

Chapter 1 – Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Urban Water Management Plan

Since 1984, the State of California has required all urban water suppliers serving more than 3,000 customers or providing more than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually to develop an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). Redwood City owns and operates a water utility that serves over 83,000 people by supplying approximately 13,000 acre-feet of water annually. The Urban Water Management Planning Act (the “Act,” contained in California Water Code, Division 6, Part 2.6, Section 10610) therefore requires the City to prepare an UWMP. The required contents of the UWMP are set forth in the Act. The Act directs urban water suppliers to describe and evaluate existing and potentially available sources of water supply, projected population and future water demand, demand management measures, strategies for responding to water shortages, and other relevant information and programs.

Under the Act, urban water suppliers are required to update their UWMP and submit a complete plan to the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) every five years. The UWMP is required in order for a water supplier to be eligible for DWR-administered State grants and loans as well as assistance during droughts.

The City of Redwood City (City) developed its first UWMP in 1985 in compliance with the legislative requirement, and updated it in 1992, 1995, and 2001. In 2002, the UWMP was substantially updated to incorporate new water use projections described in the *Redwood City Water Use Forecast 2000-2020*. The 2002 Update also conformed the UWMP to the City’s then pending General Plan Housing Element and other major planning activities. In 2003, the UWMP was updated again to reflect the City Council policy decisions on the City’s Recycled Water Project, and to frame the Council’s “active” conservation program, described in Chapter 6 of this UWMP. Subsequent to approval of the 2003 Update, the City Council authorized Water Enterprise Fund budget and rate adjustments necessary to implement the conservation activities described in the new UWMP. Refer to the City of Redwood City *Water Financing Plan 2004 Update*, approved by the City Council on January 24, 2005. The Financing Plan is updated annually and provides strategic, long-term guidance to the City Council and staff on all aspects of water pricing, revenues and expenditures for maintaining the fiscal soundness of the Water Enterprise Fund. The Financing Plan is available at http://www.redwoodcity.org/publicworks/pdf/water_financing_plan_1-24-05.pdf or by contacting the Redwood City Public Works Services Department.

The purpose of the 2005 UWMP is to comply with State water planning law, and to update the UWMP with the many water-related policies and actions the City has approved and implemented since the 2003 UWMP. The UWMP is not just a State-required document, however. It reflects local and regional water planning activities, and provides the background and supporting documentation for the City’s General Plan. It also facilitates the City’s implementation of two State water planning laws (SB 221 and SB 610), which require the City to assess the potential impact of new development on existing and future water supply, consistent with its UWMP. The relationship of the 2005 UWMP to these other planning efforts and processes is described in Section 1.3 below.

1.2 Plan Development and Adoption

This section summarizes actions taken by the City of Redwood City to ensure agency coordination and public participation during the development of the 2005 UWMP. Information regarding the adoption process is also provided.

1.2.1 Agency Coordination

Coordination with appropriate City departments and other public agencies has occurred with preparation of this UWMP. City departments consulted include the Community Development Services Department, the City Manager's Office, and the City Attorney.

Redwood City also coordinated with the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) on this 2005 UWMP, and many of its member agencies. Further description of the role of BAWSCA is provided in Section 1.3.3 below.

In addition to BAWSCA, the City notified local water retailers and public agencies of the City's intent to prepare this 2005 UWMP, as well as of the public meetings regarding the UWMP (see sample letters in Appendix A). To encourage public review, the draft UWMP is also being posted on the City's website, and is also being made available at City facilities.

The following list identifies the water retailers and agencies notified. Of the agencies listed, only one (City of Menlo Park) provided comment via e-mail. A copy of that electronic correspondence is also included in Appendix A.

City of Belmont	Stanford University
City of Brisbane	Purissima Hills Water District
City of Burlingame	Skyline County Water District
City of Daly City	California Water Service Company
City of East Palo Alto	Coastside County Water District
Town of Hillsborough	Esterro Municipal Improvement District
City of Menlo Park	Mid-Peninsula Water District
City of Millbrae	North Coast County Water District
City of Palo Alto	Skyline County Water District
City of San Bruno	Westborough Water District
City of San Carlos	South Bayside System Authority
San Mateo County	West Bay Sanitary District

1.2.2 Public Participation

The California State Water Code recommends that urban water suppliers encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural and economic elements within the service area prior to and during UWMP preparation. Redwood City is committed to the active engagement and participation by its citizens, and set a goal of facilitating a more in-depth series of public discussions to provide input into the 2005 UWMP process, including policy formation and City Council decisions.

