

# **Regulation for Urban Water Conservation**

## **Monthly Update and Proposal for Extension**

Office of Research, Planning, and Performance

February 8, 2017 – Item 9



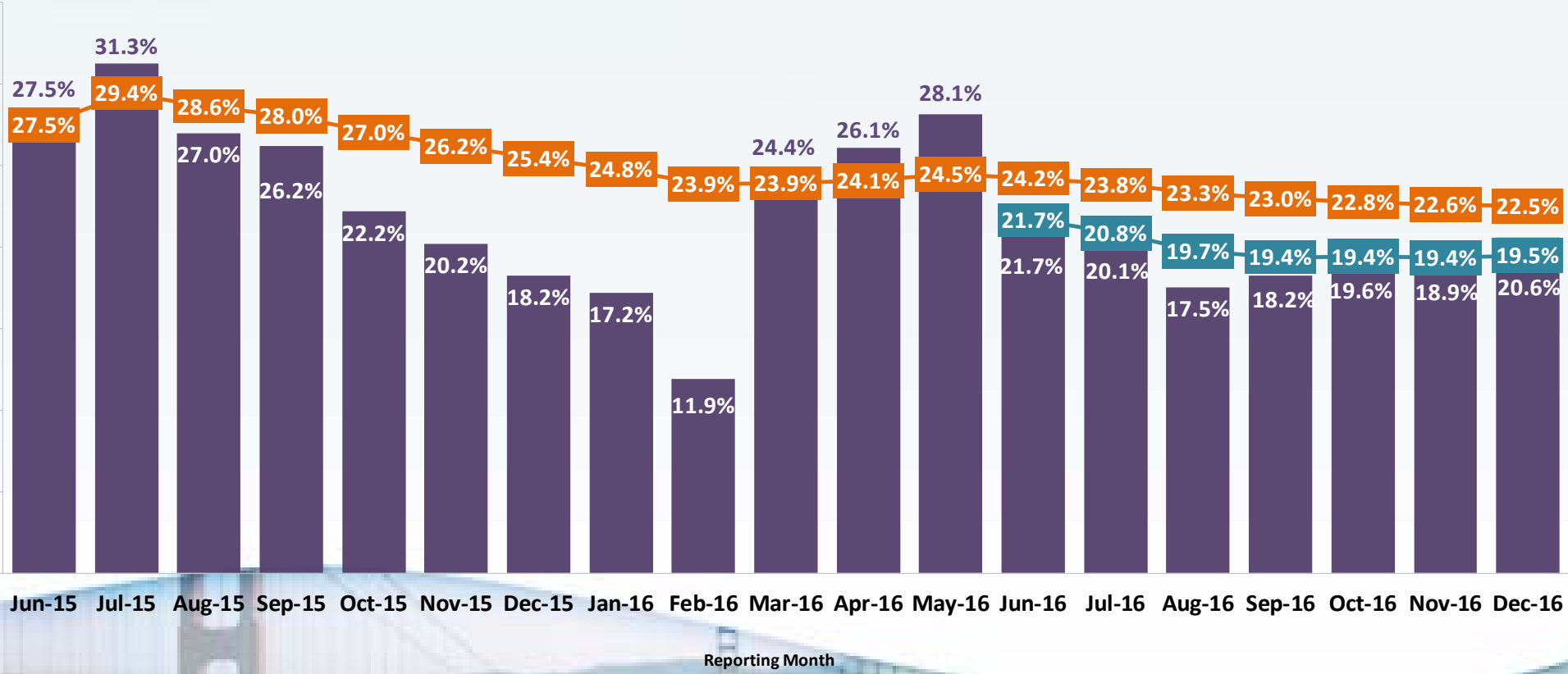
# December 2016 Status of Implementation

- Water production data collected since June 2014
- Urban water conservation requirements since June 2015
- Stress test for setting standards since June 2016
  
- **December 2016 statewide conservation 20.6 percent compared to December 2013 baseline**



# Statewide Water Production Percent Reduction (Compared to 2013)

- Monthly Percent Reduction
- Cumulative Percent Reduction Since June 2015
- Cumulative Percent Reduction Since June 2016



