

## MWDOC WATER LOSS CONTROL SHARED SERVICES: A WATER LOSS EFFICIENCY PLAN FOR ORANGE COUNTY WATER RETAILERS

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In February 2018, the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) Board of Directors authorized staff to explore offering water loss control shared services to Orange County retail agencies. In December 2018, the MWDOC Board voted to adopt the Water Loss Control Shared Business Plan and authorized staff to plan for implementation of shared services in fiscal year 2019-20.

MWDOC shared services will provide retail agencies flexible and cost effective access to specific water loss control technologies and expertise that will improve water loss within their systems. MWDOC could tailor shared services to meet the specific needs of the retail

agencies, both large and small, by sharing services and equipment to minimize the potential for stranded assets.

Water loss control shared service opportunities are particularly timely and appropriate for a variety of reasons including:

- **Senate Bill 555 (2015)** requires annual validated water loss reporting and the enforcement of water loss targets to be established in 2020.
- **Senate Bill 606 and Assembly Bill 1668** require that agencies live within an annual water supply budget that includes distribution system water loss.

Additionally, after MWDOC staff helped lawmakers craft water loss regulatory language that passed in 2015, a technical assistance program was created to support water agencies with regulatory compliance. Soon after, a Water Loss Control Work Group was formed to share knowledge and build capacities. The Work Group has provided valuable information for MWDOC staff to utilize in providing feedback to the State Water Resources Control Board and has requested the provision of water loss control shared services.

This year, MWDOC will hire staff and begin offering the following services to retail agencies in Orange County: water audit validation, leak detection, and leak or pressure surveys. As the district continues to build and refine the program, it will contract system flushing and meter testing with outside vendors, leveraging the entire county to negotiate a lower cost for those services. Addressing water loss in this manner keeps water rates down, ensures every drop counts, and continues Orange County's legacy of leading the nation in water use efficiency.

To read the complete Water Loss Control Shared Services Business Plan, visit [mwdoc.com/waterloss](http://mwdoc.com/waterloss).