



CalMutuals Monthly Newsletter

August 2015

State Water Board Issues Notices of Violation to Urban Water Suppliers Failing to Meet Conservation Standard

The State Water Board has begun issuing notices to urban water suppliers that have failed to meet the conservation standard of 25 percent.

Urban water suppliers that did not meet the standard in June received notices in early August warning them that they need to take immediate steps to enhance water conservation efforts to ensure that the conservation requirement is achieved.

Recipients were issued an Information Order with a requirement to provide the State Water Board information relating to their water production, water use, and water conservation efforts. Failure to provide the information by August 19, or any additional time extension granted, would be considered a violation subject to civil liability of up to \$500 per day, for each day the violation continues.

To read the notice, [click here](#).



Statewide Tax on Water Bills/Public Goods Charge May be Considered by Legislature in 2016

CalMutuals has learned that the Legislature may consider a public goods charge on water bills in the 2016 legislative session.

In anticipation, our staff submitted a letter to leaders in Sacramento letting them know of our opposition to any such bill.



CalMutuals emphasized to legislators the fact that our members have made, and continue to make, significant local investments in conservation programs and infrastructure, including, but not limited to, miles of pipeline replacements, installation of smart meters, water treatment projects and well rehabilitations, that have allowed their respective agencies to respond to the current drought.

Our staff will keep our members updated on this issue.

Chromium 6 Bill Awaiting Governor's Signature

Last July, California became the first state in the nation to set a maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 parts per billion (ppb) for chromium-6 in drinking water. This new state standard comes with a compliance cost ranging anywhere from \$30 to \$75,000 per connection (AWWA).



Earlier this year, CalMutuals submitted a letter in support of SB 385 which would aid water systems in complying with the new standard by granting an additional five (5) years to comply, allowing water systems time to identify cost-effective treatment and financing methods. A public water system must request/and receive an approval for a variance from the State Board following the submission of a compliance plan.

[Click here for additional information on the bill.](#)

How this impacts your mutual water company:

Unlike the federal government, the State does not allow time for water systems to come into compliance with a new drinking water standard.

The State Water Board already has the authority to grant variances; however, legislation is required to issue a variance for newly adopted standards. SB 385 would grant the State Board the ability to issue a variance for systems seeking additional time to come into compliance with the new standard for Hexavalent Chromium.

The bill has passed both the State Assembly and Senate and has been sent to Governor Brown's desk for his signature.

Free AB 54 Training for Mutual Water Company Board Members

There will be a free AB 54 training for mutual water company board members on September 29th.

A blue rectangular box with the word "WORKSHOP" in white, bold, uppercase letters.

Starting in 2012, all mutual water company board members are required to participate in a two hour training every six years, and within six months of joining the board.

Required topics of training include: conflicts of interest, fiduciary responsibilities, Safe Drinking Water Act compliance, long term management and Capital Improvement Planning. The workshop meets the legal requirement for board members ethics training under AB 54.

To sign up for the online workshop, [click here](#).

NOTE: If your company has a board member who needs training on AB 54 but isn't able to sign up for the September 29th online workshop, please contact Denise Peralta Gailey at Denise@CalMutuals.org or call our office at 714.449.3397 so we can request that a workshop be held in your region.

AB 656 Awaiting the Governor's Signature

Both the State Assembly and Senate have passed AB 656 and it is now on Governor Brown's desk awaiting his signature.

If signed by the Governor, AB 656 will allow mutual water companies to work with public agencies to form a joint insurance authority (JPA). Under AB 656, the JPA would be empowered to create a joint insurance authority, helping mutual water companies reduce risk, stabilize insurance premiums, and pursue grants that will help mutual water companies improve our systems.

A dark blue rectangular box with the words "WE NEED YOUR HELP" in white, bold, uppercase letters.

The deadline for submitting letters of support to the Governor's office is this Friday, September 4th.

Follow these steps to submit a support letter:

1. [Click here](#) to download our pre-addressed template letter
2. Print the letter on your mutual's letterhead *or* add your mutual water company's name and physical address to the top section of the letter.
3. Sign the letter and add your name and title below the signature.
4. Mail or fax your letter to Governor Jerry Brown
Fax: (916) 558-3160 Mailing Address: State Capitol, Ste. 1173, Sacramento, CA 95814
5. If possible, also fax, email or mail a copy to: Denise@CalMutuals.org
Fax: (714) 398-8819, Address: 1440 N. Harbor Blvd., Ste. 900, Fullerton, CA 92835

DWR Releases Grant Program Guidelines

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released the draft Guidelines for the Sustainable Groundwater Planning (SGWP) Grant Program and draft Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for the “Counties with Stressed Basins.”



This release of the draft guidelines and the PSP officially opens the public comment period. The public comment period will close on October 5, 2015 at 5:00 PM.

DWR will hold three public meetings to present the draft guidelines and PSP and to solicit public comments on the documents:

September 29th (10:00 AM)

Hugh M. Burns Building, Room 1036
2550 Mariposa Mall, Suite 4078
Fresno, CA 9371

September 30th (1:00 PM)

California Towers
Highgrove Room (2nd Floor)
3737 Main Street, Suite 200
Riverside, CA 92501

NOTE: This meeting will be webcast

October 2nd (1:30 PM)

Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

To download the draft grant program guidelines, [click here](#).

The advertisement features the iFLOW ENERGY SOLUTIONS logo on the left, with contact information: 1-888-651-1130, California, Nevada & Arizona, and www.iflowinc.com. The central text reads "kamstrup Ultrasonic Water Meters" in red and white, followed by "Superb Accuracy 5/8\" through 2\"", "Integrated Radio CTEP Approved", and "20 Year Warranty". A large image of a white Kamstrup ultrasonic water meter is shown, with its digital display showing "00000000 Gal" and the serial number "63000203". To the right, a smartphone displays a data visualization, with the text "Wireless Reading via Smartphone Tablet Laptop or Handheld" above it.