Staff Presentation on Extending the Emergency Urban Water Conservation Regulation

Office of Research, Planning, and Performance

December 7, 2015
Background

• Existing emergency regulation expires on February 13, 2016

• Statewide cumulative conservation is 27.1% through October 2015, exceeding the 25% target in the emergency regulation

• Approximately 70% of urban water suppliers are meeting or exceeding their conservation standard

• A progressive enforcement approach is being used for suppliers not meeting their conservation standard
October 2015 savings (41.9 billion gallons) is three times greater than October 2014 savings (13.0 billion gallons)
Statewide Water Conservation Results

Water Production Percentage Reduction (Compared to 2013)

October 2015 savings (41.9 billion gallons; 129,660 acre-feet) brings statewide cumulative savings to 27.1%
Cumulative Savings (June - October 2015)

- 913,851 acre-feet (297.8 billion gallons) of water saved
- This is 76% of savings goal
- Savings is enough to provide 4.6 million Californians with water for one year
Emergency Regulation Extension

Executive Order B-36-15 issued November 13, 2015

• Extend the emergency regulation through October 31, 2016 if drought conditions persist
• Consider uses of potable and non-potable water
• Incorporate lessons learned
Key Insights

• Drought is top public concern
• Saving trees is critical
• Local implementation has been most successful where it is perceived as fair
• Evaporative coolers present challenges in some communities
• Rate setting and financial management are challenging yet central to conservation success
Stakeholder Input

Board resolution 2015-0032 directed staff to consider issues raised in comments for an extended emergency regulation

• Stakeholder workgroup formed to vet ideas for modifications and adjustments
• Three workgroup meetings were held
• Panelists will describe the proposals
Issues for Consideration

• Timing of extension
  – Complete assessment of drought conditions unknown until April

• Statewide savings target

• Credits and Adjustments

• Enforcement
Next Steps

• Review public comment provided at this workshop
• Release staff proposed regulatory framework for public review
• Determine timing for release of draft regulatory language and Board adoption hearing