

City of San Diego Water Policy Implementation Task Force

Draft Work Plan – Submitted for consideration by Glen Schmidt, FASLA

June 22, 2012

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Draft Purpose of the Task Force:

- Develop Goals to Implement Council Policy 400-15
- Determine Priorities for Implementation
- Develop Action Plans for Implementation
- Determine Timelines for Implementation
- Determine Measurements of Success / Benchmark (anticipated volume generated)

Implementation of Council Policy 400-15

Strategic Priorities include:

- A. General Council Policies, pertains to nearly all initiatives
- B. Water Quality (Items B1 – B3 in Council Policy)
- C. Conservation (Items C1 – C9 in Council Policy)
- D. Importation (Items D1 – D3 in Council Policy)
- E. City, Local and Regional Supplies (Items E1 – E14 in Council Policy)
- F. Related City, Local and State Laws and Policies (Items F1 – F6 in Council Policy)

Initiatives



- **Rate Structure:** Consider a responsible and defensible rate structure that may include tiered rate or allocation pricing structure that encourages conservation and discourages waste.

Relevant Strategic Priorities sections: C2, C3, C6, D1, E2, E8



- **Stormwater Re-Use:** Rainwater collection and re-use for irrigation. Diversion of storm water to local reservoirs and underground aquifers, including Low Impact Development.

Relevant Strategic Priorities sections: B1, E7, E8, E12, E13, E14



- **Grey Water Use:** Remove potential barriers and streamline implementation of grey water use for irrigation purposes.

Relevant Strategic Priorities sections: D1, E6, E8



- **New Technologies:** Partnerships with businesses and organizations that incubate practical new technologies and scientific research to assist the City in developing a sustainable water supply, and maximizing efficiencies and savings to ratepayers.

Relevant Strategic Priorities sections: C8, C9, E9, E11



- **Water Quality:** Maintain high water quality and support appropriate water quality regulatory requirements for potable, non-potable, as well as wastewater and stormwater discharges.

Relevant Strategic Priorities sections: B1, B2, B3, E3, E11, E12, F6



- **Water Conservation:** Support water conservation during both wet and dry weather periods. This includes goals stated in the Urban Water Management Plan and Senate Bill No. 7 requiring a reduction in per capita water consumption of 20% by 2020.

Relevant Strategic Priorities sections: C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C8, C9



- **Indirect Potable Reuse:** Support indirect potable reuse if the Water Purification Demonstration Project is successful.

Relevant Strategic Priorities sections: B1, B3, E3, E4,



- **Non-potable recycled water use:** Support cost-effective expansion and simplification of regulatory approval for the use of non-potable recycled water.

Relevant Strategic Priorities sections: B2, E1, E2, E3, E5, F6



- **Water Assessment related to Land Use:** Support the use of Water Supply Assessments related to land-use decisions.

Relevant Strategic Priorities sections: “General Council Policy to” A4, E1



- **Develop new cost effective water supply sources:** Support new cost effective water supply sources such as, but not limited to: desalination, water transfers, local groundwater recharge and use, etc.

Relevant Strategic Priorities sections: D1, D2, D3 E1, E9, E10, E11, E14, F5



- **Increase regional water storage capacity:** Support the construction of regional storage reservoirs or enlargement of existing reservoirs as needed.

Relevant Strategic Priorities sections: B1, D1, E13, F1

Example Worksheet to be developed for each Initiative

Initiative : Water Quality

*Describe the initiative- i.e. **why** it is an issue; **who** the issue affects and/or other stakeholders; **what** are the specifics, sub issues, financial constraints and/or regulatory environment; **when** is it an issue (immediate, short term, or long term); and related strategic priorities.*

Relevant Strategic Priorities and Council Policies	Actions (Recommendations from Implementation Committee)	Performance Measure or Measures (Recommendations from Implementation Committee)
<p>B. Water Quality Items B1, B2, and B3</p> <p>E. City, Local and Regional Supplies Items E3, E11, and E12</p> <p>Related City, Local and State Laws and Policies Item F6</p>	<p>1. 2. 3. .</p> <p><i>Actions should describe (in one to two sentences, each) what the City Council will do to advance the initiative, considering:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What steps are necessary to accomplish the initiative?</i> • <i>Is City staff working on this? Should they be?</i> • <i>What is the financial impact?</i> • <i>Is the City's budget sufficient to accomplish the initiative?</i> • <i>Should the council collaborate with others?</i> • <i>Should the PWD or WU Department's goals be the council's goals?</i> • <i>Are there new technologies that can be included and how?</i> • <i>How can the council keep the initiative on track?</i> • <i>Other</i> 	<p><i>Describe how the City Council will know if the initiative is being accomplished or is accomplished. Include significant milestones and timetables, as applicable.</i></p>

SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE POLICY FOR A SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY IN SAN DIEGO
POLICY NO.: 400- 15

EFFECTIVE DATE:

BACKGROUND:

San Diego's economy and quality of life depend on a reliable and financially viable supply of water. The City of San Diego needs to establish guiding principles through which we will ensure that our water supply remains secure.

