



**American Water Works
Association**



Errata to

**AWWA Manual M52,
Water Conservation Programs – A Planning Manual, 2nd ed.**

(December 2017)

On page 23 there were several corrections to the text under Alternative Approaches to Target Setting.

The second bullet should read:

- Option A: Develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) comprising a range of activities (best management practices [BMPs] or reasonable conservation measures [RCMs]), through a stakeholder consensus process. Penalties for noncompliance would be sufficiently harsh to ensure performance.

The third bullet should read:

- Hybrid approach to target setting: If targets must be set, a hybrid approach based on water system leakage targets (Strategic Management Consultants 2012) and a BMP and MOU consensus model can be considered. The utility would benefit from direct involvement of stakeholders in the process of developing goals, an MOU, and/or BMPs. A hybrid approach could involve the following:

On page 25 there were several corrections to the text under Specific State Examples.

- California: (1) California requires five-year urban water management plans (UWMPs) from all water utilities. The law details specific requirements for conservation planning and implementation. See www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/Urban-Water-Use-Efficiency/Urban-Water-Management-Plans/. (2) Reporting on water use to the State Water Resources Control Board. See www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/. (3) Adopted plumbing standards stricter than those required by the 1992 Federal Energy Policy Act. (4) Statewide Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance limiting water use on new and permitted retrofitted landscape installations. See www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/Urban-Water-Use-Efficiency.

On pages 28 and 29 there were several corrections to the text in the sidebar.

California's Legacy Approach of the Memorandum of Understanding on Urban Water Conservation

The California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) existed from 1991-2016 as the only organization operating on a statewide basis that addressed implementation of utility-based water conservation programs. Central to CUWCC's mission was a Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Urban Water Conservation in California, which was first signed in 1991 by most large water suppliers within the state. The recitals to the MOU presented the essence of the agreement and are summarized as follows:

- Signatories recognized the need to provide reliable water supplies and to protect the environment.
- Increasing demands for urban, agricultural, and environmental water uses called for conservation and the elimination of waste as important elements of the overall management of water resources.
- Many organizations and groups in California have an interest in urban water conservation, and the MOU was intended to gain much-needed consensus on a complex issue.
- The urban water conservation practices included in the historic MOU (referred to as BMPs) were intended to reduce long-term urban demands below what they would otherwise be and were in addition to programs that may have been instituted during occasional water supply shortages.
- It was the intent of the MOU for agencies to pursue cost-effective water conservation in a structured manner and considered water conservation on an equal basis with other water management options.
- The signatories agreed to use the MOU as the basis for determining future water needs. This was a major step toward achieving consensus on one major issue related to approving new water supply projects. However, the MOU did not provide agreement on other issues surrounding new supplies.

As of 2016, the CUWCC now has a successor organization, the California Water Efficiency Partnership to carry forward on the leadership, expertise, and collaboration among members and partners to adapt to California's changing regulatory, political, social, economic, and environmental climate. For more information, refer to: www.calwep.org. In the 26 years since the original MOU was signed, it was amended numerous times. The following chart presents a summary of the past MOU best management practices. In 2007, the California legislature passed a law requiring water agencies in California to certify that they were meeting or planning to meet the goals in the BMPs in order to qualify for state grants or loans. In 2008, the CUWCC adopted wholesale changes to the BMPs to encourage more aggressive conservation. These changes included giving credit to agencies that met the specific water savings goals with more creative flexible approaches, and those that achieved overall reduction in per capita water demand beyond the level which the original BMPs would have achieved.