

GROWING WATER SMART: COMMUNITY SELF-ASSESSMENT

Introduction

The very first step in becoming water smart is understanding your current conditions. This self-assessment is designed to guide your community through a data gathering process that will help inform your team's work sessions during the Growing Water Smart Workshop.

The capacity of your community and history of planning will influence the thoroughness of the data available. For the purpose of informing your team's dialogue during the Growing Water Smart Workshop, please collect as much data as possible on your current conditions and share the summary with your team prior to the workshop. Responses to this self-assessment do not need to be comprehensive status reports. Keep responses high level and brief enough to guide your discussions and provide weblink or document and page citations so that you can easily dive deeper, if necessary.

There is not an expectation for you to gather data that you do not have available. In cases of where you do not have information, simply acknowledge what you do not know. Communities with more capacity or a longer history of planning are more likely to have invested resources in studies that provide them a more comprehensive understanding of water resource management.

The self-assessment is organized into four sections.

Section 1 gathers data related to trends that influence your community's water supply and demand, such as growth rates and drought. This information is likely to be found in current plans such as the general plan, climate adaptation plan, or emergency preparedness plan.

- Population Estimates & Projections: <http://www.dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/>
- National Drought Information: <https://www.drought.gov/drought/states/california>
- California Data Exchange Center: <https://cdec.water.ca.gov/>

Section 2 gathers information that is typically found in water planning documents or water budgets about your water supply and demand. Depending upon the capacity of your community, you may not have all of this information available. Sources of data will likely be the water utilities or water resource managers.

Section 3 gathers information on current water conservation and efficiency efforts included in water and land use policies and plans. Sources of data will likely be the planning department, water utilities or water resource managers.

Section 4 gathers information regarding your community's current policies that are most likely to link water and land use beyond traditional water conservation and efficiency standards including connecting water demand to growth patterns, water quality, and watershed health. The planning department staff or planning commission are the likely sources for this information.

Part 1: Understanding Trends that Influence Water Supply & Demand

Please enter responses into the brown highlighted boxes.

AREA OF INFLUENCE	TRENDS					
1. What changes or trends has our community experienced that may influence our water supply?						
A. Climate Trends	Trends					
• Temperature						
• Precipitation (rain and/or snow)						
• Drought						
• Fire						
• Flood						
B. Is our economy growing, declining or shifting?						
• Property tax base change from 2000 to current period						
• Sales tax change from 2000 to current						
• Largest economic sector changes						
C. What changes in business sectors are we seeing?						
• Agriculture uses growing/declining						
• Commercial uses growing/declining						
• Industrial uses growing/declining						
D. What demographic shifts have we seen?						
• Population growing or declining?						
• What is our projected population growth rate?						
• What are your population demographics and where are the shifts in demographics?						
E. How are we growing?						
• Number of building permits annually past two decades?						
• Where is most of the new development located?						
• What is the most frequent type of development application?						

Part 2: Our Current Inventory: Water Supply & Demand

WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND QUESTIONS	RESPONSE	
1. Does your community have a clear understanding of your Organization/County/Municipality water supply and demand balance?		
2. Is your water supply and demand balanced?		
3. What is your total current and projected supply and demand in AF?	Current:	
4. Do you have a study or plan that summarizes your water supply and/or demand?	Projected (to year):	
	Yes	No
<i>Please provide link to the report or study.</i>	See attached	
5. What is the composition of our water supply?	Mark all that apply with an X.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface water (AF) 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater (AF) - identify tributary or non-tributary 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual household wells (number) 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reuse (AF) 		
6. What is the sector breakdown of our current water demand?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal/Residential SF 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal/Residential MF 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal/Commercial 		
7. If you know your current gallons per capita water demand, please provide. If you use another criteria to measure demand, include that instead.		
8. Do you have a gallons per capita water demand target for conservation? Please provide.		
9. Are additional water supply storage projects being considered to meet future demand?	Yes	No
10. Is climate vulnerability and variability part of the assessment of future water supply? If yes, how was vulnerability assessed?	Yes	No
11. Has an assessment of impacts of water conservation been conducted? (e.g. revenue, water infrastructure, etc.)	Yes	No
12. Are proven methodologies for population and growth projections used to determine future water demand? If yes, which methods:	Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A linear population growth model is used 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low, medium, and high population projections are used 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth scenario modeling is used 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other 		
13. Projected land use changes connected to water demand projections with a clear methodology for how future water demand is determined.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on total number of households/taps based on growth projections 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on population projection 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on density or use type per acre 		

<Name of Community Here>

• Other	
14. What is the source of the population data?	
• State Demographer	
• Consultant	
• Other	

Part 3: Our Water Conservation & Efficiency Programs

Brown boxes indicate where to mark responses with an X or comment.

