

RWA Water Efficiency Program Update

November 17, 2020

- **Powerhouse/MOSAC**

The Powerhouse Science Center has been rebranded as the SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity (MOSAC) as of September 2020 (<https://visitmosac.org/>). The rebranding will not impact RWA's sponsored exhibits: Home Water Detectives (indoor/outdoor water efficiency focused) and Water Champions (current water success stories to inspire future water champions). RWA continues to meet with MOSAC's design team, West Office and RLMG, to finalize exhibit audio, visual and educational content. We expect exhibit production and installation to start in early 2021 with the official public opening by late 2021.

- **Water Forum**

The Water Forum Agreement is in the process of being renegotiated. This includes the conservation element. A committee is being formed to oversee changes to this element. The committee will include a variety of stakeholders including water efficiency technical staff. Several members from the RWEFAC are likely to be volunteered. RWA may serve as the facilitator.

- **Water Loss Trainings**

In the recent past, we discussed the desire for some water loss related trainings in 2021. The purpose of these trainings could be to better understand how to fill out a water loss audit, the audit validation process, component analysis and/or an overview of the inputs in the state's water loss economic model. Please let me if you are interested in any other topics. I will work on putting together a scope and costs for these training ideas in the first quarter of 2021.

- **Legislative/Regulation**

- Indoor Water Use Budget

DWR is wrapping up a pilot study to assess current indoor water use with 18 suppliers across the state. DWR will provide a report to the legislature by January 2021 which will include the pilot study information and recommendations on whether to keep the current 55 gallons per person per day standard set by SB 606/AB 1668 or change the standard. Then it will be up to the legislature if they would like to officially make changes to the legislation requirements.

- Outdoor Water Use Budget

The imagery methodology process is wrapping up with definitions included for irrigable, irrigable-not irrigated and non-irrigable for residential parcels. Suppliers are expected to receive their landscape imagery data in late 2020 or early 2021 for review. However the related water use equation (to be used with spatial landscape data) to determine the landscape budgets is still to be determined. DWR hosted the first meeting to discuss this equation in late October.

- Water Loss

Updated water loss regulation and economic model drafts are expected to be released for stakeholder comment in November/December 2020 with anticipated adoption in early/mid 2021 likely. Individual supplier budgets will be determined by the economic model, which will be the focus of a State Water Board independent peer review.

- Dedicated Irrigation Meter Budget
No progress. The state has not engaged with stakeholders on this topic yet.
- Urban Water Management Plans
DWR has released a guidance document to help suppliers with new requirements from SB 606/AB 1668. New requirements include: Five Consecutive Dry-Year Water Reliability Assessment, Drought Risk Assessment, Seismic Risk, Water Shortage Contingency Plan 6 stage standard, Groundwater Supplies Coordination and Lay Description. RWA staff will provide a summary of Water Efficiency Program activity and accomplishments for potential inclusion into supplier UWMPs to help satisfy the water efficiency related requirements. 2020 UWMPs are due July 1, 2021.

- **QWEL**

RWA successfully completed our first all virtual October QWEL training. There were slight changes to the training scope to enhance the virtual experience such as quizzes and polls. The landscape audit portion of the training was conducted virtually using video, both pre-recorded and during the class. The exam was conducted online through MonitorEDU. We will likely continue the virtual format for the spring 2021 training as well. Monica presented on our transition to a virtual QWEL training as part of a national Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) and USEPA WaterSense webinar on November 5th.

- **Customer Webinars**

As a follow up to our last RWE PAC, we have now scheduled 5 customer webinars for 2021. Each webinar will be hosted on GoToMeeting or Zoom and will be scheduled for 1 hour. Exact dates and times still yet to be determined. Agency partners will have the option to promote their related local programs and rebates on the webinar. Please let me know if you are interested in being an agency partner. We have a few openings.

- Do's and Don'ts for Front Yard Renovations (January 2021)
 - Instructor: Cheryl Buckwalter and team
 - Agency Partner: TBD
- Landscape Design with Cost in Mind (February 2021)
 - Instructor: Cheryl Buckwalter and team
 - Agency Partner: City of Sacramento
- How Much Water Does Your Landscape Really Need? (March 2021)
 - Instructor: Cheryl Buckwalter and team
 - Agency Partner: City of Roseville
- Let's plant a Drought Tolerant/Mediterranean Garden (March 2021)
 - Instructor: Marlene Simons, the "Plant Lady"
 - Agency Partner: TBD
- How to Create a Pollinator Garden (April 2021)
 - Instructor: Marlene Simons, the "Plant Lady"

- Agency Partner: TBD

Also don't forget that city of **Sacramento has opened up their upcoming Sac Tree Foundation Tree Pruning workshop on November 19th from noon to 1:30 pm for regional promotion.** Here is the link to register that can be shared with customers: https://cityofsacramento.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/5216044257187/WN_WXPETAsxRpilApwKVZ7nuQ

- **Sacramento Tree Foundation**

After two years of succession planning in preparation for Ray Tretheway's (current ED) retirement, and a comprehensive search and interview process with many talented local and national candidates, Sacramento Tree Foundation is very happy to announce that Jessica Sanders has accepted the position of executive director of the Sacramento Tree Foundation.

Jessica brings years of in-depth experience in building and sustaining urban forests. Most recently, she served as the Director of Science and Policy at the Washington, DC-based nonprofit Casey Trees, where she led strategic policy on city-wide, tree-related initiatives. In this role, Jessica built coalitions for the expansion of tree-filled public space, tree and solar power coexistence, and a community invested in healthy citizens of all ages with nature as a central tenet. She also worked to secure municipal funds for trees and environmental education, created a citizen's science program, and developed an Urban Forest Master Plan.

Jessica earned her Ph.D. from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and her B.S. in Environmental Studies from Richard Stockton College. She is an ISA Certified Arborist, and a Certified Project Management Specialist.

- **Virtual Holiday Social**

Due to the ongoing COVID situation, we will not be meeting in person for our holiday social this year. However we do currently still have the time on our calendars for December 8th. My suggestion is that we keep a calendar hold for December 8th from 11:30-12:30 pm and RWA will host a virtual holiday social. RWA will send out a zoomlink and we can all eat lunch together (come and go as you please). RWA will put together some fun lunch time quizzes and polls and maybe even a best virtual background contest.