

Comprehensive Policy for a Sustainable Water Supply in San Diego

San Diego's economy and quality of life depend on a reliable and relatively inexpensive supply of water.

The City of San Diego needs to establish guiding principles through which we will ensure that our water supply remains both secure and affordable.

A document of guiding principles has been useful in City Council's work on ending the structural budget deficit, and a similar document for water will guide the City Council's upcoming deliberation on the Urban Water Management Plan, future updates to the Long-Range Water Resources Plan and other future water-related decisions.

The City's existing guiding principles for water can be found in a patchwork of incompatible and out-of-date Council Policies, which are between 12 and 23 years old.

They don't include language about:

- Climate change or other current challenges, such as water restrictions from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, we are facing locally and in the region.
- The use of new technologies.
- The use of public-private partnerships.

It is important for the City Council to develop a new "Comprehensive Policy for a Sustainable Water Supply in San Diego" to contain our guiding principles for water and replace outdated Council Policies.



Policy Highlights

- Development of a diverse local supply including conservation, desalination, graywater and rainwater collection and wastewater recycling
- Collaboration between local and regional businesses, agencies and other partners for securing water reliability
- Rate structures that encourage conservation and discourage waste
- Increased communication between the City Council, Public Utilities Department, County Water Authority, Independent Rates Oversight Committee and Ratepayers



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