



**Action Item: Initial Consideration of Amendment to Agricultural Water Measurement Regulations**

**Background**

On July 6, 2012 the California Water Commission approved the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Agricultural Water Measurement Regulation. The Regulation was approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on July 11, 2012. DWR developed the Regulation in partnership with an Agricultural Stakeholder Committee, with representatives from agriculture, environmental groups, water agencies, academia and other interested parties. The Regulation was considered by the Commission on nine separate occasions as comments were received and revisions were made.

DWR's Agricultural Aggregated Farm-Gate Delivery Reporting Form was incorporated by reference in the Regulation. Certain agricultural water suppliers -- supplying water to 10,000 irrigated acres or more acres of agricultural land -- are required to use this form to report aggregated farm-gate deliveries to DWR annually, beginning July 31, 2013. The form requires suppliers to submit data from July through June.

During the final stage of the adoption of the Regulation by the California Water Commission, DWR received informal comments requesting revision of the Form from fiscal year (July through June) to calendar year (January to December).

The comments suggested that all parties would be better served by changing the reporting period from July-June to January-December. A January-December reporting period would align better with the irrigation season. Additionally, the agricultural water suppliers will have up to seven months to compile their water delivery data from January to December of a calendar year and submit it to DWR by July of the subsequent year.

DWR proposes opening a new rulemaking in order to incorporate a revised Agricultural Aggregated Farm-Gate Delivery Reporting Form in the Regulation with the following changes:

- Change format from fiscal year (July-June) to calendar year (January-December).
- The revised form is to be submitted by July, 31, 2014, for 2013 calendar year data.

All other parts of the form remain the same. The annual date of submittal is unchanged. This rulemaking would not reopen any other issues related to the Agricultural Water Measurement Regulation. The effective date of the revised Regulation will be after July 31, 2013. Public comment would be limited to the proposed changes.

The 2012 calendar year data will be submitted to DWR on the existing Form in which water suppliers may report July 2012 to December 2012 data.

### **Next Steps**

If the Commission approves the proposed changes to the regulations, DWR will revise the Form and send the revised Regulation, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to OAL. This will open an official 45-day public comment period. At the end of the comment period, DWR will bring the regulation back to the Commission for adoption. Following Commission adoption of the final regulation, it will be sent to OAL for approval.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends the Commission approve the proposed changes to the Agricultural Aggregated Farm-Gate Delivery Reporting Form.

### **Attachment**

Revised Agricultural Aggregated Farm-Gate Delivery Reporting Form

### **Contact**

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