

# **Alternative Water Supplies Discussion Drinking Water Advisory Group June 2013**

## **Summary of Approaches and Practices**

### **Trucked and Hauled Water**

Based on our current rules, trucked or hauled water may not be approved as a permanent drinking water supply to a public water system.

It would take significant resources and time to establish the proper authority in State Board of Health rules, with additional resources necessary to license/regulate haulers, for the benefit of a small group of systems.

### **Rainfall Catchment**

Rainfall catchment may be approved as a sole source of supply for a new or existing public water system, provided the applicant demonstrates the source will reliably meet the potable water supply needs of the future service population.

Harvested rainfall from roofs or other constructed surfaces is subject to the requirements of the surface water treatment rule.

### **Seawater Desalination Using Reverse Osmosis**

Desalination of seawater is an approvable drinking water supply.

Seawater as a source is not subject to the requirements of the surface water treatment rule.

### **Temporary Water Rights**

A water supply with a temporary water right may be used as a sole source of supply to a new public water system if each structure is temporary, the project design basis reflects the financial implications of the temporary nature of the water system, and the title of each property served by the temporary water right reflects the limitations and attributes of the temporary right.

### **Interruptible Water Rights**

A water supply with an interruptible water right may be used as a sole source of supply to a new public water system provided (1) the applicant develops mitigation measures needed to secure an uninterruptible supply during the expected period of interruption and (2) demonstrates through a credible plan the means and methods by which water demand will be balanced with the volume of water to be made available through mitigation for the expected period of interruption.

### **Leased Water Rights**

A water supply with a non-federal leased water right may not be used as a sole source of supply to a new public water system.

## **Purchased Water Agreements**

A purchased wholesale water agreement may be used as a sole source of supply to a new public water system. If the intertie agreement contains certain “red flags,” then we will request a credible plan identifying an alternative water supply if the intertie agreement is terminated or not renewed before approving the new system.

When ODW staff review planning or engineering documents that depend on an existing wholesale water agreement, they will seek assurance that both parties are committed to a good-faith effort to renew their agreement if it is set to expire within 6 years before approving the documents.

## **Bottled Water**

A public water system may not be approved or continue to operate on a permanent basis by using bottled water as the approved drinking water supply.

Public water systems may not use bottled water to permanently achieve compliance with a MCL, treatment technique, or action level.

## **Point of Use / Point of Entry**

Based on our current rules, POU/POE may not be applied as a strategy to achieve compliance with a MCL, treatment technique, or action level.

It would take significant resources and time to establish the proper authority in State Board of Health rules, with additional resources necessary to effectively oversee compliance and provide technical assistance to purveyors using POU/POE, for the benefit of a small group of systems.

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