



# Town of Discovery Bay

*"A Community Services District"*

## AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date

April 6, 2016

**Prepared By:** Catherine Kutsuris, Interim General Manager  
**Submitted By:** Catherine Kutsuris, Interim General Manager

**Agenda Title:**

Water Conservation

**Recommended Action:**

Accept the report regarding water conservation efforts and achievements.

**Executive Summary**

On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown issued a Drought Emergency Proclamation following three critically dry years in the State. The Governor called on every city, community and every state resident to conserve water. In response, the Town Board of Directors implemented a voluntary 20% water reduction directive with the adoption of Resolution 2014-11.

In July of 2014, new statewide emergency drought regulations became effective. In compliance with those regulations, the Town adopted Ordinance No. 25 in September of the same year. That ordinance includes the following:

- The application of potable water to driveways and sidewalks was prohibited;
- Outdoor watering is restricted to two days each week and the hours were set to avoid time periods with high evaporation;
- Watering in a manner that resulted in runoff was prohibited; and
- The use of water in fountains or other decorative features was only allowed if part of a recirculating system.

In the Governor's April 1, 2015 Executive Order, a 25 percent water use reduction was established for cities and towns throughout the State. The California Water Resources Control Board has regulations which assigns each urban water supplier a conservation standard of between 4 percent and 36 percent. The standard for Discovery Bay was initially set at 36% and was subsequently reduced by the State to 32%.

Water Conservation:

From June, 2015 through January of 2016, the State's urban water suppliers have shown a savings of 1.15 million acre feet – which is just short of the Governor's 25% reduction mandate. During this period:

- 234 water suppliers have exceeded their conservation goal or are within 1%;
- 71 are 1 to 5% from meeting their goal;
- 88 are 5 – 15% from their goal
- 8 are more than 15% from their goal.

The Town of Discovery Bay is one of the communities in the State that exceeded the conservation goal. The Town's conservation from June 2015 through January of 2016 was 36.2 percent, exceeding the goal by 4.2%. The Town was one of the 201 water suppliers that met or exceeded their target conservation level.

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In general, those water suppliers that met or exceeded their goal were those that were assigned lower targets. Discovery Bay's achievement of the water conservation standard places the community as one of the 28% of those in the 32% conservation level to meet this target.

Drought Conditions:

The State's snowpack usually reaches its peak water content at the beginning of April. The State Department of Water Resources is reporting statewide snowpack depth and water content of 87% of average. Sierra Nevada shows 97% of average, the central region 88% of average and the southern region at 72% of average.

With the increase in reservoir levels, the DWR increased its water delivery allocation to 45% of the 2016 requests.

The DWR continues to caution that the relatively good winter this year does not compensate for four years of drought.

- All of Southern California is well below average precipitation and parts of northern California are below precipitation as well;
- Groundwater levels throughout the State dropped to historic lows over the past 4 years and more wet years will be required to bring them back to normal;
- The Statewide snowpack is at 87% of the April 1 average – which is the time of maximum historical snow accumulation. The Southern Sierra snowpack is at 77%.

Upcoming Planning and Regulatory Changes:

The State Department of Water Resources adjusted the Town's water conservation standard from 32% to 29% effective March 1<sup>st</sup>. The DWR identified climate differences as one of the basis that it would use to adjust conservation standards.

The DWR staff is tracking drought conditions and will be reporting back to their Board in May, 2016.

On April 20, 2015, the DWR will be holding an Urban Water Conservation Workshop to supply updated information on water supply conditions as well as to accept public comment on the following questions:

1. What elements of the February 2015 Emergency Regulations should be modified?
2. How should the State Water Board account for regional differences in precipitation and lingering drought impacts, and what would be the methods of doing so?
3. To what extent should the State Water Board consider the reliability of urban water supplier supply portfolios in this emergency regulation?

**Fiscal Impact:**

**Amount Requested**

**Sufficient Budgeted Funds Available?: (If no, see attached fiscal analysis)**

**Prog/Fund # Category:**

**Previous Relevant Board Actions for This Item**

**Attachments**