

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

February 18, 2014

A meeting of the Water Sustainability Committee of Vista Irrigation District was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2014, at the offices of the District, 1391 Engineer Street, Vista, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vasquez called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Vásquez and Franklin.

Committee members absent: None.

Staff present: Roy Coox, General Manager; Brett Hodgkiss, Administrative Services Manager and Lisa Soto, Board Secretary.

Other attendees: None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

No public comments were presented on items not appearing on the agenda.

5. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

See staff report attached hereto.

Administrative Services Manager Brett Hodgkiss presented an overview of the Water Conservation Programs in which the District participates, stating that the Metropolitan Water District funds most of the programs, and the District promotes the programs to its customers. Mr. Hodgkiss noted that even though the population of the District has increased by 30% since the 1990's, the District's water consumption has decreased by 13%, partly due to conservation efforts and the success of these programs. The Committee discussed ways in which these programs can be promoted. Chair Vásquez stated that he believed that the District's promotional efforts should dovetail with the efforts of the Water Authority so that the outreach messages will be consistent, and so that efforts and costs will not be duplicated. The Committee asked that staff analyze whether there is a way to quantify the success rate of the programs. The Committee asked that staff prepare a Committee report to present to the full Board based on the report that was provided to the Committee. The Committee asked that this report include the participation level in each program and the corresponding success rates. Chair Vásquez asked that staff also include the final slide in Water Authority's PowerPoint on the current water supply conditions, which was presented

at that morning's meeting of the Council of Water Utilities. The final slide showed what the Water Authority's Public Affairs Department will be doing in terms of public outreach during the drought.

6. WATER SUPPLY RESPONSE PROGRAM

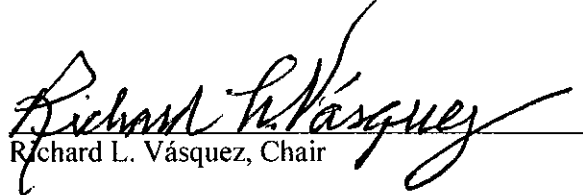
Mr. Hodgkiss reviewed the District's Water Supply Response Program, stating that the District has been at *Level 1 – Water Efficiency* since the District declared an end to *Level 2 – Water Conservation* in 2011. Mr. Hodgkiss said that VID is one of the few agencies that have remained at Level 1 during normal, non-drought conditions. The VID Board made the decision at that time that some water conservation measures should remain in place at all times. The Committee reviewed restrictions which correspond to each Water Supply Response Level. The Committee discussed the repercussions of not complying with the restrictions. It was noted that the District's Water Supply Response Program prohibits water waste, which is enforceable through warning letters, which can lead to monetary penalties, and ultimately possible discontinuation or restriction of service. Mr. Hodgkiss reviewed the ways in which the District communicates the current Water Supply Response Level to its customers, through the use of the "on-hold" messaging, newsletter articles, web site, bill messages, press releases and public service announcements in movie theaters (when mandatory restrictions are in place). The Committee asked that this report be presented as an informational item to the full Board.

7. COMMENTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None were presented.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, at 2:59 p.m. Chair Vásquez adjourned the meeting.


Richard L. Vásquez, Chair

ATTEST:



Lisa R. Soto, Secretary
Board of Directors

VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT



**WATER SUSTAINABILITY
COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Item: 5

Meeting Date: February 18, 2014
Prepared By: Brett Hodgkiss
Reviewed By: Eldon Boone
Approved By: Roy Coox

SUBJECT: WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

RECOMMENDATION: Information only.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION: None.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$12,000 is included the fiscal year 2014 budget for artificial turf rebates, residential water audits and landscape audits.

SUMMARY: The District has provided water conservation programs to its customers for over twenty years. The District has partnered with its wholesale water providers, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) and the San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority), to provide various programs/incentives to its customers. Incentives to replace inefficient devices and remove turf are available to homeowners as well as businesses.

DETAILED REPORT: As drought gripped California in the early 1990's, water purveyors, including the Vista Irrigation District, initiated water conservation programs to reduce demand. Over the years, these programs have been successful in managing water demand as populations grew. The District's current water use is less than it was in 1990 despite significant population growth. The District's population served has increased by 31% from 1990 to 2013 (94,526 to 123,843); however, water delivered to District customers has decreased by 13% (22,530 acre feet versus 19,490 acre feet) over that same period.

Conserving water has become a way of life for most Californians, especially for people living in the southern part of the state. While winter and spring rains typically ease the severity of the ongoing dry conditions, demand is beginning to exceed the available supply. Voluntary water conservation is a key component of meeting demand and avoiding mandatory reductions. With this in mind, the District offers a number of programs, including an education component, to help its customers to voluntarily save water.

