

California Department of Water Resources  
URBAN STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE  
U4 TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE  
CHARGE AND EVALUATION CRITERIA  
May 26, 2010

Senate Bill X7-7, signed into law in November 2009, directs a 10 percent reduction in urban per capita water use in California by the year 2015 and a 20 percent reduction by 2020. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is responsible for implementing many of the provisions of this bill. DWR has defined major tasks (called “projects”) for implementation.

DWR established an Urban Stakeholder Committee (USC) to assist DWR as it implements SB X7-7 requirements. The committee will provide input on five SB X7-7 projects: urban technical methodologies (U3), the fourth urban water use target method (U4), the development of a standardized reporting form (B1), regional resource management practices (B2), and the development of process water regulations (U5). A subcommittee of the USC, the U4 Technical Subcommittee, is being formed to address the specific issue of developing the fourth method for establishing urban water use targets.

### **Target Methods**

Water agencies are required to determine a base daily per capita water use (measured in gallons per day per capita) and then establish an urban water use target to support an overall 20 percent reduction in statewide urban per capita water use on or before December 31, 2020. Water agencies must establish both their interim (2015) urban water use target and 2020 urban water use target by July 1, 2011 and submit these, with the base daily per capita water use, in their Urban Water Management Plans. Three methods for determining the urban water use target are provided in California Water Code §10608.20. A fourth method for determining urban water use targets is required to be developed by DWR. The task to develop the fourth method is designated Project U4 by DWR.

### **Charge of Subcommittee**

The U4 Technical Subcommittee is being formed to allow focused discussion on the fourth target method and allow a broader base of technical experts and stakeholders to participate than are included in the USC. Meetings will provide a forum for presentation and evaluation of different possible methods, which have been either developed by DWR or groups outside of the subcommittee or generated through the discussions of the subcommittee. A summary of the possible methods and the pros and cons is expected to be presented by the subcommittee to the USC. The subcommittee is not expected to reach consensus or make recommendations; however, to the extent that agreement is reached, the subcommittee may make recommendations to the USC and DWR. DWR will be informed by the discussions and evaluation of the subcommittee during DWR’s development of the fourth target method, as well as input received

from the USC. DWR will be responsible for the development of the fourth target method and the drafting of any associated guidelines.

### **Function of U4 Technical Subcommittee**

The U4 Technical Subcommittee will operate under the framework of the USC Charter. Meetings will be conducted under the ground rules specified in the Charter. There will not be a formal membership list for the U4 Technical Subcommittee. Since the work of the subcommittee will be a technical analysis of different water use target methods, USC members with technical expertise are encouraged to participate in the subcommittee or have technical staff from their organization attend the meetings. Meetings will be open to the public, and individuals not connected to the USC with technical expertise are encouraged to participate. Meetings will be in person only, without conference call or webinar provisions. The subcommittee will hold its first meeting in June and continue meeting once or twice monthly to achieve the goal of completing the method evaluations at the August USC meeting.

Rich Mills with the State Water Resources Control Board will chair the subcommittee. DWR will provide staff support. The Center for Collaborative Policy will facilitate the meetings. The subcommittee may choose leadership to serve as liaison with the USC.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

The subcommittee will assess all methodologies that are considered by DWR. As it evaluates the methodologies, the subcommittee is required to consider and comply with criteria specified in the legislation (California Water Code §10608.20):

*(b)(4) A method that shall be identified and developed by the department, through a public process, and reported to the Legislature no later than December 31, 2010. The method developed by the department shall identify per capita targets that cumulatively result in a statewide 20-percent reduction in urban daily per capita water use by December 31, 2020. In developing urban daily per capita water use targets, the department shall do all of the following:*

*(A) Consider climatic differences within the state.*

*(B) Consider population density differences within the state.*

*(C) Provide flexibility to communities and regions in meeting the targets.*

*(D) Consider different levels of per capita water use according to plant water needs in different regions.*

*(E) Consider different levels of commercial, industrial, and institutional water use in different regions of the state.*

*(F) Avoid placing an undue hardship on communities that have implemented conservation measures or taken actions to keep per capita water use low.*

Based on the statutory language, a key assumption is that if the fourth method were to be adopted by all urban retail water suppliers, the result would be a 20 percent statewide savings. There are also other factors that the subcommittee should consider in its evaluation. These include:

1. That the method be different from the three legislatively defined methods.
2. The cost and expense to collect the data required to implement the method.
3. Ease of implementation by the water supplier.

It is DWR's understanding that the fourth method can be an equation, sets of equations or a process through which urban retail water suppliers can calculate their numeric water use targets.