State of California Office of Administrative Law

State Water Resources Control Board

Regulatory Action:

Title 23, California Code of Regulations

Adopt sections:

875, 878.3 **Amend sections: 878.1, 879**

Repeal sections:

NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY REGULATORY ACTION

Government Code Sections 11346.1 and 11349.6

OAL File No. 2014-0708-02 E

The State Water Resources Control Board (Board) submitted this emergency action to adopt two sections and amend two sections under an article in title 23 of the California Code of Regulations that pertains to curtailment of water diversions based on insufficient flow to meet all needs. The state's current system for curtailing water diversions and enforcing those curtailments will not provide for timely and effective implementation of the state's system of senior water rights during the current drought when numerous water diversions require curtailment and enforcement in a short period of time. The proposed regulations will set drought emergency curtailment method and reporting requirements necessary to ensure the orderly curtailment of water rights to protect senior water rights. The proposed regulations also clarify the information the Board will rely on in issuing initial curtailments, make the curtailment a system of enforceable orders, thereby increasing its effectiveness, and clarify the procedures for contesting and making exceptions to curtailment orders.

OAL approves this emergency regulatory action pursuant to sections 11346.1 and 11349.6 of the Government Code.

This emergency regulatory action is effective on 7/16/2014 and will expire on 4/14/2015. The Certificate of Compliance for this action is due no later than 4/13/2015.

Date: 7/16/2014

Senior Attorney

For:

DEBRA M. CORNEZ

Director

Original: Thomas Howard Copy: David Rose

NUMBERS Z.	REGULATORY	REGULATORY ACTION NUMBER EMERGENCY NUMBER		DE ENDORSED FILED
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NOTICE			REGULATIONS	
AGENCY WITH RULEMAKING AUTHORITY State Water Resources Control Board				AGENCY FILE NUMBER (IFany) 2014 - 0031
. PUBLICATION OF NOTIC	CE (Complete for p	ublication in Notice I	Register)	
SUBJECT OF NOTICE Curtailmen Due to Insufficient Flow for	Senior Water Rights	Fig. Sect. Contract to the Section Sec	FIRST SECTION AFFECTED 875	2. REQUESTED PUBLICATION DATE
NOTICE TYPE Notice re Proposed Regulatory Action Othe		CONTACT PERSON SE	(916) 341-5196	FAX NUMBER (Optional) (916) 341-5400
OAL USE ACTION ON PROPOSED APPROVED APP	O NOTICE Approved as Modified	Disapproved/ Withdrawn	NOTICE REGISTER NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE
3. SUBMISSION OF REGUL	ATIONS (Complete		julations)	1.00
a.SUBJECTOFREGULATION(S) Statewide Drought Related Protect Senior Water Righ		nter Diversions to	1b. ALL PREVIOUS REL	ATED OAL REGULATORY ACTION NUMBER(S)
SPECIFY CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS	S TITLE(S) AND SECTION(S) (Includ	ing title 26, if toxics related)		
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NOTICE PUBLICATION/REGULATIONS SUBMISSION

STD. 400 (REV. 01-2013) (REVERSE)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE AND SUBMISSION OF REGULATIONS

Use the form STD. 400 for submitting notices for publication and regulations for Office of Administrative Law (OAL) review.

ALL FILINGS

Enter the name of the agency with the rulemaking authority and agency's file number, if any.

NOTICES

Complete Part A when submitting a notice to OAL for publication in the California Regulatory Notice Register. Submit two (2) copies of the STD. 400 with four (4) copies of the notice and, if a notice of proposed regulatory action, one copy each of the complete text of the regulations and the statement of reasons. Upon receipt of the notice, OAL will place a number in the box marked "Notice File Number." If the notice is approved, OAL will return the STD. 400 with a copy of the notice and will check "Approved as Submitted" or "Approved as Modified." If the notice is disapproved or withdrawn, that will also be indicated in the space marked "Action on Proposed Notice." Please submit a new form STD. 400 when resubmitting the notice.

REGULATIONS

When submitting regulations to OAL for review, fill out STD. 400, Part B. Use the form that was previously submitted with the notice of proposed regulatory action which contains the "Notice File Number" assigned, or, if a new STD. 400 is used, please include the previously assigned number in the box marked "Notice File Number." In filling out Part B, be sure to complete the certification including the date signed, the title and typed name of the signatory. The following must be submitted when filing regulations: seven (7) copies of the regulations with a copy of the STD. 400 attached to the front of each (one copy must bear an original signature on the certification) and the complete rulemaking file with index and sworn statement. (See Gov. Code § 11347.3 for rulemaking file contents.)

