

water conservation standard was replaced by a localized “stress-test” approach, which requires local water agencies to ensure a three-year supply under three or more dry years like the State experienced from 2012—2015. Water agencies that would face shortages under three additional dry years are required to meet a conservation standard equal to the amount of the shortage. On November 30, 2016, state agencies, including the SWRCB released a public draft of Making Water Conservation A California Way of Life, which addresses elements of Executive Order B-37-16 that require state agencies to develop a framework for using water more wisely, eliminating water waste, strengthening local drought resilience, and improving agricultural water use efficiency and drought planning.³

On April 7, 2017, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-40-17 which lifts the drought emergency in all California counties except Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Tuolumne, where emergency drinking water projects will continue to help address diminished groundwater supplies⁴. The order also rescinds two emergency proclamations from January and April 2014 and four drought-related executive orders issued in 2014 and 2015, including B-29-15 and B-36-15 discussed above. Executive Order B-37-16 remains in effect. In spite of improved conditions, the State will continue to maintain urban water use reporting requirements and prohibitions on wasteful practices such as watering during or after rainfall, hosing off sidewalks and irrigating ornamental turf on public street medians.

The regulatory requirements resulting from these Executive Orders have been codified in Article 22.5, Drought Emergency Water Conservation, of the California Code of Regulations.

(g) California Water Plan

Required by the Water Code Section 10005(a), the California Water Plan is the State's strategic plan for managing and developing water resources statewide for current and future generations. It provides a collaborative planning framework for elected officials, agencies, tribes, water and resource managers, businesses, academia, stakeholders, and the public to develop findings and recommendations and make informed decisions for California's water future.

The California Water Plan, updated every five years, presents the status and trends of California's water-dependent natural resources; water supplies; and agricultural, urban, and environmental water demands for a range of plausible future scenarios. The California Water Plan also evaluates different combinations of regional and statewide resource management strategies to reduce water demand, increase water supply, reduce flood risk, improve water quality, and enhance environmental and resource stewardship. The evaluations and assessments performed for the California Water Plan help identify effective actions and policies for meeting California's resource management objectives in

³ *State Water Resources Control Board, Water Conservation Portal—Emergency Conservation Regulation, State Plan Seeks to Make Water Conservation A Way of Life, November 30, 2016.*

⁴ *Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., “Governor Brown Lifts Drought Emergency, Retains Prohibition on Wasteful Practices,”* <https://www.ca.gov/archive/gov39/2017/04/07/news19748/index.html>, accessed December 10, 2019.

