Water Data Management:
Past, Present, and Future

California Public Utilities Commission

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Rick Soehren
Assistant Deputy Director
Presentation Overview

- Where We’ve Been
  - State Agency Data Collection
  - Recent Legislation and Policy
- Where We Are
  - Provisions of SB X7 7
  - DWR Pilots
- Where We’re Headed
  - Better data for all, easier process to submit data
  - The focus here is on urban water use
**State Agencies Collect Data**

- **State Water Resources Control Board**
  - Collection Focuses on Water Right Holders

- **Department of Water Resources**
  - Voluntary Annual Public Water System Survey
  - Urban Water Management Plans Every Five Years

- **Department of Public Health**
  - Includes Information from Smaller Suppliers

- **California Public Utilities Commission**
  - Limited to Investor-owned Utilities
State Agency Data Challenges

- **Existing Data Systems**
  - Antiquated
  - Incompatible
  - Sometimes Still Paper-based

- **Information Sharing, Cooperation**
  - Limited
  - Budget Constraints Make Cooperation Harder
Legislative Attention to Water Data

- AB 1404 (Laird, 2007) directed SWRCB, in collaboration with DWR, DPH, CALFED to investigate feasibility and costs of coordinated water measurement database.
- CPUC not mentioned in legislation.
- Draft Report Recommends Hub and Spoke System, Single Point (Hub) of Data Entry
- Estimated Cost is $10 M + $2M/yr.
Governor’s 20% by 2020 Goal

- Part of Governor’s Comprehensive Delta Plan
- Calls for “20 percent reduction in per capita water use statewide by 2020”
- Governor directed state agencies “to develop this more aggressive plan and implement it”
- Draft plan released April 2009, final plan in press now
20x2020 Agencies

- Dept of Water Resources
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Dept of Public Health
- CA Public Utilities Commission
- CA Energy Commission
- CALFED Program
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- CA Urban Water Conservation Council
Approach

- Determine Current Per Capita Use by Region
- Set Per Capita Targets by Region
  - Assume Every Region Conserves
  - Assume Regions with High Water Use Conserve More than 20%
- Identify Actions That Would Achieve Regional Targets
- Recommend a Plan to the Governor
9 Major Recommendations Including:

- **Lay a strong foundation:**
  - Mandate uniform data collection and establish a statewide database
  - Put the goal in statute as a backstop
- **Focus Attention landscape irrigation demand**
- **Reduce water waste, especially in unmetered areas**
- **Implement Best Management Practices**
- **Provide financial incentives**
Draft plan posted now

Final plan contains same regional targets

www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/hot_topics/20x2020/index.shtml

From the SWRCB home page, click:

- “Water Issues” tab
- “Hot Topics”
Conservation Turns a Corner

- SB X7 7 enacted as part of “water package”
- Requires ag suppliers to plan, measure deliveries and charge by volume
- Places 20% goal in statute, establishes complex processes to achieve savings
- Ties future state water grants to compliance
- Directs state agencies to work together and standardize data collection
New Law is Data Intensive

- Directs suppliers to set per capita targets
- Directs DWR to provide technical guidance to improve data consistency
- Directs suppliers to report per capita reductions in their 5-year urban water management plans
- Directs DWR to review 2015 plans, recommend additional actions if CA is not “on track” to meet per capita targets
Standardized Data Collection

WC 10608.52 (a) DWR, in consultation with SWRCB, CALFED, DPH, CPUC, shall develop a single standardized water use reporting form to meet the water use information needs of each agency…
DWR Pilots

- DWR will test a simple Adobe web-based data input process this year:
  - Public Water System Survey – one-page form distributed to 1000 suppliers
  - Urban Water Management Plans – up to 36 tables of data, submitted by nearly 450 urban suppliers
- Electronic submittal will be voluntary, will speed grant processing, etc.
DWR Pilots

- **Considerations:**
  - Confirm authorized users
  - Save and modify draft information
  - Accommodate various units
  - Check for reasonableness
  - Protect any confidential information
  - Support export of formatted data for local use
  - Support SB X7 7 compliance
  - Accommodate Data Imports (e.g. CUWCC, AWE)
Where We’re Headed

- Standardized data collection must address each state agency’s concerns and needs

- Benefits are enormous:
  - Simpler and cheaper for local agencies to comply
  - Better and more complete water use data
  - Better water management information for locals, state, all

- Requires close cooperation among all of us
Rick Soehren
California Department of Water Resources
(916) 653-9791
rssoehren@water.ca.gov
http://www.water.ca.gov