

# Emergency Regulations to Increase Urban Water Conservation: Description and Context

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# Background

- March 1 Emergency Drought Legislation
- April 25 Executive Order
- May 23 Drought Response Survey
- Jun 17 Update to Board



# Current Drought Conditions and Future Projections

- 80 percent of state experiencing exceptional drought conditions
- El Niño forecast uncertain
- Reservoirs extremely low
- Nearly 50 communities at risk



# Drought Response at the Local Level

- Near-term Actions
  - Outreach & messaging
  - Use restrictions & enforcement
  - Leak detection & repair
  - Conservation financing & incentives
  - Community partnerships



# Drought Response at the Local Level

- Longer-term Actions
  - Rate design
  - Water & energy efficiency
  - Stormwater capture & reuse
  - Installation of meters & use of technology
  - Large-scale recycled water development



# Classification of Water Suppliers

- > 3000 connections: 440 urban water suppliers
- < 3000 connections: 2674 water systems
  
- 16% of Californians are served by investor-owned water utilities regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission



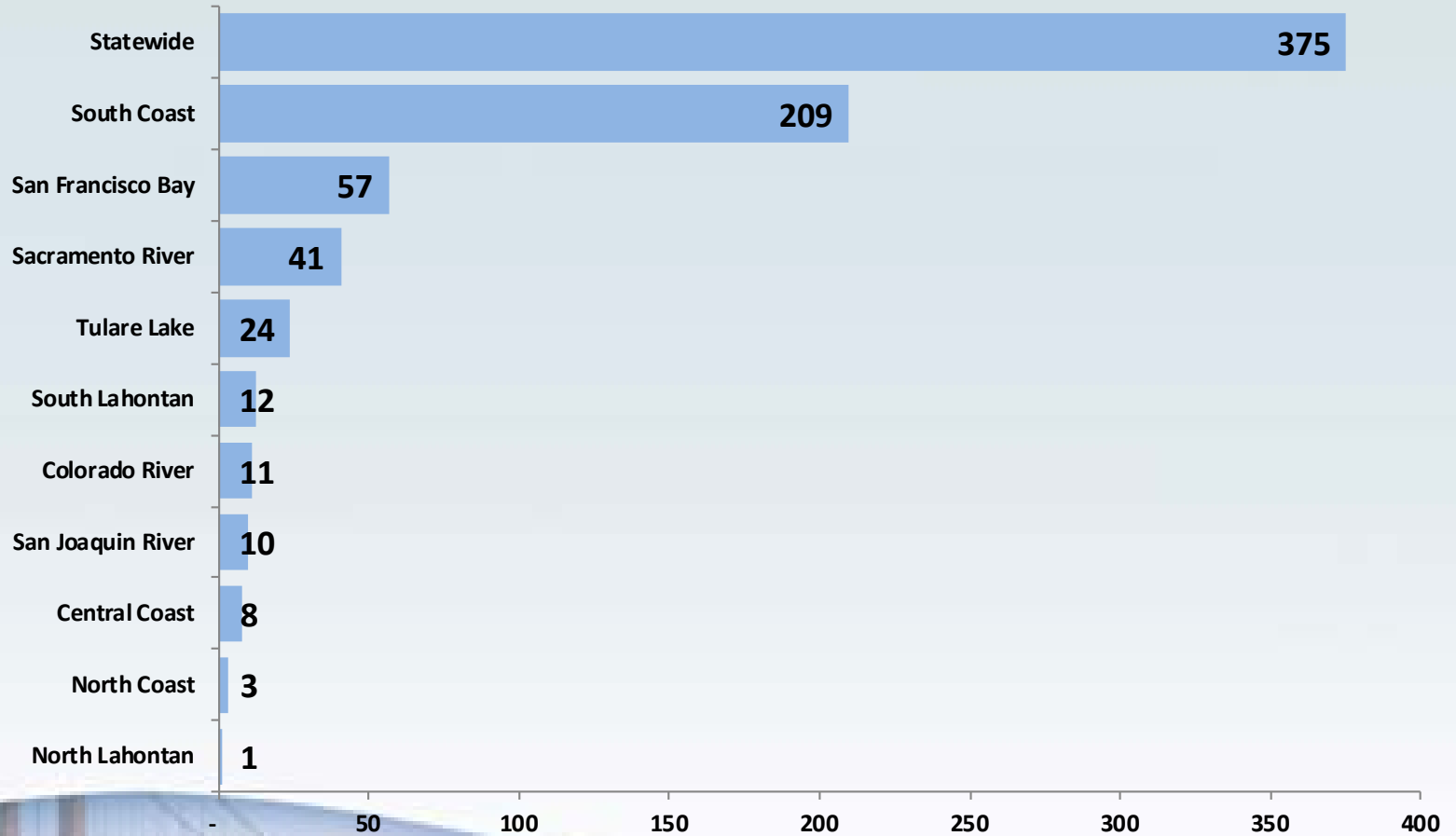
# Survey Response Update

- 276 responses received
- Many data gaps corrected
- Proposed baseline change
- Results measure conservation through May



# Updated Survey Results

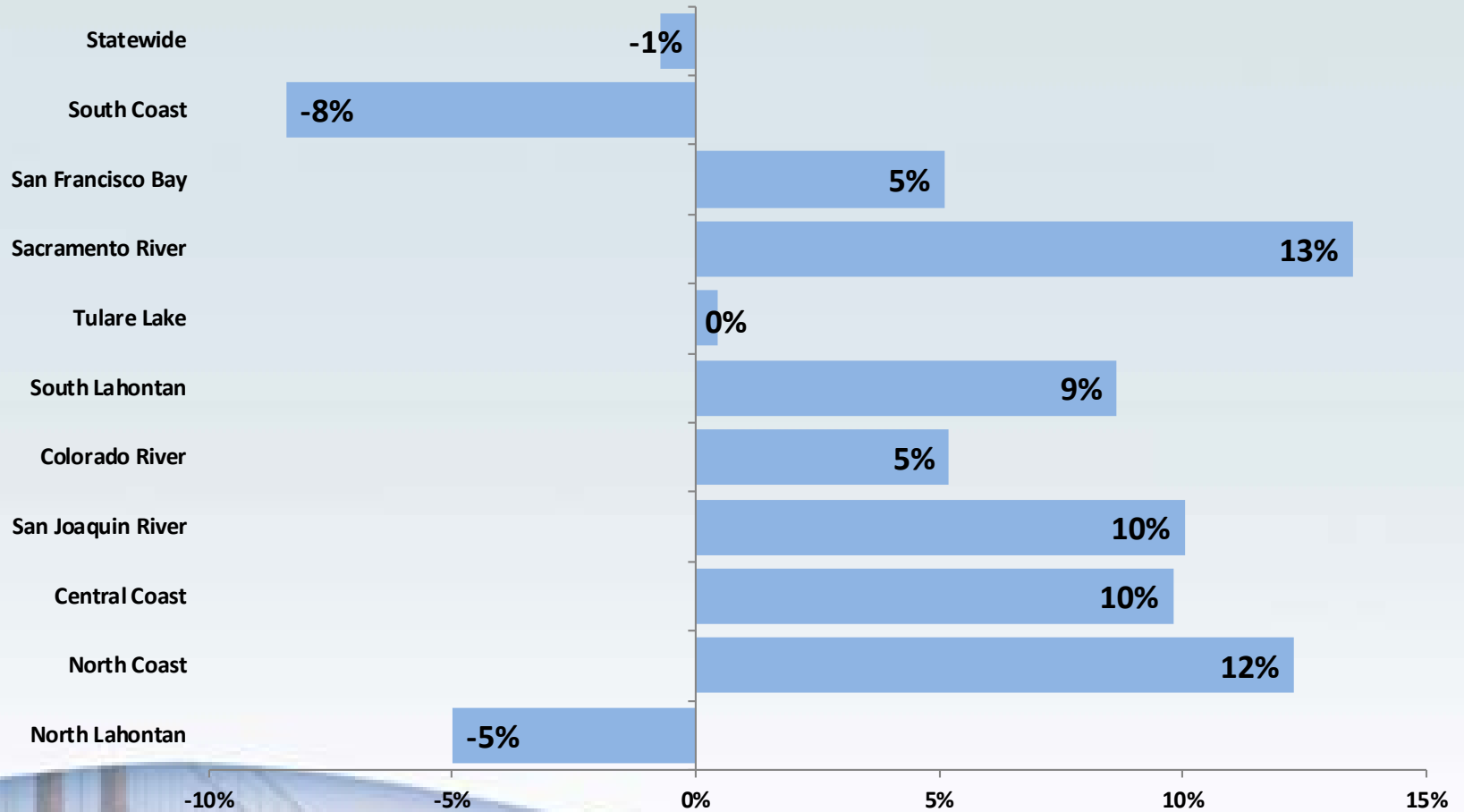
## Total Water Production May 2014 (TAF)





