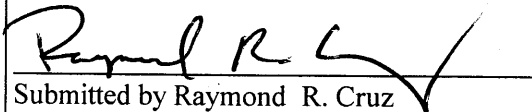


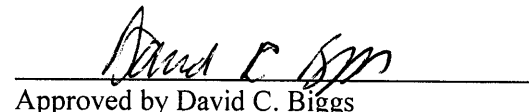


City of Carson Report to Mayor and City Council

November 1, 2011
New Business Consent

SUBJECT: CONSIDER REPORT FROM THE SIERRA CLUB REGARDING THE CITY OF CARSON'S WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS


Submitted by Raymond R. Cruz
Public Services General Manager


Approved by David C. Biggs
City Manager

I. SUMMARY

This item is on the agenda at the request of Councilman Santarina.

The Sierra Club recently released its Water Conservation Measures study that rates local cities for their efforts to mandate water conservation. Its survey evaluated ordinances enacted by incorporated cities around Los Angeles and Orange County to save water. According to the survey, the city of Carson rated a "Good" in its efforts to direct water conservation (Exhibit No. 2). In addition to informing the public of the city's "Good" grade, this report highlights those areas where Carson can improve its water conservation efforts (Exhibit No. 3).

II. RECOMMENDATION

RECEIVE and FILE report.

III. ALTERNATIVES

TAKE another action the City Council deems appropriate.

IV. BACKGROUND

Despite the heavy rains that hit Southern California earlier this year and the record snowpack in the Sierras, long term water shortfalls are projected in California due to population increases and global climate change. As a result, water conservation ordinances and sustainable water practices enacted and enforced by cities are critical to manage declining water supplies.

In an effort to evaluate how well cities in Los Angeles and Orange Counties are mandating water conservation, the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club conducted a survey of ordinances using 19 criteria across 3 general categories as follows:

- Restricted Use Measures limit water usage and wasteful water practices when a water shortage is declared by the city. Such measures are usually phased-in and become more restrictive as water shortages become more severe.
- Efficient Use Measures specify standards for water fixtures and systems in buildings and commercial operations, and for landscape irrigation. These

include standards for toilets, showerheads and smart controllers that prevent overwatering.

- Best Practices describe measures for efficient and effective water use as promoted by organizations such as the California Water Conservation Council.

A more detailed explanation of the survey's methodology can be found in Exhibit No. 1. Using the Sierra Club's survey approach, Carson received a rating of "Good" among the 122 cities that were evaluated (Exhibit No. 4). In reviewing the city's scorecard, a number of areas were highlighted indicating those areas where the city could improve its water conservation efforts (Exhibit No. 3). Staff intends to utilize this information to implement efforts that will improve the city's water conservation program.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

VI. EXHIBITS

1. Survey Methodology. (pg. 3)
2. City of Carson Scorecard Summary. (pg. 4)
3. Survey Scorecard. (pg. 5)
4. Survey Results. (pgs. 6-7)

Prepared by: Luchie S. Magante, Sr. Administrative Analyst
TO: Rev091911

Reviewed by:

City Clerk	City Treasurer
Administrative Services	Development Services
Economic Development	Public Services

Action taken by City Council

Date _____ Action _____

Survey Methodology

Water measures enacted in municipal codes, by city ordinances or as water regulations were reviewed as provided by all incorporated cities and associated water districts of Los Angeles County and Orange County. The reviews were conducted by 2-4 independent reviewers for each city. The water ordinances of each city was reviewed and scored based on information which is widely and publicly available on the web, on the cities websites, or could be requested through the city clerk.

The primary evaluations were to determine which cities had enacted mandatory water conservation measures. If the city did not have a water ordinance did an associated water agency serving that city have one? And exactly what criteria did cities use to define required measures?

Several federal, state, and local reference points were used to establish criteria used to audit the ordinances including the MWD (Metropolitan Water District) model water ordinance, CUWCC best practices, CA DWR municipal water policy recommendation, and Federal EPA Water Sense standards. All cities received a water restriction score, and a water efficiency score that are combined for an overall water conservation score. To obtain these scores the scorecard based on the wording and construction of the MWD water ordinance was divided into 2 major divisions' short term (month to month monitoring of water supply with mandatory enforced restrictions) and long term water conservation (sustainable practices and standards) which were both further subdivided.

All ordinances were reviewed between August 2009 and November 2010 by volunteers of the Water Conservation Committee, Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club and students from UCLA. All ordinances were reviewed at multiple intervals by 2-4 independent and separate reviewers to facilitate any changes that may have been adopted by the cities within the above time frame. Policy changes made to any water ordinance after said date will not be reflected in the cities respective scorecard or water conservation score.

Water Conservation Measures		Los Angeles County
Scorecard Summary		Carson
Category	Restricted Use Measures	
RU-1	Limited days per week and time allowed to water lawns	✓
RU-2	Limited filling of swimming pools, ponds and fountains	✓
RU-3	Limited washing of outdoor surfaces and vehicles	✓
RU-4	Limit or prohibit recreational, ornamental, construction and other non-essential uses	✓
RU-5	Prohibit water left running unattended	✓
RU-6	Require plumbing leaks be reported and repaired	✓
Category	Residential Water Efficiency Measures	
EU-R1	Toilets rated at 1.28 gallons per flush	✗
EU-R2	Showers rated at 2.0 gallons per minute	✗
EU-R3	Indoor faucets rated at 2.0 gallons per minute	✗
EU-R4	Energy Star washing machines and Energy Star dishwashers rated at 5.8 gallons	✗
Category	Commercial Water Efficiency Measures	
EU-F1	Toilets rated at 1.28 gallons per flush	✗
EU-F2	Urinals rated at 0.5 gallons per flush	✗
EU-F3	Faucets: - private use rated at 1.5 gallons per min., and - public use rated 0.5 gallons per min., self-closing	✗
EU-F4	Energy Star dishwashers rated at 5.8 gallons	✗
EU-F5	No single-pass commercial water cooling towers	✓
EU-F6	Commercial best practices: - restaurants offering water only upon request, - hotel linen laundry only upon request, and - landscape vegetation with low-irrigation needs	✓
Category	Efficient Landscape Irrigation	
EU-L1	Water efficient landscape irrigation systems that meet or exceed state law AB 1881	✓
Category	Efficient Commercial & Industrial Processes	
EU-P	Water efficient equipment for food processing, laundry, car wash, and water-cooling systems	✓
Category	Efficient Municipal Best Practices	
EU-M	Municipal best practices for water reuse, recycled water, reclaimed water, and general use of non-potable water where available.	✗
SCORE		
10		
GOOD		