WATER CONSERVATION QUESTIONS	RESPONSE		LINK TO POLICY
	Yes	No	
1. What has your community done to promote water conservation?			
• Adopted a Water Conservation Plan			
• Adopted a Drought Management Plan or Preparedness Plan			
• Other			
2. Does your community's water provider(s) conduct any of the following water conservation programs?			
• Cash for grass/turf replacement			
• Rebates for fixtures and appliances			
• Water efficient product giveaways			
• Conservation education for consumers			
• Landscaping education for property owners			
• Landscaping education for landscaping professionals			
• Water efficiency rebates			
• Water audits			
• Water metering			
• Rate structuring			
• Other			
3. If you have a utility that uses rate structuring to promote water conservation, which of the following does the utility use? Please mark the structure you use with an X.			
Drought Demand Pricing: Rates are higher during drought periods.			
Excess Use: Rates are higher for above average water use.			
Inclining Block: Rate per block increases as water use increases.			
Indoor/Outdoor: With separate meters, rates for indoor use are lower rates for outdoor use.			
Penalties: Customers are charged for exceeding allowable limits of water.			
Scarcity Pricing: The costs of developing new supplies is added to bills.			
Seasonal Pricing: Water rates are higher during the season with the most demand.			
Sliding Scale: The unit price increases based on an average consumption.			
Spatial Pricing: Water rates are determined by the actual costs to supply water to specific locations.			
Time-of-Use: Water rates are higher during peak days or specific hours of the week.			
Water Budget: Block rate are defined for each individual customer based on an efficient level for that customer.			
Other			
4. Are there voluntary or mandatory water use restrictions for drought periods?	Yes	No	

Part 4: Assessing the Policy Enabling Environment: Land Use – Water Nexus

Brown boxes indicate where to mark responses with an X or comment.

GENERAL PLAN QUESTIONS	RESPONSE		LINK TO POLICY
1. Does the general plan include recommended goals and/or strategies for the following?	Yes	No	<i>Please provide a link to the plan</i>
• Sustainable water supply and/or demand management			
• Water quality protection or water source protection			
• Watershed processes and watershed health			
• Water conservation and efficiency			
• Designed growth areas connected to water infrastructure			
• Promotion of infill/compact development patterns			
• Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)			
• Drought management			
• Wastewater management			
• Floodplain and stormwater management			
• Groundwater management and protection			
2. Does your community have any supporting plans that include elements on water resource management?	Yes	No	<i>Please provide a link to the plan</i>
• A climate action plan, adaptation plan or resiliency plan			
• A sustainability plan			
• An emergency preparedness plan			
• A floodplain management plan			
• Other			
3. Are you impacted by or involved in other regional water planning processes?	Yes	No	
• Integrated Regional Water Management Plan			
• Groundwater Sustainability Plan			
• Other			
DEVELOPMENT CODE QUESTIONS	RESPONSE		LINK TO POLICY
Adequate Water Supply			
4. Does your Development Code include a policy for the provision of adequate water supply for new development?	Yes	No	<i>Please provide a link to the code section</i>
a. If Yes, does it include any of the following?			
• A definition for an “adequate water supply”			
• A definition for a “sustainable water supply”			
• A defined time period for water sustainability			
• A requirement for demonstration of both physical and legal water adequacy and availability			
• A requirement for proof of water supply, either a water plan or hydrological study			
• Maps connected to water adequacy rules			
• Uniform application to all development			
b. At what point is the proof of water required in the development approval process? <i>Please check one.</i>			
• Initial or preliminary plat submittal			
• At final development approval			

