

Executive Summary

Purpose

In addition to complying with State of California water resources law and reflecting regional water supply planning, this 2005 update of the Redwood City Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) serves to capture increasing local public interest and community values about water supply cost and reliability, and in concert with the many water-related policies and actions the City Council has taken since the 2003 update of the UWMP. In the broader view, the UWMP is but one component of the City's broader planning process, and it is not a singular driver for community policy making. While the UWMP is not a "water master plan," it should more narrowly set policy direction for securing and protecting our water supply now and into the future.

Process

The UWMP is a living document and a continuous planning process. It has been and can be updated frequently, as local, regional and state water supply and demand variables change. This 2005 update is not the only chance to revise the document, and in fact, it is at best a "snapshot" in content and approach.

Since 2000, the Redwood City community, City Council and staff have been increasingly engaged in a dialogue about current and future water supply; limits on drinking water availability; effective ways to conserve water and save money as wholesale and customer rates increase; the safe and appropriate use of the City's new supply of recycled water; and the impacts of future growth and development on current customers as well as their future supply reliability (or, how much protection they will have in the next drought or when unanticipated, sustained shortages occur). As the issues have emerged and new information became available, the City Council has responded by listening to their community, and directing staff to increase public outreach and education, and to find better ways to elicit input and ideas well ahead of Council policy deliberations and/or their consideration of staff recommendations. To that end, Redwood City has provided more public information, more opportunity for citizen and water customer involvement, and more workshop or "roundtable" meetings than most other neighboring cities and water districts. Although most meetings (spanning from April 2004 through November 2005) were modestly attended, those who participated provided rich and thoughtful input and ideas, and asked very good questions. They also tended to stay engaged throughout the sequence of public meetings, forums and information sharing. While there were literally hundreds of comments, ideas, concerns and questions, the overarching themes that were expressed most often and most clearly were:

- a) More education and communication on water conservation is needed and would be well received.
- b) Redwood City should identify options and explore other/additional water sources.
- c) Ensure the safe and appropriate use of recycled water along with more education.
- d) "Drought hardening" of current customer water use is a good thing (as people take advantage of the City's active conservation program). But, with increased population and water use, when drought comes everyone will be negatively affected, and it will be very hard to meet cutback targets.

- e) The City Council should consider halting or slowing development until there is more certainty that Redwood City has – and will have - enough water.
- f) As the General Plan update moves forward, Redwood City should collaborate with other cities to confront water resource limits caused by growth and development.
- g) The City should consider creating a “buffer” between water demand and supply, for drought impact mitigation.
- h) The City should ensure that current residents do not get victimized by future water shortages and unexpected costs.
- i) 2030 demand projections (on the Hetch Hetchy regional system) exceed current supply assurance. However, a stated assumption is that Redwood City will not be able to get more water from the regional system. This is confusing and a major concern.
- j) The disincentives for proactively reducing demand on the regional system are obvious and of concern: It appears that Redwood City will be penalized (less supply reliability) in the next drought – as will individual customers who already practice good conservation.
- k) Redwood City needs to utilize the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) to press for higher future supply reliability as San Francisco rebuilds the regional water system, and eliminate the current disincentives for recycled water and conservation.

Over the past two years, Redwood City has implemented one of the most aggressive water conservation programs in the region, in concert with a much more active, multi-media public information and outreach effort, including:

- ❑ Continuous newsletter inserts for all City utility bills, featuring six issues per year
- ❑ Interactive web site (600 “hits” to the UWMP document recorded from November 12 to December 12, 2005)
- ❑ E-mail broadcasts from consent-based mailing lists
- ❑ Regular press releases
- ❑ Standing feature articles in local organization newsletters
- ❑ Event and meeting newspaper advertising
- ❑ On-demand presentations to service organizations, community groups, City boards and commissions, and educational institutions

Concurrently, the City has actively participated in national, state and regional organizations, such as BAWSCA, the California Urban Water Conservation Council, and the WaterReuse Association and Foundation to promote and protect the City’s water interests on behalf of its 23,000 residential, commercial, industrial, irrigation and institutional customers.

2005 UWMP Update Document

Significant changes have occurred in the realm of local, regional and state water supply since the 2003 UWMP was adopted. Highlights of this 2005 update include:

- 1) The document has been restructured, and is formatted differently than the 2003 UWMP. This restructuring is in response to changes in State law and to comply with the *Guidebook to Assist Water Suppliers in the Preparation of a 2005 Urban Water Management Plan* recently issued by the State Department of Water Resources (DWR).

