

CHAPTER 2. PLAN PREPARATION, COORDINATION AND ADOPTION

PLAN PREPARATION

10620 (a) Every urban water supplier shall prepare and adopt an urban water management plan in the manner set forth in Article 3.

10620 (e) The urban water supplier may prepare the plan with its own staff, by contract, or in cooperation with other governmental agencies.

In March 2006, as part of the City of Fresno Metropolitan Water Resources Management Plan Update (Metro Plan Update), the City of Fresno (City) authorized West Yost Associates (WYA) to prepare the City's updated 2008 UWMP. The information contained herein is based on data obtained from City staff, data included in available water supply planning documents, and review and update of data contained in the City's previous UWMPs. The City's first UWMP was prepared in 1986; the City's UWMP was then updated in 1993.

As discussed in Chapter 4, this 2008 UWMP is also consistent with the City's future water supply plan recommended in the City's on-going Metro Plan Update.

Public Involvement

10642. Each urban water supplier shall encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the service area prior to and during the preparation of the plan. Prior to adopting a plan, the urban water supplier shall make the plan available for public inspection and shall hold a public hearing thereon. Prior to the hearing, notice of the time and place of hearing shall be published within the jurisdiction of the publicly owned water supplier pursuant to Section 6066 of the Government Code. The urban water supplier shall provide notice of the time and place of hearing to any city or county within which the supplier provides water supplies.

It is the City's policy to encourage public participation when adopting plans such as the 2008 UWMP. Therefore, the City sought public input while developing this 2008 UWMP. The Draft 2008 UWMP was available for public review prior to the scheduled Public Hearing, which was held on July 22, 2008. During this review period, the Draft 2008 UWMP was available at the City's offices during normal business hours, distributed to interested parties (see below), and made available at the Fresno County Public Library. Notices for the Public Hearing were placed in the Fresno Bee newspaper. Copies of the public notices are provided in Appendix B of this 2008 UWMP.

Other Agency Involvement

10620 (d)(2) Each urban water supplier shall coordinate the preparation of its plan with other appropriate agencies in the area, including other water suppliers that share a common source, water management agencies, and relevant public agencies, to the extent practicable.

10621 (b) Every urban water supplier required to prepare a plan pursuant to this part shall notify any city or county within which the supplier provides water supplies that the urban water supplier will be reviewing the plan and considering amendments or changes to the plan. The urban water supplier may consult with, and obtain comments from, any city or county that receives notice pursuant to this subdivision.

The City regularly coordinates with Fresno County, the Fresno Irrigation District (FID) and other water purveyors in the Fresno area, including the Bakman Water District, Pinedale Water District, Herndon Water Company, and others. The City notified the County, FID and the other local water purveyors regarding the preparation of this 2008 UWMP and distributed copies of the Draft 2008 UWMP for their review and comment. Copies of the agency notices are provided in Appendix B of this 2008 UWMP. Applicable comments were then incorporated into the final adopted 2008 UWMP. Following plan adoption, a copy of this 2008 UWMP was provided to Fresno County in accordance with the requirements of the UWMP Act. Table 2-1 provides a summary of coordination with these other agencies.

Table 2-1. Coordination with Other Agencies (DWR Table 1)

Agency	Was Notified about UWMP Preparation	Was Sent Copy of Draft UWMP	Commented on the Draft UWMP	Attended Public Meetings
Bakman Water Company	✓	✓		
City of Clovis	✓	✓		
Fresno County	✓	✓		
Fresno Irrigation District (FID)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD)	✓	✓		
Friant Water Authority	✓	✓		
Garfield Irrigation District	✓	✓		
Herndon Water Company	✓	✓		
Malaga County Water District	✓	✓		
Pinedale County Water District	✓	✓		

Plan Adoption

10642. *After the hearing, the plan shall be adopted as prepared or as modified after the hearing.*

Following the public hearing held on July 22, 2008, the Fresno City Council adopted this 2008 UWMP on August 19, 2008 (see City Resolution in Appendix C).

