

## **Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan Requirements for Wholesale Water Supplier Customers**

### **Applicability**

- Wholesale Water providers (WWP) that provide wholesale water to municipal water users
- Water providers that provide retail water to large industries or other uses
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### **Description**

- WWP requires WCP/DCP for all new and amended contracts above a small minimum acre-feet use such as 10 acft, which includes all types of use (municipal, industrial, irrigation, recreation, agricultural) and includes smaller utilities not required to submit plans to TCEQ
- WWP staff review WCP/DCP, screen for minimum requirements, encourage additional measures
- Helpful with managing regional droughts

### **Implementation**

- Dedicate staff resources such as a wholesale water conservation coordinator to provide technical assistance on plan development to retail providers
- Develop and adopt water conservation plan (WCP) rules as part of Administrative Rules for water Contracts
  - Require all required measures in TAC 288 rules
  - Through staff technical assistance, promote adoption of additional water conservation measures such as: fixture replacement programs, ordinance or deed restrictions requiring landscape irrigation standards, soil depth requirements
  - Consider requiring minimum number of BMPs based on contract volume request
- Develop and adopt drought contingency plan (DCP) rules as part of Administrative Rules for water Contracts
  - Require all required measures in TAC 288 rules
  - Include limits on daytime irrigation and a no more than twice-weekly watering schedule. Require specific triggers for reduction in water supply (not just capacity) in each drought stages, tied back to the WWP's corresponding DCP stage
  - Specific quantified targets for water use reduction tied back to WWP's DCP
- Incorporate WCP/DCP approval into the water contracting process
- Develop yearly reporting mechanism on WCP/DCP implementation
- Consider developing and adopting penalties for non-compliance

### **Scope & Schedule**

- Develop WCP/DCP rules and approve by official governing body (Board/Council)
- Begin implementation with new or amended water contracts within three months of official adoption
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- Implementation reporting can be required less frequently than yearly but may be less effective and the quality of information may reduce over time
- BMP considered complete with or without penalties for non-compliance

### **Measuring Implementation and Determining Water Savings**

- Create a database listing specific plan elements and which stage they occur in (for DCP) to

facilitate the ability to create summary documents on what is being done throughout the WWP's service area

- WWP compile information on drought plan implementation
- WWP conduct yearly WCP implementation survey to determine savings from implementation of individual plan elements

#### **Cost-Effectiveness Considerations**

- Depending on frequency and size of new contracts 0.5 to 1 FTE needed for a mid-large size WWP

#### **References for Additional Information**

- TCEQ WCP/DCP rules
- LCRA WCP/DCP rules

#### **Determination of the Impact on Other Resources**

- This BMP lays the groundwork for other BMPs that the WWP customer will implement
- WWPs cannot generally save water by themselves unless they also own/operate retail utilities- they must save water through collaboration with retail customers and other water users.

#### **Acknowledgments**

- LCRA