

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF RESEARCH, PLANNING AND  
PERFORMANCE  
OCTOBER 4, 2023**

**ITEM 8**

**SUBJECT**

PUBLIC HEARING/WORKSHOP TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED REGULATION TO MAKE CONSERVATION A CALIFORNIA WAY OF LIFE.

**DISCUSSION**

On May 31, 2018, Governor Brown signed two bills, [Senate Bill 606 \(Hertzberg\)](#) and [Assembly Bill 1668 \(Friedman\)](#). Added by that legislation, Water Code section 10609 et seq. required the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to provide recommendations on and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) to adopt standards for the efficient use of water, variances for unique uses that can have a material effect on water use, performance measures for commercial, industrial, and institutional water use, and guidelines and methodologies that identify how each urban retail water supplier will calculate an urban water use objective.

The proposed regulation will establish the standards and variances, and methodologies for calculating the urban water use objectives, along with performance measures and reporting requirements. On August 18, 2023, the State Water Board submitted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to the Office of Administrative Law and provided public notice of required rulemaking documents related to the proposed regulation. A public comment period is currently open as described below.

Regulatory documents are available at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/conservation\\_portal/regs/water\\_efficiency\\_legislation.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/regs/water_efficiency_legislation.html).

The State Water Board staff's proposed regulation was informed by recommendations provided by DWR on September 22, 2022. These are available at:

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/2018-Water-Conservation-Legislation/Urban-Water-Use-Efficiency-Standards-Variances-and-Performance-Measures>.

For reference, a tool that allows users to see how different parameter values affect the water use objective for any given urban retail water supplier is available at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/conservation\\_portal/regs/objective-exploration.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/regs/objective-exploration.html).

## **SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS**

The State Water Board will accept written comments on the proposed regulation to Make Water Conservation a California Way of Life. To submit written comments, please use the subject line: "Comment Letter – Board Hearing/Workshop on Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life." Written comments must be received by October 17, 2023, and should be submitted via email to [orpp-waterconservation@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:orpp-waterconservation@waterboards.ca.gov). At the Board Hearing/Workshop, commenters will be given an opportunity to make verbal comments to the Board; if you would like to provide verbal comments, please follow the remote participation guidelines available at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_info/remote\\_meeting/#provide\\_comments](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/remote_meeting/#provide_comments)

## **POLICY ISSUE**

This hearing/workshop is for the Board to receive input on the proposed regulation for making conservation a California way of life. The Board will not take action on the proposed regulation at this workshop.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

None at this time; no action will be taken at the Board Hearing/Workshop.

## **REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

None.