# Updated Survey Results

Projected Savings in Water Produced May 2011-2013 vs. May 2014



# Proposed Emergency Regulations

## **Temporary Prohibitions:**

- Application of water to hard surfaces for washing
- Watering of outdoor landscapes that cause runoff
- Using a hose without a shut-off nozzle to wash a car
- Using potable water in a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is recirculated.

**Health, safety and permit exceptions apply**



# Proposed Emergency Regulations

## Urban Water Supplier Actions

- Implement stage of Water Shortage Contingency Plan that mandates restrictions on outdoor water use
- If no/inadequate Water Shortage Contingency Plan
  - Limit outdoor irrigation to no more than two days per week

**or**

- Implement other mandatory conservation measure to achieve a comparable reduction in water consumption relative to the amount consumed in 2013.



# Proposed Emergency Regulations

## Smaller Water Systems

- Implement mandatory outdoor irrigation restrictions
  - Limit outdoor irrigation to no more than two days per week
- or
- Implement other mandatory conservation measure to achieve a comparable reduction in water consumption relative to the amount consumed in 2013.



# Proposed Emergency Regulations

## Enforcement Tools

- Individual Prohibitions
  - Violation is infraction, punishable by a fine of up to \$500/day
- Water Supplier Actions
  - Violation can be infraction punishable by a fine of up to \$500/day
  - Board may impose civil liability of up to \$500/day
  - Board may issue Cease and Desist Order, violation of which triggers liability of up to \$10,000 per day
  - Attorney General shall seek an injunction at Board's direction



# Proposed Emergency Regulations

## Keeping Track of Urban Water Use

- Urban water suppliers (required)
  - Amount of potable water produced
  - Estimate of gallons of water per person per day



# Implementation Considerations

- Health and Safety Needs
  - Street washing
  - Power washing
- Activation of Water Shortage Contingency Plans
  - CPUC-regulated water suppliers need CPUC approval to activate their plans at the mandatory level
  - Some suppliers will go to rationing or penalty rates even though their voluntary conservation efforts have been successful
  - Water suppliers will need to hold timely meetings in order to comply with an August 1, 2014 implementation date



# Implementation Considerations

- Exclusion of water used for agriculture
  - Suppliers with both urban and agricultural customers
- Credit for suppliers whose pricing and incentive programs have led to significant reductions in outdoor use
- Others raised in comments





# Board Action

- Clarifying changes to regulation
  - Washing solar panels
  - Implementation of Water Shortage Contingency Plan outdoor water use restrictions for retail water suppliers only
  - 2013 & 2014 data comparison
- Proposed Resolution
  - Actions related to regulation
  - Additional actions needed for effective drought response

