



Update on Executive Order B-37-16

"Making Water Conservation a
California Way of Life"

December 14, 2016

Municipal Water District of Orange County

Executive Order Objectives

Executive Order B-37-16 contains
four inter-related objectives:



Using Water More Wisely



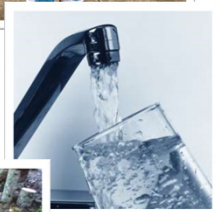
Eliminating Water Waste



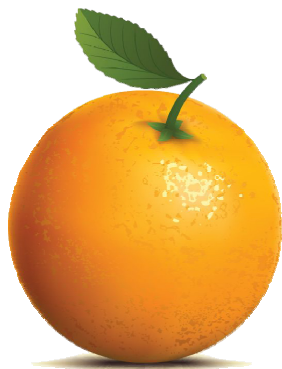
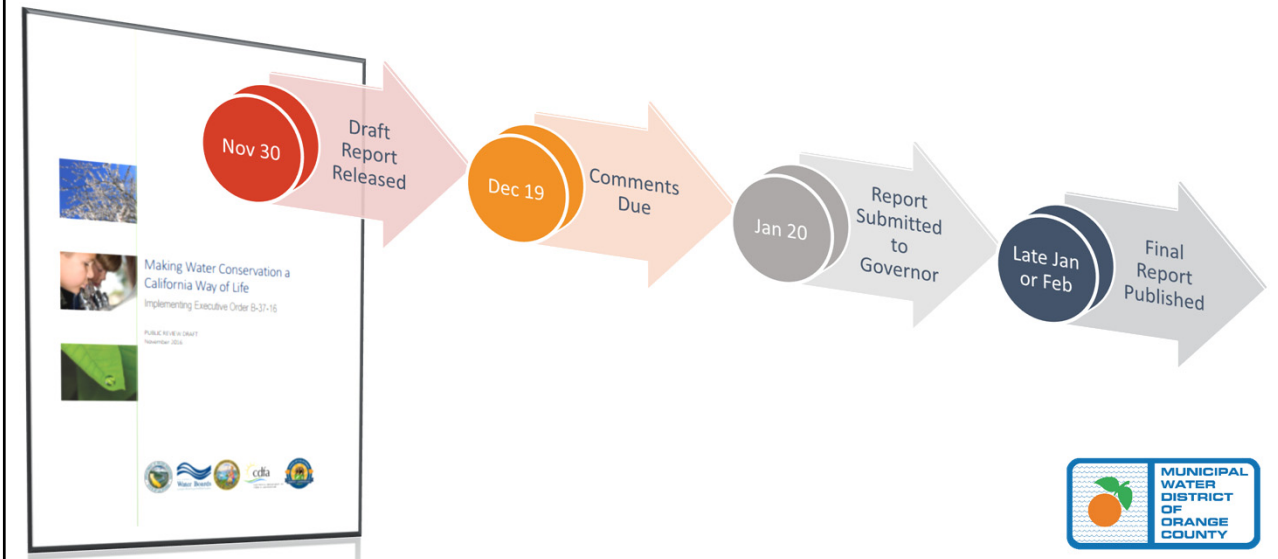
Strengthening Local Drought
Resilience



Improving Agricultural Water Use
Efficiency and Drought Planning



Revised Schedule



MWDOC Staff Observations

Areas of Encouragement: Water Use Efficiency Targets

- 💧 New conservation targets, to replace the existing 20x2020 framework, for 2025 are efficiency-based
 - 📌 Rather than arbitrarily set percent reduction targets, which are not sustainable in the long run
- 💧 For the proposed method, the conservation targets should be achievable within Orange County with the initial indoor standards of 55 gallons per capita per day and outdoor water allowances based on the Landscape Ordinance
 - 📌 This is good for Orange County, because we are mostly built out, therefore the outdoor calculations will use are generous



Areas of Encouragement: Strengthening Local Drought Resilience

- 💧 Five-year drought planning sequence remains a component of the Urban Water Management Plan
- 💧 Approach supports both water use efficiency and supply augmentation
- 💧 Annual drought risk assessment was adjusted from an annual "five-year assessment" to a "current year plus one additional year assessment" (or more, if an agency chooses)
- 💧 While shortage levels must be reported using defined shortage levels, agencies may define their own shortage levels in practice



General Areas of Concern

- 💧 Extension of the current drought emergency regulations should be shortened to coincide with the end of the wet season (i.e. March/April).
- 💧 More research is needed
 - 💡 Plumbing fixture flow rates and unintended consequences for waste water agencies.
 - 💡 Saturation of water efficient plumbing fixtures and its impacts on recycled water supply development.
 - 💡 Area measurement and applied water as it relates to irrigated versus irrigable landscaped areas.



Areas of Concern: Using Water More Wisely

- 💧 Does not allow for flexibility to choose alternative compliance methods
 - 💡 Such as percent reduction or percent of hydrologic regional standard
- 💧 Recycled water should receive a credit in the indoor efficiency calculations. An incentive to invest in new drought-proof sustainable supplies is needed
 - 💡 Note, there is an incentive for outdoor efficiency calculations where landscapes using recycled water
- 💧 Agencies should have phased implementation
 - 💡 In order to account for the agency's resources and capability to implement and achieve their targets



Areas of Concern: Eliminating Water Waste

- 💧 Better definitions are still needed regarding wasteful practices (e.g. measurable rainfall and street medians)
- 💧 Concern about the state requiring additional fieldwork on leaks
- 💧 Proposal to use “existing authorities” to implement water use prohibitions; however, it is not clear what these authorities are
- 💧 Senate Bill 555 needs clarity on what applies to wholesale, retail, or small systems



Areas of Concern: Strengthening Local Drought Resilience

- 💧 The initial reason for changes to the Water Shortage Contingency Plans were in response to small agencies who were not prepared to respond to the drought
 - 📌 Within the Draft Report, the requirements for small agencies remain undefined
- 💧 More clarification is needed for retail versus wholesale requirements.



Next Steps

- ❏ MWDOC to develop its own comment letter to the Draft Report
- ❏ MWDOC to compose a template letter for Orange County retail water agencies to use in developing their own comment letter
- ❏ Participate Commercial and Landscape technical working groups to develop guidance documents and further evaluate standards

