

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - LAND USE  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 6**

**SUBJECT: REGIONAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ADDRESSING THE DROUGHT  
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

As drought and climate change continue to intensify, our region's reliance on water sources will pose an increasing challenge. Advancement of drought management and water sustainability actions will require regional and binational collaboration to ensure that our residents, agricultural communities, and the economy continue to develop best practices.

This board letter includes actions for the Board of Supervisors (Board) to support an updated regional assessment and provide a timeline of proposed drought management & water infrastructure sustainability actions to identify County stormwater capture and reclamation opportunities and policies. Actions called for in the board letter will look at potential improvements to County-owned facilities and roads, and will incentivize affordable housing to utilize stormwater capture and reuse. Additionally, the board letter will enhance and support countywide programs that focus on stormwater capture incentives and enhance an educational campaign focused on water conservation programs.

I strongly urge your support for the recommendations in this letter to ensure that the Board takes a proactive approach to address the drought crisis through drought management & water infrastructure sustainability.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**VICE-CHAIR NORA VARGAS**

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return to the Board of Supervisors within a mid-year update (6 months) and a final report within 12 months after funding is received that focuses on an updated comprehensive regional assessment of current drought management & water infrastructure sustainability strategies which identifies availability in regional storm water reuse capacity and identifies metrics with a timeline to implement short-term and long-term infrastructure projects in regional facilities. This effort should:
  - a. Consider the whole region, including local municipalities, Imperial County, and binational cities.
  - b. Identify County stormwater capture and reclamation opportunities at County parks and facilities and return with recommendations for stormwater capture and reuse.
  - c. Identify recommendations for County roads and highways in collaboration with SANDAG and CalTrans for water diversion, capture and reuse.
  - d. Identify incentives for affordable housing developments to integrate and install stormwater capture and reuse systems.
  - e. Identify financial risks caused by extreme weather conditions caused by droughts, like floods and fires.

- f. Identify financial investments needed for resilience approaches that reduce risks and impacts that are exacerbated by extreme weather conditions caused by droughts like floods and fires.
  - g. Research what other jurisdictions are doing with graywater reuse and provide a summary of best practices.
  - h. Align proposed recommendations with the California’s Water Supply Strategy.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to expand outreach strategy efforts on the current stormwater capture incentives programs in San Diego County. Identify gaps and ways the County can expand and enhance programs by identifying funding mechanisms and guidelines for new pilot programs.
  3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to enhance existing educational campaigns to enhance messaging related to water conservation.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

As extreme weather conditions become more frequent due to climate change, it is critical that the County prioritizes drought management & water infrastructure sustainability. Our frontline communities, low-income communities, and communities of color, are disproportionately impacted by environmental injustices making them the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Income inequalities combined with limited water source threatens access to affordable water. Longer drought conditions create direct consequences for low-income communities and communities of color. Unaffordable water sources impact economic opportunities, access to quality drinking water, and food access. Today’s proposed actions will ensure that regional efforts advance equity, address environmental and climate justice and leads to community adaptation and resilience.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are not included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 Operational Plan in the Land Use and Environment Group (LUEG). If approved, this request will result in estimated one-time costs of \$900,000. LUEG will need to identify funding prior to proceeding with the recommended action, as none is currently available. Once funding is identified, LUEG will return to the Board with a mid-year action to adjust the budget if necessary and/or incorporate in future budgets should funding become available. There may be future fiscal impacts based on recommendations resulting from today’s action. Any such recommendations would return back for consideration and approval by the Board. At this time, there is no impact to net General Fund costs, and there will be no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Vargas, seconded by Supervisor Fletcher, the Board of Supervisors took the following actions:

1. Directed the Chief Administrative Officer to return to the Board of Supervisors within a mid-year update (6 months) and a final report within 12 months after funding is received that focuses on an updated comprehensive regional assessment of current drought management & water infrastructure sustainability strategies which identifies availability in regional storm water reuse capacity and identifies metrics with a timeline to implement short-term and long-term infrastructure projects in regional facilities. This effort should:
  - a. Consider the whole region, including local municipalities, Imperial County, and binational cities.
  - b. Identify County stormwater capture and reclamation opportunities at County parks and facilities and return with recommendations for stormwater capture and reuse.
  - c. Identify recommendations for County roads and highways in collaboration with SANDAG and CalTrans for water diversion, capture and reuse.
  - d. Identify incentives for affordable housing developments to integrate and install stormwater capture and reuse systems.
  - e. Identify financial risks caused by extreme weather conditions caused by droughts, like floods and fires.
  - f. Identify financial investments needed for resilience approaches that reduce risks and impacts that are exacerbated by extreme weather conditions caused by droughts like floods and fires.
  - g. Research what other jurisdictions are doing with graywater reuse and provide a summary of best practices.
  - h. Align proposed recommendations with the California's Water Supply Strategy.
  - i. Identify risks, opportunities, and incentives for sustainable agriculture projects.
2. Directed the Chief Administrative Officer to expand outreach strategy efforts on the current stormwater capture incentives programs in San Diego County. Identify gaps and ways the County can expand and enhance programs by identifying funding mechanisms and guidelines for new pilot programs.
3. Directed the Chief Administrative Officer to enhance existing educational campaigns to enhance messaging related to water conservation.

4. Made amendments to the Board Letter as follows:
  - a. Add the word “State” in the last paragraph of the overview and background and the last sentence of the first paragraph in the background to read “State drought crisis.”
  - b. Change the first paragraph in the background from 80% to 2/3.
  - c. Update the first paragraph in the background to add “water conserved in Imperial County” after Colorado River.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
by Andrew Potter

