

## **Conservation Working Group**

1. Modify Emergency Water Regulations as required to update and clarify text in the document based on making the former Level 1 Drought Alert a permanent voluntary standard. Examples of modifications may include, but are not limited to:
  - Modify former Level 1 Drought Alert to a permanent voluntary standard.
  - Modify the other stages of Drought Alert as required to clarify standards.
  - Clarify standards for non potable water use during Drought Alerts.
  - Include an Alternative Compliance application process for all drought alert levels for large water users such as parks, cemeteries, and golf courses.
2. To strengthen the code and to encourage more water conserving (**i.e. WaterSmart**) landscapes in new construction, modify the water conservation code requirement for new landscape construction as follows:
  - a. Reduce the Evapotranspiration factor from .7 to .6.
  - b. Modify the Plant Factors from “ranges” to specific numbers as follows: Very Low Water Use Plantings .1, Low Water Use Plantings .3, Moderate Water Use Plantings .5, and High Water Use Plantings .8.
  - c. Special Use Landscape Areas including Parks, **edible gardens**, and Special Botanical areas should remain 1.0 ET adjustment factor.
3. Implement a water budget based billing program for commercial landscape meters. **This includes the utilization of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to quantify irrigated areas and modify billing systems to charge commercial customers based on a water budget for the size of their irrigated landscape area.**
4. Implement permanent and ongoing water conservation and outreach program. We recommend that City leaders, elected officials and others take on the responsibility of helping to create a city wide water conservation ethic. The City should substantially increase funding for public outreach and education on water conservation, beginning with the next municipal budget cycle, in order to promote

**Immediately, Fiscal Year 2014.**

**Immediately, Fiscal Year 2014.**

**GIS and software development  
Fiscal Year 2014,  
Implementation Fiscal Year  
2015.**

**Immediately Fiscal Year 2014.**

conservation on an ongoing basis and not only during drought periods. This is a key factor in creating a citywide water conservation ethic.

- Request that Natural Resources and Culture Committee (NRCC) to hear regular updates on conservation efforts and outcomes quarterly, much like the status reports regarding the water recycling efforts and Indirect Potable Reuse project.
- City to conduct a case study examining the education and outreach tactics used in Australia to achieve their massive reduction in water use.
- Coordinate regional water consumer education campaigns using the latest research from social psychology that shows what messaging is most effective in influencing thoughtful water use behavior. Water agencies can also work with the private sector to develop public-private partnerships that can help reduce consumer demand.

5. **Green Building Incentives and Voluntary Water Offset Program: Implement the sustainable Development Incentive Program as outlined in the most recent update of Council Policy 600-27. In addition, implement a voluntary 100% water offset program utilizing significant development incentives.**

**Implement Council Policy 600-27 Immediately, Fiscal Year 2014. Research and study the voluntary 100% water offset program in Fiscal Year 2014 for implementation in Fiscal Year 2015. Fiscal Year 2015.**

6. Labeling Programs: In coordination with the San Diego County Water Authority, consider implementing an outreach and education program that concentrates on home improvement stores and nurseries in the region. Evaluate programs for labeling water conserving products, especially in the landscape industry, such as labeling drought tolerant plant materials.

7. Landscape Conversion Programs: Explore the possibility to of expanding "Cash for Grass" programs to effect real change in the landscape. **Expand to convert 1,000 residential and 200 commercial sites per year to water conserving (i.e. WaterSmart) landscapes.**

**Identify funding Fiscal Year 2014 for implementation in Fiscal Year 2015.**

8. Rebate Programs: Explore the possibility of expanding rebate programs for indoor or outdoor fixtures and equipment that would be cost effective and successful.

Fiscal Year 2015.

Immediately Fiscal Year 2014

**9. Retrofit at re-sale: Modify Municipal Code SDMC 147.04 to require retrofit at re-sale of all plumbing fixtures to water conserving fixtures including replacing toilets that utilize greater than 1.6 gallons per flush.**

**10. Retrofit upon remodel: Modify the San Diego building code to require upgrading plumbing fixtures to water conserving equipment during interior remodels. This includes replacing all toilets with greater than 1.6 gallons per flush volume. Limit the cost of upgrades to 20% of interior remodel construction cost not to exceed \$1,000 for residential, and 10% of commercial interior remodel construction cost.**

Immediately Fiscal Year 2014

**11. Feedback Technologies: Pursue new technology that provide real time feedback tracking indoor and outdoor water consumption for both residential and commercial property owners. Staff should study technologies and engage in a pilot study to demonstrate success of products and methodology with the intent of promoting more widespread implementation of this technology.**

Study technology and products in Fiscal Year 2014, implementation Fiscal Year 2015.