



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

# Water Allocation Development

Public Input Workshop  
February 2009



# Agenda

- **Overall Goal: Accept Public Input**
- Water supplies are in peril
- City encouraging conservation
- Our response (so far) is insufficient
- Water supply reductions are looming
- Creating a strategy for fair & appropriate allocations for customers

# Status of Our Water Supplies

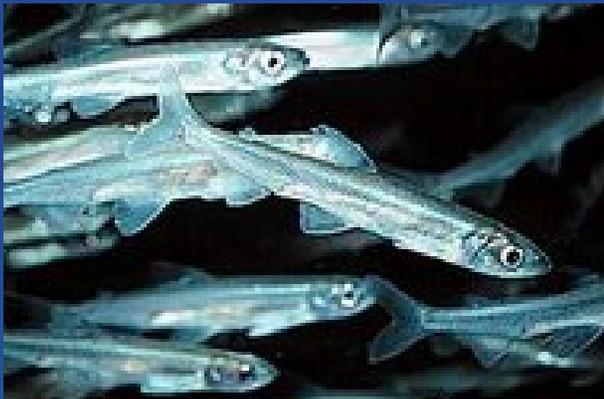
- San Diego affected by historic drought
  - Colorado River basin
  - California



Lake Mead

# Status of Our Water Supplies

- Environmental concerns
  - Delta pumping increasingly restricted
  - More “Biological Opinions” and cuts coming



# City Efforts

- Developing future water supplies
- Leading by example
- Continuing calls for greater conservation
- Updating water regulations
- More public communication (new website)
- Water-wise development

# Public Response

- *20 Gallon Challenge (10% Target)*
- Overall City of San Diego: down 4.9%
  - Residential: down 5.3%
  - Commercial and Industrial: down 4.4%
  - Irrigation-only accounts: down 5.3%
- City departments and facilities: Down 9%

# Coming Water Supply Reductions

- Why are reductions needed now?
  - **March 2** - New environmental opinions issued
  - **April** - San Diego gets first news about the level of allocations coming from water wholesalers
    - *Expecting up to a 20% cut for the City (Level 2)*
  - **July 1** – Allocations for City customers in effect

# Penalties to San Diego

Current cost = \$412 per acre foot

- Cost for going over allocation between 1% and 15%  
**\$1,056 per acre foot**
- Cost for going over allocation by more than 15%  
**\$2,122 per acre foot**
- Penalty costs must be passed through to customers who overuse water

# Getting to the Target

## ➤ Alternatives Explored:

1. Behavior restrictions
2. Pricing options
3. Allocation strategies

# Getting to the Target

## 1. Behavior Restrictions:

- Emergency Water Regulations: ***LEVEL 2***
  - Watering 3 days per week only
  - No more than 10 min per irrigation station
  - Repair Leaks within 3 days
  - Other Restrictions
- Enforcement mechanism would be mandatory
- Voluntary conservation has not worked well
- No assurance it will get us to the target

# Getting to the Target

## 2. Pricing Options

- Increasing cost reduces demand (somewhat)
- Danger of pricing some households out of water service
- Extensive rate structure review required
  - “Cost of Service Study” Part of the City’s Future Rate Setting Effort
- Some people will spend whatever it costs and will not conserve
- No assurance that it will get us to the target

# Getting to the Target

## 3. Allocation Strategies:

- Not *How* but *How Much* – “Bucket of Water”
- Allocation based upon past usage
- Achieves Key Criteria:
  - Based on a fair and appropriate usage baseline
  - Ready for implementation by July 1
  - Can be handled by existing billing system
  - Affordable to implement / monitor / maintain
- Will get us to the target

# Elements of Allocation Formula

- Baseline measurement
  - 2006 – 2007 property usage data
- Credit for past conservation
  - Recognition of *20 Gallon Challenge* efforts
- Minimum allocation “floor”
  - No further reductions if already at 6 HCF / month
- Variance/Hardship process
  - Case by case basis
- Penalties for going over
  - Mirror CWA penalties to City

# Variance/Hardship Process

## Examples of Possible Allowances:

- Fire prevention customer needs to maintain adjacent canyon
- Increase in occupancy (family size)
- Medical condition of occupant
- Change in occupancy from previous tenant/owner

# Getting to the Target

## 3. Possible Allocation Models:

- a. Equal across-the-board reductions?
- b. Customer billing class?
- c. Outdoor vs. indoor usage?
- d. Individual property site survey?
- e. Other?

# Discussion

# Your Choice?

- a. Equal across-the-board reductions?
- b. Customer billing class?
- c. Outdoor vs. indoor usage?
- d. Individual property site survey?
- e. Other?

# What's Next

- **March** - Allocation methodology recommended to Mayor by Water Department
- **March 2** - Delta pumping restrictions announced
- **March/April** – Outreach and education continues
- **Late March** - Mayor's recommendation discussed at Council Committee
- **April** - Council adopts final allocation recommendation
- **July 1** - Allocations begin

# Updates and Access

[www.sandiego.gov/wateremergency](http://www.sandiego.gov/wateremergency)

