



DATE: January 21, 2016

TO: Tammy Rudock, General Manager

FROM: Jeanette Kalabolas, Water Conservation Specialist

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**SUBJECT: 2015 FOURTH QUARTER WATER CONSERVATION STAFF REPORT**

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**SUBJECT #1:** CUWCC 2013-2014 Best Management Practices Filing

**BACKGROUND:** The California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) is a membership organization dedicated to maximizing urban water conservation throughout California by supporting and integrating innovative technologies and practices. In 1991 the CUWCC adopted an MOU regarding Urban Water Conservation in California containing "Best Management Practices (BMPs) intended to reduce long-term urban demands from what they would have been without implementation of specific practices and are in addition to programs which might be instituted during occasional water supply shortages.

**DISCUSSION:** Staff submitted the MPWD's 2013 and 2014 reports to the CUWCC by the deadline of October 31, 2015. CUWCC has reviewed the MPWD's filings and responded by issuing a retail coverage report stating MPWD is on track and in compliance with respect to all foundational BMPs, including allotted gallons per capita per day.

**SUBJECT #2:** 2015 Water Awareness Calendar Award Ceremony

**BACKGROUND:** Each year MPWD sponsors a community school contest grades 3-5 to increase students' water savings awareness. Rain or shine, key conservation practices are necessary to assure enough water for the health and well-being of our youth and planet.

**DISCUSSION:** The deadline to submit entries was November 13, 2015. Four schools participated in this year's contest - Belmont Oaks Academy, Cipriani Elementary School, Immaculate Heart of Mary and San Carlos Charter Learning Center for a total of 130 drawings. Twelve winning entries were selected by MPWD staff. Gift awards will be issued as follows: Grand-Prize \$50, plus two Runner-Ups at \$25 each. A small token of appreciation in the amount of \$100.00 will also be presented to the teacher with the most student participation. Certificates of Recognition and copies of the finished calendar will be provided to nine honorable mention entries as well. A ceremony acknowledging all students whose artwork was chosen for feature in the 2016 annual calendar will take place at next week's Board meeting on Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 6:30PM. A brief reception will follow.

**SUBJECT #3:** MPWD 2016 Water Conservation Preview

**BACKGROUND:** Even though the El Nino weather pattern seems to be holding as predicted, state speculation based on early water year 2015-2016 rain totals to date seems to indicate that after four consecutive dry years significant drought challenges will remain.

**DISCUSSION:** MPWD will extend its 20 ways to save 20% campaign through the second half of FY 2015-2016. Messaging will continue through the use of routine bill inserts, the MPWD's website and community partnerships, i.e. City of Belmont, Chamber of Commerce, Schools, etc. The MPWD will also take the opportunity in 2016 to look into various award opportunities on all levels (local, regional and state). Possibilities include: Acterra, CoolCalifornia.org (California Small Businesses), ACWA and other business enviro-friendly prospects. Staff will also search "outside the box" this year and look to become more involved in unique community experiences featuring water savings opportunities. An event of this nature has already been scheduled for February 29, 2016. The MPWD's Water Conservation Specialist will participate on a panel as a judge for a private company called Accenture based out of Redwood City. Accenture is hosting a software hack-a-thon over a 48-hour period where competitors will work in teams of four or five to create a liquid application, and then present a finished product to a group of judges comprised of experienced water professionals that will grade the team projects on a series of predetermined measures. Accenture's event will serve to benefit Girls Who Code, a local charity charter that helps young girls bridge the gender gap in technology.

**SUBJECT #4:** SFPUC Early Winter Storage Outlook

**BACKGROUND:** Based on November 2015 supply totals, SFPUC advised that customer conservation remains strong and although the water bank has worked well for the past three years and will work again in 2016, limitations can be expected. They also reminded customers they will continue to monitor SWRCB actions regarding curtailments and take appropriate action with respect to water rights when necessary.