Our City and region are facing and will continue to face uncertainties and challenges to our water supply reliability because of issues related to trending drought, pumping restrictions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, shortages in the Colorado River watershed, and the effects of Climate Change. To prepare for the challenges facing our City and region, the San Diego City Council must have comprehensive policies that embrace new technologies and innovation, encourage collaboration on all levels, and contain performance measures and regular review to ensure that they are up-to-date. Additionally, the San Diego City Council should engage stakeholders to develop implementation goals with timelines and priorities to move forward with implementation of the policy.

PURPOSE:

To establish policies to assure an adequate water supply for the City of San Diego, including the following principles:

- Cohesive elements that are financially and environmentally sound.
- Goals which reflect current water treatment, system maintenance, storage, distribution and usage technologies and allow the consideration of new technologies or opportunities.
- Collaboration with local and regional stakeholders, agencies and partners for securing water reliability.
- Collaboration with private and public agencies for infrastructure financing.
- Balance of water demand and water supply in all future land-use and planning decisions.
- Emphasis on reliable, energy efficient and economically sound water supply strategies.

POLICY:

For ease of organization, the following policies are categorized as either general, or related to water quality; conservation; importation; City, local and regional supplies; and related City, local and state laws and policies.

A. General

It is the policy of the City Council that:

1. The Mayor, Public Utilities Department or the Mayor's designee, shall advise the City Council or Council committee regularly on the City's current and future water supplies.
2. The Mayor and Intergovernmental Relations Director, with assistance from the City Attorney's Office, shall monitor legislative and regulatory actions, court decisions, and other events that could affect the City's water supply and report to the City Council on a semiannual basis.
3. The San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) is recognized as the lead agency for procuring imported water to meet the present and long term needs of the City and the San Diego region. As a member of CWA, the City of San Diego shall assist CWA as needed in working with the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), the State Department of Water Resources (DWR), the County of San Diego, other local water agencies, and the private sector in efforts to satisfy the future water supplies and demands of the region.
4. The Mayor and the Public Utilities Director shall work closely with the City Council appointed representatives to the CWA Board of Directors in pursuit of an adequate water supply in the future and management of costs for ratepayers.
5. City of San Diego appointees to the CWA Board of Directors shall report to the City Council on a semiannual basis for the purpose of discussing water issues. At this semiannual meeting, discussion will focus on proposals which the CWA representatives would recommend the City support to gain a sustainable water supply.
6. The Independent Rates Oversight Committee (IROC) shall report to the City Council on a semiannual basis for the purpose of discussing water issues related to its activities as outlined in San Diego Municipal Code Chapter 2, Article 6, Division 20.
7. The City Council will revisit and update this Council Policy every 5-years in conjunction with the City's Urban Water Management Plan.

It is the policy of the City Council to:

1. Develop an Implementation Plan for water supply, conservation and reuse, which will contain priorities, goals, timelines and benchmarks.
2. Support economically sound activities that create an affordable and reliable water supply to attract, retain and expand business, and promote an excellent quality of life for our residents.
3. Support decisions that are aligned with the City's Urban Water Management Plan and the Conservation Element of the City's General Plan.

- 4. Support the use of Water Supply Assessments related to land-use decisions.
- 5. Support and consider partnerships with businesses and organizations that incubate practical new technologies and scientific research to assist the City in developing a sustainable water supply, and maximizing efficiencies and savings to ratepayers.
- 6. Seek input from, and consider partnerships with businesses and organizations that can provide assistance to the City in water, wastewater and storm water facilities planning in order to mitigate and prepare for Climate Change and other infrastructure challenges and uncertainties.
- 7. Support public-public and public-private partnerships to help finance and/or implement infrastructure projects.
- 8. Support an “integrated water management” concept that includes imported and local water supplies, storage, conservation, wastewater and rain water, which can be used together to ensure future water supplies.
- 9. Support the concept that reliable and inexpensive imported water sources are finite.

