

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF RESEARCH PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE  
MAY 5, 2015**

**ITEM 6**

**SUBJECT**

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION AMENDING AND READOPTING DROUGHT-RELATED EMERGENCY REGULATIONS FOR URBAN WATER CONSERVATION TO IMPLEMENT EXECUTIVE ORDER B-29-15

**DISCUSSION**

On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown declared a drought state of emergency. On April 25, 2014 the Governor signed 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.

On July 15, 2014, the State Water Board adopted [Resolution 2014-0038](#), which adopted an emergency regulation for water conservation that added new sections to title 23 of the California Code of Regulations. The emergency regulation became effective on July 28, 2014 upon approval by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL).

On March 17, 2015, the State Water Board adopted [Resolution 2015-0013](#), which amended and readopted the emergency regulation for an additional 270 days. The existing regulatory language became effective on March 27, 2015 upon approval by OAL.

On April 1, 2015, Governor Brown issued a new [Executive Order](#) that, among other things, directs the State Water Board to impose restrictions on water suppliers to achieve a statewide 25 percent reduction in potable urban usage through February 2016; require commercial, industrial, and institutional users to implement water efficiency measures; prohibit irrigation with potable water of ornamental turf in public street medians; and prohibit irrigation with potable water outside newly constructed homes and buildings that is not delivered by drip or microspray systems.

Consistent with the Governor's April 1 Executive Order, updates to the existing regulatory language are proposed that include, but are not limited to:

- A prohibition on irrigation of ornamental turf on public street medians with potable water.
- A prohibition on irrigation with potable water outside of newly constructed homes and buildings that is not delivered by drip or microspray systems.

- A requirement that larger (generally greater than 3,000 connections) urban water suppliers reduce their June 2015-February 2016 total water production by a specified percentage, based on their reported July-September 2014 residential gallons per capita per day water usage, measured against the same (June-February) months in 2013.
- A requirement that small urban water supplier (generally fewer than 3,000 connections) and self-supplied commercial, industrial and institutional properties either limit outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with potable water to no more than two days per week or reduce potable water usage by 25 percent for the months of June 2015 through February 2016 as compared to the amount used for the same months in 2013.
- Additional reporting requirements for larger urban water suppliers on monthly commercial, industrial and institutional sector uses.
- The Executive Director, or his designee, may issue conservation orders requiring additional actions by the supplier to come into compliance with its conservation standard.
- The Executive Director, or his designee, may issue an informational order requiring water suppliers, or self-supplied commercial, industrial or institutional properties to submit additional information beyond that otherwise required to be reported.

**POLICY ISSUE**

Should the State Water Board adopt the proposed resolution and accompanying regulations?

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Fiscal considerations are addressed as a part of drought funding.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the State Water Board adopt the proposed resolution adopting the emergency regulation.