MEMO TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Subject: Agenda Item No. 5.1 Public Hearing to Receive Comments and Consider a Groundwater Emergency or Water Shortage Declaration

Attachments: 1. Letter Memo from HydroMetrics WRI dated 10/28/2013
2. Letter Memo from Bob Bosso, District Counsel dated 05/30/2014
3. Letter Memo from John Ricker, Santa Cruz County Water Resources Division Director dated 05/16/2014
4. CEQA definition of emergency exemption
5. ACWA’s List of agencies who have declared various stages of emergency

Background on Groundwater Condition and Technical Evaluation
Soquel Creek Water District’s sole source of supply is groundwater that provides water to its 38,000+ customers in Soquel, Aptos, Seacliff, Rio Del Mar, La Selva Beach and portions of the City of Capitola. The Soquel-Aptos area basin also provides water to other municipal water agencies (such as the City of Santa Cruz and Central Water District), small mutual water agencies, and private well owners.

Since 2005, the District has retained HydroMetrics WRI as its hydrologist to provide ongoing scientific evaluation and technical analysis of the Soquel-Aptos area groundwater basin. Prior to this, the District had retained Luhdorff and Scalmanini. Based on HydroMetrics assessment, the local groundwater basin is currently in a state of overdraft whereby more water is extracted than naturally replenished by rainfall and has resulted in depressed water levels. This unsustainable condition includes detection of higher chloride levels in the coastal monitoring well network which is an indicator that seawater intrusion has been detected in the Aptos, La Selva Beach, and Pleasure Point areas. While seawater contamination has not been detected at our production wells, once this does occur, it could greatly impact our ability to serve high-quality water to our customers.

HydroMetrics has recommended an adaptive management approach to address our groundwater basin that has included, but isn’t limited to, developing a precipitation-runoff modeling system (PRMS), a water balance calculation of post-recovery
pumping yields for the Purisima aquifer and Aromas Red Sands, modeled protective outflows to the ocean, and determined target protective groundwater levels along the coast to prevent seawater intrusion from moving more inland. HydroMetrics submitted a letter to the District on October 23, 2013 (Attachment 1) affirming the basin’s overdraft condition.

In January 2014, the District retained Todd Groundwater to conduct a peer review and provide an independent assessment to review and confirm the findings and recommendations of the District’s hydrologist, HydroMetrics WRI. Todd Engineers completed their assessment in May 2014 and answered eight specific questions related to the basin’s condition, the approach to determine protective elevations, pre-recovery and post-recovery pumping goals, and the sustainable yield of the basin. The draft report was presented to the Board at their May 20, 2014 meeting. In summary, Todd Groundwater agreed with HydroMetrics that the basin is in overdraft. But their findings contradict those of HydroMetrics on the total deficit we have to overcome to restore the basin. They differ enough that it would be hard to say the peer review findings support our current plans for restoring the basin or the need for the level of conservation we have planned for. Because of these contradictions, and the fact that both hydrologists have said the answer is somewhere between their differing findings, staff feels it’s important to finalize the peer review process and determine what we really have to accomplish before moving forward with any major decisions on supplemental supply, further mandatory reductions, or other major decisions.

This evening, HydroMetrics will be presenting their annual Status of the Groundwater Basin as an informational item (Item 4.2) to provide the latest assessment.

Todd Engineers was going to address the difference in their calculations, but was unable to have something ready in the time allowed. They will present at a later meeting.

Background and Considerations on Water Shortage Declarations

The District formalized a Water Shortage Contingency Plan in Section 5 of 2010 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) that categorizes three different types of supply shortages:

- Short-term shortages due to catastrophic emergencies (such as power outages, earthquakes, bomb threats, etc.);
- Long-term shortages due to prolonged drought, contamination, and destruction of critical water supply facilities; and
- Supply shortages due to groundwater overdraft
In the last six years, the District has enacted several water cutbacks to address supply shortages: 2009 (15% curtailment), 2012 (5% curtailment), and 2013 (15% curtailment). In January 2014, the Board enacted a 20% voluntary cutback to support the statewide drought. These curtailments have had various results and are often impacted by weather conditions (e.g. hot summers) and the economy (e.g. economic downturn). Most recently, we are seeing declining trends in our pumping due to the heightened awareness of drought conditions in that, we saw a 23% difference between our April 2013 and 2014 production yields.