B. Quality

It is the policy of the City Council to:

- ■ ■ ■ 1. Provide its potable water customers with potable water that meets or exceeds all regulations and health standards established by Federal, State and County regulatory agencies.
- ■ 2. Provide its recycled water customers with recycled water that meets or exceeds all health and industrial standards established by State and County regulatory agencies. In addition, support source control of high saline, residential and commercial water softening devices and cost-effective municipal infrastructure improvements that decrease salinity and other contaminants that may adversely affect facilities that use recycled water.
- ■ 3. Monitor the review and potential promulgation of regulations pertaining to Contaminants of Emerging Concern by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

C. Conservation

It is the policy of the City Council to:

- 1. Support water conservation during wet and dry weather periods.
- ■ 2. Support a, tiered rate or allocation pricing structure for single-family residential water

customers that encourages conservation and discourages waste; and supports the needs of private sector businesses and agriculture.

- ■ 3. Consider using customer specific data, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data, geographic zones and evapotranspiration information for single-family residential customer rates.
- 4. Support the development of grant programs for economic incentive programs to encourage water conservation; and partner with the CWA, MWD, State and Federal Government when possible. To ensure the public is aware, economic incentive programs should be included in outreach and education programs.
- 5. Support local and regional education and outreach programs emphasizing conservation and water efficient landscaping. Public outreach on water awareness should stress the mutual benefit of use reduction efforts and water efficient technologies, as well as demonstration projects.
- ■ 6. Support the development of market-based programs that encourage conservation.
- 7. Support the voluntary practice of pre-treatment of industrial wastewater to conserve potable water normally used for dilution.
- ■ 8. Support new technological improvements in the field of water conservation.
- ■ 9. Support and encourage low-water use plumbing, landscaping and irrigation materials in public and private development.

D. Importation

- ■ ■ ■ 1. Support economically sound activities that reduce the City's reliance on imported sources of water and increase local supplies.
- 2. Support efforts by CWA and others to seek new, cost-effective water supply sources.
- 3. Support pricing and repayment policies for all future water contracts and all future projects that shall ensure that beneficiaries pay their full share of costs associated with development and operation of those facilities.

E. City, Local and Regional Supplies

- ■ ■ 1. Support the economically sound development of a diverse portfolio of local water supplies to meet the City's present and future needs.
- ■ 2. Support a rate structure for non-potable recycled water that encourages such use and facilitates cost-effective expansion of non-potable recycled water infrastructure while meeting the City's "Guaranteed Water for Industry" program goals.

- ■ ■ 3. Support simplification of regulatory approval for the use of non-potable recycled water and potable reuse projects.
- 4. Support indirect potable reuse (IPR) if the Water Purification Demonstration Project is successful.
- 5. Support the cost-effective expansion of the City's non-potable recycled water distribution system.
- 6. Support the use of graywater for irrigation.
- 7. Support rainwater collection and reuse for irrigation.
- ■ ■ 8. Support the development of grant programs for economic incentive programs for residential and commercial graywater and rainwater collection systems, partnering with the CWA, MWD, State and Federal Government where possible.
- ■ 9. Support and consider partnerships with regional partners and with Mexico to investigate the development of water supply projects.
- 10. Support local and regional brackish groundwater and ocean water desalination projects.
- ■ ■ 11. Support new technological improvements in the field of groundwater, wastewater and ocean water desalination, water recycling, water reuse and IPR.
- ■ 12. Explore cost-effective activities that help divert storm water to local reservoirs and underground aquifers, including Low Impact Development (LID) projects and policies, while meeting water quality regulations.
- ■ 13. Support the construction of regional storage reservoirs or enlargement of existing reservoirs as needed.
- ■ 14. Support cost-effective programs to recharge, protect and improve the yield from local and regional groundwater basins.

F. Related City, Local and State Laws and Policies

- 1. Maintain an emergency reserve storage of water as specified in City Council Policy 400-04 to minimize the impact of temporary interruptions in the delivery of imported water in the event of unforeseen emergencies or natural disasters.
- 2. Support implementation of Council Policy 900-14, Sustainable Building Policy for municipal development, and other sustainable building and landscaping policies to help the City conserve water.

3. Support the implementation and update all of the City's water planning documents, including the Long-Range Water Resources Management Plan, Recycled Water Master Plan (San Diego Municipal Code Chapter 6, Article 4, Division 8) and Urban Water Management Plan (State Water Code, Division 6, Sections 10610 through 10656).
4. Support and implement the City of San Diego's Drought Emergency Restrictions in Municipal Code Chapter 6, Article 7, Division 38 as necessary.
-  5. Support voluntary transfers of water between local and regional suppliers as authorized by State Water Code Division 1, Chapter 7.
-   6. Support the use of non-potable recycled water for purposes allowed under Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 3, Article 3 of the California Code of Regulations.