

Water Conservation through Design-First Draft Policies and Outcomes

Proposed Goal/Policy	Outcome after comment period
Goal: Reduce end user water consumption in the County.	Add verbatim to the Long Range section, Outreach, Water as a new goal.
Policy	
1. Encourage development patterns and higher density, mixed use developments in appropriate locations that propose to incorporate water conservation measures.	Modify and add to Development Review section, Land Use, Site Design, Water Conservation. Language would read: “Encourage development patterns, types and densities that minimize or reduce water use.”
2. Encourage low water demand uses in areas served by an individual or community well.	Modify and add to Development Review section, Infrastructure Water & Services, Water, Well and OWTS. Language would read: “In areas served by an individual or community well, emphasize low water demand uses.”
3. Encourage water conservation practices for existing and new developments, including, but not limited to: - Efficient water fixtures and appliances - Landscape design - Irrigation technology and performance - Water efficient processes and equipment	Strike.
4. Review and revise, as appropriate, the standards of the various zoning districts to ensure they are consistent with promoting water efficient development.	Modify and add to Long Range section, Environmental Stewardship, Water, Coordination. Language would read: “Work with water providers and the Division of Water Resources to review and revise, as appropriate, the standards of the various zoning districts to ensure they are consistent with promoting water efficient development.”
5. Quantify the effect of changes in land use and development (<i>e.g.</i> , increases in impervious surfaces, changes from agricultural to residential land uses) on groundwater recharge in both rural and urbanized areas of the watershed and disseminate the information to decision makers.	Strike – Monitor El Paso County’s research.

<p>6. Follow best management practices to maximize aquifer recharge, including supporting the use of greenway corridors, the maintenance of drainage ways in their natural state, and the avoidance of large amounts of impervious cover for recharge areas.</p>	<p>Modify and add language from Policy 9. Add to Development Review section, Land Use, Site Design, Water Conservation. Language to read: “Follow best management practices to maximize ground water recharge, including supporting of greenway corridors, maintaining drainage ways in their natural state, avoiding large amounts of impervious cover for recharge areas, and using swales or other landscape treatments that facilitate recharge.”</p>
<p>7. Evaluate cluster development as a water conservation strategy.</p>	<p>Strike – add “water conservation” to existing policy in Development Review section, Land Use, Site Design, Clustering. Language to read: “Promote Clustering of development where appropriate, to provide for more efficient distribution of public facilities and Services and to conserve water.”</p>
<p>8. Promote rainwater capture as allowed by law.</p>	<p>Add verbatim, move to Outreach element of Long Range Section.</p>
<p>9. Encourage swales in landscaped areas to allow water recharge, rather than berms.</p>	<p>Combine with Policy 6. Add to Development Review section, Land Use, Site Design, Water Conservation. Language to read: “Follow best management practices to maximize ground water recharge, including supporting of greenway corridors, maintaining drainage ways in their natural state, avoiding large amounts of impervious cover for recharge areas, and using swales or other landscape treatments that facilitate recharge.”</p>
<p>10. Encourage porous concrete or permeable pavers for sidewalks and parking areas in important recharge areas.</p>	<p>Modify to add a second sentence and move to the Development Review section, Land Use, Site Design. Language would read: “Encourage porous concrete or permeable pavers for sidewalks and parking areas, especially in important recharge areas. Efficacy of these systems should be evaluated in mountain areas due to more and longer freeze times.”</p>