

Date: February 3, 2015  
To: WRAC  
From: Xzandrea Fowler, Planner, Dept. of Planning and Building  
Subject: Status Update on Various Countywide Water Programs, Policies and Ordinances

On February 3, 2015 the Board directed the Department of Planning and Building modify the scope of work on the development and implementation of Countywide Water Conservation programs, policies and ordinances.

The scope of work for the Countywide Water Conservation Program has been modified for the following proposed programs, policies, and ordinances:

1. Water Neutral New Development program, policies, and ordinances related to:
  - a. Urban/Rural Water Conservation Offset
    - Turf Removal Incentives (“Cash for Grass”) program method for verifying water savings by relying on standard water savings calculations and low water use replacement landscaping verification
2. Water Waste Prevention program, policies and ordinance related to:
  - a. Agricultural Water Waste
    - No ordinance, instead Best Management Practices for efficient agricultural water use that apply to different types of agricultural operations will be identified and include in the Agricultural Element of the County General Plan.
    - Development of educational programs for the public on how agriculture uses water and the purpose behind certain practices, and development educational resources for agriculturalist such as an industry clearinghouse to identify innovative water-efficient practices.
  - b. Urban/Rural Water Waste
    - Reviewing draft ordinance language to address areas that currently lack water waste prevention policies.

The following previously proposed programs, policies, and ordinances will no longer be pursued:

1. Water Neutral New Development program, policies, and ordinance related to:
  - a. Agricultural Water Conservation Offset
2. Water Waste Prevention program, policies, and ordinance related to:
  - a. Agricultural Water Waste: ordinance option

3. Retrofit-on-Sale expansion policies and ordinance
4. Water Supply Study preparation mandate policies and ordinance for land divisions within a certified LOS III groundwater basin

Environmental Impact Report (EIR) - An EIR was being prepared to evaluate the potential impacts associated with the implementation of the Water Neutral New Development and Water Waste Prevention programs. However, with the recent elimination of ordinances for Agricultural Water Conservation Offset and Agricultural Water Waste, preparation of an EIR may no longer be necessary.

Staff is reevaluating the timelines for the remaining programs and will bring the "Public Review Drafts" to the WRAC over the next few months to receive feedback on each program. Once WRAC and all other comments are received on the public review drafts, public hearing drafts will be prepared and brought to the Planning Commission and subsequently the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

Please contact Xzandrea Fowler at [xfowler@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:xfowler@co.slo.ca.us) for additional information.