
State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Temporary Urgency Change Petition for the Central Valley and State Water Projects and other State Water Board Drought Activities and Actions

**Tuesday, February 18, 2014 – 9:00 a.m.
continuing, if necessary, on Wednesday, February 19, 2014**

Joe Serna Jr. - Cal/EPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) will hold a public workshop at the time and location noted above to receive public input on the January 31, 2014 [State Water Board Order](#) (Order) approving a [Temporary Urgency Change Petition](#) (TUCP) filed by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) (collectively referred to as Petitioners) on January 29, 2014, regarding Delta water quality; and input related to other current Board drought-related activities and actions to protect public interest, health and safety, and beneficial uses of water. This will be an informational workshop only and no State Water Board action will be taken.

BACKGROUND

On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown signed a proclamation declaring a [drought State of Emergency in California](#). In the proclamation, the Governor states that California is experiencing record dry conditions, with 2014 projected to become the driest year on record. In addition, the state's water supplies have dipped to alarming levels, indicated by: 1) limited snowpack in California's mountains, which is approximately 12 percent of the normal average for this date; 2) very low water levels for this time of year in California's largest reservoirs; 3) significantly reduced surface water flows in California's major river systems, including the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers; and 4) significantly reduced groundwater levels throughout the State.

The Governor ordered the State Water Board to take a number of actions to address the drought, including: 1) execute a statewide water conservation campaign; 2) expedite processing of water transfers, as called for in [Executive Order B-21-13](#); 3) immediately consider petitions requesting consolidation of the places of use of the State Water Project and federal Central Valley Project, which would streamline water transfers and exchanges between water users within the areas of these two major water projects; 4) accelerate funding for water supply

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

enhancement projects; 5) put water right holders throughout the state on notice that they may be directed to cease or reduce water diversions based on water shortages; 6) consider modifying requirements for reservoir releases or diversion limitations, where existing requirements were established to implement a water quality control plan; and 7) take actions necessary to make water immediately available.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE WORKSHOP

The public workshop will address the following topics. A more detailed agenda will follow.

1) TUCP and State Water Board Order Approving Temporary Urgency Change

On January 29, 2014, Petitioners filed a TUCP with the State Water Board, Division of Water Rights (Division) requesting approval of a change pursuant to California Water Code section 1435 et seq. and Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23 § 791, subd. (e). The Petitioners are requesting temporary modification of their permit and license¹ terms for the Central Valley and State Water Projects in the San Francisco Bay-Delta as required pursuant to State Water Board [Decision 1641](#), revised March 15, 2000, in accordance with Order WR 2000-02 (hereinafter Decision 1641). On January 31, 2014, the Executive Director of the State Water Board issued an Order approving the TUCP. The Petitioners' TUCP, the Order approving the TUCP, and related information may be viewed and downloaded from the State Water Board's website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/tucp.shtml

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the TUCP and the Order approving the TUCP, including input on: 1) the urgent need for the proposed change; 2) whether the proposed change may be made without injury to any other lawful user of water; 3) whether the proposed change may be made without unreasonable effect upon fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses; and 4) whether the proposed change is in the public interest. The Board will also seek feedback and suggested modifications to the Order to better protect public interest, health and safety, and beneficial uses of water.

2) Other Drought-Related Measures

The Board will also receive public input on State Water Board-related provisions of the Governor's January 17, 2014 drought State of Emergency proclamation described above and other drought-response measures that the Water Board's should undertake.

Information on the State Water Board's drought year water actions may be viewed at the Board's drought website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/index.shtml

¹ The petition was filed for Permits 16478, 16479, 16481, 16482 and 16483 (Applications 5630, 14443, 14445A, 17512 and 17514A, respectively) of the Department of Water Resources' State Water Project and License 1986 and Permits 11315, 11316, 11885, 11886, 11887, 11967, 11968, 11969, 11970, 11971, 11972, 11973, 12364, 12721, 12722, 12723, 12725, 12726, 12727, 12860, 15735, 16597, 20245, and 16600 (Applications 23, 234, 1465, 5638, 13370, 13371, 5628, 15374, 15375, 15376, 16767, 16768, 17374, 17376, 5626, 9363, 9364, 9366, 9367, 9368, 15764, 22316, 14858A, 14858B, and 19304, respectively) of the United States Bureau of Reclamation's Central Valley Project.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The workshop will be informal. While a quorum of the State Water Board may be present, the Board will not take formal action at the workshop. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants, but the State Water Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions. The workshop is an opportunity for interested persons to provide input to the State Water Board. To ensure a productive and efficient workshop, oral comments will be limited to **five (5) minutes** or otherwise at the discretion of the Board Chair.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THE WORKSHOP


Questions concerning this notice may be directed to Jean McCue, Water Resource Control Engineer, at (916) 341-5351 or by email at Jean.McCue@waterboards.ca.gov.

PARKING, ACCESSIBILITY AND SECURITY

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January 31, 2014
Date


Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board