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By development phase(s) 				
c. Who conducts the water adequacy review for development proposals? <i>Check all that apply with an X.</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review by the State Engineer's Office (for well permits) 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning Commission 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Resource Department 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utility Department 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water District 				
DEVELOPMENT CODE QUESTIONS		RESPONSE		LINK TO POLICY
Site Development Standards for Water Quality				
5. Does your Development Code include zoning or development standards for water quality protection?		Yes	No	<i>Please provide a link to the code section</i>
a. If Yes, does it include any of the following?				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development standards in sensitive areas through clustering or limited development densities. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development standards for stream buffers and setbacks to protect water quality. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation protection standards that minimize disturbance to vegetation within the riparian corridor. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site level soil erosion mitigation standards for new development to reduce sedimentation and run-off and protect water quality from land disturbance. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stormwater management standards that utilize best practices for low impact design reducing storm event runoff and increasing water infiltration. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design standards integrating best practices for low impact design to reduce runoff and increase infiltration. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoning districts that require lower densities and/or cluster development to protect surface and groundwater sensitive areas. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated surface and/or groundwater districts with standards to minimize contamination of streams and shallow aquifers that will protect existing and potential sources of drinking water supplies. (e.g. watershed overlay zone, groundwater protection zone) 				
DEVELOPMENT CODE QUESTIONS		RESPONSE		LINK TO POLICY
Water Efficient Land Use Pattern				
6. Does your Development Code include policy that promotes and/or supports compact density/infill?		Yes	No	<i>Please provide a link to the code section</i>
a. If Yes, does it include any of the following?				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher density and smaller lot sizes by right 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixed use by right 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing types by right other than single family (e.g. MF, townhomes, ADUs, condos, etc.) 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural conservation cluster subdivisions 				

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development incentives for water efficient development (e.g. density bonus, reduced fees) 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated future growth and/or infill areas or boundaries with infrastructure available for higher density development. 			
7. Does your Development Code have a provision requiring water conservation and efficiency in the:	Yes	No	<i>Please provide a link to the code section</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned Development Policy 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annexation Policy 			
DEVELOPMENT CODE QUESTIONS	RESPONSE		LINK TO POLICY
Efficient Outdoor Water Use			
8. Does your Development Code include landscaping standards to reduce outdoor water use?	Yes	No	<i>Please provide a link to the code section</i>
a. If Yes, does it include any of the following?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turf limitation (e.g. Type of turf or turf square footage limitations) 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total landscaped area square footage limitation (e.g. Turf and other landscape types) 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant selection (e.g. Native plants or suitable plants for hydrozones) 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irrigation efficiency practices (e.g. drip, bubblers, low flow sprinklers, rain and/or ET sensors) 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water schedules for outdoor irrigation to reduce demand and/or evapotranspiration (e.g. time of day, day of week, seasonal) 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water budgets for outdoor water use (limitations on allowable water consumption in a landscape area) 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil enhancements and mulching requirements 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rainwater harvesting standards 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water waste limitations 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water budgets 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site inspections 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code enforcement and fines for violations of standards 			
9. Does your Development Code include regulatory, not voluntary, emergency water use restrictions for drought periods?	Yes	No	
BUILDING & PLUMBING CODE QUESTIONS	RESPONSE		LINK TO POLICY
Efficient Indoor Water Use			
10. What is your current plumbing code?			
11. What is your current building code?			
12. Does your code have Plumbing Efficiency Standards that promote water conservation for residential uses?	Yes	No	
a. If Yes, does it include any of the following?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water efficient plumbing fixture requirement (e.g. Water Sense, Energy Star, etc.) 			

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water efficient appliance requirement (e.g. Water Sense, Energy Star, etc.) 			
13. Does your code have Plumbing Efficiency Standards that promote water conservation for Commercial, Industrial, Institutional uses?	Yes	No	
a. If Yes, does it include any of the following?	Yes	No	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water efficient plumbing fixture requirement (e.g. water sense) 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water efficient appliance requirement (e.g. water sense) 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional commercial standards for high water consumption uses (e.g. car washes, golf courses, hotels, restaurants, laundromat, etc.) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-rinse spray valves Water recycling systems Greywater reuse Cooling systems Decorative water features Water saving signage 			
14. Does your code include any of the following plumbing and building water saving standards?	Yes	No	
	x		
a. If Yes, does it include any of the following?	Yes	No	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metering for commercial and single-family units for new development connections 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submetering for multifamily units for new development connections 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fee incentive for new development to incorporate additional water efficient fixtures, appliances, plumbing above the required standard. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirement for plumbing fixture retrofit on resale or for rehabilitation of property to receive C.O. or as a fee incentive for new development. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tap availability limitations 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tap fee incentives for water conservation measures 			
15. Are you doing anything else to conserve water that is not already mentioned in this assessment?	Yes	No	
a. If Yes, please describe:			