025, the indoor standard is provisionally scheduled to change to 52.5 gallons of water a day per person. In 2030, it is provisionally scheduled to change to 50 gallons of water a day per person.

Q. Is it easy to limit indoor water use to 55 gallons per person per day?

- A. Based on industry estimates, many households already meet this standard. The Alliance for Water Efficiency has an online water calculator (www.home-water-works.org/calculator) that will help customers estimate how much water is used in their household. Households with water-efficient appliances are likely using 55 gallons or less per person per day.

Remember, the state water efficiency standards will use this calculation to develop an aggregate goal for water agencies. For example, a local water agency with 1,000 connections that estimates it's serving a population of 2,500 people would have a water efficiency standard based on 2,500 X 55 gallons per day, plus the outdoor and system water loss calculations are still being determined.

Q. Will commercial water users be required to use water more efficiently?

- A. Yes. By 2022, the state will adopt water use efficiency performance measures for various commercial, industrial and institutional (schools, parks, etc.) water users.

Q. Will agricultural water users be required to use water more efficiently?

- A. Yes. Every five years, agricultural water suppliers will be required to update agricultural water management plans to include an annual water budget, drought contingency actions, and actions to reduce water loss and improve system efficiency.

Q. Where can I find more information?

- A. For more information visit ACWA's website at www.acwa.com/resources or the State Water Resources Control Board's website at www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/california_statutes.html.