



# State Engineer's Office

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## MEMORANDUM

April 20, 2007

TO: All State Engineer Employees

FROM: Patrick T. Tyrrell 

SUBJECT: Water for Fighting Wildfires

With another apparent dry season approaching, the State Engineer's Office may be contacted by various firefighting entities about our policy on the use of water for fighting wildfires. The occurrence of wildfires is usually very unpredictable and finding water sources to fight wildfires is also unpredictable. Therefore, in emergency situations where wildfires are being dealt with, any water supply may be used for fighting the fire and any other ancillary uses such as dust abatement on roads, potable supplies, etc.

It is assumed that the entity in charge of fighting the fire will make an attempt to utilize the least disruptive water supply source available. If firefighting is occurring in your District, it would be helpful if you keep a log of where water is obtained and, if a water right exists, whose appropriation it is and an estimate of how much water was used. This information may be helpful if the holder of the water right seeks reimbursement for the use of the water from the entity in charge of fighting the fire. Any assistance you can provide in locating water supply sources for fighting wildfires will most likely be appreciated by the fire fighting entity.

If you have questions concerning the contents of this Memorandum, please feel free to contact me.