

June 6, 2014

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

RE: DOCKET 14-AAER-1

California Energy Commission

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14-AAER-1

TN 73188

JUN 06 2014

This letter constitutes the comments of the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP) on the California Energy Commission (CEC) appliance standards rulemaking docket 14-AAER-1 for faucets, toilets, and urinals. ASAP is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to advance appliance, equipment, and lighting efficiency standards at both the state and federal levels. Our long and deep involvement in state and national appliance efficiency standards policy gives us a unique perspective from which to comment on the proposed California standards and the role that CEC standards have played in influencing both state and national appliance standards.

We commend the CEC for prioritizing the updates to Title 20 standards for faucets, toilets, and urinals in light of the severe drought and the State of Emergency declared by Governor Brown in January. We also appreciate the extensive body of research and public outreach the CEC has undertaken for this docket. However, the standards proposed in the draft staff report leave significant water and energy savings on the table, especially given the water scarcity issues which California is currently facing. We see three key reasons why the CEC should consider stronger standards.

1. Stronger standards for water-using products are warranted.

The standard levels proposed by the CEC fall short of capturing all cost-effective savings, and in the case of toilets and urinals, offer no savings compared to the current law (AB 715). According to research by the California Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs), stronger standards for faucets, toilets, and urinals will save more than 25 billion gallons of water and 350 GWh of direct and embedded energy annually compared to standards proposed by the CEC. The IOU report provides data and analysis demonstrating that the stronger efficiency levels they recommend are technically feasible, cost-effective, and met by products available on the market today.

We urge the CEC to adopt the following standards as proposed by the IOUs:

- Residential lavatory faucets: maximum flow rate of 1.0 gallon per minute (gpm)
- Dual-flush toilets: maximum flush volume at 1.28 gallons per flush (gpf)
- Urinals: maximum 0.125 gpf

Adopting standards at these cost-effective levels will help California to use its limited water resources as efficiently as possible and provide moderate energy savings as well.

2. California plays a vital role in influencing state appliance efficiency standards.

California has long taken the lead in the development and adoption of appliance standards and many states have followed California's lead. Since 2001, fifteen states have adopted a total of more than 130 state standards covering 28 different products based on California standards – that's more than 90% of all state standards implemented over the last 14 years. From refrigerators in the 1970s and 80s, to TVs and battery chargers more recently, and a long list of products in between, California has set the standards for efficient appliances, equipment, and lighting, both literally and figuratively.

We regularly talk to state leaders, efficiency advocates, and utility program administrators around the country who are eager for California to adopt new standards so that they may follow suit in their state. We recognize that the CEC's obligation is to meet the needs of California, but the impact on the other states is too great to ignore. California's standards are also ceilings for other states: given California's historic leadership role on energy and water saving standards, it is difficult for any state to set standards stronger than those adopted by CEC. Therefore, we urge you to continue your leadership role by setting strong standards for faucets, toilets, and urinals at the levels recommended by the IOUs.

3. The CEC should also consider the national implications of its appliance standards work.

On the same day that the CEC held its appliance standards hearing one month ago, President Obama unveiled an assessment showing how climate change has and will affect every region of the U.S. The assessment highlighted the increased incidence of drought in California, the Southwest and the Midwest and the increased potential for water scarcity in the Northwest, Southeast and the Great Plains. It is likely that competition for water resources will only increase given the changing climate. This is all the more reason for the CEC to set strong water efficiency standards.

Historically, California standards have laid the groundwork for strong national standards. It is reasonable to expect that the CEC standards for these water-using products will form the basis for future national standards, actual or *de facto*. The Energy Commission has a great opportunity to set standards at a level which will provide a much-needed boost to state and national efforts to save water. We urge you to consider the implications of your actions on water and energy savings for the entire country, savings which will also indirectly benefit California's environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this docket and for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Andrew deLaski, Executive Director
Appliance Standards Awareness Project