

The 1978 Water Supply Policy Statement

Background



Bureaucratic Stuff

- M.G.L. Chapter 21A §§ 8A to 8F (WRC Enabling Act)
 - develop “a water resources management policy framework within which the water resource policies, plans and management programs of the several agencies and departments under the secretary shall function”
 - Update the Massachusetts Water Supply Policy Statement periodically (*actually at intervals of no more than every 5 years*)



1978 Policy Theme Statement

- *The Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall share in a new responsibility for the provision of water supply to all citizens which recognizes the ultimate limitations of the water resources and the competing claims on the use thereof, and shall more efficiently use the total water resources by balancing existing and future consumptive and non-consumptive needs.*



1978 Water Supply Policy Statement

- Far Reaching Document – Result of Years Long Review of Water Problems and Programs in the State
- Formed the basis for all the water programs since then



Ground-breaking legislation

- Interbasin Transfer Act
- Water Management Act
- Water Resources Commission reorganization act
- Prohibition of decreasing block rates
- MWRA Enabling Act
- Establishment of enterprise funds



Programs

- River Basin Planning
- Massachusetts Water Conservation Standards
- Revision of State Plumbing Code
- DEP's wastewater reuse and recycling program



Organization

- Three Broad Recommendations:
 - Policies
 - Programs
 - Short Term Actions



Subcategories

- Water supply management
- Demand management
- Administrative management

Purpose: To provide water supply to all citizens



While balancing consumptive and non-consumptive needs

