

# Memorandum

Date: September 16, 2014

To: Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair  
c/o Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, California 95814



**SENT VIA EMAIL: [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)**

From: Department of Water Resources

Subject: 9/23-24/2014 Board Meeting, Consideration of a Proposed Order regarding Objections to and Petitions for Reconsideration of the Executive Director's January 31, 2014 Order

Dear Ms. Marcus:

We have reviewed the draft order, and support the proposed denial of reconsideration of the Executive Director's January 31, 2014 Order Approving a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP Order). As noted in our petitions for the Temporary Urgency Change and subsequent modifications, we believe that there was an urgent need to make the proposed changes; the proposed changes were made without injury to any other lawful user of water; the proposed changes were made without unreasonable effect upon fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses; and the proposed changes were in the public interest.

We support the efforts by the State Water Resources Control Board to ensure that information is developed and disseminated on a timely basis. To that end, we agree that acceleration of the reporting requirements concerning conserved water from the end of the following month to 10 working days after the first day of the following month is appropriate. However, accelerating the reporting requirements for the monthly operations forecasts, which have met the "water balance" requirement, will prove problematic. These forecasts require essential input data, which are often not available until the middle of the following month and require a high degree of coordination with the Bureau of Reclamation. We believe the current end of month requirement remains appropriate for this reporting. We will also continue to meet and consult with representatives from the State Water Board and fisheries agencies on a weekly basis to review operations and their potential impacts on listed species, water quality, and other legal users of water. Additionally, DWR intends to work with the Bureau of Reclamation to develop any technical analyses necessary to support and inform the weekly consultations and any future action requested as a result. We would also be pleased to participate in State Water Board meetings on a monthly basis, to provide information on drought operations and related information.

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The members of the Real Time Drought Operations Management Team have initiated discussions regarding preparation needed in case dry conditions persist in 2015. DWR plans to work with State Water Board staff and other RTDOMT members to provide information that is as accurate as possible on drought contingencies in 2015. However, there will be a high degree of uncertainty associated with this information, as precipitation is quite variable, and significant precipitation would normally not begin to occur for another six weeks. Concurrently, DWR will be conducting its hydrologic and water supply projections in October and November, and plans to release its first projection of 2015 water allocations and operations on December 1.

We appreciate the support that we have received from the State Water Board and its staff in addressing drought conditions in 2014, and we look forward to continued collaboration in 2015.

Sincerely,



Mark W. Cowin  
Director