

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Federal Water Use Efficiency Requirements

U.S.B.R. Mid-Pacific Region



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Water Conservation History

- Reclamation Reform Act 1982 (RRA)
 - Required Agricultural and M & I water contractors to provide Water Management Plans (Plans)
 - Each Plan shall contain definite goals, water conservation measures, and a time schedule to meet these objectives
 - Plans need to be updated every 5 years

Water Conservation History

- **GATHERING DUST: Article written by the National Wildlife Federation**
 - Cited instances in which the Bureau had failed to enforce the water conservation requirements of RRA

“The Bureau has not enforced even the minimal standards it has set for acceptable conservation plans. And the Bureau has never set a standard requiring actual implementation of the plans.”

- Gathering Dust served as a catalyst for the CVPIA water conservation mandates

Water Conservation History

- **Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992**
 - Required establishment of an office on water conservation and best management practices (BMPs)
 - This office was required to develop Criteria for Evaluating Plans and must update the criteria at least every three years
 - Criteria used to evaluate Plans required by Section 210 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982

Criteria for Evaluating Water Management Plans

- Development of Water Conservation Criteria
 - STANDARD CRITERIA
 - REGIONAL CRITERIA

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Standard Criteria

- **First developed in 1993**
- **Revised six times**
- **Management Approval**
- **Public Scoping**
- **Public Response**
- **Finalized**

Standard Criteria

- **Criteria includes the following:**
 - **District Description**
 - i.e. History, Facilities, Water Management, Pricing and Billing, etc.
 - **Inventory of Water Resources**
 - i.e. Water Supplies, Water Shortage Contingency Plans, and Water Accounting
 - **Best Management Practices**
 - i.e. Agriculture and Urban

Best Management Practices Agricultural

5 required BMPs

- Water Measurement (+/- 6% by volume, in-field)
- Water Conservation Coordinator
- Promote Water Management Services
- Volumetric Pricing Structure
- Evaluate and Improve Contractor Pump Efficiencies

Best Management Practices

12 Exemptible BMPs

- Facilitate alternative land use
- Facilitate use of recycled water
- Facilitate financing programs for improved on-farm water management
- Incentive pricing
- Line or pipe ditches and canals
- Regulatory reservoirs
- Increase flexibility of water ordering and delivery
- Spill and tailwater recovery systems
- Plan to measure outflow
- Optimize conjunctive use
- Automate Canal Structures
- GIS

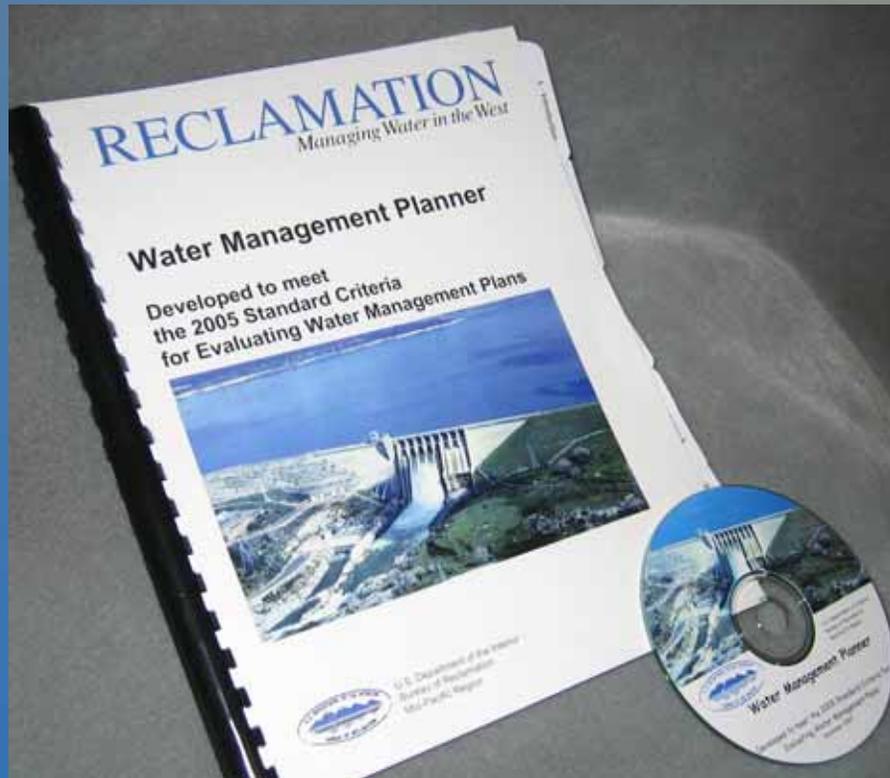
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Updates to Standard Criteria

- **By Law, Reviewed Every 3 years**
- **Refined information on Measurement and verification of accuracy**
- **Included CALFED Quantifiable Objectives**
- **New or Revised Agricultural Exemptible BMPs in recent updates**
 - **Plan to measure outflow**
 - **GIS Mapping**
 - **Conservation Coordinator**
 - **Verification**

Standard Criteria

- Water Management Planner



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Regional Criteria

- Utilized Quantifiable Objective Methodology by CALFED
- Provided option for study of on-farm measurement at the farm level
- Developed a program based on the study results
 - at least as effective as Standard Criteria

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Regional Criteria

- **Currently developed – 33 QOs**
- **Contractors will develop 6 Potential QOs per year**
- **For each QO, develop implementation plan including local benefits, overall benefits and costs**

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Regional Criteria

- Pilot study
- If not found to be effective, will revert to the then current Standard Criteria

Annual Updates

- All contractors required to submit annual updates to report on BMP progress
- Done electronically through Ag Water Management Council

Plan Review

- Area Office Review
- Regional Office Review
- Federal Register
- Public Comment
- Finalized

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Compliance

- Non-eligibility for any Reclamation funds
- Delays in interim or long term contracts
- Restrictions on water transfers
- Restrictions on water banking
- Restrictions on inclusions/exclusions

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Conservation Partnerships Financial and Technical Assistance

- Public Law 111-11
- Grants available to States, tribes, irrigation and water districts, and other entities with water or power delivery authority.
- Grant projects are selected through a competitive process

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Carrots Help



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Conservation Partnerships

Technical

- Cal Poly ITRC

Financial

- Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP)
- CALFED Water Use Efficiency Program
- WaterSMART

2010 Water Conservation Grants by Category

