

State Water Resources Control Board

PUBLIC OUTREACH SERIES ON DROUGHT PLANNING METHODOLOGIES AND TOOLS: SUPPLY/DEMAND VISUALIZATION TOOL & WATER DEMAND DATA ASSESSMENT

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Division of Water Rights (Division) recognizes the importance of planning for drought or dry conditions given California’s variable climate and the recent 2012-2016 drought. Division staff are evaluating approaches that will help to better evaluate water supply and demand, and are developing tools and methodologies to help the Division and the regulated community make informed decisions regarding water diversion and use.

On the morning of April 16, 2021, staff will demonstrate an online tool intended to help the public visualize and analyze water supply and demand in select Bay-Delta tributary watersheds. In the afternoon, staff will discuss standardized measures that can be used to flag and help clean up potential errors with water use data provided by water right holders, which is used to estimate water demand. A quorum of the State Water Board may be present at the meeting. However, no State Water Board action will be taken. Details of the sessions are provided below.

Date:	April 16, 2021
Morning Session: Water Supply Demand Visualization Tool	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Afternoon Session: Water Demand Data Assessment	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Zoom Link:

<https://waterboards.zoom.us/j/94640548166?pwd=VDdzZWVhUWZrTzZjRGdmbjBNOEcrZz09>

Meeting ID: 946 4054 8166 | Passcode: 248201 | 1-669-900-9128 US (San Jose)

Background

Water Supply & Demand Visualization Tool

Division staff are developing an online dashboard for users to view comparisons between water supplies and demands in watersheds throughout the state, defined by Hydrologic Unit Code Level 8 (HUC8) boundaries published by the U.S. Geological Survey. While the tool contains demand data for all watersheds in the state, it currently only displays supply data for a subset of Bay-Delta tributary watersheds.

The Division intends to continue adding supply data for other watersheds as they become available. This tool is for informational purposes and will not be used to make water allocation or shortage decisions at this time. Our immediate intention is to provide

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

the public with existing water use and water supply data in a graphical format that is easy for the regulated community and the public to understand. In the future, we hope to use this tool to better demonstrate statewide water conditions as we collect more accurate water use data from diverters and refine our data synthesis techniques.

The tool uses publicly available datasets, including historic and projected water supply estimates published by the California Department of Water Resources and the California Nevada River Forecast Center. Demand data is sourced from the annual water use reports submitted to the Division by the regulated community. The demand estimates can be updated over time as new or revised data becomes available.

Water Demand Data Assessment

Division staff are developing a methodology to standardize how self-reported water diversion data is analyzed, how data quality issues and questions are addressed, and how that data is incorporated into supply/demand assessments. The self-reported data is used to estimate water demand and can be used to assess water availability during times of shortage or drought. Water right holders submit reports for water diversion and use via the Report Management System (RMS). The current RMS dataset includes self-reported information from approximately 2009 to present and is relied upon by Division staff and others to derive water demand estimates. However, the self-reported data contains inaccuracies, inconsistencies, and other errors. Sources of error include, but are not limited to: duplicate reporting of same diversion and use on multiple water right reports; inability to distinguish multiple points of diversion and/or beneficial uses; using improper measurement techniques; inadvertently mis-reporting units of measurement; or failure to file a diversion and use report.

While previous efforts have been undertaken to address some of the water use data quality issues described above, a new Division-wide standardization process is proposed to assess and improve the quality of water use data. The Water Demand Data Assessment includes the compilation and incorporation of elements identified from past Division data quality assessment efforts, and the development of logic trees and scripts to automate the identification and correction of erroneous data to the extent possible. Ultimately, the goal is to produce a single, accurate, and consistent Water Demand Dataset for use by the Division and interested stakeholders.

Contact and Resources

The presentation will provide an overview of the methodologies and tools developed by Division staff. Following the meeting, the draft documents will be made available for public review and comment. Please email questions regarding this notice and related efforts to: Drought@waterboards.ca.gov.

Webpages

The State Water Board is developing a website to provide information on drought related activities. The website will be updated with draft materials available for public comment and additional drought-related information as available. Please visit the State Water Board's [Drought webpage \(www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought\)](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought) for more information.