

Extracted from the ["Guidebook to Assist Agricultural Water Suppliers to Prepare a 2015 Agricultural Water Management Plan"](#) (pages: 35-36).

## **Drought Management Plans (Executive Order B-29-15) and Water Shortage Allocation Policies (Water Code §10826(a)(8))**

Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-29-15 on April 1, 2015, directing agricultural water suppliers to include a detailed drought management plan that describes the actions and measures the supplier will take to manage water demand during drought.

The Drought Management Plan should detail how the water supplier would prepare for droughts and manage water supplies and allocations during drought conditions. Some components or actions may require detailed review of conditions, policy changes, and long term capital improvements. Additionally, as conditions change and new technology and knowledge becomes available, opportunities and constraints will change.

A description of the water shortage allocation policies is required by the Water Code and will be a key component of the drought management plan. Water suppliers that have a Water Shortage Allocation Policy should attach a copy of the policy in Section VIII of the AWMP and describe the allocation plan in this section. If the supplier does not have such a policy, the agricultural water supplier can describe how reduced water supplies are allocated.

In addition to the water shortage allocation policy, the drought management plan should consider describing the following components:

- 1.) What hydraulic levels or conditions (reservoir levels, stream flows, groundwater, snowpack etc) are monitored and measured to determine the water supply available and level of drought severity.
- 2.) The district's policy and process for declaring a water shortage and implementing the water shortage allocation and drought management plan.
- 3.) Operational Adjustments- changes in district water management and district operations to respond to drought, including canal and reservoir operations and groundwater management
- 4.) Demand Management- policies and incentives in addition to the water shortage allocation plan to lower on farm water use.
- 5.) Alternative Water Supplies- discuss the potential if possible for the district to obtain or utilize additional water supplies. These supplies could include transfers from another

water agency or district, the use of recycled water and desalination of brackish groundwater or drainage water.

6.) Stages of Actions- include the stages of action and corresponding levels of drought severity that district will implement in response to the drought.

7.) Coordination and Collaboration- include a description on how coordination and collaboration with other local districts and water agencies or regional groups will be used in drought response.

8.) Revenues and Expenditures- describe how the drought and lower water allocations will affect the districts revenues and expenditures.