**DISCUSSION:** The National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center continues to provide an optimistic seasonal outlook for precipitation in the upcoming months. Area water sheds are experiencing wetter weather patterns and are on track for "average" precipitation. November 2015 local rain fall totals were recorded as follows: Pilarcitos 57%, Lower Crystal Springs 63% and Calaveras 106% of average. Storage levels within the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System remain substantially above the previous drought period of 1987-1992. In the high country cool storms every 7 to 10 days have been persistent over the course of the last few months. Seasonal snowpack is building and there is snow across the entire watershed above all 3 reservoirs (Hetch Hetchy, Cherry and Eleanor). Although cold temperatures are resulting in lower snowlines and substantial accumulation, river flows remain moderate.

**SUBJECT #5:** State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Proposed Regulatory Framework for Extended Drought Emergency Regulations

**BACKGROUND:** In early 2014 Governor Brown signed a drought emergency proclamation mandating water industry officials take necessary actions in preparation for record dry conditions. Effective August 1, 2014, the SWRCB implemented emergency water conservation regulations prohibiting excess outdoor water use. Executive Order B-28-14 followed in December 2014 extending the operation of provisions through May 31, 2015. A third Executive Order B-29-15 was again issued in April 2015 with key provisions ordering the SWRCB to impose restrictions to achieve a 25% reduction in potable urban water usage through February 28, 2016, further directing the California Department of Water Resources to lead a statewide initiative, in partnership with local agencies, to collectively replace 50 million square feet of lawns and ornamental turf with drought tolerant landscapes; and directing the California Energy Commission to implement a statewide appliance rebate program to provide monetary incentives for the replacement of inefficient household devices.

**DISCUSSION:** On December 21, 2015, the SWRCB issued a proposed regulatory framework for extended emergency regulations for urban water conservation through October 31, 2016 as follow-up to the Governor's Executive Order 8-36-15 issued November 13, 2015. A summary of proposed changes are as follows – A) Climate Change – SWRCB staff recommends allowing the conservation standard to be reduced by up to 4% for urban water suppliers in the warmest regions of the state based on service area evapotranspiration relative to the statewide average ET, B) Growth Adjustment – SWRCB staff recommends allowing the conservation standard to be as a result of water efficient growth since 2013 based on the formula set forth in the proposed regulatory framework, C) Drought Resilient Sources of Supply Credit – SWRCB staff recommends allowing the conservation standard to be reduced by 4% for urban water suppliers that are using drought resilient water supplies (indirect potable reuse of coastal wastewater) or desalinated seawater developed since 2013 that makes up at least 4% of its potable water supply, D) Commercial Agriculture Exclusion - SWRCB staff recommends allowing the conservation standard to be reduced by subtracting a customer's water use that produces a minimum of \$1,000 per year in revenue from agricultural sales. Further, SWRCB staff recommends that all credits and adjustments to the conservation standard be capped at a maximum reduction of 4% (one tier) for any water supplier. In addition, SWRCB staff recommends that all other elements of the current emergency regulation remain in effect. SWRCB staff also recommends including a prohibition against homeowner's associations interfering with certain conservation actions by their association members in violation of existing law. The SWRCB staff considered, but does not recommend incorporating, proposals that involve (1) non-potable recycled water use credits, (2) groundwater credits, (3) a regional compliance approach, (4) an exemption for regions without drought conditions and no export/import of water (isolated hydro-geologic regions) or (5) revisions for suppliers with significant seasonal or transient populations. The SWRCB accepted comments to the proposed regulatory framework up to January 6. A draft of the SWRCB emergency regulation is expected to be released for public comment this week.

**SUBJECT #6:** Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) Rebates Database Conversion

**BACKGROUND:** Come 2016 BAWSCA will administer a subscription-based Conservation Management System Program in which ConserveTrack will develop and implement a regional conservation Data Management System (DMS) for member Agencies.

**DISCUSSION:** This database system will primarily be used as a rebate center for online processing of High-Efficiency Toilet, Lawn Be Gone, and Rain Barrel rebate applications. All BAWSCA member agencies that participate in at least one of the aforementioned programs will be required at a minimum to use the "new" BAWSCA Rebate Center in a Mini DMS capacity for the processing of all rebate applications. Set up and maintenance costs will apply. An alternate option will also be made available, on a larger scale to any Agencies interested in ConserveTrack configuring Agency-specific water conservation programs and activities, including, but not limited to, retrofit programs, leak detection, surveys/audits, AMI integration and water waste violation enforcement. Additional monthly hosting, maintenance and user support fees will be charged.