

● **Board of Directors**
Water Planning and Stewardship Committee

June 10, 2008 Board Meeting

Revised 8-9

Subject

Adopt Water Supply Alert Resolution

Description

In May, the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee reviewed a draft Water Supply Alert Resolution calling for local agencies to achieve extraordinary conservation by adopting and enforcing drought ordinances and other measures. This letter recommends ~~the committee and~~ the Board adopt an updated version of the resolution reflecting board and member agency feedback. The resolution was revised at the request of the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee. Near-term actions include accelerating public messaging, implementing local drought ordinances, and developing additional local water supplies.

Background

Metropolitan’s call for extraordinary conservation, as outlined in the resolution, is consistent with Metropolitan’s Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) Plan. Extraordinary conservation would reduce demands throughout Metropolitan’s service area, helping to preserve the region’s dry-year storage reserves. Actions that reduce demands now could avoid implementation of, or reduce the magnitude of supply allocations in 2009 or 2010 if dry conditions persist.

Water Supply Alert Resolution

The WSDM Plan guides Metropolitan’s supply actions under both wet and dry conditions for achieving reliability. The following set of “conditions” would help communicate the serious water supply situation and the need for stronger water conservation practices:

Baseline Water Use Efficiency	Ongoing implementation of conservation, recycling and outreach, programs to achieve permanent increases in water use efficiency and build storage reserves.
Condition 1: Water Supply Watch	Local agency voluntary dry-year conservation measures and use of regional storage reserves.
Condition 2: Water Supply Alert	Regional call for cities, counties, member agencies and retail water agencies to implement extraordinary conservation through drought ordinances and other measures to mitigate use of storage reserves.
Condition 3: Water Supply Allocation	Implement Metropolitan Supply Allocation Plan.

Under the resolution (**Attachment 1**) the Board would declare a Water Supply Alert urging cities, counties, member agencies and retail water agencies to pursue extraordinary conservation measures, including adopting and implementing local drought ordinances. Attachment 1 is revised based on direction from the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee. **Attachment 2** lists examples of immediate actions that would be requested of the public to immediately start saving water and maximize voluntary conservation throughout the remainder of 2008.

The proposed Water Supply Alert Resolution is designed to increase awareness of the region’s critical water supply conditions and calls for immediate extraordinary actions. While many cities and water agencies in

Southern California are already implementing local drought ordinances, the Resolution urges the remaining entities to institute or develop and implement their own ordinances as soon as possible.

Immediate Actions

Metropolitan would support the member agencies' efforts to achieve savings by significantly accelerating Metropolitan's current media and outreach campaigns to communicate the need for extraordinary conservation because of the significant reduction in the region's imported supplies. In conjunction with the member agencies, Metropolitan would develop and deliver regional messages through expanded media outlets and channels. Potential activities include: providing lawn watering information to nightly news weather reports; providing water supply status information to elected officials and other stakeholders at regular intervals; expanding outreach efforts to affected industries and stakeholder groups; and assisting member agencies and retail agencies with messaging efforts to local communities.

As part of the media campaign, Metropolitan would urge all customers in the service area to immediately implement the conservation actions in [Attachment 2](#). By aggressively promoting these actions, staff estimates that as much as 200,000 acre-feet of savings could be realized over the next 12 months. A summary of how the estimated savings is derived is contained in [Attachment 3](#).

Summary

In order to effectively manage and reduce the risk of water shortages, there must be aggressive actions taken to reduce demand in the service area. These actions include additional water conservation and acceleration of local supply development. Results of these efforts would reduce pressure on storage reserves. This board action would initiate efforts at the local and regional level.

Policy

By Minute Item 37324, dated September 1988, the Board established financial incentives for water conservation and authorized funding new and emerging technologies.

By Minute Item 43747, dated October 12, 1999, the Board authorized partnerships with state and federal agencies under Metropolitan's Conservation Credits Program.

By Minute Item 43021, dated June 9, 1998, the Board adopted the Local Resources Program.

By Minute Item 47049, dated April 10, 2007 the Board authorized open program alternative approach for the Local Resources Program.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Options #1 and #2:

The proposed action is categorically exempt under the provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The proposed action involves the funding and minor alterations of existing private or public facilities, along with minor modifications in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. These activities would result in negligible or no expansion of use and no possibility of significantly impacting the physical environment. Additionally, the action involves the adoption or alteration of educational outreach of conservation incentive programs which involve no physical alteration in the areas affected. Accordingly, the proposed action qualifies under Class 1, Class 4, and Class 22 Categorical Exemptions (Sections 15301, 15304, and 15322 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

The CEQA determination is: Determine that pursuant to CEQA, the proposed action qualifies under two Categorical Exemptions (Class 1, Section 15301, Class 4, Section 15304, and Class 22, Section 15322 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

CEQA determination for Option #3:

None required

Board Options

Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determination and the proposed Water Supply Alert Resolution.

