

North Beach Water Information in Support of Setting Goals to Use Water Efficiently



North Beach Public Development Authority

Water System Nos. 63000C and 20051V

Public Forum September 15, 2008

Background

In June 2008 the State of Washington Department of Health issued Publication #331-402 directing water systems to establish at least one goal to help its customers use water more efficiently. According to the publication “Using water efficiently helps you manage the growing demand for water.” The state directs water utilities to achieve the goal using “demand-side (customer) measures”. Demand-side measures consider how much water customers use, along with programs aimed at aiding customers in using water more efficiently.

Steps to Establishing Goals

The state has directed that the following steps be used in considering the establishment of a water use efficiency goal:

- Identify objective for proposing your goal
- Propose your goal to support the objective
- Establish timeframe for achieving your proposed goal
- Determine which cost-effective WUE measures support your goal
- Determine how you will fund the measures to achieve your goal
- Post public notice two weeks before public forum
- Make goal-supporting information available to public two weeks before the public forum (this document)
- Hold public forum on proposed goal
- Consider public comments before establishing goal
- Establish goal

Objective

On July 21, 2008 staff presented four objectives to the Board of Directors for consideration. These objectives were: maintain our annual consumption per single-unit residential connections; reduce hourly peak usage in the summer months; reduce consumption in multi-unit residential connections; and maintain our annual consumption per commercial connections. Staff was then directed by the Board to draft goals from these objectives, and report back with timeframes, cost-effectiveness and funding.

Draft Goals, Timeframe, Cost-Effectiveness and Funding

On August 18, 2008 staff brought back to the Board four draft goals along with their timeframes, cost-effectiveness and funding for consideration. One draft goal, titled “Maintain our annual consumption per commercial connections” was rejected because of the water system’s small commercial user base and the inability to establish baseline usage rates. Two draft goals, called “reduce hourly peak usage in the summer months” and “reduce consumption in multi-unit residential connections” are to be reconsidered by the Board in six years as current system technologies don’t exist to monitor these draft goals. The remaining draft goal named “maintain our annual consumption per single-unit residential connections”

was accepted by the Board, and staff was directed to proceed forward with it as the proposed goal.

Proposed Goal

Maintain annual customer consumption at present levels.

Analysis: Based upon consumption from 2007, NBPDA residential single-unit connections used on average 293 cubic feet of water per month. Bearing in mind that many system users are seasonal in nature, there could be wide fluctuations in usage in any given month, thus the average was arrived at by taking annual usage and dividing by 12.

The object of this proposed goal is twofold:

- that existing users continue to have consumption patterns that are at or below current patterns
- that new users that join the system have usage that is similar or below current users

Staff proposes meeting this goal through education of existing residential customers by including conservation related material in agency newsletters and on the agency's website. Additionally, staff proposes meeting this goal for future customers by providing conservation related educational material to them at the time they connect to the system.

Timeframe: Achievement of this draft goal would be based upon a rolling three-year average of single-unit residential customer usage. This goal would then be evaluated and re-establish in six years.

Cost-effectiveness: Staff estimates costs to be near \$2,000 per year. This would include newsletter distribution costs, some website setup costs, and the production of material for new users. Thus, these outreach methods are hoped to cost less than \$1 per connection per annum.

Funding: The current budget for Customer Communications (Acct. # 544.3) allocates \$1,728 for this activity, of which \$238 has been used in this budget cycle. It should be possible to work within the current budget allotment.

This proposed goal will be presented at a Public Forum being held on September 15, 2008 at 6:00 PM at the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting. The meeting location is at Pacific County Fire District #1 Meeting Room, 26109 Ridge Avenue, Ocean Park.