

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

August 19, 2008 Board Meeting

9-2

Subject

Update on Proposed Revisions to California Urban Water Conservation Council Memorandum of Understanding

Description

The California Urban Water Conservation Council is updating and extending the Council's Memorandum of Understanding. The Best Management Practices listed in the MOU provide, on a voluntary basis, the primary guideline for urban water conservation in California. The current MOU is due to expire in December 2008. The Council's membership is developing revisions to the MOU in three major areas:

1. Extend the life of the MOU for an indefinite period;
2. Reorganize and clarify the Best Management Practices requirements for urban water conservation; and
3. Improve the reporting and compliance options.

The MOU governs the 14 water conservation Best Management Practices designed to reduce urban water use and demand in California. Metropolitan has been a signatory of the MOU and a continuous elected member of the Council's steering committee since the Council's creation in 1991. The last major revision to the MOU was in 1997 and resulted in the BMPs in [Attachment 1](#).

The MOU has been of value to urban water suppliers by establishing widely recognized forms and levels of urban conservation through a cooperative process with public interest groups. However, for the MOU to continue, it will need to be extended beyond December 2008. To avoid a future expiration date issue, the proposed revision could possibly extend the MOU for an indefinite period, although individual BMPs may still have a determinant life.

During the last ten years of implementation, water agencies have found many of the BMPs of merit, but sometimes difficult to understand, implement, and measure. As a result, the Council has agency members that do not complete their compliance reports. This has led to perceptions by public interest group members of the Council that agency commitment to the BMPs is low. The revised MOU is expected to allow greater freedom to implement the best conservation approach for each water agency, by allowing the agency to determine the best mix of conservation BMPs by sector or device to meet its goal. In addition to the MOU revisions, a major effort to reorganize and clarify the BMPs is under way through a number of subject area committees. Metropolitan staff participates in these technical committees.

The new structure being proposed would divide the BMPs into two categories – Foundational BMPs and Quantifiable BMPs as follows:

Foundational BMPs	Quantifiable BMPs
BMP 3: System Water Audits	BMP 1: Residential Surveys
BMP 4: Metering	BMP 2: Residential Retrofits
BMP 7: Public Information	BMP 5: Large Landscape
BMP 8: School Education	BMP 6: High-Efficiency Clothes Washers
BMP 10: Wholesaler Incentives	BMP 9: Commercial, Industrial, Institutional
BMP 11: Rates	BMP 14: Ultra-Low-Flush Toilets
BMP 12: Conservation Coordinator	
BMP 13: Waste Prohibitions	

The Quantifiable BMPs are measurable actions that relate to commercial, residential, and landscape conservation program implementation. These BMPs would be revised to include a check list of actions that water agencies could implement in order to meet quantifiable water savings goals. Foundational BMPs relate to utility operations and public communications and do not always have quantifiable water savings, but are important to an overall conservation program.

In addition to check list compliance for quantifiable BMPs, water agency members of the Council are advocating two additional compliance options: performance track and reduced per capita demand. Under a performance track, each agency would have a water savings goal. This goal would be equivalent to the water savings of complying with the check lists. However, the agency could achieve these savings through aggressively implementing only some of the BMPs. Under per capita reduction compliance, an agency would reduce per capita water use by any means in an amount equal to the amount of water that would have been saved by complying with the check lists. Details of these alternative compliance strategies are still being discussed.

Metropolitan and all water agencies are required under current State law to be in compliance with demand management measures listed in the State Water Code, in order to receive any State grant funding. These measures mirror the Council’s BMPs and DWR often looks to the Council for guidance on BMP compliance as a metric for demand management success. Currently, 100 water agencies in Metropolitan’s service area are signatories to the MOU and may use their BMP reports for several reporting requirements to the State, including their Urban Water Management Plans. Metropolitan typically pays up to 50 percent of the cost of regional conservation programs, and similarly to support these agencies Metropolitan currently pays 50 percent of their Council dues. Staff regularly coordinates with this group of agencies regarding BMP revisions.

A final draft MOU and BMP revision is expected to be completed this fall and will be brought back to the Board prior to a Council ratification vote currently planned for December 2008.

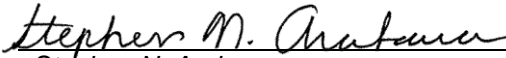
Policy

By Minute Item 39182, dated August 1991, the Board authorized the General Manager to sign the CUWCC Memorandum of Understanding.

By Minute Item 45789, dated June 2004, the Board authorized payment of 50 percent of the dues for the California Urban Water Conservation Council members within Metropolitan's service area, subject to a \$250,000 annual cap.

Fiscal Impact

None



Stephen N. Arakawa
Manager, Water Resource Management

7/28/2008

Date



Jeffrey Kightlings
General Manager

8/4/2008

Date

Attachment 1 – California Urban Water Conservation Council BMPs

BLA #6206

California Urban Water Conservation Council BMPs

Foundational BMPs	Quantifiable BMPs
<p>BMP 3: System Water Audits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water audits of distribution systems using methodology consistent with that described in AWWA's <i>Water Audit and Leak Detection Guidebook</i>. 	<p>BMP 1: Residential Surveys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a strategy targeting and marketing water use surveys to single-family residential and multi-family residential customers.
<p>BMP 4: Metering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require meters for all new service connections. Establish a program for retrofitting existing unmetered service connections. Read meters and bill customers by volume of use. 	<p>BMP 2: Residential Retrofits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a targeting and marketing strategy to distribute or directly install high-quality, low-flow showerheads (rated 2.5 gpm or less), toilet displacement devices (as needed), toilet flappers (as needed) and faucet aerators (rated 2.2 gpm or less) as practical to residences requiring them.
<p>BMP 7: Public Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a public information program to promote water conservation and water conservation related benefits. 	<p>BMP 5: Large Landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agencies shall provide non-residential customers with support and incentives to improve their landscape water use efficiency.
<p>BMP 8: School Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs shall provide instructional assistance, educational materials, and classroom presentations that identify urban, agricultural, and environmental issues and conditions in the local watershed. 	<p>BMP 6: High-Efficiency Clothes Washers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The water agency shall offer a financial incentive, if cost-effective, for the purchase of high-efficiency clothes washing machines meeting a water factor value of 8.5 or less.
<p>BMP 10: Wholesaler Incentives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wholesale water suppliers will provide financial incentives, or equivalent resources, as appropriate, beneficial, and mutually agreeable to their retail water agency customers.. 	<p>BMP 9: Commercial, Industrial, Institutional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement programs to achieve annual water use savings by CII accounts by an amount equal to 10% of the baseline use of CII accounts in the agency's service area over a ten-year period.
<p>BMP 11: Rates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum percentage of water sales revenue from volumetric rates. 	<p>BMP 14: Ultra-Low-Flush Toilets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of programs for replacing existing high-water-using toilets with ultra-low- flush (1.6 gallons or less) toilets in single-family and multi-family residences.
<p>BMP 12: Conservation Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designation of a water conservation coordinator and support staff 	
<p>BMP 13: Waste Prohibitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enacting measures prohibiting gutter flooding, single pass cooling systems in new connections, non-recirculating systems in all new conveyer car wash and commercial laundry systems, and non-recycling decorative water fountains. 	