

## update *Making Conservation a California Way of Life* Regulation

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) held a Board Workshop. State Board staff provided an overview of the changes to the proposed regulation followed by an opportunity for public comment. WRCA testified in support of the recycled water updates and thanked the State Board for the revisions and urged them to keep them in the draft. In total, 51 commenters spoke.

The proposed regulation is on schedule to be considered for adoption by the State Board this summer; if adopted it would go into effect in 2025.

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, the State Board released the updated proposed (draft) text of the regulation. A second public comment period has now begun [as of March 12<sup>th</sup>] and runs through March 27, 2024. This draft extends the ramp down of the outdoor standards; additionally, it delays compliance with the objectives until 2027; however, below is a list of issues most important to WateReuse California because they affect recycled water.

### Recycled water issues and how they are reflected in this draft:

- **Recycled Water Temporary Provision:** the [SB 1157] temporary provision is grouped with the variance process and once approved can be included in the associated budget for up to five years (page 10)
- **1.0 written in regulation, rather than through a reference to section 491 of the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance:** The standard for efficient residential outdoor use for residential special landscape areas is listed to be a landscape efficiency factor of 1.0 (page 10, 19 and 25)
- **Variance Process:** The variance for landscapes irrigated with recycled water containing high Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) remains and the variance process has been simplified (page 13)
- **DPR Potable Reuse Bonus Incentive:** Inclusion of a process for Direct Potable Reuse bonus incentive [added to groundwater and surface water augmentation bonus incentive] (page 24)
- **Reporting:** Simplified reporting process for recycled water landscapes every five years [unless there is a change] Inclusion of a process for Direct Potable Reuse bonus incentive [added to groundwater and surface water augmentation bonus incentive] (page 24)

## Next Steps

### Where we are in the process

- ✓ August 18 – Oct 17, 2023 - The first public comment period.
- ✓ October 4, 2023 - Formal public hearing.
- ✓ November and December 2023 - Board hosted 21 meetings with five workgroups.
- ✓ March 8, 2024 – Publicly noticed revised draft regulation workshop.

**March 12, 2024 – Will publicly release revised draft regulation for public comment, which proposed significant changes to the draft released in August 2023.**

- March 12, 2024 – March 27, 2024 - Second Public comment period and workshop.
  - Workshop to be held on March 20, 2024
- Summer 2024 – Proposed regulation to be considered for adoption by the State Water Board.
- January 2025 – If adopted, regulation goes into effect.

We are continuing to analyze the draft. You can view the updated [draft](#) and the [State Board's fact sheet](#). Your review and feedback are much appreciated.

Please let me know if you have any questions.