

Extended Water Conservation Regulation

Submitting Information to Adjust a Supplier's Conservation Standard

With California still experiencing severe drought despite recent rains, on February 2, 2016 the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted a [revised emergency regulation](#) to ensure that urban water conservation continues in 2016. The February 2016 Emergency Regulation essentially extends the existing May 2015 Emergency Regulation through October 2016 and maintains many of the same requirements. However, the February 2016 Emergency Regulation also provides suppliers with more flexibility in meeting their conservation requirements through adjustments and credits that allow a supplier to modify its conservation standard up to eight percentage points.

1. **Climate Adjustment:** considers the climatic differences experienced throughout the state;
2. **Growth Adjustment:** considers water-efficient growth experienced by urban areas; and
3. **New, Local, Drought-Resilient Supply Credit:** considers significant investments that have been made by some suppliers toward creating new, local, drought-resilient sources of potable water supply.

This fact sheet provides information to urban water suppliers on how to receive a conservation standard adjustment, and the data required for the adjustments and credit.

How to Receive a Conservation Standard Adjustment

Conservation standards may be adjusted by submitting required information for verification through the new on-line reporting tool at the [DRINC Portal](#). The tool will be available beginning the week of February 8, 2016 and will remain open through March 15, 2016. Suppliers may submit information supporting any or all of the available credits and adjustments, though adjustments and credits may be rejected where the information submitted does not support them. The maximum reduction to a supplier's conservation standard through the combined climate, growth, and new, local, drought-resilient water supply adjustments and credits is capped at an eight percentage point reduction from any one supplier's otherwise-applicable conservation standard, with no suppliers dropping below an eight percent conservation standard. **Information supporting adjustments to conservation standards must be received on or before March 15, 2016.**

The adjustments described below will be applied to a supplier's conservation standard beginning March 2016 if the supplier has provided State Water Board staff all the necessary data by February 22, 2016. Submissions for adjustments and credit received by March 15, 2016 will be applied to a supplier's March 2016 conservation standard in April.

Information submitted after March 15, 2016 will not be reviewed. All information supporting conservation standard adjustments is subject to State Water Board review and conservation standard adjustments may be rejected if the information does not support the adjustment or credit as identified in the emergency regulation. **Final conservation standards for the February 2016 Emergency Regulation compliance period will be posted on the [Emergency Water Conservation](#) website in April 2016.**

Overview of Conservation Standards

The conservation standards continue to be based on increasing levels of residential gallons per capita per day (R-GPCD) water use. This approach considers the relative per capita water usage of each suppliers' service area and requires that those areas with higher per capita use achieve proportionally greater reductions than those with low use, while lessening the disparities in reduction requirements between agencies that have similar levels of water consumption. Suppliers have been assigned a revised conservation standard that ranges between eight percent and 36 percent based on their R-GPCD for the months of July - September, 2014. These three months reflect the amount of water used for summer outdoor irrigation, which provides the greatest opportunity for conservation savings. The revised emergency regulation continues the reserved four percent conservation tier for those suppliers meeting specific criteria relating to not experiencing drought conditions.

Conservation Standard Adjustments

1. Climate Adjustment

The climate adjustment accounts for the climatic differences experienced throughout the state. The adjustment may reduce the conservation standard of those suppliers located in the warmer regions of the State by up to four percentage points. The adjustment is calculated as the percent deviation of the supplier's average service area evapotranspiration (ET_o) for the months of July - September from the statewide average for the same months. The State Water Board calculated the statewide average ET_o as 6.34 inches, which is the arithmetic mean of all suppliers' service area ET_o for those months. The climate adjustment ranges from a two to four percentage point decrease in an urban water supplier's conservation standard as follows:

| % Deviation of Supplier's Service Area ET _o from the Statewide Average ET _o | Percentage Point Reduction in Conservation Standard |
|---|---|
| >20% | 4% |
| 10 to 20% | 3% |
| 5 to <10% | 2% |

The State Water Board has calculated default climate adjustments for all urban water suppliers, which are available on this [draft list](#). The default climate adjustments use the average service area average July - September ET_o, as determined by the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) [Mapped ET_o Zone](#) for which the supplier's service area has the greatest overlap. If a supplier chooses to use the default climate adjustment, no further action is needed.