**Average Statewide December 2016 R-GPCD = 64.9**

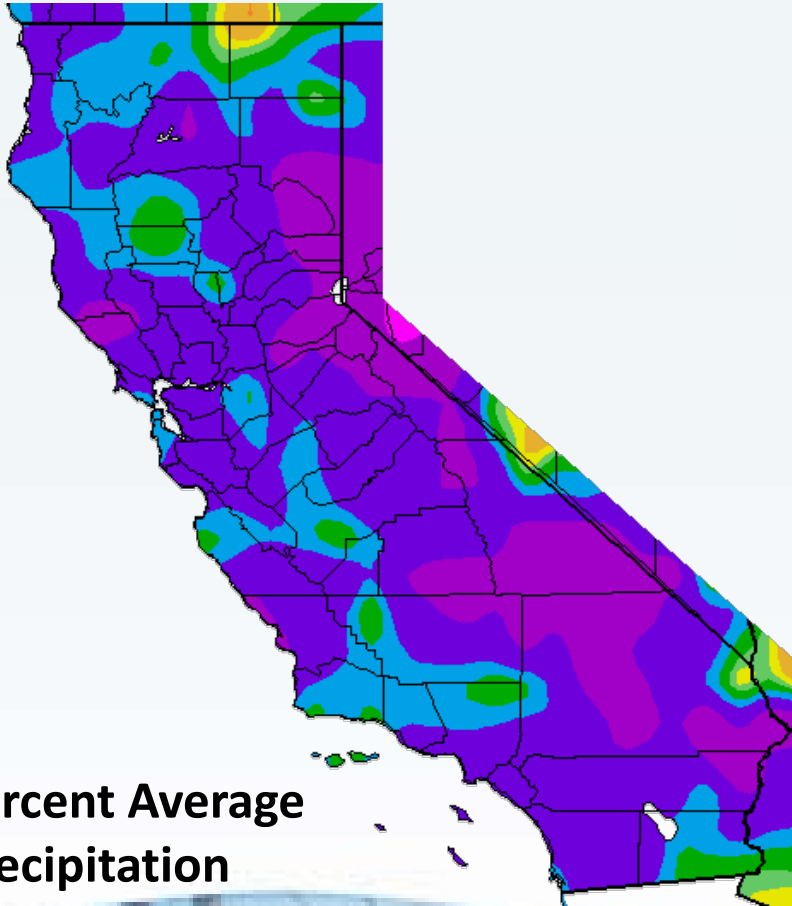
# Statewide Cumulative Savings

(June 2015 – December 2016)

- 22.5 percent since June 2015:  
2,434,323 acre-feet (793 billion gallons)
  - Savings is enough to provide 12.2 million Californians (31% of state population) with water for one year
- *19.5 percent since June 2016:  
825,102 acre feet (269 billion gallons)*



