

Summary of Key Provisions of Governor's Executive Order B-29-15

Save Water

- Direct the State Water Resources Control Board to implement mandatory water reductions in cities and towns across California to reduce water usage by 25 percent from 2013 levels.
- Order actions to save water:
 - Replace 50 million square feet of lawns throughout the state with drought tolerant landscaping in partnership with local governments;
 - Direct the creation of a temporary, statewide consumer rebate program to replace old appliances with more water and energy efficient models;
 - Require campuses, golf courses, cemeteries and other large landscapes to make significant cuts in water use; and
 - Prohibit new homes and developments from irrigating with potable water unless water-efficient drip irrigation systems are used, and ban watering of ornamental grass on public street medians.

Increase Enforcement

- Call on local water agencies to adjust their rate structures to implement conservation pricing, recognized as an effective way to realize water reductions and discourage water waste.
- Require agricultural water users to report more water use information to state regulators, increasing the state's ability to enforce against illegal diversions and waste and unreasonable use of water under today's order.
- Strengthen standards for Agricultural Water Management Plans submitted by large agriculture water districts and requires small agriculture water districts to develop similar plans. These plans will help ensure that agricultural communities are prepared in case the drought extends into 2016.
- Additional enforcement actions:
 - Take action against water agencies in depleted groundwater basins that have not shared data on their groundwater supplies with the state;
 - Update standards for toilets and faucets and outdoor landscaping in residential communities and take action against communities that ignore these standards; and
 - Make permanent monthly reporting of water usage, conservation and enforcement actions by local water suppliers.

Streamline Government Response

- Prioritize state review and decision-making of water infrastructure projects and requires state agencies to report to the Governor’s Office on any application pending for more than 90 days.
- Streamline permitting and review of Emergency Drought Salinity Barriers – necessary to keep freshwater supplies in upstream reservoirs for human use and habitat protection for endangered and threatened species;
- Simplify the review and approval process for voluntary water transfers and emergency drinking water projects; and
- Direct state departments to provide temporary relocation assistance to families who need to move from homes where domestic wells have run dry to housing with running water.

Invest in New Technologies

- Incentivize promising new technology through the Water Energy Technology program (WET) that will make California more water efficient through a new program administered by the California Energy Commission