



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 12, 2008

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Adoption Of Ahwahnee Water Principles For Resource-Efficient Land Use

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council consider a request from Councilmembers House and Williams to adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Adopting the Ahwahnee Water Principles for Resource-Efficient Land Use (Ahwahnee Water Principles).

DISCUSSION:

Councilmembers House and Williams jointly requested to have this item put on the agenda in the belief that adoption of the attached resolution and accompanying Ahwahnee Water Principles will further the sustainability of the City's water supply and provide protection for surface water quality (see Attachment).

The Ahwahnee Water Principles focus on practices that reduce runoff from urban development and encourage recycling of water. Urban development reduces the ability of rainwater to permeate the soils of the City's watershed. Impermeable surfaces such as rooftops, streets, and parking lots increase the volume and rate of flow of rain water into local creeks and streams. As it flows over these impermeable surfaces, rainwater comes into contact with pollutants, such as oils and soaps. Encouraging development that reduces runoff helps prevent these problems. Recycling water reduces dependence on new water sources and increases reliability of the local water supply to meet demands.

Adoption of the Ahwahnee Water Principles is consistent with efforts the City is already making and recognizes the City's commitment to sustainable urban development and water recycling. The City has already implemented comprehensive programs to limit the

REVIEWED BY: _____ Finance _____ Attorney

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pollution contributed to our water bodies, decrease the volume and velocity of rainwater runoff, and treat and recycle local water supplies. The stewardship actions further underline the City's commitment to these issues.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The Ahwahnee Water Principles establish overarching principles of sustainability related to watershed protection and water supply sustainability.

This item is scheduled for approval by the Board of Water Commissioners at their February 11, 2008 meeting. Staff will report on the action of the Commission at the Council meeting.

ATTACHMENT: Memo from Councilmembers House and Williams (without attachments)

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Bjork, Acting Water Resources Manager/RB/spm

SUBMITTED BY: Paul Casey, Acting Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office



City of Santa Barbara
Mayor and Council Office

Memorandum

DATE: January 14, 2008

TO: Jim Armstrong, City Administrator

FROM: Grant House, Councilmember
Das Williams, Councilmember

SUBJECT: Request to Agendize Ahwahnee Water Principles for Resource-Efficient Land Use Item

Pursuant to Council Resolution No. 05-073 regarding the Conduct of City Council Meetings, we request that an item be placed on the Santa Barbara City Council Agenda regarding the Council's consideration on Water Principles for Resource-Efficient Land Use.

This item meets the following criteria as explained below.

- A. A sustentative outline or summary of the information that will be presented to the City Council;

Cities and counties are facing major challenges with water contamination, storm water runoff, flood damage liability and concerns about whether there will be enough reliable water for current residents as well as for new development. Land use decisions made at the local level have major impacts on local, regional and state water resources in terms of quality, quantity and availability. These are issues that impact city and county budgets and taxpayers.

The Local Government Commission, in partnership with the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties, sought funding from the State Water Resources Control Board to develop principles related to water-efficiency and land use. The Local Government Commission developed a set of principles known as the Ahwahnee Water Principles for Resource-Efficient Land Use which provide the opportunity to reduce costs and improve the reliability and quality of our water resources, and which complement the earlier Ahwahnee Principles for Resource-Efficient Communities.

- B. A concise statement of the specific action the City Council will be asked to take on the item; and

That the City Council Adopt a Resolution endorsing the Ahwahnee Water Principles for Resource-Efficient Land Use.

- C. A statement of the reasons why the requesting party believes it is appropriate and within the jurisdiction of the City Council to consider this subject matter and to take the requested action.

The City of Santa Barbara adopted the Ahwahnee Principles of Resource-Efficient Communities many years ago. They have served us well in crafting sustainable policies and implementation measures in land development, housing, and transportation. The Water Principles (listed below) are complementary and validate our current practices while lending policy direction to continue to improve. In many ways, adopting the Water Principles would formalize existing public and private sector practices.

Santa Barbara's endorsement of the Water Principles would acknowledge the collaborative work we have been doing in maintaining and improving water quality and water conservation. It would establish a policy foundation for expanded use of graywater and purple piping for reclaimed water. Adopting the Water Principles would be one more way for the City to position itself for funding opportunities that would augment and leverage local dollars for improved water conservation and delivery.

The City is on board in the areas of conservation, reclamation, and clean water due in large part to the cooperation and leadership of our staff, members of the community, institutions of higher learning, and many local organizations. In keeping with Santa Barbara's long-standing commitment to public involvement in policy development, it is important to take this to the Water Commission to get their feedback and to receive input from the community at large.

Santa Barbara would join a growing list of cities, counties and organizations that have adopted the Ahwahnee Water Principles. They include: Town of Windsor, Marin County, Marin Municipal Water District, Menlo Park, Morgan Hill, Palo Alto, Petaluma, Port Hueneme, Richmond, Rohnert Park, Rolling Hills Estates, San Luis Obispo, Santa Paula, Santa Rosa, City of Sunnyvale, City of Ukiah, Ventura, Ventura County, Bay Area Water Forum and Association of Bay Area Governments (CalFed Task Force), League of California Cities, and The Southern California Association of Governments Water Policy Task Force.

For these reasons, we encourage the City Council of the City of Santa Barbara to support the Ahwahnee Water Principles for Resource-Efficient Land Use and encourage implementation of the Principles in future land use decisions.

Attachments:

The Ahwahnee Water Principles for Resource Efficient Land Use
Draft of Model Water Resolution Template

cc: Mayor and Councilmembers