

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 6, 2014

AGENDA NO. 26

PROPOSAL: Approve Proposed SCAQMD Drought Management & Water Conservation Plan

SYNOPSIS: On January 17, 2014, Governor Edmund G. Brown proclaimed a Drought State of Emergency in California and requested all necessary actions be taken to prepare for drought conditions. The proposed Drought Management & Water Conservation Plan includes a list of measures to be implemented by SCAQMD to assist parties who are impacted by drought conditions. This action is to approve the proposed Drought Management & Water Conservation plan to help address the drought conditions in SCAQMD.

COMMITTEE: No Committee Review

RECOMMENDED ACTION/S:

Adopt the attached Resolution and Approve the Proposed SCAQMD Drought Management & Water Conservation Plan/Action Items

Barry R. Wallerstein, D.Env.
Executive Officer

MN:CS

Background

Although the State of California has experienced extended periods of drought in recent years, substantial declines in the annual mountain snowpack and limited rainfall made 2013 the driest year on record. The annual snowpack has traditionally provided, on average, a third of the water consumed by California's cities and farms; yet in May 2014 the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) issued their final snowpack

measurements and determined that this year the snowpack water content was only 18% of the average amount of snowpack water content.

Earlier this year, on January 17, 2014, Governor Edmund G. Brown proclaimed a Drought State of Emergency in California. At that time the Governor requested all necessary actions be taken to prepare for drought conditions. Some of these measures include:

- Expedited processing of water transfers by DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).
- Implementation by local agencies of local water storage contingency plans.
- A moratorium on new non-essential landscaping projects at State facilities and on State highways and roads.
- Voluntary per capita reduction of individual water use by 20%.

By April 2014, the state of the drought had not improved and the entire state was impacted by either moderate (76%) or exceptional (24%) drought conditions. As a result, on April 25, 2014, Governor Brown issued an Executive Order that called for the redoubling of efforts to mitigate the drought impacts. Amongst the measures included in the Executive Order, the Governor paved the way for streamlined contracting for equipment purchases by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) and CALFIRE to clear brush and dead trees to help prevent wildfires, and provided a limited waiver of CEQA requirements through the end of 2014 for actions that would limit harm caused by drought conditions. The Governor further called for limited lawn watering and car washing, and limited use of potable water for irrigation at schools, parks, golf courses, and other public venues.

Local impacts of drought conditions include possible water shortages due to the extremely low levels of snowpack and disruptions in water delivery systems. Consequences include limited potable and non-potable water supplies for use by individuals, schools, hospitals, agriculture and other commercial activities, and an increased risk of wildfire resulting in damage to structures, power lines, and equipment. Without adequate water for control of fugitive dust in the South Coast Air Basin (Rule 403) and the Coachella Valley (Rule 403.1), or control of particulate matter from other operations such as aggregate-type operations (Rule 1157), the region may have possible increased concentrations of airborne particulate matter. Although the major impact of the drought is water shortage, the increased chance of occurrence of wild fires and potential exposure to smoke and increased levels in particulate matter, will not only impact air quality, but may also impact public health for the population living and working in this region.

Proposal

In response to these concerns, staff has prepared a proposed Drought Management and Water Conservation Plan intended to facilitate the demand for certain types of equipment, mitigate the potential impacts of excess dust, and increase the efficient use of water at SCAQMD headquarters. Key elements of this plan include:

- Expediting permit processing without charging expedited permit processing fees for equipment used in response to emergency drought conditions.
- Expanding the allowable use of CARB-registered or SCAQMD-permitted portable engines and equipment used to address the drought.
- Exercising Executive Officer discretion to surpass certain operating limits set for in SCAQMD rules and regulations or permit conditions and/or issuing Executive Orders in the case of emergency pursuant to SCAQMD Rule 118.
- Providing for localized power generation to support the grid and avoid power shortages as being developed in the proposed Rule 1304.2.
- Promoting the use of water-sparing alternatives to dust controls, such as:
 - Paving unpaved roadways and using vacuum sweepers instead of water to remove dust from paved areas.
 - Increasing reliance on non-toxic chemical dust suppressants to stabilize soils.
 - Increasing use of physical/mechanical barriers to contain or limit transport of fugitive dust.
- Evaluating alternatives to the use of water-intensive equipment in various industrial applications and settings (e.g., wet cooling towers, water screen spray booths, etc.)
- Facilitate projects such as drought related water movement projects for water agencies; and infrastructure projects to use reclaimed water, instead of potable water, for irrigation and other purposes.
- Implement water conservation measures at SCAQMD headquarters, which may include the followings:
 - Switching existing urinals to waterless urinals, or flush urinals; and converting existing faucets in the rest rooms and kitchens/copy rooms to hands-free water faucets.
 - Evaluate possible reductions in the use of water for air conditioning.

