

Drought Contingency Plan

Part 1: Collaborative Review of Regional and Local Plans

Stage 1 - Review of Regional and Local Plans

Stage 2 – Update Regional Drought-Resiliency Goals

Part 2: Drought Impact Analysis

Stage 3 – Drought Monitoring Data Review (*Element 1 - Drought Monitoring*)

Stage 4 – Vulnerability Assessment (*Element 2 – Vulnerability Assessment*)

Phase 3: Development of Regional and Local Capital Improvement Programs

Stage 5 – Mitigation Plan Development (*Element 3 – Mitigation Actions*)

Stage 6 – Response Strategy Development (*Element 4 – Response Actions*)

Stage 7 – Drought Response Plan (*Element 5 – Operational and Administrative Framework, Element 6 – Plan Update Process*)

Stage 1 – Review of Regional and Local Plans. The region has developed several foundational master planning documents which together function as a regional roadmap. A driver for the DRP is to strategically position the region to be drought-resilient and have a response plan ready through technical collaboration, which includes the review of previous key strategic regional documents. The Task Force will develop a repository of key regional and local plans and programs, such as the Drought Plan, Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP), Integrated Water Resources Plan (IRP), Water Use Efficiency Business Plan, Urban Water Management Plan, Recycled Water Program Strategy, MWD’s Water Supply Allocation Plan, etc. The Task Force will review the documents to determine key goals and factors to consider during the development of the DRP.

Stage 2 – Update Regional Drought-Resiliency Goals. Key objectives from regional and local plans will be identified and incorporated at a level to guide the development regional DRP goals. Updating the DRP goals will provide clear direction to the regional agencies, as well as all cities, businesses, programs and the communities as to the goals and intent of a drought response program. Collaboration of agencies through use of approved and adopted regional planning documents will ensure that the local program goals are aligned with the short- and long-term needs of the region. Key factors and objectives will be extracted from the regional documents and prioritized to ensure the benefits of each local program (and future projects) will best fit the plan for the region.

Stage 3 – Drought Monitoring Data Review. Regional data will be gathered, modeled and analyzed. Previous regional planning efforts have existing data and analysis on the anticipated supply and demand conditions for the region. This effort will consolidate the data and analysis and establish a regional model to understand the best strategies for a near- and long-term drought response plan. The analysis will also review the data and trends for previous drought responses and calls from the varying authorities and water supplies in an attempt to link their alerts with our region’s responses, and potential mitigation for future consideration.

Stage 4 – Vulnerability Assessment. A comprehensive assessment of existing water infrastructure will provide the region with a clear understanding of vulnerabilities that may impact future drought response. Water infrastructure includes water supply systems (recycled water pump stations,

ivers, channels, desalters, etc.), storage systems (reservoirs, basins, and treatment plants), pipelines, interconnections (between systems, cities, etc.). The Task Force will pool resources to detail the different aspects of each infrastructure, including the following:

Stage 5 – Mitigation Plan Development. Drawing upon information from previous stages, the Task Force will develop drought scenarios and evaluate the risk associated with each versus the likelihood of it occurring. Based on the risk assessment, a plan will be developed detailing drought scenarios and the options available to mitigate impacts to the region. The mitigation plan will consider near- and long-term actions and response for mitigation. Near-term plans may involve maintenance project to rehabilitate existing infrastructure or systems, a preventative maintenance schedule, programs to evaluate existing infrastructure conditions, conservation efforts, inter-city agreements, and other short-term plans. Long-term mitigation plans may include new capital improvement projects for alternative water supplies, major interconnections, water storage programs, and other mitigation efforts aimed in the 5 to 20 year range. The mitigation plan will address strategies to convey how to lessen or eliminate the impact of drought conditions and address the challenges and constraints facing the region.

Stage 6 – Response Strategy Development. Drawing upon information from previous stages and foundational and local documents, the Task Force will develop strategies for responding to drought conditions. The response strategy will include a clear description of the goals (developed in Stage 2) and the roles & responsibilities of regional and local agencies/districts. The response strategy will identify key triggers (in this case primarily from MWD), response options, time sensitivity, agencies involved, expectations, procedures, communication plan, response stages, and reinstating normal conditions. The response strategy will need to identify the various options for communication methods to quickly respond to the needs of the drought, such as daily bulletins, signage, messaging, email, community messaging, and other forms of communication to alert the users of the drought conditions and the urgent need to conserve. The strategy will need to detail the options of communication as well as the message(s) that will be conveyed. The Task Force will lead this critical effort and ensure that all stakeholders understand the conditions, roles and responsibilities of a prompt and effective drought response.

Stage 7 – Regional Drought Response Plan. Based on the plan and strategy above, in addition to the effort to develop the goal and analyze the data, the regional Drought Response Plan, or DRP will be a comprehensive plan that addresses the goals and effort on a regional level, and disaggregates the regional plan down to the local plans and strategies for near- and long-term drought responsiveness. With a cohesive DRP, the region will be able to clearly understand the levels of the drought, the responses (and options) to each level, the near- and long-term plans, and the operational and administrative roles and responsibilities for the Member Agencies. The DRP is expected to be a regional document that provides current information, and thus it is expected that the DRP be updated every 5 years, or as major changes are needed due to changing conditions.