

WATER ACADEMY

2022

**Water Supply Planning and Conservation in the
Eastern Coachella Valley**

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

- SB 610 and SB 221 amended state law, effective January 2, 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 required affirmative written verification from the water purveyor of the public water system that sufficient water supplies are available for certain residential subdivision of property prior to approval of a tentative map.

Water Supply Assessments and 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 7,568 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.

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's (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 an 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).

Model Efficient Landscape Ordinance

- All projects meeting the MWELO applicability requirements must comply with Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, Chapter 2.7, Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.
- Residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional projects that require a permit, plan check, or design review, when proposing the following square footage thresholds for landscaping.
 - New development projects that include landscape areas of 500 sq. ft. or more;
 - Rehabilitated landscape projects that include landscape areas of 2,500 sq. ft. or more;
 - New and rehabilitated cemeteries (limited to MWELO Chapter 2.7 §493, 493.1, 493.2); and
 - Pools, spas, and other water features equal or greater than 500 sq. ft.

Reference Evapotranspiration (ET_o)^a: 46.4

- Residential (0.55)
- Non-residential (0.45)

Hydrozone #/Planting Description	Location	Plant Factor ^b (PF)	Irrigation Method ^c	Irrigation Efficiency ^c (IE)	ETAF ^e (PF/IE)	Landscape Area (sq. ft.)	ETAF x Area	Estimated Total Water Used (ETWU)
Regular Landscape Area								
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								

<i>Avg.</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>

Average ETAF for regular Landscape Area* (circle one): In compliance Not In Compliance

Special Landscape Area								
SLA-1								
SLA-2								
SLA-3								
SLA-4								
SLA-5								

Totals			
Total Landscape Area			
Site wide ETAF			
ETWU Total			
Maximum Allowed Water Allowance (MAWA) ^f			

City/ County General Plan Conservation Element

“The conservation element describes the jurisdiction’s natural resources: land, water, ecosystem services and living resources, and the benefits that these resources provide to the community. The conservation element establishes goals and policies for their retention, enhancement and development.”

– California Office of Planning and Research

Coachella General Plan Sustainability and Natural Environmental Element

- Conservation performance targets for new construction
- Water conservation technologies
- Greywater
- Low Impact Development
- Recycled Water
- Landscape Design



