



WATER UTILITY WATER SHORTAGE PLANNING

AWWA offers to work with Congress to:

- Seek resources to develop and provide water shortage planning metrics for those utilities in the United States with acute water shortages that currently do not have them; and develop training for water utility personnel in the water conservation planning.

Expand funding for the EPA WaterSense program.

Background: In recent years, vast parts of the Midwestern and Southeastern United States have experienced unprecedented drought and water shortages. Currently, the West and Southwest are suffering from yet another drought, and droughts continue to appear with frequency in other parts of the nation as well. This has heightened the need to be proactive in planning and coordination during water shortages. Federal guidelines for water shortage contingency and mitigation planning would serve the citizens of the U.S. by providing a framework to ensure that federal drought and emergency assistance is carried out in a manner that ensures the efficient and sustainable use of water resources. The AWWA has developed a number of manuals, associated workshops and conferences to deal with water-use efficiency for its member utilities.

These specific documents include the development of the G480 Water Conservation Standard, M36 Water Loss Manual, M52 Water Conservation Manual and the M60 Drought Preparedness manual. The M60 Drought Preparedness Manual was developed based upon successful drought response efforts from a number of states. California, Texas and other states have specific requirements for water shortage planning, but this is not the case in many parts of the country. These manuals and the conservation standard support consistent development of utility-based programs that increase water-efficient operations by utilities, support efforts to expand consistent training of water utilities in integration of short and long-term water use into their practices, and insure that proactive efficiency measures are considered instead of reactive measures.

Our experience in developing this guidance demonstrates that AWWA would be a credible partner in expanding water efficiency practices even further across the country. The EPA WaterSense program, a partnership program in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by offering people a simple way to use less water with water-efficient products, homes, and services. Since the program's inception in 2006, WaterSense has helped consumers save a cumulative 487 billion gallons of water and more than \$8.9 billion in water and energy bills. This program, among other things, ensures that high standards of efficiency and operation are provided to a variety of products and programs in the U.S. As the nation continues to address water supply issues, the WaterSense program provides consistency in passive water-use efficiency that can be applied to long-term water-use projections. The program also provides certification programming for new products that reduce water-use footprints.

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