- Posting signage for water conservations throughout the facility, expanding the use of drought-tolerant plants for landscaping, and evaluating the use of water-sparing alternatives for water delivery and use.
- Considering other potential water conservation measures.

Resource Impacts

Immediate resource impacts would be associated with staff time to expedite drought related permits and the purchase and installation of water-sparing fixtures for bathrooms and kitchen/copy rooms at SCAMQ headquarters. The request for approval of purchase and installation of such water saving equipment will be included in a proposal and taken to the Administrative Committee for approval. Some of the costs could be offset by the possible cost savings due to reduced water usage for air conditioning and other potential water conservation measures identified by staff.

Attachments

Resolution

ATTACHMENT
RESOLUTION NO. 14-_____

**A Resolution of the South Coast Air Quality Management
District (SCAQMD) Governing Board Adopting a Drought Management and
Water Conservation Plan/Action Items.**

WHEREAS on January 17, 2014 the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in the State of California due to severe drought conditions; and

WHEREAS state government is taking expedited actions as directed in that Proclamation to minimize harm from the drought; and

WHEREAS California's water supplies continue to be severely depleted because of limited amount of rainfall and snowfall in January 2014, with very limited snowpack in the Sierra Nevada mountains, decreased water levels in California's reservoirs, and reduced flows in the state's rivers; and

WHEREAS on April 25, 2014 the Governor of the State of California issued an Executive Order that called for the redoubling of efforts to mitigate the drought impacts; and

WHEREAS drought conditions have persisted for the last three years and the duration of this drought is unknown; and

WHEREAS the severe drought conditions continue to present urgent challenges: water shortages in communities across the state, greatly increased wildfire activity, diminished water for agricultural production, and additional water scarcity if drought conditions continue into 2015; and

WHEREAS additional expedited actions are needed to reduce the harmful impacts from the drought as the state heads into several months of typically dry conditions;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the SCAQMD Governing Board does hereby find and determine that the adoption of a Drought Management and Water Conservation Plan/Action Items is necessary to help address the impacts from the drought conditions and to ensure the prudent use of water resources through its jurisdiction;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SCAQMD Governing Board does hereby adopt the following Draft Management and Water Conservation Plan/Action Items; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the SCAQMD Governing Board directs staff to implement the measures listed below to help address impacts associated with the drought conditions:

- Expediting permit processing without charging expedited permit processing fees for equipment used in response to emergency drought conditions.
- Expanding the allowable use of CARB-registered or SCAQMD-permitted portable engines and equipment used to address the drought.
- Exercising Executive Officer discretion to surpass certain operating limits set for in SCAQMD rules and regulations or permit conditions and/or issuing Executive Orders in the case of emergency pursuant to SCAQMD Rule 118.
- Providing for localized power generation to support the grid and avoid power shortages as being developed in the proposed Rule 1304.2.
- Promoting the use of water-sparing alternatives to dust controls, such as:
 - Paving unpaved roadways and using vacuum sweepers instead of water to remove dust from paved areas.
 - Increasing reliance on non-toxic chemical dust suppressants to stabilize soils.
 - Increasing use of physical/mechanical barriers to contain or limit transport of fugitive dust.
- Evaluating alternatives to the use of water-intensive equipment in various industrial applications and settings (e.g., wet cooling towers, water screen spray booths, etc.)
- Facilitate projects that would allow the movement of water around to address the drought, or to develop infrastructure or other means to use more reclaimed water, instead of potable water, for irrigation and other purposes.
- Implement water conservation measures at SCAQMD headquarters, which may include the followings:
 - Switching existing urinals to waterless urinals, or flush urinals; and converting existing faucets in the rest rooms and kitchens/copy rooms to hands-free water faucets.
 - Evaluate possible reductions in the use of water for air conditioning.

- Posting signage for water conservations throughout the facility, expanding the use of drought-tolerant plants for landscaping, and evaluating the use of water-sparing alternatives for water delivery and use.
- Considering other potential water conservation measures.

DATE: _____

CLERK OF THE BOARDS