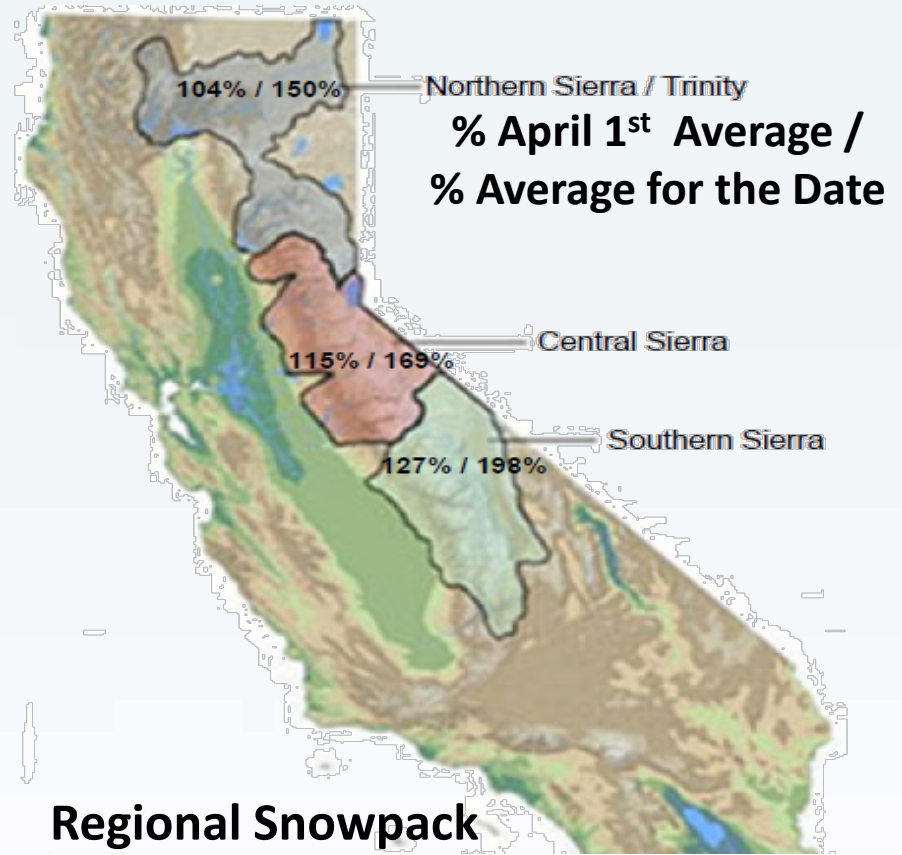
# Current Hydrologic Conditions



**Percent Average  
Precipitation  
Water Year Thus Far:  
10/1/2016 – 2/4/2017**



Generated 2/05/2017 at WRCC using provisional data.  
NOAA Regional Climate Centers



## Regional Snowpack

STATE	
Data as of February 6, 2017	
Number of Stations Reporting	78
Average snow water equivalent (Inches)	34.1
Percent of April 1 Average (%)	116
Percent of normal for this date (%)	173

Data source: [cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecapp/snowapp/sweq.action](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecapp/snowapp/sweq.action)

# California's Hydrology Extremes

- Feast or Famine...

