

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF RESEARCH, PLANNING,  
AND PERFORMANCE  
DECEMBER 7, 2022**

**ITEM 12**

**SUBJECT**

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION READOPTING THE PROHIBITED WASTEFUL WATER USES EMERGENCY REGULATION FOR WATER CONSERVATION.

**DISCUSSION**

On April 21, May 10, and July 8, 2021, Governor Newsom issued proclamations that a state of emergency exists in a total of fifty counties due to severe drought conditions and directed state agencies to take immediate action to preserve critical water supplies and mitigate the effects of drought and ensure the protection of health, safety, and the environment.

On July 8, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Executive Order N-10-21 calling on Californians to voluntarily reduce water use by 15 percent compared to 2020 to protect water reserves and complement local conservation mandates. Among other things, the Executive Order directs the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to track and report monthly on the State's progress toward achieving a 15-percent reduction in statewide urban water use as compared to 2020 use.

On October 19, 2021, Governor Newsom signed a Proclamation extending the drought emergency statewide and further urging Californians to step up their water conservation efforts. The Proclamation urges the State Water Board to prohibit, by emergency regulation, wasteful water practices.

On January 4, 2022, the State Water Board adopted an emergency regulation that prohibits certain wasteful water use practices statewide and encourages Californians to monitor their water use more closely while building habits to use water wisely. On January 18, 2022, the emergency regulation went into effect and, pursuant to Water Code section 1058.5, will expire automatically on January 18, 2023 unless the State Water Board renews or rescinds it before then.

On March 28, 2022, in Executive Order N-7-22, the Governor affirmed that the orders and provisions contained in the four Proclamations from 2021 remain in full force and effect, except as modified by those Proclamations, and called on all Californians to reduce water use and directed specific State agencies to take actions in support of water conservation.

Immediate action is needed to ensure water suppliers and all Californians are taking sufficient actions to conserve water and preserve the State's water supply, including the readoption of the Board's January 4, 2021, emergency regulation prior to its expiration.

**POLICY ISSUE**

Should the State Water Board adopt the proposed resolution and readopt the accompanying regulation?

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Fiscal impacts are likely to be nominal on a statewide basis.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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