



Fact Sheet

Emergency Conservation Regulation Implementing 25% Conservation Statewide

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.

Conservation standard for urban water suppliers

To reach the 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 4 percent and 36 percent based on their residential gallons per capita per day (R-GPCD) for the months of July – September 2014, as shown in the following table:

| Tier | R-GPCD Range | | # of Suppliers in Range | Conservation Standard |
|------|--------------|-------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| | From | To | | |
| 1 | Reserve | | 5 | 4% |
| 2 | 0 | 64.9 | 27 | 8% |
| 3 | 65 | 79.9 | 23 | 12% |
| 4 | 80 | 94.9 | 42 | 16% |
| 5 | 95 | 109.9 | 61 | 20% |
| 6 | 110 | 129.9 | 44 | 24% |
| 7 | 130 | 169.9 | 81 | 28% |
| 8 | 170 | 214.9 | 61 | 32% |
| 9 | 215 | 612.0 | 67 | 36% |

Collectively, urban water suppliers should achieve a 25 percent reduction in potable water use statewide. This equates to approximately 1.2 million acre-feet of water over the next nine months. For the final list of urban water supplier conservation standards, [click here](#).



Why do urban water suppliers have different conservation standards?

The April 1 Executive Order directed the State Water Board to take into account water conservation already achieved by communities based on their relative per capita water usage. Many communities have been conserving for years. Some of these communities have achieved remarkable results with residential water use hovering around the statewide target for indoor water use (55 gallons per capita per day), while others are using many times more. Everyone must do more, but the greatest opportunities to reach 25 percent conservation statewide now exist in those areas with higher water use. Suppliers with lower R-GPCDs were assigned lower conservation standards than suppliers with higher R-GPCDs. Often, but not always, water suppliers with higher R-GPCDs are located in areas where the majority of water use is directed at outdoor irrigation due to lot size and other factors.

What other requirements are included in the emergency regulation?

The emergency regulation includes requirements for all Californians, as highlighted below:



Emergency Conservation Regulation

- Prohibited for Everyone**
 - Using potable water to wash sidewalks & driveways
 - Runoff when irrigating with potable water
 - Using hoses with no shutoff nozzles to wash cars
 - Using potable water in decorative water features that do not recirculate the water
 - Using outdoor irrigation during & 48 hours following measurable precipitation
 - Using potable water to irrigate ornamental turf on public street medians
 - Using potable water to irrigate landscapes of new homes & buildings inconsistent with CBSC & DHCD requirements
- Required for Water Suppliers**
 - Achieve designated conservation standard (4%-36%)
 - Notify customers about leaks that are within the customer's control
 - Report on water use, compliance & enforcement
- Required for Business**
 - Restaurants & other food service establishments can only serve water to customers on request
 - Hotels & motels must provide guests with the option of not having towels & linens laundered daily

The emergency regulation contains provisions for small water suppliers (15-2,999 service connections) and self-supplied commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) users. For more information visit the State Water Board's [Water Conservation Portal](#).

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