Comments of the California Department of Water Resources
To the State Water Resources Control Board
At the Public Workshop on
"Development of An Urban Water Conservation Regulatory Program"
Mark Cowin, Deputy Director, October 1, 2008

I.   Overview of Water Challenges
    a. California water managers have increasing understanding of several major challenges:
        i.   Climate Change and its effects on water supply and reliability
        ii. Vulnerability of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
        iii. Environmental water needs reduce water available for other beneficial uses
II.   Recommended Responses to Water Challenges
    a. Water Plan Update 2005
        i.   A strategic plan for water management
        ii. Describes IRWM, two dozen Resource Management Strategies (RMS)
            1. The RMS that offers the most water is urban water conservation
    b. IRWM
        i.   Provides flexibility in the face of water challenges
        ii. Reflected in regional grant funding available for RMS's
III.   Governor's Conservation Goal
    a. 20% reduction in *per capita* use by 2020
    b. State agency team working on requested "more aggressive conservation plan"
    c. Recommendations to Governor in early 2009
        i.   Likely to include a list of additional tools/incentives/disincentives needed to achieve additional conservation
IV.   Current DWR Urban Conservation Activities
    a. Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance
    b. Improvements to the CIMIS network
    c. Support for the CUWCC
    d. AB 1420 implementation
V.   Additional Tools Needed to Increase Conservation Savings
    a. Portfolio approach
        i.   Resource Management Strategies
        ii. Conservation Measures
    b. Urban BMPs
        i.   Implementation expected when developed in 1991
        ii. Current Status
            1. BMP evolution
            2. BMP implementation
    c. What else is needed?
        i.   Voluntary approach works well for many agencies, measures
        ii. Additional regulatory programs are needed to achieve conservation anticipated in 1991
        iii. Coordination essential among CUWCC and 20x2020 processes, SWRCB action