

STAFF REPORT

To: Board of Directors

From: Cathleen Brennan, Water Resources Analyst

Agenda: December 11, 2018

Report: December 5, 2018

Subject: Water Resources Informational Report

Making Water Conservation A California Way of Life - Update

BACKGROUND

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), along with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), finalized their primer on implementation of Senate Bill 606 and Assembly Bill 1668. These two policy bills enacted in 2018 were the direct result of Governor Brown's Executive Order B-37-16. The primer summarizes the state's initial implementation efforts. The new legislation makes significant amendments to the California Water Code (CWC) and provides new authorities and requirements. The major areas of coverage in the legislation are urban water use efficiency, eliminating urban water waste, strengthening urban local drought resilience, improving agricultural water use efficiency, and improving agricultural drought planning.

The primer and other resources can be found at

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/Making-Conservation-a-California-Way-of-Life>



URBAN WATER USE

The DWR and the SWRCB are tasked with establishing numeric standards for (1) indoor residential use (*GPCD*), (2) outdoor residential use (3) outdoor CIII (non-residential) water use with dedicated irrigation meters, (4) water losses, and (5) approved variances. This approach is a direction toward creating a water budget – based method for quantifying urban water use objectives across the state.

Based on the four standards and approved variances listed above, a method to estimate the amount of water an urban water supplier retailer would have used in the previous year in its service area is described as the **annual urban water use objective**. More specifically, the annual urban water use objective is defined (CWC § 10609(a)) as the sum of the following:

1. Aggregate estimated efficient indoor water use.
2. Aggregate estimated efficient outdoor water use.
3. Aggregate estimated efficient outdoor irrigation of non-residential areas with dedicated irrigation meters.
4. Aggregate estimated efficient water losses (distribution system losses).
5. Aggregate estimated water use for approved variances.

As found in CWC § 10609.4 (a), 55 gallons per capita daily until January 1, 2025 is the indoor standard for water suppliers/retailers. Non-residential water use efficiency will be managed by performance measures or best management practices after soliciting participation from stakeholders. The considerations for developing these performance measures include a classification system, water audits, volume of use, and thresholds for converting to dedicated irrigation meters or other equivalent technologies.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The legislation requires additional reporting requirements and changes to existing reporting requirements in Urban Water Management Plans and Water Shortage Contingency Plans. This includes a special supplemental to the Urban Water Management Plan due on January 1, 2024. Urban Water Management Plans will require a supply reliability (drought risk assessment – DRA) description for five consecutive dry years. Water Shortage Contingency Plans will be required to describe six levels of water shortage, along with the response actions. In addition, an **annual water use report** will need to be submitted by November 1st of each year to report on compliance with the urban water use objective. An **annual water supply and demand assessment report** will be due by June 1st of each year, starting in 2022.

STATE PROVIDED DATA

The DWR will need to provide urban water suppliers/retailers with the following data:

1. The area of residential irrigable lands.
2. The area of landscaped area at the parcel level.
3. Unique local conditions to support calculation of an urban water use objective.

The state will need to provide water suppliers with specific guidance on preparing the 2020 urban water management plan, drought risk assessments, water shortage contingency plans and urban water shortage assessments

SUMMARY TABLE OF TASKS FOR WATER RETAILERS

CWC § 10621(a) CWC § 10621(c)	Update and adopt an Urban Water Management Plan and submit to DWR	July 1, 2021 and every five years thereafter
CWC § 10621(c) CWC § 10632(a) CWC § 10635(b)	Prepare and adopt a Water Shortage Contingency Plan and Drought Risk Assessment as part of the Urban Water Management Plan.	July 1, 2021 and every five years thereafter
CWC § 10632.1	Prepare and submit to the Department of Water Resources an urban water shortage assessment report.	June 1, 2022 and annually thereafter
CWC § 10609.24(a)	Submit annual report to Department of Water Resources urban water use objectives, actual urban water use, implementation of non-residential water use performance measures, and progress toward urban water use objectives.	November 1, 2023 and annually thereafter
CWC § 10621(f)(2)	Adopt and submit to the Department of Water Resources supplemental to adopted 2020 Urban Water Management Plan on implementation of demand management measures to achieve their urban water use objective.	January 1, 2024