STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF RESEARCH, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE
FEBRUARY 3, 2015

ITEM 3

SUBJECT

UPDATE ON EMERGENCY WATER CONSERVATION REGULATION

DISCUSSION

On April 25, 2014, Governor Brown issued an Executive Order calling on the State to redouble state drought actions. Among other things, the Executive Order directed the State Water Board to adopt emergency regulations as it deemed necessary, pursuant to Water Code section 1058.5, to ensure that Urban Water Suppliers implement drought response plans to limit outdoor irrigation and other wasteful water practices. In response to the Executive Order the State Water Board adopted an emergency water conservation regulation that went into effect on July 28, 2014.

The emergency water conservation regulation includes prohibitions on certain water uses and requires larger urban water suppliers to activate their Water Shortage Contingency Plan to a level where outdoor irrigation restrictions are mandatory. In communities where no water shortage contingency plan exists, the regulation requires that water suppliers either limit outdoor irrigation to twice a week or implement other comparable conservation actions. Finally, large urban water suppliers must report water use on a monthly basis to track progress.

This informational update will focus on the water production data obtained from urban water suppliers for the month of December 2014, which was due on January 15, 2015. Staff will present findings on water conservation achieved for the months of June through December 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013.

POLICY ISSUE

None at this time; however, the reporting results could inform the need for additional State Water Board action pertaining to water conservation requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT

This is an information item only.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

This is an information item only.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None (information item only).