



Memo

To: Board of Directors
From: Karl B. Drew
Date: May 12, 2017
Subject: Water Conservation Phase Change and Continuing Certain Restricted Uses

On April 7, 2017, Governor Brown issued an Executive Order rescinding his drought declaration issued January 17, 2014. On April 26, 2017, the State Water Boards rescinded a portion of the current emergency water conservation regulations set to expire on November 25, 2017. Certain prohibitions against wasteful water use have been left in place and the Water Boards have been directed to establish some long-term water use restrictions.

The remaining prohibitions against wasteful water use practices include outdoor watering during or within 48 hours after a rain event; hosing down a sidewalk instead of using a broom or a brush; and overwatering a landscape to where water is running off onto the sidewalk or into the gutter.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has increased CLAWA's allocation to 65% and the May 1, 2017 snowpack survey indicates that the snowpack is about 200% of the long-term average in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The District's well production has made a significant recovery due to this last winter's precipitation.

Based on the current level of water supply available to the District and a lifting of most of the state mandated water restrictions, it is staff's recommendation to change the phase of water conservation back to our lowest level of Phase I. This would be accomplished by adopting the proposed Resolution No 437.

Since the three remaining prohibitions listed above are not included in Phase I of our Water Conservation Program, we are recommending that the proposed Resolution No. 438 be adopted, which will continue these prohibitions until November 25, 2017.

Once the State Water Boards have adopted their long-term restrictions, I would recommend that the District review and modify the prohibited water uses of the various phases of Water Conservation Program to comply with the State Water Boards regulations.



Media Release

State Water Board Rescinds Mandatory Conservation Standards; Reporting Requirements and Prohibition on Water Waste Remain

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 26, 2017

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SACRAMENTO —Today the State Water Resources Control Board [rescinded](#) the water supply “stress test” requirements and remaining mandatory conservation standards for urban water suppliers while keeping in place the water use reporting requirements and prohibitions against wasteful practices.

The action by State Water Board Executive Director Tom Howard was in response to Governor Brown’s announcement earlier this month [ending the drought state of emergency](#) and transitioning to a permanent framework for making water conservation a California way of life.

The Governor’s April 7 [executive order](#) directs the State Water Board to lift the specific conservation provisions of its [drought emergency regulations](#) but to keep in place the temporary requirements for monthly water use reporting and prohibitions against wasteful water use practices while the Board works to develop permanent reporting and wasteful use regulations. The temporary requirements will remain in effective until Nov. 25, when the emergency regulation expires.

The current prohibitions against wasteful water use practices include outdoor watering during or within 48 hours after a rain event; hosing down a sidewalk instead of using a broom or a brush; and overwatering a landscape to where water is running off onto the sidewalk or into the gutter.

The long-term [conservation framework](#), also released on April 7, includes recommendations to establish permanent water conservation standards and improved agricultural and urban water management planning to better prepare for more frequent and severe droughts due to climate change. These actions will help achieve a top priority of the [California Water Action Plan](#) - to improve long-term drought preparedness and “Make Conservation a California Way of Life.”

As part of the framework, the Governor released [proposed legislation](#) to establish long-term water conservation measures and improved planning for more frequent and severe droughts. Among other things the proposed legislation:

- Requires the State Water Board, in consultation with the Department of Water Resources (DWR), to set long-term urban water use efficiency standards by May 20, 2021;



- Includes a robust public participation process to provide the State Water Board and DWR with critical input from local agencies, tribal governments, nongovernmental organizations, the business sector, academics, and others;
- Requires urban water suppliers to plan for droughts lasting five or more years; and
- Establishes new drought planning and water efficiency reporting requirements for agricultural water suppliers.

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