The City will submit the adopted 2008 UWMP to the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the California State Library, and Fresno County within 30 days after its adoption, as required by Section 10644 of the UWMP Act. The City will also make the adopted plan available for public review by maintaining a copy at the City’s Public Utilities Department Water Division office (located at 1910 East University Avenue) and posting a copy on the City Water Division’s webpage at www.fresnowater.org.

Plan Review and Update

10640. The supplier shall periodically review the plan as required by Section 10621, and any amendments or changes required as a result of that review shall be adopted pursuant to this article.

10621 (a) Each urban water supplier shall update its plan at least once every five years on or before December 31, in years ending in five and zero.

10621 (c) The amendments to, or changes in, the plan shall be adopted and filed in the manner set forth in Article 3.

The City will periodically review the adopted 2008 UWMP to determine if any revisions or updates are warranted. Amendments or changes to the UWMP will be adopted pursuant to the requirements of the UWMP Act. Copies of amendments or changes to the UWMP will be submitted to the DWR, the California State Library, and Fresno County within 30 days after adoption.

Per the UWMP Act, the next required update of the City's UWMP will be due by December 31, 2010.

Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act

10652. The California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to the preparation and adoption of plans pursuant to this part or to the implementation of actions taken pursuant to Section 10632. Nothing in this part shall be interpreted as exempting from the California Environmental Quality Act any project that would significantly affect water supplies for fish or wildlife, or any project for implementation of the plan, other than projects implementing Section 10632, or any project for expanded or additional water supplies.

Per Section 10652 of the California Water Code, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not apply to the preparation and adoption of UWMPs or the implementation of potential actions included in the Water Shortage Contingency Plan (per Section 10632 of the California Water Code) (see Chapter 9).

However, in compliance with CEQA requirements, as part of the Metro Plan Update, the City will be preparing an Environmental Impact Report for the proposed future water supply discussed in this UWMP.

Resource Maximization and Import Minimization

10620 (f) An urban water supplier shall describe in the plan water management tools and options used by that entity that will maximize resources and minimize the need to import water from other regions.

Water management tools have been used by the City to help maximize water resources and reduce the need for new supplies. The City has been committed to integrating water conservation into future supply and demand solutions for many years. In 1957, the City was one of the first in the State of California to pass a water waste ordinance and, in 1978, the City implemented time-of-day outdoor water use restrictions to help optimize water use. Today, the City continues to implement numerous water conservation programs, including an aggressive public information program and school education program. In 2006, the City implemented a residential toilet retrofit program which has been extremely successful, and in late 2007, the City implemented a high-efficiency clothes washer rebate program. The City's future water conservation plan, described in this 2008 UWMP, takes an incremental, but realistic, approach to an aggressive long-term goal, reducing the per capita water consumption by 20 percent and balancing aquifer usage.

However, the Fresno City Council has expressed their desire to raise expectations for water conservation for City-owned properties and operations. This self-imposed objective is to be considered an example to the community and citizens that the City of Fresno is making water resource management a priority. The City will also strive to go above and beyond the water conservation programs proposed in this 2008 UWMP and expedite the construction of new facilities and the implementation of new programs to ensure that the use of available water resources is maximized in the future.

A full discussion of the City's water conservation and demand reduction efforts is included in Chapter 8 of this 2008 UWMP.

By reducing the demand of current water customers and assuring that all new water uses are efficient, the amount of water the City will need to serve existing and future customers and the need for new supplies has been reduced. The City is also implementing a residential water meter program which will install and meter water service for all single-family residential customers in the City by 2013. A complete discussion of the residential water meter program is provided in Chapter 8; the schedule for the program is provided in Appendix I. When this program is completed, and all of the City's water customers are metered, the City and their customers will be able to work together to optimize future water use.