RESUBMITTAL OF DISAPPROVED OR WITHDRAWN REGULATIONS

When resubmitting previously disapproved or withdrawn regulations to OAL for review, use a new STD, 400 and fill out Part B, including the signed certification. Enter the OAL file number(s) of all previously disapproved or withdrawn filings in the box marked "All Previous Related OAL Regulatory Action Number(s)" (box lb. of Part B). Submit seven (7) copies of the regulation to OAL with a copy of the STD, 400 attached to the front of each (one copy must bear an original signature on the certification). Be sure to include an index, sworn statement, and (if returned to the agency) the complete rulemaking file. (See Gov. Code §§ 11349.4 and 11347.3 for more specific requirements.)

EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

Fill out only Part B, including the signed certification, and submit seven (7) copies of the regulations with a copy of the STD. 400 attached to the front of each (one copy must bear an original signature on the certification). (See Gov. Code §11346.1 for other requirements.)

NOTICE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY ACTION

When submitting a notice of proposed regulatory action after an emergency filing, use a new STD. 400 and complete Part A and insert the OAL file number(s) for the original emergency filing(s) in the box marked "All Previous Related OAL Regulatory Action Number(s)" (box 1b. of Part B). OAL will return the STD, 400 with the notice upon approval or disapproval. If the notice is disapproved, please fill out a new form when resubmitting for publication.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

When filing the certificate of compliance for emergency regulations, fill out Part B, including the signed certification, on the form that was previously submitted with the notice. If a new STD. 400 is used, fill in Part B including the signed certification, and enter the previously assigned notice file number in the box marked "Notice File Number" at the top of the form. The materials indicated in these instructions for "REGULATIONS" must also be submitted.

EMERGENCY REGULATIONS - READOPTION

When submitting previously approved emergency regulations for readoption, use a new STD. 400 and fill out Part B, including the signed certification, and insert the OAL file number(s) related to the original emergency filing in the box marked "All Previous Related OAL Regulatory Action Number (s)" (box 1b. of Part B).

CHANGES WITHOUT REGULATORY EFFECT

When submitting changes without regulatory effect pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 1, section 100, complete Part B, including marking the appropriate box in both B.3. and B.5.

ABBREVIATIONS

Cal. Code Regs. - California Code of Regulations
Gov. Code - Government Code
SAM - State Administrative Manual

For questions regarding this form or the procedure for filing notices or submitting regulations to OAL for review, please contact the Office of Administrative Law Reference Attorney at (916) 323-6815.

In Title 23, Division 3, Chapter 2, Article 24, add Sections 875 and 878.3, and amend Sections 878.1 and 879 to read:

§ 875 Curtailments Due to Lack of Water Availability

- (a) California is in a state of extreme drought, and the Governor has issued a proclamation of a state of emergency based on these drought conditions.
 - <u>Under such drought circumstances, Water Code section 1058.5 provides for the State Water</u>

 <u>Resources Control Board to adopt emergency regulations to provide for curtailments in order</u>

 of water right priority when water is not available under the diverter's priority of right.
- (b) After the effective date of this regulation, when flows are sufficient to support some but not all diversions, the Deputy Director for the Division of Water Rights, or her designee, may issue curtailment orders to post-1914 appropriative water right holders in order of water right priority, requiring the curtailment of water diversion and use except as provided in sections 878 and 878.3.
- (c) In determining whether water is available under a diverter's priority of right and to issue or suspend curtailment orders, the Deputy Director for the Division of Water Rights, or her designee, may rely upon:
 - (1) Relevant available information regarding date of priority, including claims of first use in statements of water diversion and use and other information contained in the Division of Water Rights files. Absent evidence to the contrary, riparian water rights are presumed senior to appropriative water rights with regard to natural flow for purposes of curtailments pursuant to this section.
 - (2) Water right demand projections based on recent reports of water use for permits and licenses, 2010 or later, statements of water diversion and use, or reports submitted by watermasters.
 - (3) Water availability projections based on:
 - <u>i.</u> <u>Projected full natural flow data supplied by the Department of Water Resources, where available;</u>
 - <u>ii.</u> <u>Projections from the National Weather Service's River Forecasts website, where</u> available;
 - iii. Stream gage data, where available; or
 - iv. Other data that the Deputy Director for the Division of Water Rights determines is appropriate, given data availability and reliability and staff resources.
 - (4) To the extent that it is available and staff resources permit, the Deputy Director for the Division of Water Rights may also consider additional pertinent and reliable information when determining water right priorities, water availability and demand projections, and whether curtailment orders should be suspended.

