



Urban Water Conservation by the Cachuma Member Units

Mary Ann Dickinson, Executive Director
California Urban Water Conservation
Council



The MOU is the Accepted Standard

- CUWCC MOU signed by 313 members
- Negotiated to avoid litigation regarding appropriate levels of water conservation
- Cachuma agencies signatories since 1994
- MOU signatories implement 14 BMPs
- Accepted water conservation standard, referenced in water code
- Yardstick for compliance by CALFED



Status of BMP Implementation

- Signatories have until 2007 to achieve full BMP implementation
- Implementation milestones are ongoing
- Santa Barbara and Goleta comprise 78% of the urban water use from the Cachuma Project
- Santa Barbara and Goleta's compliance with the BMPs is good
- Compliance by the three other member units is typical based on size



BMPs Implemented by All

- 6 BMPs to date:
 - System water audits, leak detection and repair
 - Metering with commodity rates
 - Public information
 - School Education
 - Conservation Pricing
 - Conservation Coordinator



Implementation of Other BMPs

- Santa Barbara and Goleta have achieved significant or complete implementation of other BMPs:
 - Residential surveys
 - Residential retrofits
 - Large landscape conservation (water budgets, reclaimed water, and ET controllers)
 - CII retrofits
 - Water waste prohibitions
 - Ultra-low Flush Toilets



Costs of Conservation Programs Vary Widely

- Program cost per acre foot varies between \$29 and \$500 or more
- Most programs typically in the \$150 to \$250 cost range, particularly residential and CII toilet and clothes washers
- Analysis needed to determine exact costs based on program size, design, customer participation, and persistence of savings



Conservation has Statewide Benefit

- Water bonds collectively awarded over \$50 million in urban water conservation incentive grants and loans for conservation above the local cost-effectiveness threshold
- Conserved water for environmental purposes is a state benefit
- Methods for calculating environmental costs and benefits will be studied by CUWCC
- Important precedent

End

Cachuma Project Water Rights Hearing

main menu