The City's UWMP update process began July 1, 2005. At that time, the City engaged the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center's (PCRC) Civic Engagement Initiative to help develop and implement the UWMP's public dialogue and outreach program. The City then created a "Roadmap for a Community Conversation on Water Supply" as the blueprint for public involvement in the UWMP. The roadmap included presentations to

the City Planning Commission and other interested groups, and two community roundtables to ensure that as many in the community as possible were aware of the UWMP process and opportunities for public input. The community-based organization, Friends of Redwood City, also conducted a community issues forum on water supply and reliability. Following is a brief description of these community meetings. Notes from the three meetings were compiled and are attached to this UWMP in Appendix A. Copies of the flyer announcing the City-sponsored workshops (both in English and Spanish) are also included in Appendix A.

Community Roundtables on Urban Water Management Plan

To engage Redwood City citizens in the UWMP update, the City conducted two community workshops in September 2005. These 3-hour workshops were held on a weeknight and a weekend day, to accommodate various work schedules. The purposes of the workshops were:

1. To build on the City's ongoing commitment to community engagement by providing an opportunity for Redwood City residents to explore and discuss core policies reflected in the UWMP and provide thoughtful input to be used in updating the UWMP, so that the updated document reflects the values of the community.
2. To build on the community input gathered in recent public forums that addressed the issue of water supply and demand.

The desired outcomes from the UWMP workshops were:

1. Members of the community will have participated in the UWMP planning process and questions raised during the workshops will be considered as the UWMP is updated.
2. Redwood City residents will better understand issues related to water resource management, and the final Plan will reflect the will and values of the community.

The format of the workshops included a brief presentation by City staff, followed by breakout into small group discussions, and ended with the breakout groups reporting to all of the participants. Each of the small groups focused on three primary issues: 1) water supply/projected demand; 2) water supply reliability; and 3) water supply/potential new development. The table facilitators asked a series of questions for each issue to generate discussion. An overview of the issues discussed and City responses to them is provided in Appendix A.

Friends of Redwood City Community Issues Forum

The Friends of Redwood City (FORWC) is "a group of concerned citizens acting together to protect and enhance the quality of life and environmental resources in Redwood City and our region" (FORWC website, 2005). The organization's values and methods include: 1) citizen involvement in key government decision-making; 2) seeking balance and rationality in community discourse; and 3) effect positive change through education and democratic processes. The FORWC facilitates discussion about issues of importance by hosting community issues forums; they hosted the Water Supply and Reliability Forum on June 30, 2005. An overview of the issues discussed and City responses to them is provided in Appendix A.

Workshop on Draft UWMP

Following issuance of the Draft 2005 UWMP on November 19, 2005, the City hosted its final community meeting on the Draft UWMP. The meeting was held the evening of November 30, 2005 with the objective of addressing questions and/or concerns about the Draft UWMP and its contents, document these issues and concerns for consideration and possible revision of the Draft UWMP by the City Council, and provide an opportunity for community members to prepare to give their own input to the City Council as it received the Draft UWMP. City staff presented highlights of the Draft UWMP, and then the larger group broke into smaller discussion groups, which reported out to the larger group in a question and answer period. Meeting notes from the November 30 meeting are included in Appendix A.

1.2.3 City Council Meetings and Adoption

Consistent with the City's outreach approach, this 2005 Draft UWMP was distributed on November 19, 2005 for public review and comment prior to the City Council's consideration of adopting the UWMP. As described above, the City held a public comment workshop on the Draft UWMP on November 30, 2005 (notice of the workshop is included in Appendix A). The City Council held a duly noticed public hearing on the Draft UWMP on December 19, 2005. Record of the published notice is included in Appendix A. A copy of the Resolution adopted by the City Council following the public hearing on December 19, 2005 is included as Appendix B.

1.3 Relationship of UWMP to Other Planning Efforts

1.3.1 Redwood City General Plan Update

Redwood City's existing General Plan was completed and adopted in 1991. It is currently undergoing its first revision in over ten years. By state law, the General Plan must be reviewed and revised periodically to reflect new information and the inevitable changes to the community's needs, values, and vision of what the City should be. The updating process for the UWMP is moving forward in concert with the City's General Plan update. As part of the General Plan update, City staff will incorporate a build-out analysis, which among other things, is dependent upon future water supply and demand. The water supply and demand projections contained in this UWMP are in turn based on the build-out analyses prepared by City planning staff.