Any order issued pursuant to this section shall be accompanied by the Deputy Director's determination of: (i) the quantity of water supply available by priority or type of right; (ii) the total water right demand, including the known quantity and basis of right; and (iii) the State Water Board's assumptions pertaining to the diverter's right. When issuing curtailment orders to senior water right holders, the Deputy Director shall include information regarding the quantity of water that should be made available by the prior curtailment of more junior water rights.

- (d) Curtailment orders will initially be mailed to each water right holder or the agent of record on file with the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights. The Deputy Director shall provide notice by lyris or the State Water Board's drought webpage at least five (5) working days prior to issuance of curtailment orders. The water right holder or agent of record is responsible for immediately providing notice of the orders to all diverters and/or water users exercising the water right.
- (e) Within seven (7) days of the effective date of this regulation, the State Water Resources

 Control Board will establish an email distribution list that water right holders should join to receive drought notices and updates regarding curtailments. Notice provided by email or by posting on the State Water Resources Control Board's drought web page shall be sufficient for all purposes related to drought notices and updates regarding curtailments.
- (f) All curtailment orders issued under this article shall be subject to reconsideration under article 2 (commencing with section 1122) of chapter 4 of part 1 of division 2 of the California Water Code.

Authority: Sections 1058 and 1058.5, Water Code.

Reference: Sections 174, 1050, 1051, 1051.5, 1052, 1058.5, 1122, 1123 and 1825, Water Code.

§ 878.1 Minimum Health and Safety Needs

- (a) This section shall not apply to curtailments issued under section 875 of this article.
- (ab) A diversion that would otherwise be subject to curtailment may be authorized if:
 - (1) The diversion is necessary for minimum health and safety needs; and therefore
 - (2) The diversion is necessary to further the constitutional policy that the water resources of the state be put to beneficial use to the full extent they are capable, and that waste and unreasonable use be prevented, notwithstanding the effect of the diversions on more senior water rights or instream beneficial
- (bc) Given the essential nature of water in sustaining human life, use even under a more senior right for any other purpose when domestic and municipal supplies required for minimum health and safety needs cannot be met is a waste and unreasonable use under the California

Constitution, Article X, § 2.

- (1) Diversions for domestic and municipal use under any valid basis of right, of less than 50 gallons per person, per day, and not exceeding 10 acre-feet per year of storage or 4,500 gallons per day of direct diversion, may continue after issuance of a curtailment order without further approval from the Deputy Director, subject to the conditions set forth in this section. Any diverter wishing to continue diversion under this subdivision must submit to the Deputy Director certification, under penalty of perjury, of compliance with the requirements of subdivisions (\(\frac{bc}{C}\))(1)(A)-(G), below. The Deputy Director may request additional information or set additional requirements on continued diversion.
 - (A) Not more than 50 gallons per person per day will be diverted under all bases of right;
- (B) The diversion is necessary to achieve the minimum amount of water necessary for health and safety, up to 50 gallons per person per day, after all other alternate sources of potable water have been used. To the extent other potable water is available, those sources will be used first and the total used will not exceed 50 gallons per person, per day;
- (C) The diverter or all end users are operating under the strictest existing conservation regime for that place of use, if such a plan exists for the area or service provider, or shall be operating under such regime within 30 days. If additional approvals are required before implementation of the conservation regime, the diverter must certify that all possible steps will be taken immediately to ensure prompt approval;
- (D) No potable water will be used for outdoor landscaping while this approval is in effect. Water service providers must implement this provision as rapidly as possible, up to a limit of 15 days. If additional approvals are required before implementation of the conservation regime, the diverter must certify that all possible steps will be taken to ensure prompt approval;
- (E) If the diverter has the authority to set rates, that such rates are set to encourage conservation, or that changing the rates to encourage conservation shall be considered at the next opportunity, but no later than 30 days from certification. If additional approvals are required before implementation of such a rate structure, the diverter must certify that all possible steps will be taken to ensure prompt approval. If the diverter does not implement rates to encourage conservation, it must submit to the Deputy Director with the next required reporting an explanation of why such rate setting is inappropriate despite the current drought;
 - (F) If the diverter is a public water supplier under Water Code section 350

et seq., that it has declared a water shortage emergency condition and adopted regulations and restrictions on the delivery of water or has noticed a meeting for adoption within the next 10 days, and shall adopt conservation and water delivery restrictions and regulations within the next 30 days. To the extent regulations and restrictions require additional approval, the diverter must certify that all possible steps will be taken to ensure prompt approval.

