

Appendix D.

Regional Water Planning and Reporting by Regional UWMP or Regional Alliance

Urban water suppliers (Suppliers) coordinate with many regional entities when engaging in resource planning and in day-to-day operations. This appendix addresses the specific opportunities for regional planning that relate to the 2020 urban water management plans (UMWPs).

In support of regional collaboration, both the UWMP Act (Water Code Section 10620(d) (1)) and the Water Conservation Bill of 2009 (Water Code Section 10608.20(a) (1) and 10608.20) provide mechanisms for supporting development of regional UWMPs and regional water conservation targets.

Suppliers may choose either or both of the two options below for regional reporting in the 2020 UWMP cycle:

Regional Urban Water Management Plan (RUWMP). An RUWMP addresses all requirements of the Water Code and may or may not address SB X7-7 requirements as a region.

Regional Alliance. A regional alliance addresses only the requirements of SB X7-7 and does so as a region.

These two options are described in more detail below.

D.1 Regional Urban Water Management Plan (RUWMP)

Water Code Section 10620

(d) (1) An urban water supplier may satisfy the requirements of this part by participation in areawide, regional, watershed, or basin wide urban water management planning where those plans will reduce preparation costs and contribute to the achievement of conservation and efficient water use.

The California Water Code allows Suppliers a great deal of flexibility in determining other Suppliers they will partner with and how much of the

RUWMP will be a compilation of individual information versus common elements.

In 2010 and 2015, several RUWMPs were prepared and submitted to DWR. These plans were prepared in a variety of ways. The examples listed below address Water Code requirements.

D.1.1 Examples of Regional UWMP Membership

Regional wholesalers only.

Wholesaler with some or all of their associated retailer(s).

Multiple Retail Suppliers in the same area that are managed by one investor-owned utility.

Members of an integrated regional water management plan (IRWMP).

Suppliers sharing a water source.

D.1.2 Examples of Individual Information and Common Elements

RUWMP prepared in addition to individual UWMPs for each Supplier.

RUWMP prepared in place of individual UWMPs.

RUWMP provided water use data and target calculations for each individual Supplier, but addressed some elements regionally, such as climate, groundwater basin descriptions, water shortage contingency plans, and/or conservation activities.

RUWMP did not address the requirements for a regional alliance. Regional baselines and targets were not included in the RUWMP.

RUWMP addressed the requirements for a regional alliance by including regional baselines and targets (see more on regional alliance below).

D.1.3 Adoption of RUWMPs

Preparation of an RUWMP requires that each participating Supplier adopt the plan. If a single document is prepared and adopted by each Supplier, then documentation from each Supplier adopting the plan must be included in the final RUWMP. If a regional plan is prepared and an individual Supplier also prepares its own separate UWMP, its governing board must adopt both the individual and regional plans.

D.1.4 RUWMPs and Compliance with SBX7-7

Within an RUWMP, each Supplier will supply all of their individual information for compliance with the Water Conservation Bill of 2009 (SBX 7-7). Suppliers collaborating on the RUWMP that also wish to develop a regional baseline and target, in addition to the individual baselines and targets, must form a regional alliance. Regional alliance information will be submitted in the WUEdata online tool separately from information for each participating Supplier. See the Section D.2 below for regional alliance details.

D.1.5 RUWMPs and Submittal Tables

RUWMPs will include data for multiple Suppliers, requiring duplicates of the submittal tables, one for each participating Supplier. The submittal tables will be compiled into one RUWMP, but will be submitted through the WUEdata online tool on an individual Supplier basis.

D.2 Regional Alliance

Water Code Section 10608.20

(a) (1) Each urban retail water supplier shall develop urban water use targets and an interim urban water use target by July 1, 2011. Urban retail water suppliers may elect to determine and report progress toward achieving these targets on an individual or regional basis, as provided in subdivision (a) of Section 10608.28...

A regional alliance addresses only the requirements of the Water Code that pertain to the baseline, target, and compliance calculations for SB X7-7, The Water Conservation Act of 2009 (Appendix A). All other requirements in the Water Code must be addressed in an individual or a regional UWMP.

DWR has prepared detailed guidance for Suppliers that choose to participate in a regional alliance. See Methodology 9: Regional Compliance in *Methodologies for Calculating Baseline and Compliance Urban Per Capita Water Use* (California Department of Water Resources 2016).

Agencies that will be addressing the SB X7-7 requirements as a regional alliance must refer to the methodologies document for detailed instructions on calculating their regional baselines and targets.