A supplier may choose to apply for an in-lieu climate adjustment. This means that in lieu of using the State Water Board-determined service area average July - September ETo, each supplier has the option to refine its service area ETo by using data from qualifying CIMIS stations located within its service area. If no CIMIS station exists within the supplier's service area, a weather station of comparable accuracy, meeting the period of record requirements noted below, may be used. CIMIS data are available [here](#).

What to Submit: To qualify for the in-lieu climate adjustment, the supplier needs to submit:

- a. Calculated monthly average ETo values:
 - i. Service Area Average ETo July;
 - ii. Service Area Average ETo August;
 - iii. Service Area Average ETo September;
- b. Supporting documentation for each station that includes:
 - i. Station ID number;
 - ii. Station location (coordinates);
 - iii. Monthly evapotranspiration, in inches per month, for July, August, and September for each year used for either the five-year period of record or the three-year continuous period of record;
 - iv. If the station is not CIMIS, provide evidence that the alternative weather station is of comparable accuracy to CIMIS.

Supporting documentation must be provided to qualify for the in-lieu climate adjustment. Supporting documentation provided by February 22, 2016 may be used to modify a water supplier's conservation standard for March 2016. However, State Water Board staff may delay the adjustment to April 2016 if the documentation provided is incomplete or subject to further review. The State Water Board will use data reported by the supplier to calculate the adjustment. The table below provides an example of the in-lieu climate adjustment calculation.

| Example Calculation of In-Lieu Climate Adjustment | |
|--|--------------|
| Original Conservation Standard | 36 % |
| Supplier Reports: | |
| Service Area Average ETo July | 9.92 inches |
| Service Area Average ETo Aug. | 8.68 inches |
| Service Area Average ETo Sept. | 6.6 inches |
| State Water Board Provided Value: | |
| Statewide Average ETo July-Sept. | 6.34 inches |
| Calculated by State Water Board: | |
| Service Area Average ETo July-Sept. = $(9.92 + 8.68 + 6.6) / 3$ | 8.4 inches |
| Service Area % Deviation from Average ETo = $(8.4 - 6.34) / 6.34$ | 0.32 or 32 % |
| Climate Adjustment | - 4 % |
| Adjusted Conservation Standard | 32 % |

2. Growth Adjustment

The growth adjustment accounts for water efficient growth experienced in a supplier's service area since 2013. The adjustment is calculated as the product of the supplier's conservation standard and the supplier's percent change in potable water production due to growth since 2013, rounded to the nearest whole percentage point. The total volume of water attributed to growth since 2013 is calculated as the sum of the number of new permanent residents added since 2013 multiplied by the average residential water use per person during February - October 2015 multiplied by 270 days (the duration of the emergency regulation); and the sum of the number of new commercial, industrial and institutional (CII) connections added since 2013 multiplied by the average CII water use per connection during February - October 2015.

What to submit: To qualify for the growth adjustment a supplier needs to submit:

- Number of new permanent residents added since January 1, 2013;
- Number of new CII connections added since January 1, 2013;
- Average CII water use per CII connection February - October 2015.

Supporting documentation must be made available upon request and may be uploaded to the DRINC Portal. The State Water Board will use data reported by the supplier to calculate the adjustment. As with the climate adjustment, satisfactory data supplied by February 22, 2016 for State Water Board staff review will be used to adjust a supplier's conservation standard for March 2016. Incomplete information or information submitted after February 22, 2016 will be used to adjust a supplier's conservation standard beginning in April 2016. The table below provides an example of the growth adjustment calculation.

