

News Advisory

State Water Board to Conduct Second Drought Workshop Feb. 26

Workshop to Solicit Public Comment on What Additional Actions the State Water Board Can Take

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On Feb. 26, beginning at 9 a.m., the State Water Resources Control Board will conduct its second workshop to discuss what additional actions the Board can take in response to the drought, including increasing water conservation, reuse and recycling.

The workshop will be conducted in the Coastal Room on the second floor of the Cal/EPA building, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

A media availability will be conducted at 10:05 a.m. with State Water Resources Control Board Chair Felicia Marcus outside the Coastal Room during a short break in the morning's proceedings. (Timing is contingent on when the break is called.)

This is an informational workshop only and no State Water Board action will be taken. This meeting will be live streamed on the Internet.

On Jan. 31, in response to record dry conditions and diminishing water supplies in the state's major rivers and reservoirs, the State Water Resources Control Board announced two key actions to protect public health and safety from more severe water shortages should extreme drought conditions continue.

In the first announcement, the State Water Board Executive Director Tom Howard approved a petition to adjust water quality requirements in the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta, allowing the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project to conserve water supplies in upstream reservoirs and more effectively operate their facilities in response to ongoing drought conditions.

In addition, the State Water Board announced that notices will be issued to junior priority water-right holders to curtail their diversions of water from the Sacramento and San Joaquin River systems, when circumstances warrant this need to preserve water. That decision could occur following recent rain events in March. Both of these actions, which are included in the Governor's recent State of Emergency declaration, reflect extraordinary circumstances brought on by the state's record drought.



