

DEPUTY DIRECTIVE

Number: DD-13

Refer to
Director's Policy: 04-Environment

Effective Date: 9-1-93

Title: Water Conservation

POLICY

Caltrans promotes and encourages water conservation as a continuing practice. Caltrans' water management decisions are guided by health and safety standards and protecting the public's investment. The most cost-effective and appropriate water conservation strategies will be employed in the design, construction, operation and maintenance of transportation facilities including, to the maximum extent feasible, the use of non-potable water.

DEFINITION/ BACKGROUND

As California is faced with recurring droughts and its limited resources are burdened by population growth, Caltrans is committed to finding permanent alternatives to high water use practices. The Department's water conservation efforts are guided by the Governor's mandate to conserve the State's water supplies.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Deputy Directors ensure Caltrans takes a leadership role in the responsible use of limited water resources and that water management practices are in compliance with this Directive.

The Chief, Division of Administrative Services, provides direction for implementing water conservation measures in the design and operation of all Caltrans facilities.

The Chief, Environmental Division, provides direction for considering water conservation in the environmental analysis of transportation projects.

The Chief, Division of Maintenance, makes decisions regarding water use for landscape maintenance and equipment needs and ensures the Districts minimize water use through improved maintenance operations and takes appropriate action to reduce water use during water shortages.

The Chief, Division of Right of Way, promotes and encourages good water conservation practices in Caltrans-owned (rental or leased) properties.

The Chief, Division of Construction, provides direction for implementing water conservation measures in the construction of transportation projects.

The Chief, State and Local Project Development, provides direction for implementing water conservation measures in the design of transportation projects.

The Chief, Transportation Facilities Enhancement Office (Office of Landscape Architecture), as the Department's water conservation coordinator, establishes standards for minimizing water use through improved planting and/or irrigation design and reviews requests for exceptions to those standards.

District Directors:

- Ensure local communities and local water agencies are knowledgeable of this Directive and cooperate with them in reducing water usage during periods of water shortages.
- Ensure projects within State right of way, including permit or "Measure" projects maintained by the Department, comply with this Directive and all applicable water conservation guidelines and/or standards.
- Determine if sufficient potable water required for projects will be available for construction purposes and identify alternatives to potable water, including reclaimed, captured water and other non-potable sources.
- Ensure projects submitted to Headquarters' Office Engineer conform to guidelines as provided in the PS&E Guide and local water conservation directives.
- Secure local community support and confirm water availability from local water agency for planting and/or irrigation projects.

All employees are encouraged to observe good conservation practices in their daily use of water and to suggest additional measures that are practical and cost effective to implement.

APPLICABILITY

All Caltrans employees and operations.



R. P. WEAVER
Interim Chief Deputy Director