



**Update on Drought Issues and 2014 Expedited Drought Funding through DWR's IRWM  
Implementation Grant Program**

**Background**

Dave Gutierrez, Deputy for Drought Emergency Operations, and Tracie Billington, Financial Assistance Branch Chief for the IRWM Grant Program, will update the Commission on current drought actions by the state including funds to provide immediate drought preparedness and increase local water supply and reliability.

**Drought Conditions and Management Plans**

- As of April 3, the statewide snowpack had a snow water content of 34 percent of normal.
- Combined State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) exports have increased from 1,500 cfs to 5,400 cfs due to increasing flows into the Delta due to storms in late March/early April.
- As of April 2, 42 water suppliers have adopted mandatory water use restrictions and 133 have adopted voluntary water use restrictions.

On April 9, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a multi-stage [Drought Operations Plan](#) for the rest of 2014. The plan will be implemented in close coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the State Water Resources Control Board. The overall objectives of the plan are to:

- Closely manage scarce water resources in the coming dry months and into next year;
- Augment water exports from the Delta for storage and use this spring when possible;
- Ensure adequate water supplies for drinking water, sanitation and firefighting;
- Prevent saltwater from intruding into California's water delivery system;
- Provide sufficient water for fish migration and spawning; and
- Meet water quality needs for water users located in the Delta by keeping saltwater at bay.

### **Funding for Drought Response Projects and Programs**

On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown issued an Emergency Drought Proclamation which directed DWR to, "...accelerate funding for water supply enhancement projects that can break ground this year and will explore if any existing unspent funds can be repurposed to enable near-term water conservation projects." Last month, \$200 million was appropriated to DWR last month when Governor Brown signed a package of drought response legislation.

DWR has issued draft guidelines and a proposal solicitation package for agencies to use to apply for funds for projects and program that alleviate drought conditions and improve drought preparedness. DWR has developed a streamlined process to award grants later this year to local agencies and non-profit organizations that are participating in Integrated Regional Water Management planning efforts.

### **Attachments**

[Draft Proposal Solicitation Package: 2014 IRWM Drought Solicitation](#)

### **Contact**

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