2005
URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared for:

Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA)
CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division
Newhall County Water District
Valencia Water Company
(Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 36/Cooperating Agency)

Prepared by:

Black & Veatch :: Nancy Clemm :: Kennedy/Jenks Consultants :: Jeff Lambert :: Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers :: Reiter/Lowry Consultants :: Richard Slade and Associates, L.L.C.

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The California Urban Water Planning Act (Act) requires most water utilities to update and submit an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) every five years. An UWMP is required in order for a water supplier to be eligible for the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) administered State grants and loans and drought assistance. This document presents the 2005 UWMP (Plan) for the Castaic Lake Water Agency (Agency, CLWA) service area, which includes four local retail water purveyors. This regional Plan builds upon previous documents, specifically CLWA's 2000 UWMP and an amendment to the 2000 Plan. Following a general discussion of Plan preparation and general project rationale, information is provided on water use, water resources, recycled water, water quality, reliability planning, demand management measures (DMMs), best management practices (BMPs), and water shortage contingency planning. This summary chapter presents an overview of each chapter in the Plan.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

CLWA's service area includes the service areas of four local retail water agencies. This regional Plan has been prepared for CLWA and three of the purveyors: CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division (SCWD), Newhall County Water District (NCWD), and Valencia Water Company (VWC). The fourth purveyor, Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 36 (LACWWD #36), does not prepare a plan because it does not provide water to more than 3,000 customers or supply more than 3,000 acre-feet (af) of water annually – the minimum requirements for plan preparation. However, LACWWD #36 participated in the development of the Plan on an "ad-hoc" basis. Chapter 1 describes the purpose of the Plan, discusses Plan implementation, and provides general information about CLWA, the retail water purveyors, and service area characteristics. In response to new documents by DWR, this Plan also acknowledges the potential effects of global warming as a component of water management planning.

2.0 WATER USE

Chapter 2 describes historic and current water usage and the methodology used to project future demands within CLWA's service area. Water usage is divided into sectors such as residential, industrial, institutional, landscape, agricultural, and other purposes. To undertake this evaluation, existing land use data and new housing construction information were compiled from each of the retail water purveyors and projections prepared by "One Valley One Vision" (OVOV), a joint planning effort by the City of Santa Clarita and Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (LACDRP). This information was then compared to historical trends for new water service connections and customer water usage. In addition, weather and water conservation effects on historical water usage were factored into the evaluation.

3.0 WATER RESOURCES

Chapter 3 describes the water resources available to CLWA and the retail water purveyors from 2005 to 2030 – the 25-year period covered by the Plan. Resources include: (1) wholesale (imported) water supplies from the State Water Project (SWP), (2) local groundwater supplies from the Alluvium and Saugus Formation aquifers, and (3) transfers, exchanges, and

groundwater banking programs. Also described are planned water supply projects and programs and the development of desalination. Current and future imported water supplies are discussed, including "Table A" water supplies, CLWA's Flexible Storage Accounts, and reliability issues associated with SWP supplies. CLWA's Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) is described, and available groundwater supplies are assessed. The adequacy of groundwater supplies and the emergence of perchlorate contamination issues are introduced and discussed in more detail in subsequent chapters. The role of water transfers and groundwater banking is described, and recent and proposed cooperative agreements to maximize local supplies through these progressive water management strategies are also discussed.

4.0 RECYCLED WATER

State water policy identifies water recycling as a beneficial use of water, and recycled water is an important component of water management planning. Chapter 4 describes the existing and future recycled water opportunities available to the CLWA service area. Currently, CLWA serves recycled water to VWC for the Westridge Golf Course and miscellaneous landscape irrigation. This Plan presents estimates of potential supply and demand for 2005 to 2030 in five year increments, as well as CLWA's proposed incentives and optimization plan.

5.0 WATER QUALITY

Chapter 5 describes the water quality of both groundwater and imported water supplies and discusses potential water quality impacts on supply reliability. As mentioned above, perchlorate contamination control is a major issue in CLWA's service area. The contamination is associated with the former Whittaker-Bermite site. Extensive investigations, management plans, and control actions to address this issue have been undertaken and are described in detail in this Plan. It has been determined that the programs underway should restore the impaired wells during 2006.

6.0 RELIABILITY PLANNING

The Act requires urban water suppliers to assess water supply reliability that compares total projected water used with the expected water supply over the next twenty years in five year increments. The Act also requires an assessment for a single dry year and multiple dry years. Chapter 6 presents the reliability assessment for CLWA's service area.

It is the stated goal of CLWA and the retail water purveyors to deliver a reliable and high quality water supply for their customers, even during dry periods. Based on conservative water supply and demand assumptions over the next 25 years in combination with conservation of non-essential demand during certain dry years, the Plan successfully achieves this goal.

The organization of the reliability tables presented in this Plan varies from those presented in the 2000 Plan Amendment to follow more closely with the recommended tables provided in the DWR "Guidebook to Assist Water Suppliers in the Preparation of a 2005 Urban Water Management Plan," dated January 18, 2005.

7.0 WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT MEASURES AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Establishing goals and choosing water conservation measures is a continuing planning process. Goals are developed, adopted, and then evaluated periodically. Specific conservation measures are phased in and then evaluated for their effectiveness, achievement of desired results, and customer satisfaction. Chapter 7 of this plan summarizes DMMs and BMPs in both the implementation and development stages. CLWA and the retail water purveyors have been aggressively implementing DMM and BMP programs even though implementation is voluntary. Activities include water audits/repairs, public outreach, conservation pricing, residential plumbing retrofit, residential ultra low flush toilet replacement, large landscape conservation, and conservation programs for commercial, industrial, and institutional accounts. CLWA and the retail purveyors continue development and implementation of a comprehensive program.

8.0 WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Water supplies may be interrupted or reduced significantly in a number of ways, such as a drought which limits supplies, an earthquake which damages water delivery or storage facilities, or a toxic spill that affects water quality. Chapter 8.0 of this Plan describes how CLWA and the retail water purveyors plan to respond to such emergencies so that customer needs are met promptly and equitably.