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EMERGENCY DROUGHT STANDARDS FOR HOSPITALS ADOPTED

New Measures Limit Potable Water Use for Landscape Irrigation

SACRAMENTO – In response to California's ongoing drought conditions, the California Building Standards Commission voted Friday to adopt emergency regulations that limit potable water use for outdoor irrigation at California hospitals and skilled nursing facilities, making them more water efficient.

The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), in coordination with the California Building Standards Commission, Department of Water Resources, Department of Housing and Community Development, Division of the State Architect, and other stakeholders, submitted this proposal to the commission. These new emergency regulations amend the 2013 California Green Building Standards Code, also known as "CALGreen".

"Everyone in California is affected by this drought and all of us have to do our part to conserve water," said OSHPD Director, Robert P. David. "Improved water efficiency standards will help ensure that hospitals and skilled nursing facilities are doing their part to reduce water usage statewide. These standards will also help make California more resilient to droughts in the future."

These measures clarify that enforcement of mandatory reductions of potable water use for exterior landscape irrigation for non-residential buildings applies to hospitals and skilled nursing facilities. These regulations will be enforced by the local agency having jurisdiction. Evidence of compliance with local landscaping and irrigation standards must be submitted to OSHPD prior to facility plan approvals or the issuance of building permits.

These measures address Governor Brown's Executive Order, which directs state agencies to adopt necessary emergency regulations and conduct a public meeting prior to their adoption.

OSHPD enforces building standards for hospitals and skilled nursing facilities, per the California Building Standards Code.

To learn more about the state's drought response, visit Drought.CA.Gov.

Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at SaveOurWater.com.