Water Conservation Measures Scorecard Summary		Cities (122 Total)
Category	Restricted Use Measures	
RU-1	Limited days per week and time allowed to water lawns	117
RU-2	Limited filling of swimming pools, ponds and fountains	112
RU-3	Limited washing of outdoor surfaces and vehicles	117
RU-4	Limit or prohibit recreational, ornamental, construction and other non-essential uses	106
RU-5	Prohibit water left running unattended	115
RU-6	Require plumbing leaks be reported and repaired	112
Category	Residential Water Efficiency Measures	
EU-R1	Toilets rated at 1.28 gallons per flush	16
EU-R2	Showers rated at 2.0 gallons per minute	13
EU-R3	Indoor faucets rated at 2.0 gallons per minute	13
EU-R4	Energy Star washing machines and Energy Star dishwashers rated at 5.8 gallons	13
Category	Commercial Water Efficiency Measures	
EU-F1	Toilets rated at 1.28 gallons per flush	12
EU-F2	Urinals rated at 0.5 gallons per flush	8
EU-F3	Faucets: - private use rated at 1.5 gallons per min., and - public use rated 0.5 gallons per min., self-closing	10
EU-F4	Energy Star dishwashers rated at 5.8 gallons	36
EU-F5	No single-pass commercial water cooling towers	55
EU-F6	Commercial best practices: - restaurants offering water only upon request, - hotel linen laundry only upon request, and - landscape vegetation with low-irrigation needs	103
Category	Efficient Landscape Irrigation	
EU-L1	Water efficient landscape irrigation systems that meet or exceed state law AB 1881	107
Category	Efficient Commercial & Industrial Processes	
EU-P	Water efficient equipment for food processing, laundry, car wash, and water-cooling systems	94
Category	Efficient Municipal Best Practices	
EU-M	Municipal best practices for water reuse, recycled water, reclaimed water, and general use of non-potable water where available.	33



City Scores on

Water Conservation Measures

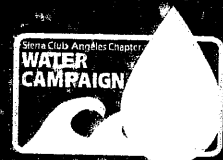
Los Angeles and Orange Counties

*Are you doing
your part?*



SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Angelen Chapter



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

BEST Measures

Burbank
La Verne
Los Angeles

GOOD Measures

Arcadia
Azusa
Bell Gardens
Carson
Claremont
Commerce
Covina
Culver City
Diamond Bar
El Segundo
Glendale
Hawaiian Gardens
Hermosa Beach
Industry
La Canada Flintridge
La Habra Heights

Lakewood
Lomita
Long Beach
Lynwood
Manhattan Beach
Monrovia
Montebello
Pasadena
Pico Rivera
Pomona
Rolling Hills
San Dimas
Santa Clarita
Santa Monica
Signal Hill
South Gate
Torrance
Walnut
West Covina
West Hollywood

POOR Measures

Agoura Hills
Alhambra
Artesia

Avalon
Bell
Bellflower
Beverly Hills
Bradbury
Calabasas
Cerritos
Compton
Cudahy
Downey
Duarte
El Monte
Gardena
Glendora
Hawthorne
Hidden Hills
Huntington Park
Inglewood
Irwindale
La Mirada
Lancaster
Lawndale
Malibu
Maywood
Monterey Park

Norwalk
Palmdale
Paramount
Redondo Beach
Rolling Hills Estates
Rosemead
San Fernando
San Gabriel
San Marino
Santa Fe Springs
Sierra Madre
South Pasadena
Temple City
Vernon
Westlake Village
Whittier

Baldwin Park
La Puente
Palos Verdes Estates
Rancho Palos Verdes
South El Monte

ORANGE COUNTY

BEST Measures

La Palma
Mission Viejo

GOOD Measures

Aliso Viejo
Anaheim
Brea
Buena Park
Costa Mesa

Dana Point
Fountain Valley
Garden Grove
Irvine
La Habra
Laguna Beach
Laguna Hills
Laguna Niguel
Laguna Woods
Lake Forest
Newport Beach
Orange

Placentia
Rancho Santa Margarita
San Clemente
San Juan Capistrano
Seal Beach
Stanton
Villa Park
Westminster
Yorba Linda

POOR Measures

Cypress
Fullerton
Huntington Beach
Los Alamitos
Santa Ana
Tustin

None

City water ordinances were reviewed between August 2009 and November 2010. For more detailed statistics and analysis on the water conservation measures and ratings, please visit our website: www.angeles.sierraclub.org/water

Find us on Facebook. Water Committee-Sierra Club Angeles Chapter

Credits

Map: C.M. Gooley and the GIS Committee-Angeles Chapter
Water Campaign logo: Michelle Theis
Graphic design and layout: Janet Lee
Photography: Andrew Ma
Owl logo: Gerald Martinez
Production: Michelle Theis

Printed July 2011 © Sierra Club Angeles Chapter- Water Committee

