June 2, 2015

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Update on New State Water Restriction Regulations

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: Receive Report and provide direction to staff.

OVERVIEW
At your Board’s April budget planning workshop, your Board requested an update regarding the Governor’s new state water restriction regulations and what their impact may be on County operations.

Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) staff is present today to provide a brief update regarding current water resource levels in Marin, and what the new regulations will mean for the County and its residents. MMWD staff will also speak on behalf of the North Marin Water District (NMWD). MMWD and NMWD are the County’s largest water suppliers. In addition, the Department of Public Works, Parks, and Agricultural, Weights and Measures will provide a brief update to outline anticipated impacts to their operations.

BACKGROUND
On April 1, 2015, the Governor issued an Executive Order that directed the State Water Resources Control Board to implement mandatory water reductions statewide to reduce potable urban water usage by 25% through February, 2016. These restrictions require water suppliers to reduce usage compared to 2013 usage.

Cuts are assigned to each of California’s 400 largest water agencies, and each agency is responsible for meeting its designated target, including NMWD and MMWD. Those that don’t hit their target starting in June could face fines up to $10,000 each day they are out of compliance. Reductions come in one of nine tiers; the lowest tier of 4% is reserved for water agencies that can prove to the state that they have a rare abundance of water. The highest tier requires a 36% reduction.

MMWD falls under Conservation tier 5, for a target reduction of 20%. The MMWD board recently approved new rules requiring residents and businesses with irrigation systems to use them only three days per week, also banning use of irrigation systems 48 hours after measurable rainfall.

NMWD falls under conservation tier 6, for a target reduction of 24%. NMWD recently approved restrictions that will permit homes and buildings with odd-numbered addresses to water on Monday, Wednesday and Friday – with even-numbered addresses watering Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
Counties do not have a mandated responsibility under the regulation to achieve the conservation standard as do water suppliers. However, implementation measures taken by the water suppliers have the potential to directly impact a wide range of county services and facilities.

Submitted by:

Daniel Eilerman
Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed by:

Matthew H. Hymel
County Administrator

Attachment