

5. Water Conservation

The California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) was formed in 1991 through the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Regarding Urban Water Conservation in California. The urban water conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs) included in the MOU are intended to reduce California's long-term urban water demands. While the BMPs are currently implemented by the MOU signatories on a voluntary basis, they are specified as part of the Demand Management Measures section of the Urban Water Management Planning Act. Water conservation can achieve a number of goals, such as:

- meeting legal mandates
- reducing average annual potable water demands
- reducing sewer flows
- reducing demands during peak seasons
- meeting drought restrictions
- reducing carbon footprint, waste water flows and urban runoff.

CLWA signed the urban MOU in 2001 on behalf of its wholesale service area, and pledged to implement several BMPs at a wholesale support level (listed below). NCWD signed the MOU in 2002 and VWC signed the MOU in 2006, on behalf of their respective retail service areas. As separate MOU signatories and in their respective roles as retailers, NCWD and VWC are committed to implementing all BMPs that are feasible and applicable in their service areas. Efforts are made to coordinate with CLWA and the other Purveyors wherever possible to maximize efficiency and ensure the cost effectiveness of NCWD's and VWC's conservation program.

In coordination with the Purveyors, CLWA has been implementing the following BMPs (which pertain to wholesalers) for several years (some prior to signing the MOU in 2001):

BMP 3	System Water Audits, Leak Detection and Repair
BMP 7	Public Information Programs
BMP 8	School Education Programs
BMP 10	Wholesale Agency Programs
BMP 12	Water Conservation Coordinator

CLWA and the Purveyors have been implementing these BMPs valley-wide. Since 2001,

CLWA has also instituted implementation of BMP 2 (Residential Plumbing Retrofits) and BMP 14 (Residential ULFT and HET Replacement Programs) on behalf of the Purveyors.

In addition to these efforts, in September 2006 CLWA installed a weather station at its headquarters adjacent to the Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant. This station became part a network of over 120 automated weather stations in the state of California that make up the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS). The Department of Water Resources (DWR) manages the system which has a primary purpose of making available to the public, free of charge, information useful in estimating crop water use for irrigation scheduling.

NCWD, SCWD and VWC have initiated implementation of the remaining BMPs that are specific to retail water suppliers:

- BMP 1 Water survey programs for single-family residential and multi-family residential customers
- BMP 2 Residential plumbing retrofits (including Weather Based Irrigation Controllers)
- BMP 3 System water audits, leak detection and repair
- BMP 4 Metering with commodity rates for all new connections and retrofit of existing connections
- BMP 5 Large landscape conservation programs and incentives
- BMP 6 High-efficiency clothes washing machine financial incentive programs
- BMP 7 Public Information Programs
- BMP 8 School Education Programs
- BMP 9 Conservation programs for commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) accounts
- BMP 11 Conservation pricing
- BMP 12 Conservation coordinator
- BMP 13 Water waste prohibition
- BMP 14 Residential High Efficiency Toilet (HET) Replacement Program

Reports to the CUWCC on BMP implementation by CLWA and the Purveyors were included in the 2005 UWMP and have been reported to the CUWCC for 2007 and 2008..

Additional savings are occurring Valley-wide due to state interior plumbing code requirements that have been in effect since 1992, as well as due to changes in lot size and reduction in exterior square footage of new housing and commercial developments. The City of Santa Clarita and County of Los Angeles have also taken a more active conservation role and have begun implementing water efficient devices and practices on the properties they own and manage. All

of these efforts have begun to impact overall demand in the Valley. The Valley's water suppliers continue to monitor water demand trends through time to assess those factors that are accounting for the reduction, and to attempt to quantify them.

Most recently with regard to water conservation, CLWA and the retail water Purveyors entered into an MOU in 2007 to prepare a Santa Clarita Valley Water Conservation Strategic Plan (the Plan). The purpose of the plan is to prepare a comprehensive long-term conservation plan for the Santa Clarita Valley by adopting objectives, policies and programs designed to promote proven and cost effective conservation practices. A consultant was hired to prepare the Plan which will include significant input from stakeholders and the community at large. The plan provides a detailed study of existing residential and commercial water use and recommends programs designed to reduce the overall valley wide water demand by 10 percent by 2030. The programs are designed to provide Valley residents with the tools and education to use water more efficiently. The six programs identified in the Plan are:

- High Efficiency Toilet Rebate Program
- CII Audits & Customized Incentive Program
- Large Landscape Audits & Customized Incentive Program
- Landscape Contractor Certification and Weather Based Irrigation Controller Program
- High Efficiency Washer Rebate Program
- Public Information and Education Programs

In addition to the six programs designed for existing customers, the Plan also identifies three other key factors that will help reduce the valley's overall water demand; passive conservation, inflation and new more water efficient building ordinances.

Finally, the Plan includes an Appendix with more aggressive water use efficiency measures designed to meet a potential 20 percent reduction in water use by 2020. This includes funding more active conservation programs, retrofit on resale legislation, water rate reform, water budget based rates and a more aggressive recycled water program.

CLWA and the water purveyors will be implementing the majority of the programs identified in the Plan in 2009.

In addition to this effort, the water Purveyors are working with City and County agencies to develop a landscape irrigation ordinance for the Santa Clarita Valley. This ordinance will focus primarily on new construction aimed at reducing overall water demands by requiring efficient

landscape design and delivery systems. Implementation of the ordinance is expected in 2010, depending on review and adoption by the City and County.