

City of San Diego Water Policy Implementation Task Force
Water Conservation Working Group draft recommendations for consideration
September 18, 2012

1. Former Level 1 Drought Alert to become a permanent voluntary water conservation standard.
 - a. All text in Level 1 of Chapter 6, 67.3805 to remain the same with the following comments:
 - Rename the permanent condition something other than drought alert.
 - Revise wording to clarify the allowance of more than 3 days per week watering for establishing new plant material, rare botanical collections, and food crops.
 - Suggest utilizing recycled or non-potable water for construction purposes, when available, at any time.
 - Review drought response levels to integrate these new requirements. Address conflicts in drought stage levels.
 - The new Level 1 (previously Level 2) would include mandatory restrictions.
2. Study and report back to the Task Force regarding modifications to the water conservation code requirements for new landscape construction (Chapter 14, Article 2, Division 4), such as:
 - a. Reduction of the Evapotranspiration Adjustment Factor from .7 to .6.
 - b. Use of average plant factors (instead of a range) in calculating anticipated water use of new landscapes. For example, consider utilizing .15 for low, .5 for Moderate, and .8 for High.
 - c. Consider implementing water conservation landscape standards for new single family homes.
 - d. Request that staff report back to the Task Force and provide cost / benefit analysis of the requirement to include a private water meter for landscape in new single family homes.
3. Expand the scope of work for the Cost of Service Study to evaluate an allocation based billing structure for all landscape meters. This would be based on Evapotranspiration and square foot of landscape area. In addition, verify that the Cost of Service Study considers the development of water rates that encourage water conservation providing rewards for conservation. If not, this is an area which should be studied.
4. Reduce unmetered water loss below the current 9%. Currently, unmetered water loss is approximately 9% which represents approximately 14.4 million gallons per day. Industry standard is 10% but the Task Force requests an action plan and timeline from staff to reduce unmetered water loss. This may include, but not limited to: reduce response time to breaks, more frequent valve services, adding shut off valves, valve replacements, accelerating pipe replacement, etc.
5. Increase water conservation outreach and education. Report to the Task Force on the cost of past outreach efforts and budgeting as well as effectiveness current programs. Task Force to call on our city leaders to lead outreach as an important part of the effectiveness of this effort. The message should emphasize saving water, not necessarily saving money.
6. Instruct staff to review and report back to the Task Force regarding the Automatic Meter Interface program which will expand real time feedback to customers. Can or should the program be expanded or accelerated?