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Subject: Due to Drought Emergency, the Department of Water Resources Encourages Collaboration Among State Water Project Contractors

From: Mark W. Cowin, Director
Department of Water Resources

Due to Drought Emergency conditions, and in light of the Governor’s January 17, 2014 Drought Proclamation, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) encourages collaboration among all State Water Project Contractors. Considering the extreme dry conditions this year and the extreme pressure that water agencies are experiencing in meeting their water management needs, now is the time for water agencies Statewide to be creative in implementing innovative water management measures. For example, with different levels of in-district or defined storage of water supplies, some agencies may have relatively better water supply conditions and be able to implement extraordinary one-year transfers or multi-year exchange agreements with other agencies. DWR encourages agencies to jointly investigate these kinds of opportunities and pursue their implementation under the current emergency conditions. Within the State Water Project, innovative management actions should be pursued. Where approvals are required from DWR, it will look favorably on these innovative management actions that help other agencies meet critical water management needs. Let us work together and be flexible as we manage California’s water challenges.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Robert Cooke, Chief of DWR’s State Water Project Analysis Office, at (916) 653-4313.