



## California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance

101 Mission Street, Suite 1440, San Francisco, California 94105  
415-512-7890 phone, 415-512-7897 fax, www.cceeb.org

May 16, 2016



Ms. Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### *Via Electronic Transmission*

**RE: May 18<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING – SWRCB Drought Emergency Water Conservation Regulations**

Dear Ms. Townsend:

On behalf of the members of the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB), we appreciate the opportunity to offer comments and concerns regarding the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Drought Emergency Water Conservation Regulations (May 10, 2016).

CCEEB is a coalition of business, labor, and public leaders that works together to advance strategies to achieve a sound economy and a healthy environment. Founded in 1973, CCEEB is a non-profit and non-partisan organization.

The SWRCB's draft emergency regulations propose to revise the existing regulations for "...all commercial, industrial and institutional properties that use a water supply, any portion of which is from a source other than a water supplier subject to section 864.5 or 865 of this article..." (see revised Article 22.5, Section 864.c.). Water suppliers subject to section 864.5 are urban water suppliers that choose to self-certify their supply reliability for three additional years of drought, whereas water suppliers subject to section 865 are those urban water suppliers that choose to not self-certify under section 864.5.

The requirements for commercial, industrial and institutional properties that provide their own water supply would likely most commonly be those properties that obtain their water supply directly from a groundwater source or surface water. Further, there appears to be no minimum supply volume, below which, these requirements would not apply; therefore the requirements would apply to all of these property types.

Overall, CCEEB supports the Governor's call for a statewide reduction in potable urban water use and the SWRCB's efforts to promulgate regulations that will reduce water use within the state. However, CCEEB also recognizes that making the conservation reductions achieved over the past approximately two years the 'new norm' will 1) hamper business growth and 2) potentially result in the cost of goods

and services increasing due to increased competition for a scarce/limited resource. That said, CCEEB believes that clear, practical conservation measures will facilitate efforts by commercial, industrial, and institutional properties to reduce potable water use and will help to minimize the economic impacts to these facilities.

The existing regulations require compliance with either: 1) a limitation on outdoor watering of ornamental landscape or turf; or 2) reducing potable water usage by 25% for specific time periods as compared to similar months in 2013. Having two alternatives helps to provide some flexibility for achieving of water reductions. Additionally, the first option is a clear and practical condition that should be retained.

The proposed condition, which would require reductions consistent with the closest urban water supplier, would be required to be implemented no later than June 1, 2016. However, the urban water suppliers are not required to submit their self-certifications to the SWRCB until June 15, 2016. As such, those commercial, industrial and institutional properties that provide their own water supply would not know their reduction targets until after June 1, 2016, the date on which they are required to comply with the new reduction requirement.

As such, CCEEB recommends retaining, with modifications, the previous language in the regulations and recommends the following alternate language:

(cb) ~~Immediately upon~~ Upon this subdivision taking effect, all commercial, industrial and institutional properties that use a water supply, any portion of which is from a source other than a water supplier subject to section 864.5 or 865 of this article, shall either:

(1) Limit outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with potable water to no more than two days per week; or

(2) ~~Reduce potable water usage supplied by sources other than a water supplier by 25 percent for the months of June 2015 through October 2016 as compared to the amount used from those sources for the same months in 2013. Shall target water use reductions commensurate with those required of the nearest urban water supplier under section 864.5 or, if applicable, section 865. Where this option is chosen, these properties shall implement the reductions on or before July 1, 2016.~~

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration of our proposed revisions. Should you have questions, please contact CCEEB's Water, Chemistry and Waste Project Manager Dawn Koepke with McHugh, Koepke & Associates at [dkoopke@mchughgr.com](mailto:dkoopke@mchughgr.com) or (916) 930-1993.

Sincerely,



Gerald D. Secundy  
CCEEB President

cc: CCEEB WCW Project Members