With low rainfall over the last three years and the groundwater basin’s continued state of overdraft, the Board could consider evaluating the trigger conditions to declare a formal Stage 2 Water Shortage Warning, a Stage 3 Water Shortage Emergency, or a Groundwater Emergency based on the District’s UWMP or a Water Shortage Emergency based on California Water Code Section 350-359. Links to these documents are:

- UWMP, Section 5: www.soquelcreekwater.org/sites/default/files/UWMP%20FINAL%20MASTER%20OCT7.pdf

- CA Water Code Section 350-359: www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=wat&group=00001-01000&file=350-359

For each of these water shortage declarations, there are several trigger conditions that must be met. These include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Shortage Declaration</th>
<th>Trigger Conditions</th>
<th>Has Condition Been Met?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2 Water Shortage Warning (based on UWMP, Section 5)</td>
<td>Was this year’s rainfall less than 26.2” through March 31, 2014?</td>
<td>Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Was cumulative rainfall over the last two years less than 50” over the last two years?</td>
<td>Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3 Water Shortage Emergency (based on UWMP, Section 5)</td>
<td>Was this year’s rainfall less than 26.2” through March 31, 2014?</td>
<td>Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Was rainfall below 68” over the last three years?</td>
<td>Met</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Did a Peer Review Panel confirm the finding and recommendations of District’s Groundwater Hydrologist?</td>
<td>Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groundwater Emergency (based on UWMP, Section 5)</td>
<td>Has a professional hydrologist demonstrated that the groundwater basin is experiencing groundwater overdraft exceeding the sustainable yield AND where such degradation threatens the public health, safety, and welfare of the community?</td>
<td>See below (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Shortage Emergency (based on CA Water Code Sections 350-359)</td>
<td>Has it been determined that ordinary demands and requirements of water consumers cannot be satisfied without depleting the water supply of the distributor to the extent that there would be insufficient water for human consumption, sanitation, and fire protection.?</td>
<td>See below (C)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Rainfall data in this table reflects actual data using CIMIS Data for the DeLaveaga station (#104) to monitor. (The rainfall trigger conditions under the UWMP Table 5-9 slightly differ because that was station #104 data translated to the co-op station data).

Consideration and Discussion of Trigger Conditions marked (A), (B), and (C)
Several trigger conditions shown above warrant some further explanation and discussion:

(A) Has a professional hydrologist demonstrated that the groundwater basin is experiencing groundwater overdraft exceeding the sustainable yield AND where such degradation threatens the public health, safety, and welfare of the community?

- This is a two-part trigger condition from the UWMP requirements.
- For the first part, there is concurrence from two District hydrologists that the groundwater basin is experiencing groundwater overdraft exceeding the sustainable yield.
- For the second part, this determination of “threatening the public health, safety, and welfare of a community” is much more interpretive as there are legal, regulatory, and jurisdictional considerations.
  - A memo dated 05/30/2014 from the Bob Bosso, District counsel, outlines the considerations the District Board should go through including: do the factual and procedural requirements for an emergency exist, should the board declare an emergency under CWC Sections 350 et seq. or the
UWMP, and what are CEQA requirements. See Attachment 2 for his memo and see Attachment 4 for CEQA requirements.

- A letter provided by John Ricker, SC County Water Resources Division Director dated 05/16/2014 citing that he was unable to find a clear definition of a broader threat to public health and safety from a potential water shortage and cited that public health and safety threats are usually narrowly defined such as inadequate supply for drinking, cooking, washing; water quality that does not meet drinking water standards, and a loss of supply due to seawater intrusion, declining water levels or some calamity that would cause either of the above. Per Ricker, “at what point does a threat become imminent?” See Attachment 3 for his letter.

- Based on discussions with CA Department of Public Health (DPH) Staff, DPH does not have a definition of “emergency” in regards to diminishing source capacity such as basin overdraft. Rather, if a water system has to haul water on a regular basis, DPH would address this through a moratorium or compliance order.

- While legal counsel has advised that we can likely defend a declaration of a Groundwater Emergency and it is within our powers to make such a declaration, there are requirements as part of the California Governmental Code that apply to the County’s ability to also declare a groundwater emergency. Kern County recently contemplated declaring an Urgency Ordinance at their March 4, 2014 Board of Supervisors meeting to address their overdrafted basin conditions. Their County counsel opined that an urgency ordinance could not be supported with the necessary legal findings to meet their requirements of facts to demonstrate immediate preservation for the following reasons: (1) condition was not immediate since their overdraft has been occurring since the 1960’s and suddenly does not require speedy action, (2) the extraction of water has been occurring and is not unexpected, and (3) while damages to the aquifer can occur over time, it could not be considered imminent to meet CEQA definition. Santa Cruz County would be held to the same threshold for determination, so they may be unable to join the District in such a declaration.

(B) Has the District consulted with neighboring water agencies to explore options and programs to adopt to defray the need for a groundwater emergency declaration?

- This is a trigger condition from the UWMP requirements.
- Informal discussions between the District’s General Manager and the City of Santa Cruz Water Director have determined that in the current drought there is no water available to share. It is unknown when conditions will change enough to free up any additional supply that could be sent to us.
• Informal discussion between the District’s General Manager and Central Water District’s Manager have determined that there may be some possibility of sending water to us after undertaking infrastructure upgrades. But we currently have no way to move that water from the east side of our District to the west side. It’s also important to note that any water being provided by Central Water District is being pumped from our shared basin.

• A letter provided by John Ricker, SC County Water Resources Division Director stated no support for declaring a groundwater emergency (Attachment 3).

• Should the Board wish that the District further pursue this, a formal request signed by the District’s Board President could be prepared to initiate a more formal discussion of options and programs with neighboring agencies.

