

# SPECIAL ADVISORY BULLETIN



A Special Report of the Mulch & Soil Council

April 8, 2015

## CA Governor Imposes Emergency Water Restrictions

California Gov. Jerry Brown has issued Executive Order B-29-15 concerning drought conditions in California. The order can be seen [here](#). And this is a [summary of the order](#) supplied by the Governor's office.

This executive order directs key agencies to regulate within their areas of authority. The State Water Resources Control Board was directed to "implement mandatory water reductions in cities and towns across California to reduce water usage by 25 percent." Accordingly, the [Water Board now prohibits](#):

- Using potable water to wash sidewalks and driveways
  - Runoff when irrigating with potable water
  - Using hoses with no shutoff nozzles to wash cars
  - Using potable water in decorative water features that do not recirculate the water
  - Using outdoor irrigation during and 48 hours following measurable precipitation
- Of particular note to the Mulch & Soil Council members, Gov. Brown's executive order will:
1. Replace 50 million square feet of lawns throughout the state with drought tolerant landscaping in partnership with local governments . . .
  2. Require campuses, golf courses, cemeteries and other large landscapes to make significant cuts in water use; and
  3. Prohibit new homes and developments from irrigating with potable water unless water-efficient drip irrigation systems are used, and ban watering of ornamental grass on public street medians.

Meanwhile, the California Department of Water Resources ([DWR](#)) has [scheduled a series of listening sessions](#) from April 28 through May 1, 2015 regarding the development of Emergency Regulations on Groundwater Basin Boundary Revisions.

In addition to DWR and the Water Board, the Executive Order calls for action by the California Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Water Resources, the California Energy Commission, the Office of Emergency Services, the Department of House and Community Development, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.