



Central Basin
Municipal Water District

COPY OF LETTER ISSUED TO CITIES – TEXT ONLY

6252 Telegraph Road
Commerce, CA 90040-2512

Phone: 323.201.5500
Fax: 323.201.5550
www.centralbasin.org

February 5, 2009

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City
Street Address
City, State & ZIP

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RE: Metropolitan Water District's New Water Conservation Ordinance Policy

Dear :

I am writing to inform you that the **Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Board of Directors has adopted a policy requiring cities to have a water conservation ordinance in place by June 30, 2009**, as a prerequisite for funding through the Public Sector Program (PSP) and the Enhanced Conservation Program (ECP).

By adopting this policy, the MWD Board of Directors rejected the request made by Central Basin and 13 other MWD Member Agencies to extend the June 30 deadline in order to afford all cities ample time to review and update their respective ordinances. With this new policy in place, Central Basin will fully support all interested cities within its service area in developing conservation ordinances that meet the MWD requirements.

Currently, a combined total of \$5,250,000 in grant funding is available through the PSP and ECP programs for water conservation projects in the public sector. Additionally, the MWD Board has approved an additional \$10,000,000 to be distributed through the PSP over the next two years. Through these programs, MWD provides funding for a range of conservation devices and initiatives, including many that cities will be required to implement by 2010 under the local government mandate AB 1881.

MWD Water Conservation Ordinance Components

To qualify under the new MWD policy, a water conservation ordinance must:

1. Prohibit certain outdoor water uses for residents and businesses.
2. Regulate outdoor irrigation practices.
3. Include penalties for violations.
4. Include a public communications component (i.e. a reporting hotline).

Compliance Options

In an effort to provide some flexibility to cities, MWD has provided two compliance options for your consideration. Cities may:

1. Adopt an ordinance that complies with Metropolitan Water District's model ordinance; or
2. Demonstrate through a detailed plan that your city is able to achieve five percent (5%) or more in imported water savings through an alternative action.

To assist our cities in meeting the unrealistic implementation deadline set forth by MWD, Central Basin asked that the water conservation ordinance adopted by Los Angeles County be reviewed to determine if it complies with the MWD requirements. MWD has affirmed that they would honor the Los Angeles County ordinance for those cities that choose to adopt it. We have enclosed a copy for your review.

In the coming weeks, Central Basin staff will be getting in touch with you to provide more information on the resources available to your city. If you have any questions regarding this new MWD policy, please contact Central Basin's Conservation Coordinator, Sally Flowers at (323) 201-5514 or sallyf@centralbasin.org.

Sincerely,

Art Aguilar
General Manager