



Action Item: Approval of Agricultural Water Measurement Regulations developed under SBX7-7, Water Conservation Bill of 2009 (including Public Comment)

Background

The Water Conservation Act of 2009 (SBx7-7) requires agricultural water suppliers to implement efficient water management practices.

Agricultural water suppliers are required to measure the volume of water delivered to customers with sufficient accuracy to report aggregated farm-gate deliveries (total volume of water an agricultural water supplier provides to its customers calculated by totaling its deliveries to individual customers) to DWR and to adopt a pricing structure for water customers based at least in part on quantity delivered. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is required to adopt regulations that provide for a range of options that agricultural water suppliers may use to implement or comply with these requirements. (WC § 10608.48)

In July 2010, DWR convened an Agricultural Stakeholder Committee (ASC) and a Water Measurement Subcommittee with representatives from agriculture, environmental groups, water agencies, academia and other interested parties to provide guidance as DWR staff prepared a draft regulation. Fifteen stakeholder meetings have been held to date.

Next Steps

On May 11, the Commission's Rules and Regulations will meet to review and discuss the Agricultural Water Measurement Regulations. The Committee will make a recommendation to the Commission, which is scheduled to hear the item at its May 18, 2011 meeting.

Additional materials will be provided to Commission members following the Rules and Regulations Committee meeting if necessary.

Once the emergency and permanent regulations are adopted by the Commission, DWR will submit the emergency regulation to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). It will be in effect for 180 days after it is approved by OAL. At that point, DWR plans to submit the permanent regulation to the OAL to begin the permanent rulemaking process which will include a public comment period and public hearings.

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Recommended Action

The Rules and Regulations Committee will make a recommendation for action to the full Commission at the May 18 meeting.

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