The District has partnered with the Water Authority and Metropolitan to offer conservation programs to its customers since the early nineties. Metropolitan, the Water Authority and its member agencies, including the Vista Irrigation District, have jointly funded programs that benefit the region as a whole. Historically, the District's expenditures on water conservation programs have been based on the required matching funds or its decision to completely a fund program because it wasn't being offered by Metropolitan or the Water Authority, such as the District's artificial turf program.

Historically, the District has offered its customers a variety of water conservation programs, including low-flush toilets, low-flow shower heads, and water-saving appliances (typically in association with SDG+E). These programs have been geared primarily to residential customers, but commercial and industrial customers could also take advantage of these offers, as well as programs such as cooling towers. As the market reached a saturation point with these products, programs have evolved and new ones have been introduced.

Currently, the District offers rebates to its residential and business customers through Metropolitan's SoCal WaterSmart Program and through the Water Authority's Turf Removal Rebate Program. A summary of programs is attached for the Committee's reference. Rebates are available on a first come, first serve basis until funds are depleted or June 30, 2014, whichever comes first.

ATTACHMENT: Water Conservation Program Summary

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM SUMMARY

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

SoCal Water\$mart Residential Rebates

Device	Incentive
High Efficiency Washers	\$85, SDG&E offers an additional \$50
Weather Based Irrigation Controller	\$80; \$25 per station (sites one acre or more)
Rotating Nozzles	\$4 per head (minimum of 15)
Rain Barrels	\$75 per barrel max of 4 barrels
Soil Moisture Sensors	\$80, \$25 per station large sites
Turf Removal Rebate	\$1 per sq./ft., \$1000 max per site, front & backyards, artificial turf is eligible

SoCal Water\$mart Commercial, Industrial, Institutional Rebates

Device	Incentive
High Efficiency Toilets (HET) tank type	\$50 multi-family, \$100 commercial
High Efficiency Toilets flushometer	\$100/commercial toilet
Ultra Low & Zero Water Urinals	\$200
Plumbing Flow Control Valves	\$5/valve min of 20
Weather Based Irrigation Controllers	\$25/station
Rotating Nozzles	\$4/nozzle
Large Rotary Nozzles	\$13/set
In Stem Flow Regulators	\$1/regulator
Soil Moisture Sensor Systems	\$25/station
Connectionless Food Steamers	\$485/compartment
Air-cooled Ice Machines	\$1,000
Laminar Flow Restrictors	\$10/restrictor
Cooling Tower Conductivity Controllers	\$625
Cooling Tower pH Controllers	\$1,750
Dry Vacuum Pumps	\$125/0.5HP

NOTE: Rebates are available on a first come, first serve basis until funds are depleted or June 30, 2014, whichever comes first.

Landscape Surveys

Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional customers are eligible for landscape surveys provided by Metropolitan.

San Diego County Water Authority

Turf Replacement Rebates

Residential	\$1.50 sq./ft., max \$3,000 per site, project must be visible from the street, artificial turf not eligible
Commercial	\$1.50 sq./ft., max \$9,000 per site, artificial turf not eligible

Landscape Surveys

Irrigation Checkups (surveys) are available for residential, commercial, industrial and institutional customers.



**WATER SUSTAINABILITY
COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Item: 6

Meeting Date: February 18, 2014
Prepared By: Brett Hodgkiss
Reviewed By: Eldon Boone
Approved By: Roy Coox

SUBJECT: WATER SUPPLY RESPONSE PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION: Information only.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION: On June 1, 2011, the Board adopted Resolution 11-19 amending the District's Drought Response Conservation Program and renaming it the Water Supply Response Program. At that meeting, the Board also declared an end to Level 2 of the Water Supply Response Program.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

SUMMARY: The District's Board of Directors has adopted a Water Supply Response Program (Program) that has four water supply response levels, Level 1 – Water Efficiency, Level 2 – Water Conservation, Level 3 – Water Shortage, and Level 4 – Water Emergency. The declaration of each level is based on the condition of the potable water supply. Water-use efficiency practices, water conservation measures and water use restrictions contained in the Program are intended to assist the District to achieve required cutback levels as well as assist it in complying with Senate Bill 7 of the Seventh Extraordinary Session which requires retail water suppliers to reduce per capita water use 20 percent by 2020 (see attached per capita comparison table, 2007 versus 2013).

DETAILED REPORT: Below are conditions under which each Program level is declared.

- **Level 1 - Water Efficiency:** Level 1 is designed to ensure customers use water efficiently and eliminate waste at all times. Mandatory water-use efficiency practices are in effect.
- **Level 2 – Water Conservation:** Cutbacks are required by drought or other reductions in supplies and a reduction of up to 20% is required to meet demands. Water conservation measures are mandatory.
- **Level 3 – Water Shortage:** Increasing cutbacks required by drought or other reductions in supplies and a reduction of up to 40% is required to meet demands. Water conservation measures are mandatory.
- **Level 4 – Water Emergency:** Water shortage emergency is declared and a reduction of more than 40% is required to meet demands. Water conservation measures are mandatory.