Fiscal Impact: Upon adoption of the Water Supply Alert Resolution, costs related to staff resources and expenditures in Metropolitan’s Conservation Credit programs will likely increase as customers respond to the call for extraordinary conservation. Lower water sales will result in higher future water rates. Rates could increase higher than projected if water sales fall below 2.23 MAF as budgeted for fiscal year 2008/09.

Business Analysis: The local city, county, member agency and retail water agency actions called for in Water Supply Alert will help the region preserve already depleted storage preserves and help the region avoid or reduce the magnitude of a potential shortage in 2009.

Option #2

Adopt the CEQA determination and the proposed Water Supply Alert Resolution with modifications to the actions called for within the resolution.

Fiscal Impact: Upon adoption of the Water Supply Alert Resolution, costs related to staff resources and expenditures in Metropolitan’s Conservation Credit programs will likely increase as customers respond to the call for extraordinary conservation. Lower water sales will result in higher future water rates.

Business Analysis: The local city, county, member agency and retail water agency actions called for in Water Supply Alert will help the region preserve already depleted storage preserves and help the region avoid or reduce the magnitude of a potential shortage in 2009.

Option #3

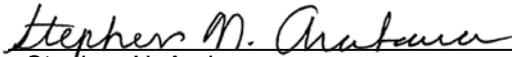
Do not adopt the proposed Water Supply Alert Resolution.

Fiscal Impact: Metropolitan may need to purchase more transfer water to protect storage reserves.

Business Analysis: Demands for imported water may exceed supply, placing further stress on limited storage reserves.

Staff Recommendation

Option #1



Stephen N. Arakawa
Manager, Water Resource Management

6/9/2008
Date



Jeffrey Nightlinger
General Manager

6/9/2008
Date

Attachment 1 – Water Supply Alert Resolution

Attachment 2 – Examples of Immediate Actions for Residents of Metropolitan’s Service Area

Attachment 3 – Water Supply Alert Potential Savings Estimates

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
CALLING FOR A WATER SUPPLY ALERT**

WHEREAS, Metropolitan's main sources of imported supplies are facing unprecedented challenges because of record dry conditions for eight of the last nine years along the Colorado River and deteriorating environmental conditions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta; and

WHEREAS, since 2003 Metropolitan's Colorado River supplies have been significantly diminished because California reduced its use of River water due to drought conditions and in accordance with a series of intra-California and multi-state agreements on the Colorado River; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan's State Water Project supplies from the Delta will be reduced by nearly 30 percent this year due to court-ordered pumping restrictions to protect endangered species; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan and its member agencies are withdrawing water from surface and groundwater storage reserves to meet current water demands, leaving the region's supplies vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan must maintain a prudent level of reserve supplies in the case of a supply disruption from an earthquake, catastrophe or other event; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan has already curtailed the delivery of water for agricultural and groundwater replenishment use throughout its six-county service area; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan's 1999 Water Surplus and Drought Management plan guides Metropolitan's water supply management actions and includes provisions for implementing extraordinary conservation under dry conditions; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan and the member agencies have taken major actions this year to accelerate conservation and recycling implementation, and continue to aggressively pursue other locally-produced water supplies such as groundwater storage and recovery, and groundwater and seawater desalination; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan and the member agencies, as well as are increasing public messaging to create a heightened awareness of the Region's supply challenges; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan relies on the actions of its 26 member agencies and other retailers to enact and implement local conservation measures,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, under its Water Surplus and Drought Management Plan, declares that Southern California in Metropolitan's service area is in a Water Supply Alert condition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Metropolitan urges all cities, counties, member agencies and retail water agencies to implement extraordinary conservation measures to preserve regional storage reserves; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Metropolitan urges all cities, counties, member agencies and retail water agencies in the region to immediately activate and enforce existing conservation and drought ordinances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all cities, counties, member agencies and retail water agencies who have not adopted drought ordinances, are urged to immediately adopt and enforce conservation and drought ordinances that include measures such as: tiered rate structures that promote conservation; restrictions on the hours of outdoor watering; prohibitions on landscape irrigation runoff; provisions for water efficient landscapes in new construction and landscape retrofits; hotlines or other mechanisms for the public to report inefficient or prohibited water use; restrictions on use of potable water for street cleaning; new or enhanced rebate programs for water saving devices; new or enhanced incentives to maximize the use of recycled water; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Metropolitan urges all member agencies and retail water agencies participating in its Local Resources Program to accelerate completion and optimize operations of water recycling and groundwater recovery projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Metropolitan will coordinate with the member agencies to develop a unified regional message and significantly accelerate its current media and outreach campaigns in order to communicate the need for extraordinary conservation to general public, businesses, stakeholder industries and public officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Metropolitan intends to work with and assist its member agencies, and the region's cities, counties and retail water agencies to help ensure a reliable near-term and long-term water supply, to adopt and implement appropriate conservation ordinances and measures, and to inform retail water users of the Water Supply Alert conditions and the need for immediate and sustained water use efficiency practices.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California at its meeting held June 10, 2008.

