

Water Supply Draft Policies and Strategies in Water

Jan. 22, 2014 MAWSAC Meeting

Overall Policy

The Council and region will work to assure adequate and high quality ground and surface water supplies to protect public health and support economic growth and development by promoting wise use of water through optimizing surface water and groundwater use, conservation, reuse, aquifer recharge, and other practices.

Policy on Growth

The council shall support and plan for the sustainable use of water sources to ensure that supplies of potable water are adequate for the region's current population and projected growth.

- *Strategy 1: Update the Master Water Supply Plan which provides the institutional framework for coordinated regional water supply planning.*
- *Strategy 2: Review local water supply plans to ensure consistency with the Master Water Supply Plan*
- *Strategy 3: Promote water conservation measures.*
- *Strategy 4: Encourage environmentally sound land use and cooperative water use practices that minimizes impacts on aquifers.*

Policy on Assessing and Protecting Water Supplies

The Council shall support technical assessments and planning activities that protect and enhance the quantity and quality of the region's source water.

- *Strategy 1: Assess the use, capacity, quality and vulnerability of the regional water supply system along with identifying high potential areas for recharge*
- *Strategy 2: Promote water supply resiliency by increasing surface water use when its appropriate*
- *Strategy 3: Promote the use of best management practices for stormwater to minimize aquifer impacts and maximize groundwater recharge.*
- *Strategy 4: Investigate reusing treated wastewater and, when cost-effective, implement reuse.*

Policy on Cost-effectiveness and Funding

The Council shall support cost-effective sub-regional water supply infrastructure investments in its effort to promote sustainable use and protect the region's water supplies.

- *Strategy 1: Develop criteria to identify water supply projects with regional benefit*
- *Strategy 2: Support cost-benefit analyses of alternative water supply options*

- **Strategy 3:** *identify funding mechanisms for regionally-beneficial water supply development projects*
- **Strategy 4:** Promote equitable cost-sharing structure for regionally-beneficial water supply development projects

Policy on Leadership and Regional Collaboration

The Council will foster regional and local collaboration and convene discussion to address water supply challenges and limitations.

- **Strategy 1:** *Establish sub-regional work groups and lead discussions to address water supply limitations*
- **Strategy 2:** *Collaborate with agency partners in the development and implementation of GMAs, wellhead protection plans, water appropriation permit review, and aquifer recharge projects*
- **Strategy 3:** *Provide technical assistance to local units of government in the development of local water supply plans, wellhead protection plans, water appropriation permit review, and aquifer recharge projects.*