Key aspects of *Methodology 9: Regional Compliance* are summarized in the remainder of this Guidebook section.

D.2.1 Eligibility for Regional Alliance Participation

To be eligible to form a regional alliance, Suppliers must meet at least one of the following criteria:

Suppliers are recipients of water from a common wholesale Supplier. For this purpose, the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project are not considered wholesale Suppliers. Wholesale Suppliers are not required to establish and meet targets for daily per capita water use. Wholesale Suppliers serving in the role of a regional alliance are representing the retail Suppliers that are members of the alliance, and compliance with a regional target is on behalf of the member Suppliers and not the wholesale Supplier itself.

Suppliers are partners with a common regional agency authorized to plan and implement water conservation.

Suppliers are part of a regional water management group as defined in Water Code Section 10537.

Suppliers are part of an IRWM funding area, which for this purpose means an IRWM planning area formally accepted by DWR through its IRWM Region Acceptance Process.

Suppliers are located within the same hydrologic region, which for this purpose refers to the 10 hydrologic regions as shown in the California Water Plan. For situations where Suppliers may serve areas within more than one hydrologic region, the majority of each Supplier's service area population must be located within the hydrologic region being identified as a regional alliance.

Suppliers have appropriate geographic scales for which methodologies developed by DWR can be applied. For this provision, Suppliers' service area boundaries must be contiguous.

D.2.2 Tiered Regional Alliances

In general, retail Suppliers can belong to only one regional alliance for the purpose of establishing and complying with urban water use targets. An exception is when regional alliances are tiered so that the members of the smallest alliance are all members of the larger alliance or alliances.

D.2.3 Calculation of and Reporting for a Regional Alliance

Listed below are the three options for calculating regional baselines and targets for a regional alliance. For DWR to evaluate the adequacy of regional alliance calculations, the alliance shall submit the tables specified below.

Excel versions of these tables are available on the WUEdata portal, “Resources” button.

Option 1. The regional alliance calculates the regional target by providing a weighted average of each Supplier’s individual target. Submit the SB X7-7 Verification form and SB X7-7 2020 Compliance form for Regional Alliances Option 1.

Option 2. The regional alliance sums up the regional gross water use and regional population (provided from each individual Supplier) producing the regional gross water use and regional population. The alliance then calculates a regional baseline GPCD and regional target. *Submit the SB X7-7 verification form and SB X7-7 2020 Compliance Form for Regional Alliances Option 2.*

Option 3. The regional alliance calculates regional gross water use or population directly for the entire regional alliance and then calculates a regional baseline GPCD and regional targets. *Submit the SB X7-7 verification form and SB X7-7 2020 Compliance form for Regional Alliances Option 3.*

D.2.4 Submittal to DWR

Regional alliance information will be submitted to DWR through any or all of these three documents, as applicable:

Individual UWMPs must identify the regional alliance(s) that the Supplier belongs to, if any. The regional alliance report is NOT required to be submitted with an individual UWMP.

Regional UWMPs that include a regional alliance will include baseline, target, and compliance information for each individual Supplier as well as the aggregated baseline and target information for the regional alliance using the appropriate SB X7-7 Verification Forms and SB X7-7 2020 Compliance Forms.

D.2.5 Compliance Assessment for Water Suppliers Belonging to a Regional Alliance

If a regional alliance meets its regional target, all Suppliers in the alliance will be deemed compliant.

If a regional alliance fails to meet its regional target, Suppliers in the alliance that meet their individual targets will be deemed compliant.

Suppliers in alliances that meet neither their individual targets nor their regional targets will be deemed noncompliant.

D.2.6 Changes to a Regional Alliance Since 2015

D.2.6.1 Formation of a New Regional Alliance

See eligibility for Regional Alliance participation in Appendix D, Section D.2.1.

A Regional Alliance must send DWR a letter stating that an Alliance has been formed and provide a list of the water supplier members.

D.2.6.2 Withdrawing or Separating from a Regional Alliance

If a Supplier withdraws from or is a member of a regional alliance that is later dissolved, the Supplier must inform DWR and comply individually with interim and urban water use targets. The Suppliers remaining in the regional alliance may either submit revised regional baseline or target data, or dissolve the alliance.

D.2.6.3 Dissolution of a Regional Alliance before 2020

If a regional alliance dissolves before 2020, each affected water supplier must then comply individually or form or join another alliance. An affected water supplier that had not previously submitted an individual urban water management plan (for example, if it had participated in a regional urban water management plan for a regional alliance that has dissolved) has to submit an urban water management plan or a regional water management plan.