

## Alternate Municipal Water Management and Conservation Plan – Water Supplier Plan for Small Municipal Water Suppliers

The Alternate Plan for Municipal Water Management and Conservation Planning (WMCP) program provides a process for small municipal water suppliers (eligibility criteria defined below) to develop plans to meet future needs. Many municipal water suppliers are required to prepare WMCP plans under conditions established in water right permits. In addition, with the revision of the permit extension rules in Fall 2002, communities seeking long-term permit extensions are required to prepare WMCP plans. These plans will be used to demonstrate the communities' needs for increased diversion of water (also known as "greenlight water") under the permits as their demands grow.

An Alternate Municipal WMCP document provides a description of the water system, identifies the sources of water used by the community, and explains how the water supplier will manage and conserve supplies to meet future needs. Preparation of a WMCP plan is intended to represent a proactive evaluation of the management and conservation measures suppliers can undertake. The planning program requires municipal water suppliers consider water that can be saved through conservation practices as a source of supply to meet growing demands if the saved water is less expensive than developing new supplies. As such, a WMCP represents an integrated resource management approach to securing a long-term water supply.

Under Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 690-086-0300(1), a Small Municipal Water Supplier may submit an Alternate Municipal WMCP pursuant to OAR 690-086-0325 to 690-380-0370 **in lieu of** submitting a Municipal WMCP pursuant to OAR 690-086-0125 to 690-086-0170, **if** the Small Municipal Water Supplier has documented and submitted findings that the following would not be necessary to meet current or projected demand within the next 10 (ten) years:

- (a) Acquisition of a new water right; or
- (b) Expanding or initiating diversion of water allocated under an Extended Permit.

To qualify as a Small Municipal Water Supplier, under OAR 690-086-0030(8), the water supplier:

- (a) Serves a population of less than 1000 people or has less than 300 Water Service Connections; **and**
- (b) Within the previous 5 years, the water distribution system's maximum daily demand or maximum instantaneous rate, including but not limited to, the amount of water appropriated under its water rights, contracts, and/or interties, has not exceeded 2 million gallons per day (mgd) or 3.1 cubic feet per second (cfs).

The WMCP team is in the early stages of drafting a guidebook for Alternate Municipal WMCPs. In the meantime, please email any questions you have: [wrd\\_dl\\_wmcp@water.oregon.gov](mailto:wrd_dl_wmcp@water.oregon.gov)