

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2015-0013**

**TO ADOPT AN EMERGENCY REGULATIONS FOR
STATEWIDE URBAN WATER CONSERVATION**

WHEREAS:

1. On April 25, 2014, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. issued an executive order (April 2014 Proclamation) to strengthen the State's ability to manage water and habitat effectively in drought conditions, and called on all Californians to redouble their efforts to conserve water. The April 2014 Proclamation finds that the continuous severe drought conditions present urgent challenges across the State, including water shortages in communities and for agricultural production, increased wildfires, degraded habitat for fish and wildlife, threat of saltwater contamination, and additional water scarcity, if drought conditions continue into 2015. The April 2014 Proclamation also suspends the environmental review required by the California Environmental Quality Act to allow the emergency regulation and other actions to take place as quickly as possible;
2. The April 2014 Proclamation refers to the [Governor's Proclamation No. 1-17-2014](#), issued on January 17, 2014, declaring a drought State of Emergency to exist in California due to severe drought conditions (January 2014 Proclamation). The January 2014 Proclamation finds that dry conditions and lack of precipitation present urgent problems to drinking water supplies and cultivation of crops, which put farmers' long-term investments at risk. The conditions also threaten the survival of animals and plants that rely on California's rivers, including many species in danger of extinction. The January 2014 Proclamation also calls on all Californians to reduce their water usage by 20 percent;
3. On December 22, 2014, in light of the continued lack of rain, Governor Brown issued [Executive Order B-28-14](#), which extends the California Environmental Quality Act suspension through May 31, 2016 for Water Code section 13247 and certain activities identified in the January 2014 and April 2014 proclamations;
4. Drought conditions are continuing. As of March 3, 2015, snow water equivalents for the Northern, Central, and Southern Sierra regions were at 16 percent, 20 percent, and 21 percent of normal for that date, respectively. Additionally, most reservoirs are less than 60 percent full and January 2015 was one of the driest months ever recorded in California history. Moreover, many communities face the prospect of needing emergency drinking water supplies;
5. The likelihood that any additional precipitation will significantly reduce the severity of drought conditions this year is extremely low;
6. Water Code section 1058.5 grants the State Water Board the authority to adopt emergency regulations in certain drought years in order to: "prevent the waste, unreasonable use, unreasonable method of use, or unreasonable method of diversion, of water, to promote water recycling or water conservation, to require curtailment of diversions when water is not available under the diverter's priority of right, or in furtherance of any of the foregoing, to require reporting of diversion or use or the preparation of monitoring reports";

7. On July 15, 2014, the State Water Board adopted an emergency regulation to support water conservation ([Resolution No. 2014-0038](#)), and that regulation became effective July 28, 2014 upon approval by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL);
8. The current emergency regulation will expire on April 25, 2015;
9. The current emergency regulation has supported Californians' water conservation efforts, with over 119 billion gallons saved from August 2014 through January 2015;
10. Many Californians have taken bold steps over the years and in this year to reduce water use; nevertheless, the dire nature of the current drought requires additional conservation actions from residents and businesses. Some severely-affected communities have implemented water rationing, limiting water use in some cases to only 50 gallons per person per day, foregoing showers, laundry, toilet flushing, and all outdoor watering;
11. Water conservation is the easiest, most efficient and most cost-effective way to quickly reduce water demand and extend supplies into the next year, providing flexibility for all California communities. Water saved this summer is water available later in the season or next year, giving water suppliers the flexibility to manage their systems efficiently;
12. In many areas, 50 percent or more of daily water use is for lawns and outdoor landscaping. Outdoor water use is generally discretionary, and many irrigated landscapes would not suffer greatly from receiving a decreased amount of water;
13. Most urban water suppliers have placed restrictions on outdoor watering, but the State Water Board has nevertheless received many reports of excessive water use;
14. Education and enforcement against water waste is a key tool in conservation programs. When conservation becomes a social norm in a community, the need for enforcement is reduced or eliminated;
15. Public information and awareness is critical to achieving conservation goals, and the Save Our Water campaign, run jointly by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the Association of California Water Agencies, is an excellent resource for conservation information and messaging that is integral to effective drought response (<http://saveourwater.com>);
16. Other parts of the world have faced social and economic hardship due to severe drought. Californians must continue to make lifestyle changes, including landscape choices that conserve even more water;
17. On March 6, 2015, the State Water Board issued public notice that it would consider the adoption of the emergency regulation at the Board's regularly-scheduled March 17, 2015 public meeting, in accordance with applicable State laws and regulations. The State Water Board also distributed for public review and comment a Finding of Emergency that complies with State laws and regulations;
18. As discussed above, the State Water Board is adopting the emergency regulation because of the continuing emergency drought conditions, the need for prompt action, and the need to act before the current emergency regulation expires on April 25, 2015; and

