

COUNCIL POLICY NO. S-2

TITLE: WATER CONSERVATION AND REGIONALIZATION

POLICY: See attachment.

REFERENCE: Public Works Staff Report dated 10/7/91

WATER CONSERVATION AND REGIONALIZATION

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended Council approve the following water system policies to guide completion of a Water System Analysis and to prolong the existing reserve water supply as long as possible.

1. Regionalization Policy

The City of Salem shall reexamine the present policy of serving the existing regional customers in East Salem and Orchard Heights Water Districts as part of an annexation policy now being prepared by staff for Council consideration. The long-term costs of serving the out-of-City customers shall be studied and presented to the Council as part of the 1991 Revised Water COSA. Expanding the existing regional system shall not be considered in completing a Water System Analysis.

2. Conservation Policy

The City of Salem shall, as a first priority in expanding the existing water supply, consider and implement, if economically cost-effective, conservation practices.

Conservation practices to be studied for cost-effectiveness, initially, are:

- A. leak detection and repair in the water system;
- B. zone code requirements for landscaping and irrigation at commercial and industrial developments;
- C. City use of water, such as parks irrigation, fire hydrant testing, and others identified by staff;
- D. a grants program or low-interest loan program for industrial water conservation shall be developed by staff and brought back to Council for review and approval;
- E. initiation of a public information and education program of conserving water in homes and businesses during peak-use time with economical irrigation practices emphasized and with information also furnished on leak repairs and low water use appliances; and
- F. evaluation of water pricing strategies in the Revised Water COSA that encourage water conservation during peak periods.