SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

TO: Board of Directors **AGENDA NO. V-E**

FROM: Steve Mack, General Manager

Meeting Date : May 5, 2016

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING CONTINUATION OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive a presentation by the General Manager on the possibility of a continuation of the drought emergency, and provide direction to staff.

FISCAL IMPACT: none

DISCUSSION:

The District Board enacted Stage 1 of the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan in August 2014 and one year ago revised the requirements of the Stage 1 declaration in response to State Board direction that required certain water use restrictions and gave the District a mandate to achieve a 16% reduction in water production compared to the same month in 2013. This past winter has seen much better local rainfall, several of the large Sierra reservoirs are at higher levels than they have been for many years, and at an April 20, 2016 State Board meeting on the future of the drought emergency declared by the State, the State Board heard consistently similar testimony from water providers that the drought emergency should be ended. The District sent in a letter supporting this view.

The State Board took no action at the April 20 meeting and is expected to take action (including the possibility of no action) at a meeting in mid May.

District customers' response to the drought emergency mandate and restrictions has been good. They have used approximately 20% less water when compared to the same period in 2013 and we have receive few complaints about excess water use during this period. The District's and customers main issue remains water leaks, which, of course, are not drought related.

Staff will continue to keep track of State Board announcements and decisions regarding the Drought Emergency and if more information is available by the time of the May 5 meeting, that information will be presented at the meeting.