19. Nothing in the regulation or in the enforcement provisions of the regulation precludes a local agency from exercising its authority to adopt more stringent conservation measures. Moreover, the Water Code does not impose a mandatory penalty for violations of the regulation adopted by this resolution, and local agencies retain the enforcement discretion in enforcing the regulation to the extent authorized. Local agencies are encouraged to develop their own progressive enforcement practices to promote conservation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The State Water Board re-adopts California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 863, 864, and 865, as appended to this resolution as an emergency regulation;
2. State Water Board staff will submit the regulation to the OAL for final approval;
3. If, during the approval process, State Water Board staff, the State Water Board, or OAL determines that minor corrections to the language of the regulation or supporting documentation are needed for clarity or consistency, the State Water Board Executive Director or designee may make such changes;
4. This regulation shall remain in effect for 270 days after filing with the Secretary of State unless the State Water Board determines that it is no longer necessary due to changed conditions, or unless the State Water Board renews the regulation due to continued drought conditions as described in Water Code section 1058.5;
5. The State Water Board directs staff to provide the Board with monthly updates on the implementation of the emergency regulation and its effect;
6. The State Water Board directs staff to condition funding upon compliance with the emergency regulation, to the extent feasible;
7. The State Water Board directs staff to work with the DWR and the Save Our Water campaign to disseminate information regarding the emergency regulations; and
8. The State Water Board directs staff to update the electronic reporting portal to include data fields for local agencies to report on compliance and enforcement activities.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

9. The State Water Board commends Californians who heeded the call for conservation and have helped to save over 119 billion gallons from August 2014 through January 2015. The State Water Board calls upon Californians to redouble their conservation efforts in the face of a fourth year of severe drought. For homeowners and businesses that have delayed removing turf, planting drought-tolerant landscapes, or installing efficient irrigation systems, the time to act is now;

10. The State Water Board calls upon water suppliers to ensure that they have adequate personnel and financial resources to implement conservation requirements not only for 2015, but also for another year of drought should it occur. Water suppliers that face budget shortfalls due to reduced sales should take immediate steps to raise necessary revenues in a way that actively promotes continued conservation. In Resolution No. 2014-0038, the State Water Board called on all urban water suppliers to evaluate their rate structures and begin to implement needed changes as part of planning for another dry year. These efforts should be continued and redoubled;
11. Disadvantaged communities may require assistance in increasing water conservation and State agencies should look for opportunities to provide assistance in promoting water conservation;
12. The State Water Board calls upon all water suppliers to take further actions to increase water conservation, such as by:
 - a. providing customers with timely and easy-to-understand information on the average
 - b. number of gallons they use each month and each day within their billing period; accelerating the completion of projects that will conserve potable water by making use of non-potable supplies, such as recycled water and stormwater collection projects; and
 - c. accelerating projects to fix leaks, and to conduct a system-wide water loss audit as soon as possible;
13. The State Water Board calls upon the restaurant and hospitality industry to take further actions to increase water conservation, such as by utilizing water efficient pre-rinse spray valves for dish washing and training staff on the new regulation so that the minimum amount of water is used to wash towels and linens; and
14. The State Water Board directs staff to develop a statewide portal for reporting water waste.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on March 17, 2015.

AYE: Chair Felicia Marcus
 Vice Chair Frances Spivy-Weber
 Board Member Tam M. Doduc
 Board Member Steven Moore
 Board Member Dorene D'Adamo

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None



 Jeanine Townsend
 Clerk to the Board

ADOPTED TEXT OF EMERGENCY REGULATION

Article 22.5. Drought Emergency Water Conservation

Sec. 863 Findings of Drought Emergency

(a) The State Water Resources Control Board finds as follows:

(1) On January 17, 2014, the Governor issued a proclamation of a state of emergency under the California Emergency Services Act based on drought conditions;

(2) On April 25, 2014, the Governor issued a proclamation of a continued state of emergency under the California Emergency Services Act based on continued drought conditions;

(3) The drought conditions that formed the basis of the Governor's emergency proclamations continue to exist;

(4) The present year is critically dry and has been immediately preceded by two or more consecutive below normal, dry, or critically dry years; and

(5) The drought conditions will likely continue for the foreseeable future and additional action by both the State Water Resources Control Board and local water suppliers will likely be necessary to further promote conservation.

