



# Agricultural Water Management Plan Assistance

## Background

The Governor's Executive Order (EO) B-29-15 directs the Department to provide technical assistance and priority in grant funding to various agricultural water suppliers for the development and implementation of Agricultural Water Management Plans (AWMPs).

*EO-#12 - Agricultural water suppliers that supply water to more than 25,000 acres shall include in their required 2015 Agricultural Water Management Plans a detailed Drought Management Plan that describes the actions and measures the supplier will take to manage water demand during drought. The Department shall require those plans to include quantification of water supplies and demands for 2013, 2014, and 2015, to the extent data is available. The Department will provide technical assistance to water suppliers in preparing the plans.*

*EO-#13 - Agricultural water suppliers that supply water to 10,000 to 25,000 acres of irrigated lands shall develop Agricultural Water Management Plans and submit the plans to the Department by July 1, 2016. These plans shall include a detailed Drought Management Plan and quantification of water supplies and demands in 2013, 2014, and 2015, to the extent that data is available. The Department shall give priority in grant funding to agricultural water suppliers that supply water to 10,000 to 25,000 acres of land for development and implementation of Agricultural Water Management Plans.*

*EO-#14 - The Department shall report to the Water Board on the status of the Agricultural Water Management Plan submittals within one month of receipt of those reports.*

SB X7-7 (Steinberg, Statute of 2009) requires agricultural water suppliers supplying water to more than 25,000 acres of irrigated land to adopt AWMPs with specified requirements by December 31, 2012, December 31, 2015, and every five years thereafter. The Governor's EO B-29-15 directed that those suppliers shall include in their required 2015 AWMPs, a detailed Drought Management Plan that describes actions and measures the supplier will take to manage water demand during drought and include quantification of water supplies and demands for 2013, 2014, and 2015, to the extent data is available.

SB X7-7 also states that an agricultural water supplier that provides water to less than 25,000 irrigated acres, excluding recycled water, shall not be required to adopt and implement its AWMP unless sufficient funding has specifically been provided to that water supplier for that purpose<sup>1</sup>. The Governor's EO B-29-15 directed that agricultural water suppliers supplying water to 10,000 to 25,000 acres of irrigated land develop AWMPs and submit the plans to the Department by July 1, 2016. These plans shall include a detailed Drought Management Plan and quantification of water supplies and demands for 2013, 2014, and 2015, to the extent data is available.

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<sup>1</sup> Water Code §10608.56(b)

## Implementation

### AWMP Guidebook Update

The Department is in the process of updating the AWMP Guidebook to assist agricultural water suppliers in complying with the requirements of SB X7-7. The 2015 update will include guidance on how to comply with the latest requirements related to AWMPs, outlined in the Governor's EO.

### Stakeholder Input

As part of updating the AWMP Guidebook and developing guidance related to the new requirements of the EO, the Department will conduct an Agricultural Stakeholder Committee (ASC) public meeting in June to discuss related issues and receive input from stakeholders. The Department will consider the ASC and public comments and prepare and release its final 2015 AWMP Guidebook in July 2015.

### Workshops

After releasing the AWMP Guidebook, the Department will hold several workshops to help agricultural water suppliers effectively use the provided AWMP Guidebook while preparing their AWMPs and for implementation of the AWMP.

### Technical Assistance

Department staff will provide technical assistance, information, and answer questions related to the preparation of AWMPs. In addition, the Department will send letters to agricultural water suppliers outlining the new requirements.

### Directed Action

The Department intends to provide additional and focused assistance targeting suppliers of 10,000 to 25,000 acres, most of whom will be developing an AWMP for the first time, in response to the new requirements of the EO. For this purpose, a directed action is being explored to provide targeted technical assistance to those suppliers.

### Financial Assistance

The Department is working to procure funds to provide grants to agricultural suppliers, particularly to those that are supplying water to 10,000 to 25,000 acres of irrigated land to prepare AWMPs. The Proposition 1 Agricultural Water Use Efficiency Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) is currently under development and priority will be given to funding agricultural water suppliers to 10,000 to 25,000 acres of irrigated land for AWMP preparation and implementation of AWMPs.

### Reporting to the Board

The Department will review submitted AWMPs and post them on the website. The Water Board will be notified on the status of the AWMP submittals on a monthly basis.

## Timeline

May 2015	ASC meeting to discuss updated AWMP Guidebook
Jul. 2015	Release final 2015 AWMP Guidebook
July 2015	Release draft Water Use Efficiency PSP
Aug. /Sep.	Send letters to suppliers informing them of the new AWMP requirements Conduct AWMP Workshops Provide financial assistance to suppliers to 10,000 to 25,000 acres for the preparation of AWMPs, contingent upon funding availability
Nov./Dec. 2015	Release final WUE PSP
Dec. 31, 2015	Suppliers > 25,000 acres adopt 2015 AWMPs (to include drought management plans and quantification of water supplies and demands) and submit them to the Department within 30 days of adoption
Jan-Mar. 2016	Additional workshops and technical assistance targeting suppliers to 10,000 to 25,000 acres
July 1, 2016	Suppliers to 10,000 - 25,000 acres adopt and submit AWMPs (to include drought management plans and quantification of water supplies and demands) to the Department.