STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER JUNE 6, 2023

ITEM 4.1

SUBJECT

INFORMATION ITEM ON THE DROUGHT AND CONSERVATION REPORTING TO THE SAFER CLEARINGHOUSE.

DISCUSSION

The State Water Board, in partnership with the California Public Utilities Commission, developed a new reporting platform to streamline drought and conservation data reporting from public drinking water systems. The SAFER Clearinghouse Drought and Conservation Reporting was launched in January 2023 and is the reporting platform now used to submit this data, replacing earlier reporting methods. Community water systems and nontransient noncommunity water systems that are schools are required to submit either their monthly or quarterly reports through the SAFER Clearinghouse system.

Water systems that are experiencing a severe water shortage, or systems that have been identified by the State Water Board or Local Primacy Agency staff to be at-risk of experiencing a severe water shortage may be required to submit drought-related data more frequently to the State to facilitate better coordination of assistance and emergency tracking.

Complete submittal of reports in 2023 will be used to satisfy annual Supply & Demand reporting for the 2023 reporting year for the Electronic Annual Report (eAR) (collected in 2024). The reporting will not impact the 2022 reporting year for the eAR (collected in 2023).

The Division of Drinking Water issued a general order on January 1, 2023 (ORDER DDW_HQ_DROUGHT2023_001 REQUIRING TECHNICAL REPORTING IN RESPONSE TO DROUGHT) implementing the new reporting system. First quarter reporting results are now available, and a general summary of the results will be presented.

POLICY ISSUE

Informational item.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Informational item.