

Development of an Urban Water Conservation Regulatory Program

Water Board and Other Conservation Initiatives

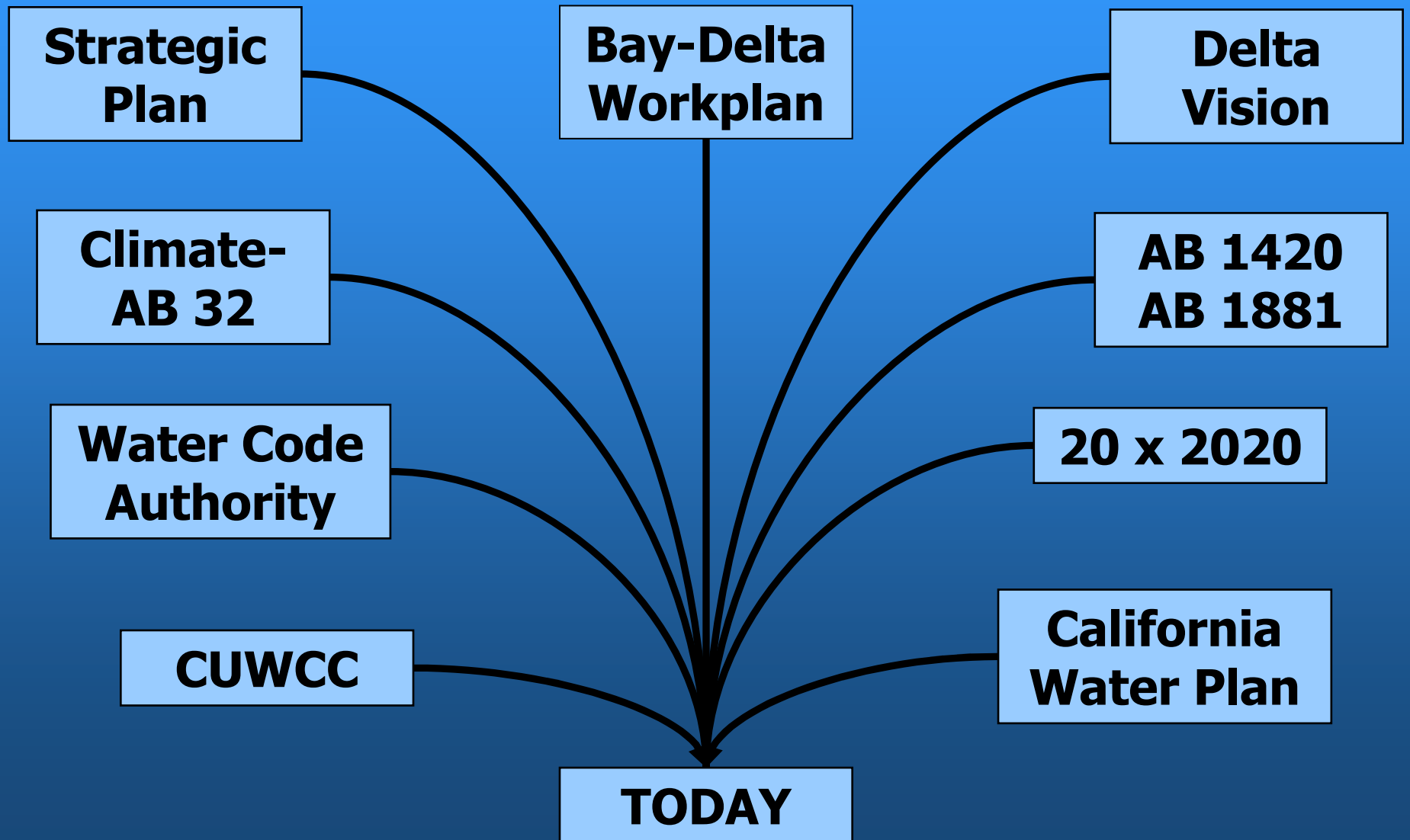
Public Workshop - October 1, 2008



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Water Board's View of Conservation



Presentation Focus

- State Water Board Initiatives
- Other State Initiatives
- Current Water Board Conservation Activities
- Sampling of Public Comments

Water Boards' Strategic Plan

- Adopted September 2, 2008
- “Promote Sustainable Local Water Supplies”:
 - “Increase sustainable local water supplies . . . by 1,725,000 acre-feet per year, in excess of 2002 levels, by 2015, and ensure adequate flows for fish and wildlife habitat.”

Water Boards' Strategic Plan

- Conservation actions:
 - Update urban best management practices and agricultural efficient water management practices
 - Ensure effective implementation of water demand management measures with funding criteria & take actions to limit waste and unreasonable use
 - Validate water conservation terms in water right permits

Bay-Delta Workplan

- Adopted July 16, 2008
- Water Use Efficiency Element
 - Addresses 4 specific conservation activities
 - Proposes policy to require wastewater permittees to plan for and implement water recycling

Bay-Delta Workplan

- Specific Water Conservation Activities
 - Adopt regulations to require implementation of certain BMPs
 - Conduct adjudicative proceedings for 2 areas or suppliers to prevent waste or unreasonable use
 - Work with 20x2020 Agency Team
 - Evaluate feasibility of coordinated water measurement database

CUWCC MOU

- Adopted September 1991
- Initiated as a voluntary effort in lieu of State Water Board Bay-Delta proceedings as evidence of water conservation commitment
- 14 urban BMPs
- Annual reports to State Water Board

Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force & Strategic Plan

- November 30, 2007 Task Force Report
- September 2008 Draft Strategic Plan
- Both have strong statements on conservation, e.g.,
 - “The goals of conservation, efficiency, and sustainable use must drive California water policies.”

California Water Plan Update

- Last update 2005, next 2009
- Chapters on urban and agricultural water conservation
- Update 2005: of 8 water management strategies, urban water use efficiency had highest potential

“20x2020” Water Conservation Goal

- Governor’s letter to State Senate February 2008
 - 7 Actions to fix Delta
 - 1st Action: Goal to reduce per capita water use 20% by 2020
- 20x2020 Agency Team
 - Strategic Implementation Plan early 2009

20x2020 Agency Team

- DWR & SWRCB Co-chairs
- 6 State agencies, 1 federal
- CUWCC

Broad Water Board Authority

- Calif Constitution, Art. 10 & Water Code §100:
 - Right to water does not extend to waste or unreasonable use
- Water Code §275:
 - DWR & SWRCB shall take all appropriate action to prevent waste

Legislation

- AB 1420 (2007) – state funding for water management contingent on conservation implementation
- AB 1881 (2006) – DWR to update model landscape ordinance by Jan 2009, cities & counties required to adopt

Legislation

- AB 32 – Greenhouse Gas Reduction
 - Scoping Report Adoption due Dec 2008
 - Conservation is key water GHG element
 - Recommends public goods charge on water to fund conservation & other water efficiency and GHG projects

Today's Public Workshop

- Called for in Bay-Delta Workplan
- Public notice & discussion paper issued August 22, 2008
- Public comments due September 23
– posted on Web

Sampling of Comment Letters

- Existing voluntary processes or legal mandates sufficient
- Adopt performance-based mandate with flexibility or adopt specific BMPs
- Mandate/don't mandate pricing structures

Sampling of Comment Letters

- Delay until 20x2020 recommendations
- Delay until revised BMPs and AB1420 take effect
- Target enforcement on agencies without effective conservation programs

Water Board Web Sites

- Home Page
 - <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/>
- Water Conservation
 - http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_conservation/