As soon as a particular level is declared to exist, the water-use efficiency practices, water conservation measures and/or water use restrictions set forth in that level apply to all District water services until a different level is declared. The District is currently at Level 1, Water Efficiency, which requires customers to comply with basic water-use efficiency practices. A summary of water-use efficiency practices, water conservation measures and water use restrictions contained in each level has been included as an attachment to this staff report.

The District has used various methods of communicating the current Program level to its customers, including newsletter articles, on-hold telephone messages, web site, bill messages, press releases and public service announcements in movie theaters (when mandatory water use restrictions were in place). Staff intends to use articles in the District's Spring newsletter to inform its customers of current water supply conditions, request that they continue to use water efficiently and remind them that the District is at Level 1 which requires them to comply with certain water-use efficiency practices. Currently, Level 1 information is also included in the on-hold telephone message and on the District's web site.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Per Capita Water Conservation Comparison – 2007 versus 2013
2. Water Supply Response Program Summary

PER CAPITA WATER CONSERVATION - COMPARABLE WATER AGENCIES
Fiscal Year 2007 versus Fiscal Year 2013

Agency	Fiscal Year 2007			Fiscal Year 2013			Conservation Percentage
	Total Water Use (AF) ¹	Population	GPCD ²	Total Water Use (AF) ¹	Population	GPCD ²	
Olivenhain MWD	25,909	56,000	413	23,672	82,355	257	38%
Padre Dam MWD	20,082	99,100	181	12,776	98,600	116	36%
Santa Fe ID	16,485	21,004	701	10,758	19,400	495	29%
Vallecitos WD	21,825	86,500	225	17,402	97,102	160	29%
Otay WD	43,730	189,623	206	36,197	211,000	153	26%
Helix WD	42,088	260,158	144	34,373	267,922	115	21%
San Dieguito WD	9,263	38,295	216	7,286	37,830	172	20%
Vista ID	24,030	121,888	176	19,490	123,843	140	20%
City of San Diego	240,266	1,305,736	164	202,447	1,376,173	131	20%
City of Poway	16,286	50,830	286	12,579	48,559	231	19%
City of Oceanside	36,856	176,644	186	28,843	169,319	152	18%
Carlsbad MWD	24,653	80,800	272	21,273	84,838	224	18%
Rincon Del Diablo MWD	11,704	28,649	365	10,071	29,955	300	18%
Sweetwater Authority	23,331	174,620	119	21,091	183,760	102	14%
City of Del Mar	1,523	4,555	298	1,231	4,165	264	12%
Average			264			201	23%

¹Total water use includes recycled water use and certified agricultural water program use.

²Gallons per capita per day

NOTES

- Source - San Diego County Water Authority
- The San Diego County Water Authority has reported a conservation rate of 27%. This percentage is based on total water use for all of its member agencies as defined in footnote 1 above.
- Agencies were not included in the table if their certified agricultural water program use represented more than 10% of the total water use.

WATER SUPPLY RESPONSE PROGRAM

SUMMARY

LEVEL 1 – WATER EFFICIENCY

- Applies at all times unless another level is declared.
- Customers shall comply with the following water-use efficiency practices:
 - No washing down paved surfaces
 - Irrigate landscape before 10 AM and after 6 PM
 - Eliminate landscape irrigation run-off, overspray, etc.
 - Wash vehicles with a bucket and hand-held hose with positive shut-off nozzle
 - Restaurants serve water on request; hotels launder daily on request
 - Repair leaks within 5 days of notification

LEVEL 2 – WATER CONSERVATION

- Increasing cutbacks required by drought or other reductions in supplies and a reduction of up to 20% is required to meet demands.
- Customers shall comply with Level 1 water-use efficiency practices and the following additional mandatory conservation measures
 - Limit landscape irrigation to assigned days
 - Limit landscape irrigation with sprinklers to 10 minutes per station per assigned day
 - Repair all leaks within 72 hours of notification.

LEVEL 3 – WATER SHORTAGE

- Increasing cutbacks required by drought or other reductions in supplies and a reduction of up to 40% is required to meet demands.
- Customers shall comply with water-use efficiency practices and water conservation measures required under Levels 1 and 2 and shall also comply with the following additional mandatory conservation measures
 - No new potable water service or construction meters
 - Stop filling/re-filling ornamental lakes or ponds
 - Stop washing vehicles except at commercial car washes that use recycled water
 - Repair leaks within 48 hours of notification

LEVEL 4 – WATER EMERGENCY

- Water shortage emergency declared and a reduction of more than 40% is required to meet demands.
- Customers shall comply with water-use efficiency practices and water conservation measures required under Levels 1, 2 and 3 and shall also comply with the following additional mandatory conservation measures
 - Stop all landscape irrigation, except for the maintenance of landscape necessary for fire protection, erosion control, parks and play fields and rare and essential plant material.
 - Repair leaks within 24 hours of notification