



Outdoor Restaurant Seating

Water Demand Committee Presentation

December 5, 2014

Fundamental Policy Questions

- Does outdoor seating affect demand for water?
i.e. Who fills that seat and what was the customer going to do in the alternative?
- If demand in the District is not increased, does the individual site merit permit requirements?
- Is the District's role to balance water demand against available supply, or is it to permit activities on a site?

Site-By-Site Issues

- Does a restaurant have “underutilized” capacity within its existing permit? (Is new water needed?)
- Clarity has value – Need to state a policy
- What to do about locations without an existing water permit
- What to do about locations with existing outdoor seats
- What to do about projects in planning
- Consider effect on Credits, as well

Option 1

- Require new outdoor seating to obtain Water Permit
 - “Grandfather” existing outdoor seating
 - Issue a Water Permit to each existing restaurant
 - Require permits for future outdoor seating increases
 - Consider allowing a percentage of interior seats for outdoor use (e.g. 25%), or a specific number (e.g. 20 seats)
 - Determine Water Use Capacity of outdoor seating
 - Suggest an implementation date
 - Projects in progress recommendation
 - Discuss Best Management Practices as offset

Option 2

- Require Water Permits for existing outdoor seating installed between 1985 & present
 - Jurisdiction authorizes water from Allocation
 - On-Site Water Credit to offset outdoor seats
 - Demonstrate actual use within Water Use Capacity based on indoor seating

Option 3

- Maintain (but clarify) current practice
 - No intensification in use
 - Use is within existing Water Use Capacity
 - People choose to sit inside or outside
 - Restaurants do not operate at capacity every day
 - Must clarify current practice regarding both permits and credits

Summary

- Option 1: “Grandfather” existing seating and require Water Permits going forward
- Option 2: Require a Water Permit for all outdoor seating utilizing an Allocation or Credit
- Option 3: Do not require a Water Permit for outdoor seating

