

14-0078-52

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

MOTION

In January 2014, Governor Jerry Brown declared California's ongoing drought to be a state of emergency, and though the Governor's declaration called for a 20% reduction in water use, according to a July 28 article in the *Los Angeles Times*, statewide water use has actually increased in recent months.

On June 26, 2014, the California Center for Sustainable Communities at UCLA issued a report titled "*Residential Water Consumption in Los Angeles: What are the drivers and are conservation measures working?*" The report, funded by the National Science Foundation, analyzed ten years of data tracking water consumption by people living in single-family residential neighborhoods in Los Angeles, and further offered policy recommendations based on what the report had found to be the most effective policies that have lead to improved water conservation.

Among the report's key findings was the revelation that, based on the efficacy of past programs, a combination of mandatory restrictions and increasing the price for excessive water use is the most effective policy mechanism that can be used to encourage conservation.

While the Department of Water and Power (DWP) has already begun exploring and implementing a number of policies similar to the recommendations offered in the UCLA report, a public conversation of these efforts would help DWP customers better understand what options they have available to do their part in addressing the state's historic drought.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the Department of Water and Power to report to the Council on the feasibility of implementing the following policy recommendations from the UCLA report, or on the progress of any similar existing efforts already underway at the DWP:

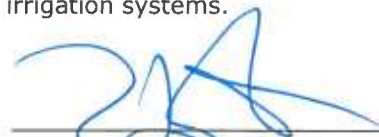
- **Improving the Tiered Water Pricing System** - The UCLA report recommends an increasing block rate structure for DWP customers with more than two tiers, in which the unit price for water rises as the volume of water consumption increases. DWP should report on the progress of previously-proposed modifications to its current rate structure that will simplify the tiered structure for water customers and possibly add tiers to encourage customers to use less water.
- **Establishing Water Budgets for Households** - The UCLA report recommends establishing reasonable water budgets for households that take into consideration household characteristics and geography, and allocates a set amount of water that is reasonably required by each customer. DWP should report on how its existing water rate structure uses water budgets, and should additionally present ways for the water budget model to be simplified so it is easier for customers to understand.
- **Differentiating Between Indoor and Outdoor Water Use** - The UCLA report recommends the use of dual-metering systems that would allow outdoor water use to be billed separately from indoor use in order to allow customers more detailed information about how their water-use habits affect their utility bills. DWP should report on its existing dual-metering program, and provide recommendations for enhancing its outreach so more customers can install outdoor water meters.
- **Increasing Landscaping Options** - Since irrigation acts as the primary driver of outdoor water use, DWP should report on its ongoing efforts, incentives and education programs to enhance landscaping options and allow customers to use more efficient irrigation systems.

PRESENTED BY:



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