Board Executive Secretary
The Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California

Examples of Immediate Actions for Residents of Metropolitan's Service Area

California's main water sources have been severely impacted by record dry conditions and cut backs in critical supplies from Northern California. And we're already using our reserves to supply our everyday water. Our water situation is serious. But here's how you can help:

Two of the best ways to cut water use at home is to **reduce landscape watering by one day each week and stop washing your car at home**. Other ways to save water include:

What you can do:	How much you can save:
Outdoor	
Water your yard only before 8 a.m. to reduce evaporation and interference from wind	25 gallons per day
Install a smart sprinkler controller.	40 gallons per day
Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks	150 gallons each time
Check your sprinkler system for leaks, overspray and broken sprinkler heads	500 gallons a month
Install pool covers and limit use of misting devices	Hundreds of gallons a year
Use organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation	Hundreds of gallons a year
Indoor	
Turn off the water when you brush your teeth	3 gallons per day
Shorten your showers by one or two minutes	5 gallons per day
Fix leaky faucets	20 gallons per day
Wash only full loads of laundry	15 to 50 gallons per load
Talk to your family and friends about saving water	

Homeowners: Save water by taking advantage of Metropolitan's incentives for water-efficient appliances and fixtures, including:

- High efficiency toilets
- Rotating sprinklers
- Weather-based irrigation controllers
- High efficiency washing machines
- Artificial turf

Business owners: Save water by receiving rebates through Metropolitan's "Save Water Save-A-Buck" incentive program for installing water-saving appliances and equipment, or through the Water Savings Performance Program, which pays for process water and irrigation equipment improvements.

Managers of large landscapes and businesses with significant cooling water needs are encouraged to switch to recycled water if available. Recycled water represents 100% conservation of potable water, and will help preserve our critical drought storage reserves.

Water Supply Alert Potential Savings Estimates

Under the Water Supply Alert, Metropolitan will be significantly ramping up its media and outreach campaigns calling for residents and business owners to save water immediately. If the call for immediate conservation successfully motivates residents and businesses to save water, Metropolitan could expect to reduce demands over the next 12 months by approximately 200,000 acre-feet, with a range of +/- 50,000 acre-feet. The table below summarizes the savings estimates:

Table 1. Savings Estimates for Immediate Conservation Actions

Water Agency Actions	Assumed Compliance	Annual Savings (Acre-Feet)
Implement new tiered rate structures	25%	11,200
Provide hotlines for reporting inefficient use	n/a	17,800
Total		29,000
Residential Outdoor		
Reduce lawn watering by one day	25%	54,700
Water lawn before 8:00 a.m.	25%	19,600
Install Smart Irrigation Timer	1%	1,300
Fix sprinkler system for leaks and overspray	25%	12,900
Clean driveway with broom, not hose	25%	2,100
Restrict car washing at home	25%	1,700
Use pool covers	1%	700
Limit use of misting devices	25%	1,000
Total		94,000
Residential Indoor		
Turn off water when brushing teeth	25%	12,600
Take shorter showers	25%	19,700
Fix leaky faucets	25%	16,800
Full loads of laundry (1 saved per week)	25%	5,500
Total Indoor		54,600
Commercial, Industrial and Institutional		
Reduce lawn watering by one day	25%	17,500
Don't serve water unless requested	25%	400
Option of not laundering linens/towels daily	25%	400
Total		18,300
Total Savings		195,900
Range: +/- 25%		+/- 49,000