Updating Your Communities’ Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plans

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What’s the Difference?

- **Water Conservation Plan**
  - Ongoing, drought or flood
  - Metering, rates, efficiency, education
  - Long-term

- **Drought Contingency Plan**
  - Water shortage
  - Capacity issue
  - Landscape and other restrictions
  - Immediate, usually short-term
Required when....

- **Water Conservation Plan**
  - Over 3,300 connections
  - Own water rights of over 1,000 ac-ft
  - Financial assistance with TWDB > $500,000

- **Drought Contingency Plan**
  - ALL PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS!!!
  - *Both plans must be updated by May 1, 2014*
Water Conservation – Many Other Reasons for a Plan

- Peak Demand capacity for water system?
- Wastewater treatment capacity?
- Customer or community demand?
- Specific measure is required.
Step 1: Develop a baseline profile

- Taking a snapshot of how water is used in your community
  - Monthly and daily water use
  - Residential, multi-family, commercial, institutional, industrial, wholesale
  - Over time, minimum 3 years
- What is your gallons per capita per day use?
  - Population served
  - Residential GPCD and total GPCD
What does your baseline reveal?

- Daily use – customer class, connection, person
- Peak to average water use ratio
- Compared to other utilities?
- Highest water users?
- Changes over time?
- Projected growth
Step 2: Set goals and strategies

- What are the drivers?
- Where will strategies make the biggest difference?
- How will strategies support the utility?
Preliminary Goal Setting

• Decrease overall gallons per capita per day (GPCD)
• Decrease peak to average ratio
• Decrease utility system water loss by xx%
• Delay additional infrastructure to meet peak demand by xx years.
Step 3: Strategies

- Begin with 288 requirements
  - Leak detection and repair
  - Meter repair/replacement
  - Conservation rate
  - Education and Outreach
  - Other strategies deemed appropriate.
Additional measures

• **Types of measures**
  • By demand: indoor and outdoor water use, water loss
  • By customer class: residential, multi-family, commercial
  • Existing customers versus new customers

• **Implementation strategies**
  • Education
  • Incentives
  • Regulatory, codes
  • Pilot project
TWDB BMP website
Screen Measures

- Cost-effectiveness
- Technology/market maturity
- Service area match
- Customer acceptability
- Ability to implement

Step 4: Stakeholder Input

- What do you want to accomplish?
- Identify stakeholders
  - opinion leaders, affected industries, customer lists
- Communication methods
  - email and e-newsletters, website, customer mail outs, presentations
- Incorporate input into final plan
Step 5: Plan Approval and Implementation

- Finalize plan
- Present to governing body for approval
- *Develop work plan for implementation*
  
  “a plan is only as good as the paper it is written on”
State Conservation and Drought Planning Rules

Water Conservation Plans

TWDB
www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/plans/index.asp
www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/plans/UP.asp

TCEQ

Drought Contingency Plans (TCEQ)
Resources

Guidance and Methodology for Reporting on Water Conservation and Water Use

Conservation Plan Checklist

Water Loss Audit (TWDB)
www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/waterloss/index.asp
Resources

- TWDB web site: www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/BMPs/index.asp
- Texas Water Conservation Advisory Council web site: www.savetexaswater.org
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