Authority: Wat. Code, § 1058.5.

References: Wat. Code, §§ 102, 104, 105.

Sec. 864 ~~Prohibited Activities~~ End-User Requirements in Promotion of Water Conservation

(a) To promote water conservation, each of the following actions is prohibited, except where necessary to address an immediate health and safety need or to comply with a term or condition in a permit issued by a state or federal agency:

(1) The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures;

(2) The use of a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, except where the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use;

(3) The application of potable water to driveways and sidewalks; ~~and~~

(4) The use of potable water in a fountain or other decorative water feature, except where the water is part of a recirculating system-;

(5) The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall; and

(6) The serving of drinking water other than upon request in eating or drinking establishments, including but not limited to restaurants, hotels, cafes, cafeterias, bars, or other public places where food or drink are served and/or purchased.

(b) To promote water conservation, operators of hotels and motels shall provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily. The hotel or motel shall prominently display notice of this option in each guestroom using clear and easily understood language.

~~(b)~~(c) The taking of any action prohibited in subdivision (a) or the failure to take any action required in subdivision (b) of this section, in addition to any other applicable civil or criminal penalties, is an infraction, punishable by a fine of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) for each day in which the violation occurs.

Authority: Wat. Code, § 1058.5.

References: Wat. Code, §§ 102, 104, 105.

Sec. 865 Mandatory Actions by Water Suppliers

(a) The term “urban water supplier,” when used in this section, refers to a supplier that meets the definition set forth in Water Code section 10617, except it does not refer to suppliers when they are functioning solely in a wholesale capacity, but does apply to suppliers when they are functioning in a retail capacity.

(b)(1) To promote water conservation, each urban water supplier shall implement all requirements and actions of the stage of its water shortage contingency plan that ~~imposes~~includes mandatory restrictions on the number of days that outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with potable water is allowed, or shall amend its water shortage contingency plan to include mandatory restrictions on the number of days that outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with potable water is allowed and implement these restrictions within forty-five (45) days. Urban water suppliers with approved alternate plans as described in subdivision (b)(2) are exempted from this requirement.

~~(2) As an alternative to subdivision (b)(1) a~~An urban water supplier may submit a request to the Executive Director for approval of an alternate plan that includes allocation-based rate structures that satisfies the requirements of chapter 3.4 (commencing with section 370) of division 1 of the Water Code, and the Executive Director may approve such an alternate plan upon determining that the rate structure, in conjunction with other measures, achieves a level of conservation that would be superior to that achieved by implementing limitations on outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with potable water by the persons it serves to no more than two days per week.

(c) To promote water conservation, each urban water supplier that does not have a water shortage contingency plan that restricts the number of days that outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes and turf with potable water is allowed, or has been notified by the Department of Water Resources that its water shortage contingency plan does not meet the requirements of Water Code section 10632 shall, within ~~thirty-fourty-five (3045)~~ thirty-fourty-five (3045) days, limit outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with potable water by the persons it serves to no more than two days per week ~~or shall implement another mandatory conservation measure or measures intended to achieve a comparable reduction in water consumption by the persons it serves relative to the amount consumed in 2013.~~

(d) In furtherance of the promotion of water conservation each urban water supplier shall:

(1) Provide prompt notice to a customer whenever the supplier obtains information that indicates that a leak may exist within the end-users exclusive control.

(2) Prepare and submit to the State Water Resources Control Board by the 15th of each month a monitoring report on forms provided by the Board. The monitoring report

shall include the amount of potable water the urban water supplier produced, including water provided by a wholesaler, in the preceding calendar month and shall compare that amount to the amount produced in the same calendar month in 2013. ~~Beginning October 15, 2014, †~~The monitoring report shall specify the population served by the urban water supplier, the percentage of water produced that is used for the residential sector, descriptive statistics on water conservation compliance and enforcement efforts, and the number of days that outdoor irrigation is allowed. The monitoring report shall also estimate the gallons of water per person per day used by the residential customers it serves. ~~In its initial monitoring report, each urban water supplier shall state the number of persons it serves.~~

(e) To promote water conservation, each distributor of a public water supply, as defined in Water Code section 350, that is not an urban water supplier shall, within ~~thirty~~forty-five (3045) days, take one or more of the following actions:

(1) Limit outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with potable water by the persons it serves to no more than two days per week; or

(2) Implement another mandatory conservation measure or measures intended to achieve a ~~comparable~~20 percent reduction in water consumption by the persons it serves relative to the amount consumed in 2013.

