



Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

**Metro**

## GENERAL MANAGEMENT Water Use and Conservation

(GEN 52)

### POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) to conserve the use of potable water resources at its facilities in the most cost-effective and efficient manner. The use of water for construction, operations, and maintenance purposes must be consistent with local, state, or federal water conservation measures. In instances where it is necessary to protect public safety, human health, and the environment, the LACMTA may deviate from water conservation measures.

### PURPOSE

Varying conditions required the LACMTA to use potable water in order to fulfill its mandates. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that potable water is used in a consistent manner during any LACMTA construction and operation related activity by:

- (1) Ensuring the uniform and sustainable implementation of water conservation and efficiency actions within the LACMTA.
- (2) Prioritize the use of potable water only to those instances where public safety or the environment is impacted.

### APPLICATION

This policy is applicable agency-wide in the planning, procurement, design, construction, operations, and maintenance of all LACMTA and LACMTA-funded projects and assets.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of SBU

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 APPROVED: County Counsel or N/A

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADOPTED: CEO

Effective Date: 7/27/2009

Date of Last Review \_\_\_\_\_



**Metro**

## GENERAL MANAGEMENT Water Use and Conservation

(GEN 52)

### 1.0 GENERAL

The LACMTA uses potable water in a variety of situations to ensure the safe operation of its system and implementation of construction activities. The LACMTA may selectively curtail the use of potable water only to essential services during periods when statewide water conservation measures are in effect. State and local statutes and guidelines further outline potable water use prohibitions to reduce water consumption and encourage water conservation on both a regional and local scale. Examples of prohibited uses currently required by local jurisdictions where the LACMTA operates include:

- use of a water hose to wash any hard or paved surfaces including, but not limited, to sidewalks, walkways, driveways, and parking areas;
- continuous leaking of water from any pipe or fixture within LACMTA's facilities;
- washing of any vehicle with a hose if the hose does not have a self-closing water shut-off or device attached to it;
- irrigation during periods of rain or allowance of any excess irrigation water to sheetflow onto adjoining streetscape;
- irrigation between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.;
- irrigation of landscaping for more than the required watering times per station;
- irrigation of any large landscaped areas where rain sensors are not installed; and
- use of non re-circulating systems in new conveyor car wash systems.

The use of potable water at LACMTA construction sites is permitted under best management practice for dust suppression purposes required to comply with applicable environmental regulations.

Divisions and departments may use potable water to wash LACMTA vehicles only at bus or rail washing systems designed to capture and re-circulate water.



**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

## GENERAL MANAGEMENT Water Use and Conservation

(GEN 52)

### 2.0 PROCEDURES

#### 2.1 Procedure in Using Potable Water for Pressure Washing Activities

- 2.1.1 Prioritize facility locations that must be regularly cleaned using pressure washing equipment.
- 2.1.2 If pressure washing is deemed essential, appropriate water conservation and efficiency measures must be applied.
- 2.1.3 Conduct pressure washing activities using cost-effective water efficient equipment.
- 2.1.4 Capture and dispose any generated wastewater to an appropriate facility.

#### 2.2 Procedure in Using Potable Water for Construction

- 2.2.1 Develop a plan for dust suppression purposes to comply with applicable environmental statutes, regulations, and guidelines.
- 2.2.2 Use of potable water as a dust suppression agent should always be secondary and should only be used if all other dust suppression technologies are not feasible or cost-effective.

#### 2.3 New Construction Planning, Design and Construction; Existing Buildings Operations.

- 2.3.1 Use water conservation and efficiency guidelines outlined in applicable Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) reference books for all planning, procurement, design, construction, operations, and maintenance of our linear and non-linear facilities.
- 2.3.2 Prepare manuals of operation, as applicable, to ensure that water efficiency and conservation technologies are adopted and maintained.



### **3.0 DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**Sustainable** – Meeting the resource needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**Water Conservation** – Implementation of an action, behavioral change, device, technology, or improved design or process implemented to reduce water loss, waste, or use. Water efficiency is a tool of water conservation that results in more efficient water use and thus reduces water demand. The value and cost-effectiveness of a water efficiency measure must be evaluated in relation to its effects on the use and cost of other natural resources and any beneficial reduction in water loss, waste, or use.

**Water Efficiency** – The accomplishment of a function, task, process, or result with the minimal amount of water feasible, or an indicator of the relationships between the amount of water needed for a specific purpose and the amount of water used, occupied or delivered.

### **4.0 RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Environmental Compliance and Services Unit (ECSD)** oversees the water conservation policy and assists LACMTA Strategic Business Units in applying LACMTA water conservation measures.

**Strategic Business Units (SBUs)** are responsible for following and applying water conservation measures.

### **5.0 FLOWCHART**

Not applicable.

### **6.0 REFERENCES**

Ordinance Amending Chapter XII, The Water Conservation Plan of the City of Los Angeles, Article I – Emergency Water Conservation Plan of the Los Angeles Municipal Code by Amending Sections 121.00 Through 121.10 to Establish Additional Prohibited Uses of Water and Eliminate Water Rationing Requirements

South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 403 and amendments

U.S. Green Building Council LEED® Reference Guides



**Metro**

**GENERAL MANAGEMENT  
Water Use and Conservation**

(GEN 52)

**7.0 ATTACHMENTS**

Not Applicable

**8.0 PROCEDURE HISTORY**

03/24/2009 New water conservation policy