| Example Calculation of Growth Adjustment | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Original Conservation Standard | 36 % |
| Supplier Reports: | |
| Number of New Permanent Residents Added since Jan. 1, 2013 | 6,000 people |
| Number of New CII Connections Added since Jan. 1, 2013 | 700 connections |
| Average CII Water Use per CII Connection Feb. - Oct. 2015 | 900,000 gallons/connection |
| Pulled from Feb. - Oct. 2015 Reports, as Submitted by Jan. 1, 2016 (by State Water Board): | |
| Residential Gallons per Capita per Day (R-GPCD) Feb. - Oct. 2015 | 100 gallons/people-day |
| Baseline Total Water Production Feb. - Oct. 2013 | 16,000,000,000 gallons |
| Calculated by State Water Board: | |
| Volume of Water Attributed to New Permanent Residents = [6,000 people] * [100 gallons/people-day] * [270 days] | 162,000,000 gallons |
| Volume of Water Attributed to New CII Connections = [700 connections] * [900,000 gallons/connection] | 630,000,000 gallons |
| Total Volume of Water Attributed to Growth since 2013 = [162,000,000 gallons] + [630,000,000 gallons] | 792,000,000 gallons |
| Percent Change in Potable Water Production Due to Growth since 2013 = [792,000,000 gallons] / [16,000,000,000 gallons] | 0.05 or 5 % |
| Adjusted Conservation Standard = 36% * [1 - 0.05] | 34 % |

3. New, Local, Drought-Resilient Supply Credit

Any supplier that obtains at least one percent of its total potable water production from a qualifying new local, drought-resilient water supply, including those suppliers that contract for, or otherwise financially invest in, water from a new local, drought-resilient source of supply, developed after 2013, is eligible for a reduction to its conservation standard. The adjustment is calculated as a one percentage point reduction to an urban water supplier's conservation standard, up to an eight percentage point maximum reduction, for each percent of the urban water supplier's total potable water production that comes from a qualifying new local, drought-resilient water supply. The supplier must demonstrate that the use of that supply does not reduce the water available to another legal user of water or the environment. One example is indirect potable reuse of wastewater in coastal regions where the water would not have otherwise been discharged into a water body that others use as a source of supply.

Where a supplier financially invests in a shared new, local, drought-resilient source of supply but does not actually receive water from that source--instead freeing that water up for another supplier to use--the agency that does not actually receive the water may also be eligible for this credit. In no case will the total amount of credits exceed what would have been available had all suppliers received credit only for water actually received.

What to submit: To qualify for the drought-resilient source credit a supplier shall:

- a. Report the total annual potable water production from a local, drought-resilient source of supply (developed after January 1, 2013), in gallons;
- b. Submit a certification (a short-form that is signed by the supplier's general manager or equivalent) with supporting documents that verifies the following:
 - i. A description of the local, drought-resilient source of supply, e.g., how water is produced, the owner of the facility. If the supplier is not receiving water directly from the facility, but is applying based on being an investor, provide evidence of the amount and portion of the investment being made by the supplier, relative to the whole project.
 - ii. Total amount of water supplied in gallons. This amount must be pro-rated as a percent of the total production of the source/facility if there is more than one supplier using the same source/facility. The pro-rated portions of all suppliers claiming adjustments for a single source/facility may not add up to more than 100 percent.
 - iii. The date the water supply started providing water to suppliers and became an operational facility.
 - iv. Evidence that the use of that supply does not reduce the water available to another legal user of water or the environment

Supporting documentation must be provided by March 15, 2016 to qualify for the new, local, drought resilient water supply credit. (This credit will apply to a supplier's March 2016 conservation standards). The State Water Board will use data and supporting documentation reported by the supplier to calculate the adjustment. The table below provides an example of the new, local, drought resilient water supply credit calculation.

| Example Calculation of New, Local, Drought-Resilient Water Supply Credit | |
|--|------------------------|
| Original Conservation Standard | 36 % |
| Supplier Reports: | |
| Total Annual Potable Water Production from a Drought Resilient-Source of Supply (Developed after Jan. 1, 2013) | 1,120,000,000 gallons |
| Pulled from Jan. - Dec. 2015 Reports, as Submitted by Jan. 15, 2016 (by State Water Board): | |
| Baseline Total Water Production Jan. - Dec. 2013 | 16,000,000,000 gallons |
| Calculated by State Water Board: | |
| % Total Potable Water Production from a Drought-Resilient Source of Supply = $[1,120,000,000 \text{ gallons}] / [16,000,000,000 \text{ gallons}]$ | 0.07 or 7 % |
| Adjusted Conservation Standard = 36% - 7% | 29 % |

For more information on the February 2016 Emergency Regulation, please visit the [Emergency Water Conservation](#) website.

(This fact sheet was last updated on February 16, 2016)