



## CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Douglas Schulze, City Manager

**PREPARED BY:** Angela Shelton, Public Works Management Analyst

**MEETING DATE:** December 12, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Discussion Regarding California's Making Conservation a California Way of Life Proposed Regulatory Text

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive and file.

### **BACKGROUND:**

In 2018, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 606 and Assembly Bill 1668 creating the proposed regulatory "Making Conservation a California Way of Life" framework. The two bills direct the California State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) to adopt efficiency standards and performance measures for commercial, industrial, and institutional water use. The framework stresses efficient water use which was found to be the most cost-effective way to achieve long-term conservation goals, as well as provide the water supply reliability needed to adapt to the longer and more intense droughts in California.

Making Conservation a California Way of Life is a new proposed regulatory text drafted by the State Water Board establishing individualized efficiency goals for each urban retail water supplier. 95% of Californians have their water delivered through public and private urban retail water suppliers which under the proposed framework would require water suppliers to meet their "urban water use objectives."

The annual water use objective is the sum of efficiency budgets consisting of: residential indoor water use, residential outdoor water use, real water loss, and commercial, industrial, and institutional landscapes with dedicated irrigation meters. Each efficiency budget will be calculated using a statewide efficiency standard and local service area characteristics such as population, climate, and landscape area, and "variances" for unique uses, or a bonus incentive for potable recycled water use. To meet annual objectives, it is recommended that suppliers use a wide variety of tools to encourage customers to use water wisely, indoors and outdoors. Examples include education and outreach, leak detection, rate reform, incentives for grass removal, and rebates to replace inefficient fixtures and appliances. These goals are based on the unique characteristics of the supplier's service area and allow suppliers the ability to implement locally appropriate solutions.

Once implemented, expected benefits include a reduction of urban water use by more than 400-thousand-acre feet by 2030 helping California adapt to the water supply challenges brought on by climate change. Additionally, suppliers will begin to make investments and programmatic changes encouraging individuals, businesses, and local governments to adjust how they use water ultimately enhancing and restoring California water resources and statutory directives to advance California's climate change mitigation and adaptation goals.

This items is to provide additional information on the proposed regulation text to City Council and the public.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

None

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None

**ALTERNATIVES:**

None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. [Regulation Fact Sheet.pdf](#)
2. [Proposed Text of Regulation.pdf](#)