- (G) The diverter has either pursued steps to acquire other sources of water, but has not yet been completely successful, as described in an attached report, or the diverter will pursue the steps in an attached plan to identify and secure additional water.
- (2) To the extent that a diversion for domestic or municipal use requires more than 50 gallons per person, per day to meet minimum health and safety needs, or for up to 50 gallons per person, per day exceeding 10 acre-feet of storage or a total of 4,500 gallons per day, the continuing diversion of water after issuance of a curtailment notice for the diversion requires submission of a petition and approval by the Deputy Director. The Deputy Director may condition the approval on implementation of additional conservation measures and reporting requirements. Any petition to continue diversion to meet minimum health and safety needs of more than 50 gallons per person, per day, or for up to 50 gallons per person, per day exceeding 10 acre-feet of storage or a total of 4,500 gallons per day, must:
 - (A) Describe the specific circumstances that make the requested diversion amount necessary to meet minimum health and safety needs, if a larger amount is sought.
 - (B) Certify compliance and provide documentation of the actions described in subdivision (bc)(1)(C) (bc)(1)(G).
 - (C) Describe any other additional steps the diverter will take to reduce diversions and consumption.
 - (D) Provide the timeframe in which the diverter expects to reduce usage to no more than 50 gallons per person, per day, or why minimum health and safety needs will continue to require more water.
- (ed) All other diversions for minimum health and safety needs, except for an imminent threat to life, require approval from the Deputy Director. The Deputy Director may approve a petition under this subdivision or subdivision (bc)(2) upon a finding that the diversion is in furtherance of the constitutional policy that the water resources of the state be put to beneficial use to the full extent they are capable, and that waste and unreasonable use be prevented, notwithstanding the effect of the diversion on senior water rights or instream beneficial uses, and may condition approval as appropriate to ensure that the diversion and use are reasonable and in the public interest.

- (de) "Minimum health and safety needs," as used in this article, means the amount of water necessary for prevention of adverse impacts to human health and safety, for which there is no reasonable alternate supply. "Minimum health and safety needs" include:
 - (1) Domestic and municipal supplies as described in subdivision (bc).
 - (2) Water supplies necessary for energy sources that are critical to basic grid reliability, as identified by the California Independent System Operator, California Public Utilities Commission, California Energy Commission, or a similar energy grid reliability authority, and as authorized by the Deputy Director.
 - (3) Water supplies identified by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or another appropriate authority, as regionally necessary for fire preparedness, and as approved by the Deputy Director.
 - (4) Water supplies identified by the California Air Resources Board, a local air quality management district, or other appropriate public agency with air quality expertise, as regionally necessary to address critical air quality impacts in order to protect public health, and as authorized by the Deputy Director.
- (5) Water supplies necessary to address immediate public health or safety threats, as determined by a public agency with health or safety expertise, subject to approval of the Deputy Director. Such a petition should include a description of the public health need, a description of why the need is immediate, an estimate of the amount of water needed, and a certification that the supply will be used only for the stated need. If necessary to resolve immediate public health or safety threats, the diversion may continue while the petition is being prepared and is pending. The Deputy Director may require additional information to support the initial petition, as well as information on how long the diversion is expected to continue, and a description of other steps taken or planned to obtain alternative supplies.
 - (6) Other water needs not identified, which a state, local, tribal or federal health, environmental or safety agency has determined are critical to public health and safety, or to the basic infrastructure of the state, subject to Deputy Director approval. Petitioners wishing to continue diversions for these uses must identify the health and safety need, include approval from the appropriate public entity, describe why the amount requested is critical for the need and cannot be met through alternate supplies, state how long the diversion is expected to continue, certify that the supply will be used only for the stated need, and describe steps taken and planned to obtain alternative supplies.
- (ef) Notice of certification, petitions and decisions under this section and section 878 will be posted as soon as practicable on the State Board's drought webpage. The Deputy Director may issue a decision under this article prior to providing notice. Any interested person may file an objection to the certification, petition or decision. The objection shall indicate the

manner of service upon the certifier or petitioner. The State Board will consider any objection, and may hold a hearing thereon, after notice to all interested persons.

Authority: Sections 1058 and 1058.5, Water Code.

Reference: Cal. Const., Art. X § 2; Sections 100, 100.5, 104, 105, 106.3, 275 and 1058.5, Water Code; Environmental Defense Fund v. East Bay Muni. Util. Dist. (1980) 26 Cal.3d 183.