Authority: Wat. Code, § 1058.5.

References: Wat. Code, §§ 102, 104, 105; 350; 10617; 10632.



Media Release

State Water Board Expands and Extends Emergency Water Conservation Regulation

For Immediate Release
March 17, 2015

Contact: George Kostyrko
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SACRAMENTO -- As California enters a fourth year of severe drought, the State Water Resources Control Board Tuesday adopted an expanded emergency regulation to safeguard the state's remaining water supplies. While Californians have made great strides to conserve water, more effort is needed.

"We are experiencing the lowest snowpack and the driest January in recorded history, and communities around the state are already suffering severely from the prior three years of drought," said State Water Board Chair Felicia Marcus. "If the drought continues through next winter and we do not conserve more -- the consequences could be even more catastrophic than they already are. Today's action is just a tune-up and a reminder to act, and we will consider more significant actions in the weeks to come."

While communities and water suppliers have saved substantial amounts of water since the water conservation [emergency regulation](#) was first adopted in July 2014, there are many more opportunities for Californians to conserve in even greater amounts. The expanded emergency regulation captures some of these opportunities while continuing to give urban water suppliers flexibility to take actions that reflect their local conditions as long as they meet the minimum requirements. The State Water Board strongly encourages water suppliers to do much more than the minimum required by the regulation.

Today's action incorporates lessons learned from implementation of the emergency regulation approved in 2014 and feedback from urban water suppliers and the public.

Prohibited Water Use

Under today's action, the prohibitions on potable water use, first adopted in 2014, will continue, and new prohibitions will go into effect. All Californians are now prohibited from:

- washing down sidewalks and driveways;
- watering outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes excess runoff;
- washing a motor vehicle with a hose, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle;
- operating a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is part of a recirculating system; and



- irrigating turf or ornamental landscapes during and 48 hours following measurable precipitation (new).

(New) Prohibitions affecting commercial businesses include:

- restaurants and other food service establishments can only serve water to customers on request; and
- operators of hotels and motels must provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily and prominently display notice of this option.

Water Agency Requirements

The biggest change for urban water suppliers is the creation of a floor, or minimum standard, for outdoor irrigation restrictions. Outdoor irrigation represents 50 to 80 percent of all water use for some communities in the state. Irrigating outdoor ornamental landscapes is a questionable use of a limited resource when some communities are running out of water in this fourth consecutive year of drought. Urban water suppliers must now limit the number of days per week that customers can irrigate outdoors. The limit must either be specified in their drought contingency plans; or if their plan contains no specific limit, irrigation is limited to no more than two days per week.

Water agencies will also be required to notify customers when they are aware of leaks that are within the customer's control. Finally, monthly reporting requirements will be expanded to include the limit on days for outdoor irrigation and a description of compliance and enforcement efforts.

For smaller water suppliers, the expanded regulation clarifies that if they choose to implement alternate mandatory measures, in lieu of limiting outdoor irrigation to twice a week; those measures should be designed to achieve a 20 percent reduction in water consumption.

Local agencies can fine property owners up to \$500 a day for failure to implement conservation requirements and the State Water Board can issue cease and desist orders against water agencies that don't impose mandatory conservation measures upon their retail customers. Water agencies that violate cease and desist orders are subject to civil liability of up to \$10,000 a day.

"In a drought this severe, we need to think differently about our daily water use, and need to sacrifice emerald green lawns and other water use luxuries," Marcus said. "At a time when hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland lie fallow, thousands are out of work, communities are running out of water, and fish and wildlife are devastated, and when locally stored urban water supplies are shrinking, we need to step up the pace of conservation. Water agencies should be motivating customers to take even more responsibility for the amount of water used in homes, backyards, businesses, parks and everywhere else."

Following Board adoption, the regulation will be submitted to the Office of Administrative Law, which has 10 days to approve or deny the regulation. If approved by the Office of



Media Release

Administrative Law, the regulation will take effect immediately and remain in effect for 270 days from that date.

For more information, please visit the [Emergency Water Conservation](#) website.

Governor Brown has called on all Californians to reduce their water use by 20 percent and prevent water waste – visit [SaveOurWater.com](#) to find out how everyone can do their part, and visit [Drought.CA.Gov](#) to learn more about how California is dealing with the effects of the drought.

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