

Authorize Changes to Conservation Program in Response to Drought Conditions

Water Planning and Stewardship Committee
May 12, 2014
Item 8-6

Drought Conditions

- State of Emergency for all of California
- Governor's recent executive order
- One of the driest years on record
- SWP only 5% Table A allocation
- Lowest overall allocation in SWP history

2014 Water Supply Alert Resolution

- Metropolitan urged all cities, counties, member agencies, and retail agencies to:
 - Implement extraordinary conservation
 - Activate and enforce existing ordinances
 - Adopt new ordinances if none exist
- Metropolitan to work with agencies to develop a unified regional message
- Metropolitan to assist agencies in adopting and implementing ordinances

2014 Water Supply Alert Resolution

Focus on Ordinances

- Reaffirmed:
 - Continuing drought conditions
 - Need for activation and enforcement of conservation and drought ordinances
 - Adoption of drought ordinances if not in place
 - Need to inform water users of drought and need for immediate actions

2014 Water Supply Alert Resolution

Focus on Landscape

- Additional actions strongly encouraged for member and retail agencies for landscape irrigation:
 - Restrict hours of outdoor watering
 - Prohibit landscape irrigation runoff
 - Require water efficient landscaping
 - Enable reporting of inefficient water use
 - Implement tiered rate structures
 - Maximize use of recycled water

Current Actions for Consideration

- Increase turf removal incentive
- Continue funding rain barrels
- Revise recycled water hook-up pilot program
- Continue residential high-efficiency toilets

Turf Removal Program

- Increase incentive to \$2/square foot
- Reduces summer outdoor water demand
- Creates member agency incentive uniformity
- Increases participation



Continue Rain Barrel Program

- Current funding is running out
- Continuation of the program
- Very successful pilot program
- Large consumer demand
- Creates greater water awareness



Recycled Water Hook-ups Pilot Program

- Provide customers incentives to convert to recycled water, program total \$7.5M
- Current policy
 - pay up to two years of water savings
- New policy
 - pay up to five years of water savings
- Increases program participation



Residential High-Efficiency Toilets

- Current policy
 - residential high efficiency toilet (HET) incentives end June 30, 2014
- New policy
 - continue providing HET incentives
- Effective method to reduce residential indoor water demand



Summary

- Reaffirmed Water Supply Alert, February 2014
- Target outdoor water usage
- Initiate conservation actions before peak summer demand
- Continue actions through duration of drought

Options

- Option #1
 - Adopt the CEQA determination that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA
 - Authorize new conservation Program initiatives
- Option #2
 - Take no action

Staff Recommendation

- Option #1

