WATER ACADEMY 2021

WATER SUPPLY PLANNING & CONSERVATION IN THE EASTERN COACHELLA VALLEY

Luis Lopez, City of Coachella - Development Services Director

Water Supply Assessments & Water Verifications (SB 610 and SB 221)

- SB 610 and SB 221 amended state law, effective January 1, 2002, to improve the link between information on water supply availability and certain land use decisions made by cities and counties.
- SB 610 requires that the water purveyor of the public water system prepare a water supply assessment to be included in the environmental documentation of certain proposed projects.
- SB 221 requires affirmative written verification from the water purveyor of the public water system that sufficient water supplies are available for certain residential subdivisions of property prior to approval of a tentative map.

Water Supply Assessments & Water Verifications (SB 610 and SB 221)

A Water Supply Assessment and Verification (WSA&V) are required pursuant to:

- Public Resources Code Section 21151.9 (CEQA)
- CA Water Code Sections 10631, 10657, 10910, 10911, 10912, and 10915, (SB 610).
- Business and Professions Code Section 11010 and Government Code Sections 65867.5, 66455.3, and 66473.7 (SB 221).

Applicability of SB 610 and SB 210

- Residential developments of more than 500 dwelling units.
- Shopping centers or business establishment employing more than 1,000 persons or having more than 500,000 square feet of floor space.
- Commercial office building employing more than 1,000 persons or having more than 250,000 square feet of floor space.
- Hotel or motel, or both, having more than 500 rooms.
- Industrial, manufacturing, or processing plant, or industrial park planned to house more than 1,000 persons, occupying more than 40 acres of land, or having more than 650,000 square feet of floor area.
- Mixed-use project that includes one or more of the projects specified in this subdivision.
  - A project that would demand an amount of water equivalent to, or greater than, the amount of water required by a 500 dwelling unit project.

Coachella Water Authority (CWA)

- CWA currently operates six (6) groundwater wells
- Produces approximately 7,300 AF of groundwater annually.
- Operating conditions and controls for the wells vary, with some wells operating year-round and some turned on only seasonally.
- System is mainly controlled by a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to ensure maximum efficiency of groundwater resources.
- CWA uses approximately five percent of the total volume of water withdrawn from the East Whitewater River Subbasin each year.

CEQA – Environmental Review

- CEQA applies to discretionary actions (project involving review by Planning Commission and City Council) including subdivisions, changes of zone, use permits, design reviews, public funding, etc.
- An "environmental checklist" is used to analyze all environmental factors (i.e., aesthetics, air quality, biology, cultural resources, noise, soils, traffic, utilities and services, etc.) to see if the project has "no impact", "less than significant impact with mitigation", or "potentially significant" impacts per each factor analyzed.
- An EIR is the most involved procedure in CEQA Guidelines.
- A Negative Declaration is the second most-involved CEQA document.
- Traditionally, project CEQA documents did not require detailed water analysis.

WSA's relationship to City's General Plan and CWA Urban Water Master Plans

- CEQA documents will point to the water purveyor's "master plan for infrastructure" to make a finding of "less than significant with mitigation" (i.e., the project must build water well and backbone mainline per the City's Master Plan).
- Modernly, the WSA certifies that adequate water supplies will be available over a 20-year period even during extended periods of drought.
- WSA must be consistent with the water purveyor' (CWA) Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP).
- The UWMP is updated every five years and uses the City's growth projections, developed under the General Plan, or SCAG projections, etc. to assume infrastructure needs.
- Any inconsistency with a proposed project's WSA and the UWMP, will require and Amendment to the Water Agency's UWMP before the project's CEQA documents can be adopted (i.e., certifying and EIR, or adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration).

Findings for Water Supply Assessments:

- Typical Findings of a Water Supply Assessment:

The potential environmental effects of implementing the projects and programs contained in the 2010 CVWMP have been analyzed in accordance with CEQA, and the determination has been made that implementation of the 2010 CVWMP will have a beneficial effect on groundwater resources. CVWD, with assistance from other water agencies including the City's Coachella Water Authority, have been implementing water supply projects, programs and related management actions of the CVWMPs since 2002. A notable requirement under the CVWMP is that the City (and other agency producers) must pay a replenishment assessment charge (RAC) for each acre-foot of groundwater produced.

- RAC is $52 per acre-foot (AF) of groundwater pumped.

WATER CONSERVATION – CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODES / GREEN CODE

California Green Code

- CALGreen is the first-in-the-nation mandatory green building standards code developed by the CA Building Standards Commission (CBSC)
- In 2007, CBSC developed green building standards in an effort to meet the goals of California's landmark initiative AB 32 (Greenhouse Gas Reductions Legislation)
- AB 32 has "Regional Planning" laws
  - SCAG / CVAG smart growth efforts
  - California RTP/SCP/RHNA eight-year cycle
- AB 32 Comprehensive program of cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gases (GHG) to 1990 levels by 2020.
  - Includes majority of water conservation in new construction.

2019 CA Building Code

Sect. 4.303 - Residential Mandatory Measures

- INDOOR - Water conserving plumbing fixtures and fittings.
- All noncompliant plumbing fixtures shall be replaced with water-conserving fixtures
- Water Closets (max. 1.8 gallons per flush)
- Showerheads (max. flow rate of 1.8 gallons per minute at 80 psi)
- Lavatory Faucets (max. flow rate of 1.2 gallons per minute at 60 psi)
- Kitchen Faucets (max. 1.8 gallons per minute at 60 psi)

2019 CA Building Code

Sect. 4.304 OUTDOOR potable water use in landscape areas

- MWELO (Title 23 , Chapt 2.7, Division 2)
- Water budget calculator (Requires Water Conservation Staffing)
- Annual Reporting to Dept. of Water Resources

Sect. 5.303 NonResidential Mandatory Measures

- Similar requirements as applicable to Residential Structures for Indoor and Outdoor uses

Questions?