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State Water Resources Control Board

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

### Urban Water Conservation

Wednesday, April 20, 2016 – 1:00 p.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 or Board) will hold a public workshop to receive input on the potential modification of the current Emergency Regulation for Statewide Urban Water Conservation. 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. On November 13, 2015, Governor Brown issued [Executive Order B-36-15](#), which directed the State Water Board to extend the May 2015 Emergency Regulation through October 31, 2016, if drought conditions continued through January 2016. Executive Order B-36-15 also directed the State Water Board to consider modifications to the May 2015 Emergency Regulation as appropriate.

With California still experiencing severe drought through January 2016, on February 2, 2016 the State Water Board adopted an extended and revised emergency regulation to ensure that urban potable water conservation continues in 2016. The readopted emergency regulation extends restrictions on urban water use through October 2016 while making modest adjustments for issues raising statewide water use equity concerns. The Board's Resolution readopting the emergency regulation directs staff to report back on possible additional modifications once more complete water supply information is known in April. The Office of Administrative Law approved the extended emergency regulation, which became effective on February 11, 2016. A copy of the adopted and approved regulation is located on the [Water Conservation Portal - Emergency Conservation Regulation](#) webpage.

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FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 | Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)

The emergency regulation assigns each urban water supplier (serving more than 3,000 connections) a conservation standard between 4 percent and 36 percent based on their residential gallons per capita per day (R-GPCD) for the months of July through September 2014, with some adjustment factors. This is expected to equate to approximately one million acre-feet of water saved between February and October 2016. Additional information on the Emergency Regulation and conservation standards is available at the Water Conservation Portal referenced above

From June 2015 through January 2016, the state's 411 urban water suppliers have saved 1.15 million acre-feet of water or 96 percent of the 25% reduction goal for February 2016. Over this period 234 water suppliers (58%) have exceeded or are within one percent of their cumulative conservation standard, while 71 water suppliers (18%) are 1-5 percentage points from meeting their standard, 88 water suppliers (22%) are 5-15 percentage points from meeting their conservation standard, and 8 suppliers are more than 15 percentage points below their conservation standard.

Severe drought conditions decreased water levels in California's reservoirs and groundwater basins, reduced flows in the state's rivers. Rains in this water year, including early March, are encouraging, but some regions have above normal precipitation and snow pack, while others are still well below average. Rainfall deficits from prior years will further exacerbate local drought conditions. In some regions, the drought continues to present challenges including water shortages, 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.

### **WORKSHOP OVERVIEW**

The purpose of this workshop is to solicit input on potential adjustments to the February 2016 Emergency Regulation in response to precipitation amounts and other drought indicators across the state since February 2016, for consideration and possible action by the State Water Board in May 2016.

The workshop will include a staff presentation and information on water supply conditions 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 February 2016 Emergency Regulation, if any, should be modified and how so?
2. How should the State Water Board account for regional differences in precipitation and lingering drought impacts, and what would be the methods of doing so?
3. To what extent should the State Water Board consider the reliability of urban water supplier supply portfolios in this emergency regulation?

### **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. 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 noon on Thursday, April 14, 2016.**

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/water\\_issues/programs/conservation\\_portal/emergency\\_regulation.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/emergency_regulation.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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March 22, 2016  
Date

  
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Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board