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State Water Resources Control Board

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

### Urban Water Conservation

Monday December 7, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.

Joe Serna Jr. - CalEPA Headquarters Building  
Coastal Hearing Room  
1001 I Street, Second Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will hold a public workshop to receive input on the potential extension and modification of the existing Emergency Regulation for Statewide Urban Water Conservation ([Emergency Regulation](#)) if drought conditions persist into 2016. This will be an informational workshop only and the State Water Board will take no formal action.

#### BACKGROUND

On April 1, 2015, Governor Brown issued the fourth in a series of executive orders on actions necessary to address California's severe drought conditions. On May 5, 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted an Emergency Regulation to address specific provisions of the April 1 [Executive Order](#), including the mandatory 25 percent statewide reduction in potable urban water use between June 2015 and February 2016.

To reach the Governor's statewide 25 percent reduction mandate, the Emergency Regulation assigns each urban water supplier (serving more than 3,000 connections) a conservation standard that ranges between 8 percent and 36 percent based on their residential gallons per capita per day (R-GPCD) for the months of July through September 2014. This will equate to approximately 1.2 million acre-feet of water saved between June 2015 and February 2016. The State Water Board maintains a web portal with additional information on the Emergency Regulation and conservation standards:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/conservation\\_portal/emergency\\_regulation.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/emergency_regulation.shtml)

From June 2015 through September 2015, the state's 411 urban water suppliers have reduced water use by 28.1 percent relative to 2013 use in the same months. Not all urban water suppliers have met their cumulative conservation standards, however. Over this period 282 water suppliers (72%) have exceeded or are within one percent of their cumulative conservation standard, 70 suppliers are exceeding their conservation standard by 10 percent or more, while 6 suppliers are more than 15 percent below their conservation standard.

Severe drought conditions have decreased water levels in California's reservoirs and reduced flows in the state's rivers. The drought continues to present urgent challenges including water shortages in communities across the state, over-drafted groundwater basins and land subsidence, dying trees and increased wildfire activity, diminished water for agricultural production, degraded habitat for many fish and wildlife species, and an increased threat of saltwater intrusion to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta.

### **WORKSHOP OVERVIEW**

An extension of the Emergency Regulation to conserve urban water supplies in 2016 may be needed depending on the amount of precipitation (both rainfall and snow accumulation) that the State receives during the upcoming winter months. The purpose of this workshop is to solicit input on the types of changes to the emergency conservation regulatory framework the State Water Board should consider if such an extension is necessary.

The workshop will include a staff presentation and information on precipitation scenarios followed by public comments and Board Member discussion. The State Water Board is interested in receiving public input on the following questions:

1. What elements of the existing Emergency Regulation, if any, should be modified in an extended Emergency Regulation?
2. What additional data, if any, should the State Water Board be collecting through the Emergency Regulation and how would it be used?
3. How should the State Water Board account for precipitation after January 2016 in its implementation of any extension of the Emergency Regulation?

Workshop participants recommending modification to the Emergency Regulation should be prepared to describe and demonstrate the rationale and need for any proposed changes.

### **PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

The workshop will be informational only. While a quorum of the State Water Board may be present, the Board will not take formal action at the workshop. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants, but the State Water Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions. The workshop is an opportunity for interested persons to provide input to the State Water Board. To ensure a productive and efficient workshop, oral comments may be limited to three (3) minutes or otherwise limited at the discretion of the Board Chair or any Board member present. To ensure a productive and efficient workshop, participants with common comments are encouraged to coordinate and provide comments as a group. So that all commenters have an opportunity to participate, presentations and questions may be time-limited.

### **SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS**

Interested persons must submit written comments by 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 2, 2015.

Written comment letters must be submitted to the attention of:

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Comment letters may be submitted to the Clerk of the Board via email at: [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov) (15 megabytes, or less, in size) or by fax at (916) 341-5620.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Please indicate in the subject line “**Comment Letter – Urban Water Conservation Workshop.**”

Comments may also be hand delivered. Couriers delivering comment letters must check in with lobby security personnel on the first floor of the CalEPA Building at the above address. Questions on comment submittals may be directed to Ms. Townsend, at (916) 341-5600.

More information on the State Water Board’s Emergency Water Conservation Regulation can be found here:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/drought/emergency\\_regulations\\_waterconservation.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/emergency_regulations_waterconservation.shtml)

For directions to Cal/EPA, visit:

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPABldg/location.htm>

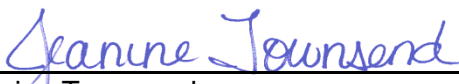
Notices and submittals are available electronically at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_info/calendar/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/index.shtml)

All visitors must check-in upon arrival to CalEPA and then proceed to the meeting room. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact the Clerk to the Board at (916) 341-5600.

Please direct other questions about this notice to Kathy Frevert at (916) 322-5274 or [kathy.frevert@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:kathy.frevert@waterboards.ca.gov).

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November 6, 2015  
Date

  
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Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board