

# Executive Department

State of California

## EXECUTIVE ORDER B-40-17

**WHEREAS** California has endured a severe multi-year drought that has threatened the water supplies of communities and residents, devastated agricultural production in many areas, and harmed fish, animals and their environmental habitats; and

**WHEREAS** Californians responded to the drought by conserving water at unprecedented levels, reducing water use in communities by more than 22% between June 2015 and January 2017; and

**WHEREAS** the State Water Resources Control Board, the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Office of Emergency Services, and many other state agencies worked cooperatively to manage and mitigate the effects of the drought on our communities, businesses, and the environment; and

**WHEREAS** the State provided 66,344,584 gallons of water to fill water tanks for communities suffering through drought-related water shortages, outages, or contamination, and provided emergency assistance to drill wells and connect communities to more robust water systems; and

**WHEREAS** the State took a number of important actions to preserve and protect fish and wildlife resources, including stream and species population monitoring, fish rescues and relocations, infrastructure improvements at trout and salmon hatcheries, and infrastructure to provide critical habitat for waterfowl and terrestrial animals; and

**WHEREAS** the State established a Statewide Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program for agricultural operations that provides financial assistance for the implementation of irrigation systems that save water; and

**WHEREAS** water content in California's mountain snowpack is 164 percent of the season average; and

**WHEREAS** Lake Oroville, the State Water Project's principal reservoir, is 101 percent of average, Lake Shasta, the federal Central Valley Project's largest reservoir, is at 110 percent of average, and the great majority of California's other major reservoirs are above normal storage levels; and

**WHEREAS** despite winter precipitation, the effects of the drought persist in areas of the Central Valley, including groundwater depletion and subsidence; and

**WHEREAS** our changing climate requires California to continue to adopt and adhere to permanent changes to use water more wisely and to prepare for more frequent and persistent periods of limited water supply; and

**WHEREAS** increasing long-term water conservation among Californians, improving water use efficiency within the State's communities and agricultural production, and strengthening local and regional drought planning are critical to California's resilience to drought and climate change.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDMUND G. BROWN JR.,** Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby **TERMINATE THE JANUARY 17, 2014 DROUGHT STATE OF EMERGENCY** for all counties in California except the Counties of Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Tuolumne.

**I FURTHER ORDER THAT:**

1. The orders and provisions contained in my April 25, 2014 Emergency Proclamation, as well as Executive Orders B-26-14, B-28-14, B-29-15, and B-36-15 are rescinded.
2. The orders and provisions contained in Executive Order B-37-16, **Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life**, remain in full force and effect except as modified by this Executive Order.
3. As required by the State Emergency Plan and Government Code section 8607(f), the Office of Emergency Services, in coordination with other state agencies, shall produce an after-action report detailing the State's response to the drought and any lessons learned in carrying out that response.

**MAINTAINING CONSERVATION AS A WAY OF LIFE**

4. The State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) shall continue development of permanent prohibitions on wasteful water use and requirements for reporting water use by urban water agencies, and to provide a bridge to those permanent requirements, shall maintain the existing emergency regulations until they expire as provided by the Water Code. Permanent restrictions shall prohibit wasteful practices such as:
  - Hosing off sidewalks, driveways and other hardscapes;
  - Washing automobiles with hoses not equipped with a shut-off nozzle;
  - Using non-recirculated water in a fountain or other decorative water feature;
  - Watering lawns in a manner that causes runoff, or within 48 hours after measurable precipitation; and
  - Irrigating ornamental turf on public street medians.
5. The Water Board shall rescind those portions of its existing emergency regulations that require a water supply stress test or mandatory conservation standard for urban water agencies.

6. The Department of Water Resources (Department) shall continue work with the Water Board to develop standards that urban water suppliers will use to set new urban water use efficiency targets as directed by Executive Order B-37-16. Upon enactment of legislation, the Water Board shall adopt urban water use efficiency standards that include indoor use, outdoor use, and leaks as well as performance measures for commercial, industrial, and institutional water use. The Department shall provide technical assistance and urban landscape area data to urban water suppliers for determining efficient outdoor use.
7. The Water Board and the Department shall continue to direct actions to minimize water system leaks that waste large amounts of water. The Water Board, after funding projects to address health and safety, shall use loans from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to prioritize local projects that reduce leaks and other water system losses.
8. The Water Board and the Department shall continue to take actions to direct urban and agricultural water suppliers to accelerate their data collection, improve water system management, and prioritize capital projects to reduce water waste. The California Public Utilities Commission is requested to work with investor-owned water utilities to accelerate work to minimize leaks.
9. The Water Board is further directed to work with state agencies and water suppliers to identify mechanisms that would encourage and facilitate the adoption of rate structures and other pricing mechanisms that promote water conservation.
10. All state agencies shall continue response activities that may be needed to manage the lingering drought impacts to people and wildlife. State agencies shall increase efforts at building drought resiliency for the future, including evaluating lessons learned from this current drought, completing efforts to modernize our infrastructure for drought and water supply reliability, and shall take actions to improve monitoring of native fish and wildlife populations using innovative science and technology.

#### **CONTINUED DROUGHT RESPONSE IN FRESNO, KINGS, TULARE, AND TUOLUMNE COUNTIES**

11. The Water Board will continue to prioritize new and amended safe drinking water permits that enhance water supply and reliability for community water systems facing water shortages or that expand service connections to include existing residences facing water shortages.
12. The Department and the Water Board will accelerate funding for local water supply enhancement projects and will continue to explore if any existing unspent funds can be repurposed to enable near-term water conservation projects.
13. The Water Board will continue to work with local agencies to identify communities that may run out of drinking water, and will provide technical and financial assistance to help these communities address drinking water

shortages. It will also identify emergency interconnections that exist among the State's public water systems that can help these threatened communities. The Department, the Water Board, the Office of Emergency Services, and the Office of Planning and Research will work with local agencies in implementing solutions to those water shortages.

14. For actions taken in the Counties of Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Tuolumne pursuant to directives 11–13, the provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code applicable to state contracts, including, but not limited to, advertising and competitive bidding requirements, as well as Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) of the Public Resources Code and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division, are hereby suspended. These suspensions apply to any actions taken by state agencies, and for actions taken by local agencies where the state agency with primary responsibility for implementing the directive concurs that local action is required, as well as for any necessary permits or approvals required to complete these actions.
15. California Disaster Assistance Act Funding is authorized until June 30, 2017 to provide emergency water to individuals and households who are currently enrolled in the emergency water tank program.
16. State departments shall commence all drought remediation projects in Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Tuolumne Counties within one year of the date of this Executive Order.

This Executive Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

**I FURTHER DIRECT** that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 7th day of April 2017.

  
EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

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ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State

