Water Conservation BMPs:
Water Waste Prohibition

RWSPG Meeting
May 27, 2008
Water Waste Prohibition
Presentation Overview

• Definition
• Most Common Water Waste Topics
• Ordinances
• Benefits/Costs
• Examples
• Sample Recommendation Statements
Water Waste Prohibition

Definitions

- 4 Different areas:
  - Residential
  - Landscape
  - Industrial, Commercial and Institutional
  - Agricultural
Waste Water prohibition measures are......

Enforceable actions and measures that prohibit specific wasteful activities.
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Definitions

• 2 ways…
  – Specific actions
    • CUWCC
  – Specific outcome
    • Southern Nevada Water Authority
      – Boulder City
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Most Common Prohibition Topics

• Gutter flushing
• Single pass cooling systems in new connections
• Non-recirculating systems in new car washes and commercial laundry systems
• Non-recycling decorative water fountains
• Restricted use of water softeners
• Landscaping restrictions
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Ordinances

• Used to implement and enforce
• 1\textsuperscript{st} time = warning
• 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3\textsuperscript{rd}, etc = fine or stop in service
• Varies greatly with location
No Authority.....make a Policy!

• East Medina County Special Utility District
• Set Policy for water waste prohibition-adapted by Board of Directors
• Community relationship fosters compliance
Exceptions and Combinations

Landscaping and Water Waste

- Water waste ordinances
- Landscaping restriction ordinances
  - Day specific watering schedule
  - Turf Limitations
  - Ban on sprinkler irrigation for narrow turf strips
- Varies widely…
- Cultural notion for “attractive and functional landscape”
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**Costs**

- Development and adoption of an ordinance and enforcement structure

- Ongoing administration/staff
  - Maintenance of program
  - Enforcement of program

- Reinforcement from program fees

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Benefits

- Not wasting water…
- Setting Limits and Definitions
- Reduced Stormwater runoff
- Reduced pollution from runoff
- Save energy from pumping and treating
- Save chemicals from treating more water
- Instill sense of conservation in customers
El Paso

PROHIBITS:
• Washing a vehicle without a positive shut-off nozzle
• Irrigation runoff to run into the street
• Outdoor watering on other than the assigned days.
  – Watering on the wrong day nets the violator a $137 fine plus court costs.
  – Citizens caught watering at the wrong time or allowing water to run into the right-of-way are fined $112 fine plus court costs.
• Failure to repair leaks is a $245 fine.
Austin, Texas

- Year Round
- Prohibit (Class C misdemeanor)
  - Failing to repair leaks
  - Irrigation water heads
  - Irrigation run-off
- Educational materials online
- Water Waste Reporting
  - Hotline
  - Website reporting form
By 2006, 181 agencies reported having water waste prohibition in some form.

Specifically:
- 77% - Gutter Flooding
- 38% - Single pass car washes
- 35% - Single pass cooling
- 30% - Single pass laundry
- 54% - Single pass fountains
- 31% - Other Prohibitions
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

- Water Waste is prohibited at all times
  - Allowing water to run into a gutter, ditch, or drain, or failing to repair a controllable leak is considered water waste.
- Year round lawn watering schedule
- 4 Stages depending on height of river
- Washing vehicles at a residence
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Summary

• Water waste can be defined in many ways
  – Combination
• Can include landscaping restrictions as well
• Usually enforced through ordinances
• Found all through the United States
• Staff and enforcement costs
• Benefits
Sample Recommendation Statement
County and City implementation and enforcement of a water waste prohibition ordinance that includes but is not limited to…

- Single pass cooling systems in new connections
- Gutter Flushing
- Non-recirculating systems in new car washes and commercial laundry systems
- Non-recycling decorative water fountains
- Restricted use of water softeners
- Landscaping restrictions

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Sample Recommendation Statement

Water waste prohibition ordinances compliment existing or serve as a beginning to landscaping restrictions.
Questions?

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