

RWA Water Efficiency Program Updates

July 14, 2020

- **Water Loss Regulation**

The State Water Board solicited written comments from stakeholders on their recently released [draft water loss regulation](#) with an extended deadline of June 12, 2020. The State Water Board received over 60 letters, with the vast majority of letters submitted by water suppliers. **Our region was strongly represented, with 10 out of our 20 agencies submitting comment letters, accounting for a 1/6th of the state's total submitted letters.** Thank to those RWA agencies that submitted individual comment letters regarding the State Water Board's water loss regulation including City of Sacramento, City of Yuba City, City of Folsom, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Placer County Water Agency, San Juan Water District, El Dorado Irrigation District, California American Water, Golden State Water Company, and Sacramento County Water Agency. RWA also submitted a comment letter on behalf of the region and was a leader in drafting a water loss coalition comment letter, which included ACWA, CMUA, CA NV AWWA, CWA and RWA as signatories. All the submitted comment letters are contained in a zip file that can be accessed by download through the link below. The State Water Board will not be publicly posting the comment letters due to "accessibility issues." Thank you to CMUA for hosting these files.

<https://www.cmua.org//Files/WaterRegulatory/Water%20loss%20comment%20letters%20June%202020.zip>

Looking forward, the formal rulemaking process is now expected to start at the end of July, with potential adoption of a final water loss regulation in November 2020. In the meantime, RWA has been engaged in several outreach activities to communicate our water loss concerns and priorities including elevating the peer review recommendation to State Water Board staff and Board members and creating outreach materials to communicate suppliers' concerns to legislative staff and members.

RWA staff, in collaboration with the water loss coalition, formed a water loss regulation peer review workgroup to create a list of priorities that suppliers would like to have included in a peer review of the water loss regulation and associated economic model. Requesting a peer review of the regulation and model was one of the primary requests not only in RWA's comment letters but the majority of supplier comments letters throughout the state. Workgroup members include representatives from the following agencies: East Bay Municipal Utility District, Placer County Water Agency, Western Municipal Water District, Alameda County Water District, San Francisco Public Utility Commission, and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The peer review priorities document is being finalized and will be sent to State Water Board staff and selected Board members. The coalition is currently scheduling meetings with State Water Board members to discuss these peer review priorities among other water loss concerns.

Additionally, RWA staff, in coordination with the water loss coalition, are working on two additional documents to help communicate our water loss concerns and specific "asks" to legislative staff and Members. These documents include a 2-pager to briefly describe water

loss basics and outline specific water supplier regulation revision priorities and a 1-page support letter that legislators can provide their signature to in a show of support for a peer review of the regulation and model along with some basis policy level priorities.

- **Landscape Area Measurement Regulation**

DWR hosted a Landscape Area Measurement (LAM) virtual workshop to discuss residential parcel analysis progress on June 3, 2020. RWA participated on the workshop panel that was tasked with reviewing parcels that had completed irrigable, non irrigable, etc. analysis performed prior to the workshop to provide feedback to DWR. The meeting also discussed the validation of aerial interpretation of residential parcels and verification issues with matching water supplier residential account information to parcel information. The next LAM meeting will be scheduled for this fall.

June 3rd Meeting Materials:

- Sample parcels and documents that were reviewed by the Residential LAM Technical Work Group: <https://cadwr.box.com/s/q06vbskxlxejtfx66t51sg0w2pfn9jz>
- Sample Video demonstrations: <https://cadwr.box.com/s/87509nd2k9l96xt3zb5zbbjcsr05a4jt>
- PowerPoint Presentations: <https://cadwr.box.com/s/vo5rxka0de17ur72iw363oh451b9iqoo>
- Recording of the webinar: <https://cadwr.box.com/s/zz77uxgr4l9s3b7ep1a471txepg5g04p>

- **Landscape Budget Training with Land IQ**

The 5-agency pilot landscape budget analysis study is moving forward with results expected to be complete in August. Our plan was to use the results from the pilot study in a WEP training (open to all agencies) that focuses on “how to” create a landscape water budget for residential customers. The original intent was to host an in person training this fall. However, due to the current COVID-19 situation, are agencies open to a virtual training? Still aim for a fall training or later in the year? What do you want to learn from the training?

- **CalWEP Update**

At the last RWEPC meeting, we discussed hosting the December CalWEP Plenary. However, due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the December CalWEP Plenary has been canceled and replaced with a virtual version of the Peer to Peer Conference to be held from December 8, 2020 to December 10, 2020. Exact details, agenda and conference format are still in the works. We will keep you updated on any changes.

- **WEP Invoices and 2019 Year in Review**

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Water Efficiency Program (WEP) invoices were distributed to each agency on July 1, 2020. We decided to only send the materials via email this year. Each agency should have received an email that contained a FY 2021 Dues Letter, FY 2021 WEP Invoice, FY 2021 Detailed WEP Budget Document, and a 2019 Year in Review PDF that summarizes all of our achievements from the previous year. Please let me know if you did not receive this email or if you have any questions.

- **SMUD Clothes Washer Rebate Program**

Several WEP agencies process their clothes washer rebates through SMUD. SMUD has informed us that they will be terminating the program on December 31, 2020. There may be other options to keep contracting out rebate processing. Let's discuss.

- **Public Outreach Trainings/Webinars**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it seems like virtual trainings and workshops may become an outreach staple until the end of the year. Let's briefly discuss some of the online workshops that we have collectively hosted, customer feedback on those workshops and assessment of demand for more workshops in the future. Is there a role for RWA to coordinate additional educational workshops for regional promotion?