



News Advisory

State Water Board to Conduct Two Workshops on Drought

First Workshop Feb. 18-19, Second Workshop Feb. 26 – to Solicit Public Comment on Drought Impacts and State Water Board Efforts to Minimize Impacts

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On [February 18 - 19, and 26](#), beginning at **9 a.m.** the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will conduct two public workshops to discuss how to best protect the public interest with minimal water supplies and to solicit public comment on recent actions taken by the State Water Board to conserve water during this persistent drought.

The Feb. 18 (second day of 19th added if needed) workshop will be conducted in the Byron Sher Auditorium, and the **Feb. 26** workshop will be conducted in the Coastal Room; both on the second floor of the **Cal/EPA building, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, Ca 95814**.

These are information workshops only and no State Water Board action will be taken. These meetings will be [live streamed](#) on the internet.

On Jan. 31, in response to record dry conditions and diminishing water supplies in the state's major rivers and reservoirs, the State Water Resources Control Board [announced](#) two key actions to protect public health and safety from more severe water shortages should extreme drought conditions continue.

In the first announcement, the State Water Board Executive Director Tom Howard approved a petition to adjust water quality requirements in the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta, allowing the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project to conserve water supplies in upstream reservoirs and more effectively operate their facilities in response to ongoing drought conditions.

In addition, the State Water Board announced that notices will be issued to "junior priority" water-right holders to curtail their diversions of water from the Sacramento and San Joaquin River systems, when circumstances warrant this need to preserve water. That decision could occur sometime this month. Both of these actions, which are included in the [Governor's recent State of Emergency](#) declaration, reflect extraordinary circumstances brought on by the state's record drought.

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