§ 878.3 Alternative Water Sharing Agreements

Water users may propose regional alternatives to curtailment that achieve the purposes of the curtailment process described under section 875. Petitions to implement alternative water sharing agreements to coordinate diversions or otherwise share water in place of State Water Resources Control Board-issued curtailment orders under this article may be submitted to the Executive Director at any time. Petitioners must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Executive Director that any agreement under this section will not injure legal users of water not signatory to the agreement and that the agreement does not impose an unreasonable impact on fish and wildlife. The Executive Director may approve a petition, subject to conditions appropriate to ensure that the standard of approval are met, including reporting requirements. Diversions covered by an approved agreement pursuant to this section are subject to this article and violations of such approved agreement shall be subject to enforcement as a violation of this article or as an unauthorized diversion or use.

Notice of petitions and decisions under this section will be posted as soon as practicable on the State Water Resources Control Board's drought webpage. The Executive Director may issue a decision under this article prior to providing notice. Any interested person may file an objection to the petition or decision. The objection shall indicate the manner of service upon the parties that petitioned for approval of the regional alternative. The State Water Resources Control Board will consider any objection, and may hold a hearing thereon, after notice to all interested persons.

Authority: Sections 1058 and 1058.5, Water Code.

Reference: Sections 109, 1011, 1011.5 and 1051.5, Water Code; City of Barstow v. Mojave Water Agency (2000) 23 Cal.4th 1224.

§ 879. Reporting

- (a) All water users or water right holders issued a curtailment order under this article are required within five days to submit under penalty of perjury a certification of the following actions taken in response to the curtailment order, certifying, as applicable, that:
 - (1) Diversion under the water right identified has been curtailed;
 - (2) Continued use is under other water rights not subject to curtailment, specifically identifying those other rights, including the basis of right and quantity of diversion;
 - (3) Diversions continue only to the extent that they are direct diversions for hydropower;

- (4) A petition has been filed as authorized under section 878.1, that the diversion will be authorized if the petition is approved, that the subject water right authorizes the diversion in the absence of a curtailment order, and that diversion and use will comply with the conditions for approval of the petition, except that approval by other authorities may still be pending;
- (5) A certification has been filed as authorized under section 878, subdivision (b) or section 878.1, subdivision (bc)(1), that the subject water right authorizes the diversion in the absence of a curtailment order; or
- (6) The only continued water use is for instream purposes.
- (b) All water users or water right holders whose continued diversion out of order of water right seniority are authorized under section 878.1 are required to submit, under penalty of perjury, monthly reports during the effective period of the curtailment order. In addition to any reporting required as a condition of certification or of approving a petition, such reports should describe:
 - (1) how the diverter complies with any conditions of continued diversion, including the conditions of certification under section 878.1, subdivision (bc)(1);
 - (2) any failures to comply with conditions, including the conditions of certification under section 878.1, subdivision (bc)(1), and steps taken to prevent further violations;
 - (3) conservation and efficiency efforts planned, in the process of implementation, and implemented, as well as any information on the effectiveness of implementation;
 - (4) efforts to obtain alternate water sources;
 - (5) if the diversion is authorized under section 878.1, subdivision (bc):
 - (i) progress towards implementing the measures described in section 878.1, subdivision (\(\frac{\text{bc}}{\cdot}\))(C)-(F), to the extent that implementation was incomplete at the time of certification or petition under section 878.1, subdivision (\(\frac{\text{bc}}{\cdot}\)) or the most recent report under this subdivision;
 - (ii) progress under any plan described in section 878.1, subdivision ($\frac{b_c}{(1)}$ (G) or

(bc)(2)(C); and

- (6) if the diversion is authorized under section 878.1, subdivision (de)(3):
 - (i) the rate of diversion if it is still ongoing;
 - (ii) whether the water has been used for any other purpose;
 - (iii) the date diversion ceased, if applicable.
- (c) Upon receipt of a complaint alleging interference with a water right by a riparian or pre-1914 appropriative water right holder or upon receipt of information that indicates unlawful diversions of stored water by riparians or pre-1914 appropriative water right holders, the Deputy Director may issue an order under this article requiring such water right holders to provide additional information regarding the property patent date, the date of initial appropriation, and diversions made or anticipated during the current drought year. Any water right holder receiving an order under this subdivision shall provide the requested information within five (5) days.

Authority: Sections 1058 and 1058.5, Water Code.

Reference: Sections 100, 186, 187, 275, 348, 1051 and 1058.5, Water Code.