

Thank you for continuing to work with stakeholders to improve the Fifth Management Plans. Gilbert greatly appreciates the opportunity to weigh in on the Plans. First, Gilbert would like to acknowledge the significant progress that has been made to the Plans thus far; we are moving in the right direction to protect groundwater levels. However, there are still some remaining concerns about the 5MP Draft language.

There are several BMPs that have a designation of two points that do not warrant two points. This is based on comparing the effort required to implement the BMP balanced with the expected water savings impact. Based on this, Gilbert recommends that the following BMPs be reduced to one point: 1.7, 3.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, and 8.5.

In Category 7, there appears to be some overlap between the proposed BMPs and other BMPs or other regulatory statutes. The BMPs in Category 7 should be reviewed to ensure that they are not duplicative in nature, thus allowing for the double-counting of points or getting points from efforts that are already required. An example of this is BMP 7.2 which is already a requirement for CII users under the Individual Users portion of the 5MP. Another example is in 7.4 where you can receive points for having low water use landscape ordinances to achieve the BMP. For example, a model home low water use ordinance could qualify for points under BMP 7.4 and BMP 4.5. There may be other areas of overlap in Category 7 and these should all be reviewed.

Lastly, BMP 4.1 is concerning. The BMP awards points to landscapes that have at least 25% low water use landscapes or no more than 75% high water use landscapes. This requirement does not encourage conservation. A landscape that meets these minimum requirements would be considered a water-intensive, lush landscape and does not meet xeriscaping principles. Gilbert recommends that ADWR review current low water use landscape ordinances in the relevant AMA to help draw a baseline of where to target these restrictions.