1.3.2 Senate Bills 221 and 610

In 2001, the California Legislature enacted two laws, Senate Bill (SB) 221 and SB 610, each designed to achieve greater coordination during the land use planning process between water suppliers and local land use agencies when considering certain large-scale development projects. SB 610 requires the preparation of a Water Supply Assessment (WSA) for any development whose approval is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act and which meets the definition of "project" in Water Code Section 10913, i.e., residential development projects of more than 500 dwelling units or other types of developments (e.g., hotels and motels, commercial buildings, industrial parks, etc.) using a comparable amount of water. The WSA must describe the proposed project's water demand over a 20-year period, identify the sources of water available to meet that demand and include an assessment of whether or not those water supplies are, or will be sufficient to meet the demand for water associated with the proposed project, in addition to the demand of existing customers and other planned future development. If the conclusion is that water supplies are or will be insufficient, then the

WSA must describe plans (if any) for acquiring additional water supplies, and the measures that are being undertaken to acquire and develop those supplies.

SB 221 is similar in many respects to SB 610. However, it applies only to residential projects of 500 units or more and requires the land use planning agency to include as a condition of approval of a tentative map, parcel or development agreement a requirement that “sufficient water supply” be available. Proof of a sufficient water supply must be based on a written verification from the public water system that will serve the development. SB 610 requires preparation of the WSA sufficiently early in the development review process to allow incorporation in the CEQA evaluation and documentation of the project. SB 221, by contrast, becomes operative when the City is considering approval of a tentative subdivision map.

For Redwood City, the “water supplier” for SB 610 purposes is understood to mean the Public Works Services Department, which is responsible for the City’s Water Enterprise Fund. The “governing body,” as used in SB 610, refers to the City Council, which is required to approve the WSA and make required findings that adequate water supplies are available for urban growth to proceed.

The UWMP is the primary information and planning tool in assessing water supply adequacy and is coordinated closely with the City’s Community Development Services Department. As noted above, to enable the City to comply with SB 221 and SB 610, the 2005 UWMP update and the City’s General Plan Update are utilizing the same land use build-out analyses and future water supply and demand projections. Future WSAs will rely on the data and information contained in those two documents.

1.3.3 BAWSCA and SFPUC

The Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) was created in May 2003 to represent the interests of 28 retail water agencies, including Redwood City, in Alameda, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties who purchase water on a wholesale basis from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). Compliance with the Urban Water Management Planning Act lies with each agency that delivers water to its customers. In this instance, the responsibility for completing an UWMP lies with the individual BAWSCA member agencies, like Redwood City. BAWSCA’s role in the development of the 2005 UWMPs is to work closely with its member agencies and the SFPUC to maintain consistency between the SFPUC 2005 UWMP and other member agencies’ UWMPs. More detailed description of SFPUC water supply planning and BAWSCA’s role is provided in Chapter 3 of this UWMP.

1.4 UWMP Format and Organization

This UWMP includes all of the substantive elements required by the Urban Water Management Planning Act. It has been written as a reader-friendly document for the citizens and decision-makers of the City of Redwood City, and other interested local, regional, and state agencies. Appendix C contains two checklists showing the required UWMP elements as specified in the California Water Code and where those elements can be found in this UWMP. Following is a brief description of the chapters in this UWMP and what they contain.

Chapter 1 – Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of the Urban Water Management Planning Act requirements, agency coordination and public participation in the 2005 UWMP, the UWMP adoption process, and the organization of the UWMP.

Chapter 2 – Service Area Characteristics

Chapter 2 provides information on Redwood City's water service area characteristics, including a description of the physical extent of the service area, its climate, and population and demographic characteristics.

Chapter 3 – Water Supply Sources

Chapter 3 provides an assessment of Redwood City's current and projected sources of water supply. These sources include the SFPUC's Hetch Hetchy regional system and the City's recycled water project. Also discussed are other potential water supplies, including transfers/exchanges, groundwater, and desalination, and the City's resource maximization/import minimization plan.

Chapter 4 – Reliability of Water Supply

Chapter 4 provides an assessment of the current and projected reliability of Redwood City's water supply. Included in this chapter are the City's current water supply reliability picture and a description of the factors affecting that reliability (climate, water quality, and catastrophic interruption).

Chapter 5 – Water Use

This chapter includes detailed information about the City's historical, current and projected future water use, also called demand. The chapter also provides the water supply and demand comparisons required by the Urban Water Management Planning Act, and describes the City's water shortage contingency plan.

Chapter 6 – Water Conservation

Chapter 6 contains detailed information on the City's water conservation program. Existing and future measures and programs for the efficient use of water are described, including methods to measure the effectiveness of the programs and the estimated water savings associated with the measures.

Chapter 7 – Water Recycling

Chapter 7 describes the City's Recycled Water Project, including the First Step Recycled Water Project developed and operated jointly by the City and the South Bayside System Authority (SBSA), which provides wastewater treatment and disposal services for the City and is the source of the City's recycled water. Opportunities for the expanded use of recycled water in the City's service area are described.

Chapter 8 – References

This chapter provides a list of references and materials reviewed and used in the preparation of this UWMP.