

# **Proposal for Expanded Emergency Regulations to Increase Urban Water Conservation**

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# Background

- Current emergency regulation set to expire April 25
- December 2014 workshop
- February 17 staff presentation on options for expanded emergency regulation



# Current Drought Conditions

- Fourth year of severe drought
- Sierra snowpack at lowest level in recorded history, <20% of historical average
- Driest January on record
- Reservoirs remain low
- Many communities at risk of running out of water



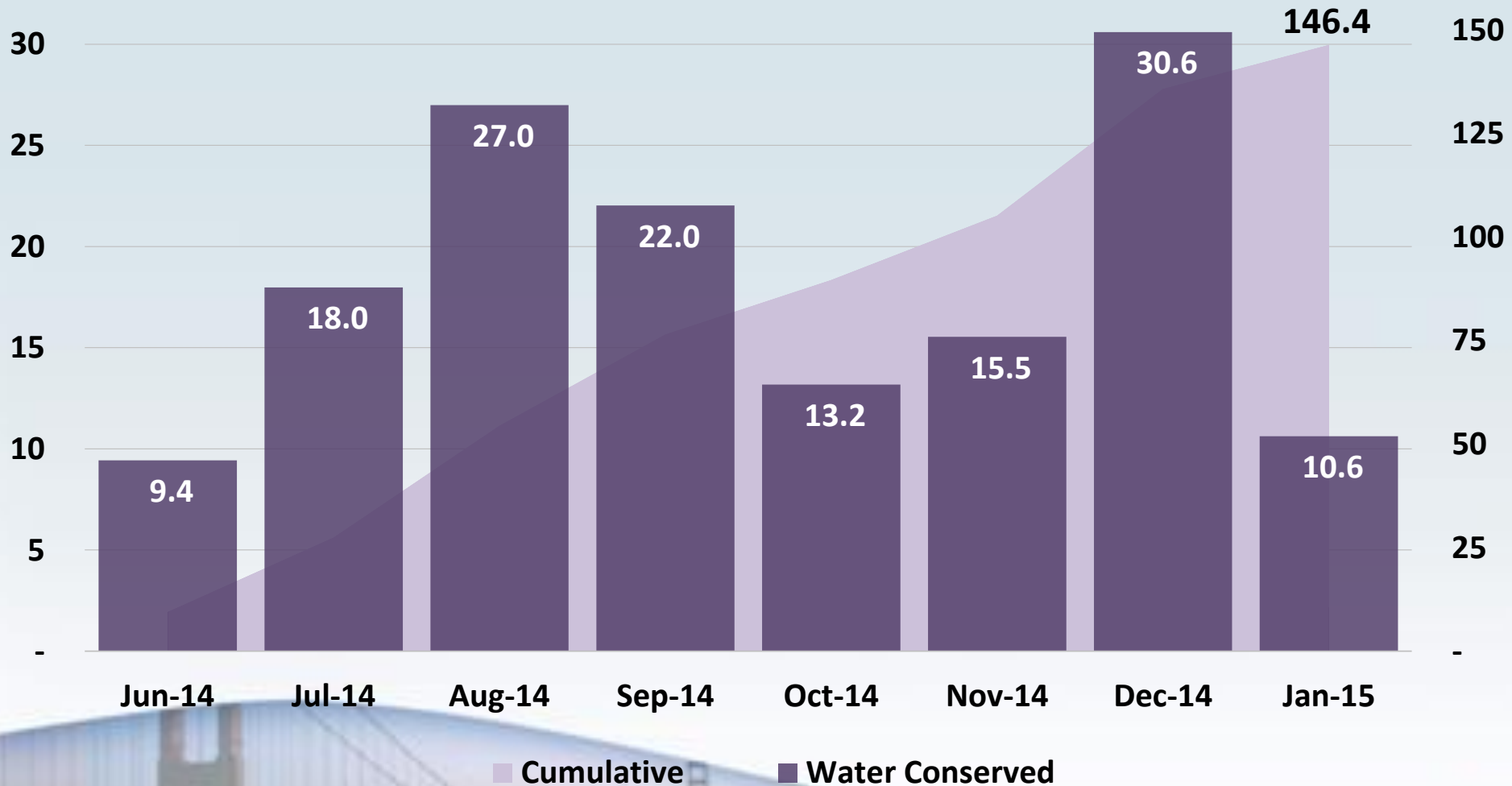
# Statewide Drought Response

- Save Our Water campaign:  
[www.saveourwater.com](http://www.saveourwater.com)
- Emergency Assistance to vulnerable communities
- 2014 Water Bond (Proposition 1)
- Water Rights Curtailment Actions
- Management of State and Federal water projects



# Statewide Water Conservation Results

## Water Conserved June-December (Billion Gallons)



**Over 449,158 Acre-Feet Saved June 2014 – January 2015,  
enough to provide 1.96 million Californians with water for 1 year**

# Classification of Water Suppliers

- > 3000 connections: 411 urban water retail suppliers
- < 3000 connections: 2674 water systems
  
- 16% of Californians are served by investor-owned water utilities regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission



# Proposed Expanded Emergency Regulations

## Maintain Existing Temporary Prohibitions and Add New Prohibition:

- Application of water to hard surfaces for washing
- Watering of outdoor landscapes that cause runoff
- Using a hose without a shut-off nozzle to wash a car
- Using potable water in a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is recirculated.
- Irrigation of turf or ornamental landscapes during and 48 hours following measurable precipitation.

**Health, safety and permit exceptions apply**



# Proposed Expanded Emergency Regulations

## Requirements for Food Service and Hospitality Sectors

- Restaurants and food service establishments to only serve water on request.
- Hotels and motels to provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily.





# Proposed Expanded Emergency Regulations

## New Requirements for Urban Water Suppliers

- Limit days per week outdoor irrigation is permitted
  - Use requirement in Water Shortage Contingency Plan, or
  - Limit outdoor irrigation to a maximum of two days per week
  - Exemption for Water Suppliers with approved allocation-based rate structures
- Promptly notify their customers when they are aware of leaks that are within the customer's control.



# Proposed Expanded Emergency Regulations

## Reporting Requirements

- Urban water suppliers to report on the number of days and duration outdoor irrigation is allowed
- Urban water suppliers to report on compliance and enforcement efforts being undertaken

## Small Suppliers

- Limit outdoor irrigation to no more than two days per week or implement other mandatory conservation measures intended to achieve a 20 percent reduction in water consumption.



# Enforcement and Compliance

## Maintain Existing Enforcement Authorities

- Local governments can issue fines of up to \$500/day for violations of the regulation
- State Water Board can compel compliance from water suppliers through fines or Cease and Desist Orders
- Statewide water waste reporting methods under development



# Comments Received

- Standard for customer leak notification
- Definition of measurable rainfall
- Impacts to golf courses
- Time and method for modifying water shortage contingency plans
- Use of weather-based irrigation controllers



# Implementation Considerations

- Time for water suppliers to adopt new restrictions on outdoor irrigation
- CPUC action for investor-owned water utilities
- Outreach and messaging
- Potential need for additional emergency regulation



# Next Steps

- Office of Administrative Law action in 10 days
  - Regulation becomes effective upon OAL approval
- Evaluate Permanent Conservation Regulations
- Compliance Activities

