

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2017-0051**

ADOPTING EMERGENCY REGULATIONS AMENDING DRINKING WATER FEE
REGULATIONS LANGUAGE IN TITLE 22, SECTIONS 64300, 64305, 64310, AND 64315 OF
THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS.

WHEREAS:

1. The State Water Board is responsible for administering the Safe Drinking Water Act (Drinking Water Program). The Safe Drinking Water Act (Health and Safety Code, §116270 et seq.) (SDWA) requires that all persons who supply water for human consumption and meet the law's definition of a "public water system" obtain a domestic water supply permit and submit an annual fee to the State Water Board.
2. Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 116565, subdivision (d) required that the fee schedule initially be set through the regular rulemaking process and that, thereafter, amendments and adjustments to the schedule shall be done as emergency regulations that are not subject to review by the Office of Administrative Law.
3. On April 4, 2017, the State Water Board adopted Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 14.5, Sections 64300, 64305, 64310, and 64315 of the California Code of Regulations.
4. Staff is not recommending adjusting the level of fees in the current regulations for FY 2017-18. However, after monitoring and reviewing the regulations through the first year of implementation, several areas were identified as potentially benefitting from further clarification and/or amendments to the regulation text.
5. The proposed changes will provide clarity and remove areas of identified ambiguity in the current regulations.
6. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provides a statutory exemption for the review and modification of charges by public agencies. Specifically, Public Resources Code Section 21080 (b)(8) provides for such statutory exemption if the public agency finds that such charges "are for the purpose of (A) meeting operating expenses, including employee wage rates and fringe benefits, (B) purchasing or leasing supplies, equipment, or materials, (C) meeting financial reserve needs and requirements, (D) obtaining funds for capital projects necessary to maintain service within existing service areas, or (E) obtaining funds necessary to maintain those intracity transfers as are authorized by city charter."
7. The State Water Board finds that the charges identified in Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 14.5, of the California Code of Regulations, are for the purpose of: meeting operating expenses, including employee wage rates and fringe benefits; purchasing or leasing supplies, equipment, or materials; and meeting financial reserve needs and requirements.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The State Water Board adopts [emergency regulations](#) amending Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 14.5, Sections 64300, 64305, 64310, and 64315 of the California Code of Regulations.
2. The State Water Board determines that adoption of Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 14.5, Sections 64300, 64305, 64310, and 64315 of the California Code of Regulations is statutorily exempt from CEQA for the reasons given above, and directs the State Water Board staff to prepare and submit to the State Clearinghouse a Notice of Exemption reflecting this determination.
3. State Water Board staff will submit the regulations to Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for filing with the Secretary of State.
4. If, prior to OAL filing the regulations with the Secretary of State, State Water Board staff, or the State Water Board determines that minor corrections to the language of the regulation or supporting documentation are needed for clarity or consistency, the State Water Board Executive Director or the Executive Director's designee may make such changes.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on September 19, 2017.

AYE: Chair Felicia Marcus
Vice Chair Steven Moore
Board Member Dorene D'Adamo
Board Member E. Joaquin Esquivel

NAY: None

ABSENT: Board Member Tam M. Doduc

ABSTAIN: None



Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board