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2015 DWR Water Conservation Drought Response

Executive Order B-29-15 & Proposition I

CEC Staff Public Meeting on Water Energy Technology Grant Program



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Proposition I Overview

Chapter 7, Section 79746: Water Conservation & Water Use Efficiency

- Agricultural water use efficiency plans, projects and programs
- Urban Water conservation plans, projects and programs implemented to achieve urban water use targets



Ag Water Conservation Grants Proposed Program Approach

\$33 million Ag water conservation grant program



Agricultural implementation projects that result in water savings, increased in-stream flow, improved water quality, and increased energy efficiency



Technical Assistance, Training, Education, and Public Outreach



Feasibility Studies, Research and Development, and Pilot Projects



Urban Water Conservation Proposed Program Approach

- \$10 million for CalConserve - Water conservation loans
- \$25 million for lawn replacement in underserved communities
- \$12 million for water efficient toilet retrofit rebates



CalConserve Revolving Loan Program

- Established by AB 2636 (2014) to provide loans for urban water use efficiency projects and programs
- \$10 million funding from Prop 1 authorized by AB 92, 2015
 - \$5 million for a pilot project for local agencies to provide water efficiency upgrades to eligible residents at no upfront costs
 - \$5 million for local agencies to provide low-interest loans to customers to finance the installation of onsite improvements to repair or replace leaking water pipes
- Cap of \$3 million per project



DWR WUE Key Directives

Directive #3: Statewide initiative to replace 50 million square feet of lawns with drought tolerant landscapes

Directive #4: Administer a time-limited statewide appliance rebate program with the CA Energy Commission (CEC)

Directive #11: Update State Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO)

Directive #12: Additional requirements added to Agriculture Water Management Plans (AWMPs)

Directive #13: Extends requirements to develop and submit AWMPs to agricultural water suppliers irrigating 10,000-25,000 acres.





Turf Replacement Overview

- Implements Directive 3 of Governor Brown's April 1, 2015 Executive Order (B-29)
- Sets goal of replacing 50 million square feet of turf with drought tolerant landscaping.
- Promotes outdoor water use efficiency – achieve water savings and environmental benefits and raise public awareness
- \$25 million in Prop 1 water use efficiency efforts (Ch 7, Sec 79746)
- DWR partnering with Save Our Water, California Urban Water Conservation Council, regional and local water agencies and others.





Turf Replacement Initiative: Program Design

Three interrelated and supporting components:

1. Rebates and Direct Installation
2. Commercial, Industrial and Institutional - direct installation in partnership with California Conservation Corps
3. Statewide Campaign to promote Drought Tolerant Landscapes

Timeline: Program implemented this summer

For more information: www.water.ca.gov/drought



DWR's High Efficiency Toilet Retrofit Program

- Implements Directive 4 of Governor Brown's April 1, 2015 Executive Order (B-29)
- Targets indoor water use efficiency.
- \$12 million Prop 1 Funds to support replacement of 60,000 inefficient toilets
- DWR partnering with CEC to leverage HET retrofit and water appliance programs.
- Program will include either or both: rebates and direct installs in partnership with the CSD.
- Program to be implemented this summer.





Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) Revision

- Sets maximum water budgets for new and retrofit landscapes across the State
- Executive Order B-19-25 directs the Department to revise the ordinance through expedited regulation to address 5 factors:
 - Improved irrigation efficiency
 - Greywater usage
 - Onsite storm water capture
 - Limiting turf area
 - Implementation and Enforcement Reporting





Proposed MWELO Revisions

- ✓ Lowers landscape size threshold – 500 sq ft
- ✓ Increases efficiency of irrigation systems
- ✓ Limits turf by reducing water budgets
- ✓ Encourages installation of graywater systems
- ✓ Requires friable soil and application of compost in landscape areas to maximize water retention and infiltration
- ✓ New reporting requirements



MWELO Schedule

- June Public meetings on staff proposed revisions to MWELO
- July 8th Release second revision
- July 15th California Water Commission (CWC) Agenda Item – further public comment taken
- Aug 15th CWC vote on revised MWELO
- Fall 2015 Training and Outreach
- Dec 31st Implementation and Enforcement Report Due



AWMP Coverage and Schedule

- Prepared every 5 years by agricultural districts supplying water to more than 25,000 acres
- Next plans must be adopted by December 31, 2015 and submitted to DWR within 30 days of adoption



Photo by Jodi Evans

2015 Drought Executive Order Adds AWMP Requirements

Executive Order (EO) B-29-15, Directive 12 requires AWMPs to include:

- A detailed **Drought Management Plan** that describes the supplier actions and measures to manage water demand during a drought.
- **Quantification of water supplies and demands** for 2013, 2014, and 2015 to the extent data is available.



2015 Drought Executive Order Extends AWMP Coverage

- Executive Order (EO) B-29-15, Directive 13, also requires
 - ag water suppliers that supply water to 10,000 – 25,000 irrigated acres to file AWMPs by July 1, 2016
 - DWR to give priority in grant funding to these suppliers for development and implementation of AWMPs



DWR Support for AWMP

- 2015 AWMP Guidebook updated for new requirements – July 2015
- Notification and outreach to ag water suppliers on changes
- AWMP workshops
- Financial assistance to suppliers providing water to 10,000 – 25,000 irrigated acres contingent on funding availability
- New online submittal and public access



Questions?

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