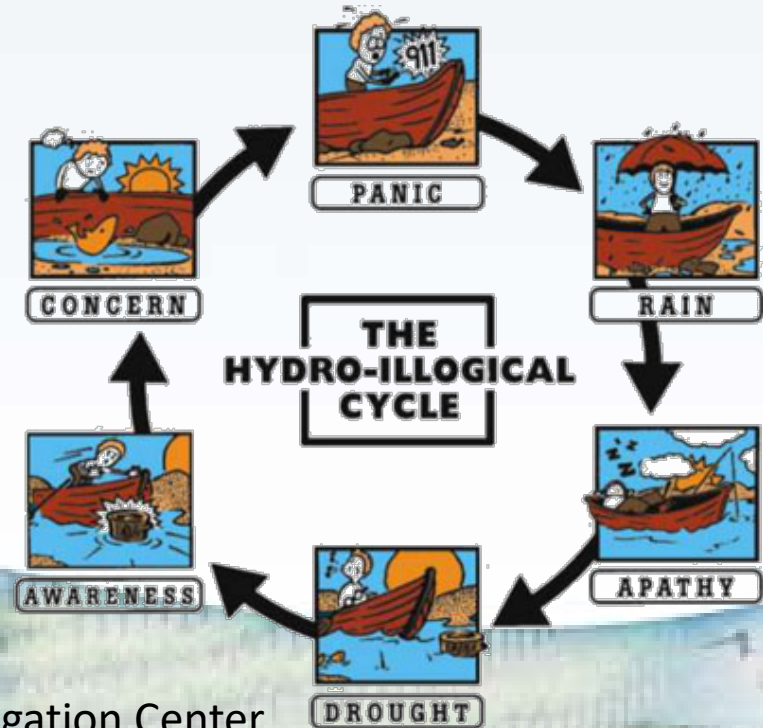


- Hydrologic conditions remain subject to significant change for the water year



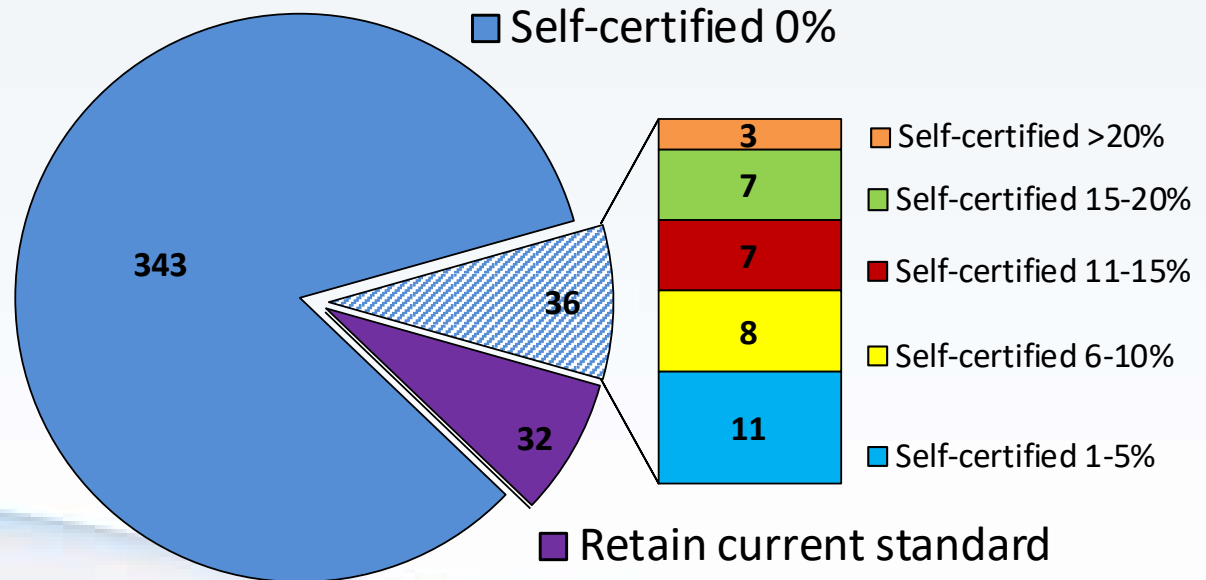
# Background

- Governor's drought proclamation remains in effect
- Governor's Executive Orders B-37-16 establishes long-term conservation goals and improves drought planning
- Breaking the reactive cycle



# May 2016 Emergency Regulation

- Conservation standards based on supply reliability
  - “Stress test” under additional three years of drought
  - Option to maintain state-mandated conservation standard



- Expires in February 2017



# Staff Proposal

## **Readopts the existing regulation with a few minor changes**

- Extends regulation for an additional 270 days, or until drought emergency order is rescinded
- Suppliers may submit or update 'stress test' by March 15, 2017 (optional) – no need to resubmit if stress test was completed in June 2016
- Prohibits cities/counties for imposing fines prohibited by section 8627.7 of the Government Code
- Eliminates small supplier report

## **Other provisions remain the same as the May 2016 regulation**



# Why Extend?

- The proposed regulation is modest in terms of scope
  - Those with a stress test showing zero shortage only have reporting requirements and the ongoing prohibitions on wasteful practices
- Middle of the water year
- Groundwater
- Some areas still affected by drought
- Governor's Drought Proclamation is still in effect



# Comments Received

- Comments range from:
  - Let regulation expire
  - Rescind regulation in areas with adequate supply
  - Rescind regulation, keep monthly reporting
  - Support proposed regulation
- Concerns:
  - Need to maintain public trust, drought emergency is over
  - Impacts to economy
  - Groundwater



# Response to Comments

- The Governor's Emergency Proclamation is still in effect
- Most suppliers already have self-certified with a zero percent conservation standard. The staff proposal continues the existing regulations.
- It is reasonable to continue reporting
- Under 2016 stress-test, most suppliers that self-certified 'zero' still maintained high conservation levels
  - Suppliers were able to message and communicate the need for reasonable, non-wasteful water use
- Groundwater remains depleted in many areas
- Important to be prepared should conditions change or 2016-17 be a reprieve in a longer-term drought



# Timeline for Regulation Readoption

- **May 18, 2016:** Board modifies and extends regulation
- **January 18, 2017:** Public Workshop
- **February 2, 2017:** Staff-proposed draft regulation
- **February 8, 2017:** Board hearing
- **February 27, 2017:** Anticipated effective date



# Post Adoption Timeline

- Office of Administrative Law action in 10 days
  - Regulation becomes effective upon OAL approval
- February 27, 2017: Anticipated effective date
- March 15, 2017: Urban supplier submittals or resubmittals of “stress test” (optional)