- 2) In addition, information regarding water rates and financing has been removed, due to the City Council's adoption of the *Water Financing Plan - 2004 Update* in January 2005.
- 3) The UWMP reflects substantial coordination with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) water supply planning and capital improvement program.
- 4) In addition, BAWSCA has replaced the Bay Area Water Users Association (BAWUA) by State statute, and the agency has provided significant input to its 28 member water agencies for the preparation of their UWMPs. Consistency among San Francisco's wholesale customers is deemed to be important as the SFPUC commences its comprehensive environmental review process for the regional system repair projects.
- 5) Projected development and population growth in Redwood City – with multi-family housing as the key driver – has been re-set and is tied primarily to recent discussions about the pending Downtown Specific Plan. The prior methodology of projecting future water demand utilizing specific development projects – whether anticipated or under way – has been replaced with an area-based projection, in close collaboration with Planning and Redevelopment staff.
- 6) The Recycled Water Task Force recommendations are now fully integrated in the UWMP and deliveries of recycled water have been further refined.
- 7) In addition, “active” conservation has been realigned over time and its focus adjusted to complement implementation of the recycled water project.
- 8) The UWMP now shows a positive “buffer” between supply assurance and demand projects, with water reliability improving, but still a concern.
- 9) Drought cutbacks are projected to be less onerous, and are now shown in ranges.
- 10) Finally, direct and indirect benefits to all Redwood City water customers are more apparent due to increased conservation and recycled water supply.

City Council Policy

In January 2002, the City Council set broad community priorities. The following three topped the Council's list:

1. Address Redwood City water supply assurance. The stated goal is to erase contractual supply assurance overdraft by 2010.
2. Fix the Hetch Hetchy regional water system, to secure the region's drinking water supply into the future.
3. Implement a water recycling project.

Updated Projections

Prior updates of the UWMP forecasted a growing gap between the City's single, limited source of water and its projected demand for water in the future. As this update is completed, what will Redwood City supply and demand be in 2010, 2020 and 2030? Table ES-1 summarizes these projections from various chapters of this UWMP. Compared to the 2003 UWMP, the 2005 update indicates that the City Council's goal of erasing the City's overdraft of Hetch Hetchy drinking water is attainable.

On November 29, 2005, the SFPUC adopted a revised Water System Improvement Program (WSIP), with an estimated cost of \$4.3 billion over the next ten years. The projected effect on wholesale costs to Redwood City is a 300% rate increase by 2015. This cost increase will in turn be the single most significant driver of water bill increases

to Redwood City customers. Except for prior drought reduction penalty charges, there has never been such a dramatic, permanent cost increase passed on to water customers within the Hetch Hetchy regional water system service area.

Implementation of the 2005 UWMP

On December 19, 2005, the City Council conducted a public hearing and unanimously passed Resolution No. 14683 (Appendix B) adopting the 2005 Urban Water Management Plan. In so doing, the Council authorized and directed the Public Works Services Department (PWS) to implement the UWMP, including the water conservation programs describe therein. Table ES-1 summarizes the key UWMP supply and demand projections to 2030. For the purpose of setting goals, establishing priorities and budgets, and allocating resources, the PWS Department will focus on measurable outcomes in 2010. Concurrently, staff will continue to work with the Council, community stakeholders and regional entities to secure Redwood City’s long-term water supply.

<p align="center">Table ES-1 2005 UWMP – Water Supply & Demand Projection Summary (af/yr)</p>							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
UWMP Ref.		Table 5-1	Table 6-2	Table 3-1	Table 4-3	Table 3-2	
Year	2002 Forecast Base Demand with Passive Consv. & 4% Unacct'd	2005 UWMP Base Demand with Passive Consv.	Savings from Active Consv.	Recycled Water Deliveries	C-D-E = F Recorded SFPUC Wholesale Purchases	2005 UWMP Net Annual Needs from SFPUC with 4% Unacct'd	F - 12,243 = G Over or (Under) SFPUC Supply Assurance
2000	13,170				13,271		1,028
00/01				8	13,193		950
01/02				17	13,037		794
02/03				21	12,767		524
03/04			156	29	13,653		1,410
04/05			187	30	12,450		207
2005	13,467	12,273	294	30		12,428	185
2010	14,191	12,355	632	922		11,271	(972)
2015	14,590	12,469	488	1,178		11,283	(960)
2020	14,817	12,770	413	1,398		11,453	(790)
2025	-	13,095	373	1,695		11,537	(706)
2030	-	13,532	341	1,995		11,724	(519)