



NEWS RELEASE

For Release: Immediate

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Western Municipal Water District Adopts Drought Allocation Plan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Riverside, CA, September 4, 2008 – Western Municipal Water District’s Board of Directors adopted a Drought Allocation Plan (DAP) yesterday, Sept. 3 that provides the District and its wholesale customers with a means for allocating limited imported water supplies from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California under water shortage conditions.

“With the recent news of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California adopting their Shortage Allocation Plan (SAP), Western wanted to be locally prepared in the event that the water supply situation worsens. We’re confident that our DAP will ensure an equitable allocation of supplies during times of drought conditions,” said John V. Rossi, general manager at Western. “This is the time to proactively strategize ways to minimize the impacts of a water shortage.”

Over the last eight months, the DAP was developed with the collaborative help of our wholesale customers and their sub-agencies. A questionnaire was administered to gain an initial understanding of the wholesale customers’ positions on these DAP elements: (1) what is important in the overall design of a Drought Allocation Plan, (2) what are the issues related to water transfers, (3) how should water be allocated in a shortage, and (4) what role should a public communication strategy play during a drought. Western also facilitated three workshops to obtain input for the development of the DAP.

“Working together is an effective way to make sure that we adjust in situations where there may be inadequate water supplies. By having the customers involved in the DAP process, we can think through ways to water ration in a fair and equitable manner,” said S.R. “Al” Lopez, Western Board President.

The DAP is set in motion only when Metropolitan is forced to allocate its supplies through its Shortage Allocation Plan (SAP) process. Should Metropolitan implement its SAP, Western staff will determine the appropriate Shortage Level so that supplies allocated at the Western service area level are equal to or less than the Metropolitan allocation. The allocation period covers 12 consecutive months.

At the end of the allocation year, Metropolitan will bill Western for any accrued penalties. If the Western DAP is implemented at any time in the next three years, there will be an automatic revisit of the plan to assess its performance after the allocation period. If there is no implementation of the DAP during the next three years, there will be a formal revisit of this plan.

Western Municipal Water District provides water supply, wastewater disposal and water resource management to the public in a safe, reliable, environmentally sensitive and financially responsible manner within a 527-square mile area of western Riverside County.

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