

ATTACHMENT 9 UPDATE ON WATER

Comprehensive Water Conservation Plan (CWCP)

On April 13, 2009, the City Council adopted the CWCP. As a long-term goal, the CWCP presupposes an initial target of reducing per-capita potable water consumption 10% by 2015 and 20% by 2020. Whereas PWP's past water conservation programs relied heavily on indoor efficiency, the CWCP reflects an emphasis on:

- Using price signals in rate design to encourage conservation;
- Increased emphasis on outdoor water efficiency; and
- Maximizing efficiencies related to new construction.

Water Waste Prohibition and Water Shortage Plan (WWP/WSP) Ordinance

In addition, effective July 4, 2009, new water shortage procedures took effect in Pasadena through revisions to PMC Section 13.10. The revisions take a three-pronged approach to ensuring a more effective and meaningful response to the City's water supply challenges: (1) specific instances of conspicuous water waste will be prohibited permanently; (2) if the Council determines that a water shortage exists, additional restrictions will be invoked depending on which level of shortage is declared; and (3) warnings and fines will enforce the permanent water waste prohibitions and any additional water shortage restrictions. On July 4, 2009, the following permanent prohibitions on water waste took effect, and will apply to the Project.

- No watering outdoors between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. except with a hand-held container or hose with a shut-off nozzle, or for very short periods when adjusting a sprinkler system.
- No watering during periods of rain.
- No excessive water flow or runoff onto pavement, gutters or ditches from watering or irrigating landscapes or vegetation of any kind.
- No washing down paved surfaces unless for safety or sanitation, in which case a bucket, hose with a shut-off nozzle, cleaning machine that recycles water or low-volume/high-pressure water broom must be used.
- All property owners must fix leaks, breaks or malfunctions when they find them or within seven days of receiving a notice from PWP.
- Fountains and water features must have re-circulating water systems.
- Vehicles must be washed with hand-held buckets and/or hoses equipped with water shut-off nozzles (does not apply to commercial car washes).

- Restaurants may not serve drinking water unless by request and must use water-saving dish-wash spray valves.
- No installation of non-recirculating water systems at new commercial car washes and laundries. Effective July 1, 2010, all commercial car washes must have re-circulating water systems or secure city waivers.
- Hotels and motels must give guests the option to decline changing of daily bed linens and towels.
- No installation of single-pass cooling systems in buildings requesting new water service. (<http://cityofpasadena.net/waterandpower/watershortage/WaterWaste%20ProhibitionsPR.pdf>.)

Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

Pursuant to the requirements of Article 10.8 of the Government Code (“Water Conservation in Landscaping Act,” Govt. Code §§ 65591 et. seq.), City staff has been working on drafting a Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, modeled after the Department of Water Resources model ordinance. The model ordinance limits irrigation of certain new and existing landscaped area to a calculated amount of water. This water limit is determined by a mathematical formula based on the size of the landscaped area, type of plant material, regional climate, and other variables. Staff has taken the model ordinance and preliminary ideas/issues for local implementation to the Environmental Advisory Commission, the Design Commission, and the Planning Commission. Staff anticipates taking the ordinance to the City Council for possible adoption before the end of 2009.

MWD Allocation and City Water Rate Restructuring

As of July 1, 2009, the Metropolitan Water District (from which the City receives approximately 65% of its water supply) will have decreased the City’s base water allocation by 10% and charge the City a penalty rate for any water over that base allocation. The City will still be able to purchase the amount it previously needed from MWD, but will have to pay more for

that same amount.¹ On June 22, 2009, City Council approved a rate increase to cover the cost of the expected surcharges by MWD.²

¹ <http://cityofpasadena.net/waterandpower/YourWater/WaterRates/default.asp>

² http://www.cityofpasadena.net/councilagendas/2009%20agendas/Jun_22_09/6C.pdf.