(C) Has it been determined that ordinary demands and requirements of water consumers cannot be satisfied without depleting the water supply of the distributor to the extent that there would be insufficient water for human consumption, sanitation, and fire protection?

• This is a trigger condition from the CA Water Code requirements and is very similar to the UWMP’s condition of overdraft threatening public health, safety, and welfare of the community.

• Please refer to item (A) above.

Consideration of Actions and Responses to Water Shortage Declaration

Should the District declare a water shortage, either stage 2, stage 3, or a groundwater emergency based on the District’s UWMP or Water Shortage Emergency based on CA Water Code, there are several water demand reduction measures that could be implemented. These could include, but not be limited to:

• **Stage 2**: increase public awareness and outreach, contact large water users, increase water waste patrol, work with large landscapes to adhere to water waste ordinance (see list on page 5-20 of UWMP)

• **Stage 3**: increase public awareness and outreach, institute water rationing for residential customers, work with large users to reduce consumption, stop irrigating District owned property, increase rebate promotion, give advance notice of possible moratorium on new connections, contact surrounding water providers to purchase water (see list on page 5-20 of UWMP). Several of the actions outlined under Stage 3 are already proposed to be incorporated in the District’s Water Use Reduction Program that Board has been developing and conceptually approved on April 1.
- **Groundwater Emergency**: Request the County to place a moratorium on new wells within the overdrafted aquifer, request other water purveyors pumping from the aquifer to place a moratorium on service commitments and connections similar to any imposed by the District, request all other water purveyors utilizing the affected aquifer for water supply to implement water conservation measures and use restrictions, consistent with those actions taken by the District to the extent feasible; Request the County to require meters and monitoring of all wells within the impacted area, and to require water conservation measures and use restrictions by private well owners consistent with those actions taken by the District to the extent legally feasible, request the County to enact additional restrictions on agricultural water use within the affected area within its Groundwater Emergency policy; and take such other actions as authorized and appropriate within the joint powers established by AB 3030. The District could also declare a Stage 3 or greater response with a Groundwater Emergency declaration. (see pages 5-26 and 5-27 of the UWMP).

- **List of Water Emergency Declarations with Voluntary/Mandatory Measures.** For reference, ACWA has compiled a list of agencies who have declared various stages of emergency as a result of drought or groundwater shortages. See Attachment 5.

- **Responses and Action under a Water Shortage Declaration**: Item 5.2 on tonight’s agenda also includes two specific responses to a water shortage declaration: the District’s issuance of a moratorium or new approaches to the water demand offset program.

In closing, the most important consideration for declaring a groundwater emergency either under the Water Code or under our own policy document is the declaration of a threat to health and human safety. We have not experienced any of the typical safety threats such as reduced pressures that will allow inflow of pathogens, reduced fire flows or other immediate threats. This means that the Board must find that recent changes in groundwater or chloride levels must be the basis for the threat. If a Groundwater Emergency is declared, it doesn’t automatically trigger any addition restrictions within the District, but it makes additional restrictions possible. The County, like the District, must declare a Groundwater Emergency before enacting additional restrictions within the shared basin, so it’s important to request the County make this declaration if the Board does. Finally, the Board must decide whether they wish to declare a Groundwater Emergency or a Water Shortage Emergency.
POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION

1. Open public hearing and receive public testimony on declaring a groundwater emergency.

2. By MOTION, close the public hearing.

3. By MOTION, provide direction to staff to prepare a resolution declaring a “Groundwater Emergency”, a “Stage 2 or 3 Emergency Water Shortage” or a “Water Shortage Emergency” and set a date for a public hearing for the first reading of the draft resolution.

4. By MOTION, if direction to staff is to prepare a resolution on a Groundwater Emergency, then also provide direction to staff to prepare a formal request for the Board President to sign requesting what actions and measures the County and other neighboring water agencies can undertake to defray the need to declare a groundwater emergency as outlined in the UWMP.

5. No action.

By ______________________________
Kim Adamson
General Manager
Ms. Kim Adamson  
Soquel Creek Water District  
PO Box 1550  
Capitola, CA 95010  

October 28, 2013  

Subject: Soquel-Aptos Basin Overdraft  

Dear Ms. Adamson:

As Soquel Creek Water District’s (SqCWD) groundwater hydrologists, we affirm the statement in the SqCWD’s 2010 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) that the Soquel-Aptos area groundwater basin is experiencing overdraft conditions. The overdraft exists because long-term pumping has exceeded the sustainable yield.

Sustainable yield is limited in the Soquel-Aptos area basin by the risk of seawater intrusion. Our annual reviews of data in the Groundwater Management Annual Report and Review reports (HydroMetrics WRI, 2013) have shown average annual groundwater levels in coastal monitoring wells that are below elevations needed to protect the basin from seawater intrusion over the long term (HydroMetrics LLC, 2009 and HydroMetrics WRI, 2012). Groundwater levels below protective elevations indicate sustainable yield has been exceeded and overdraft exists because continuing the long term average basin pumping that has resulted in

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1 The UWMP defines overdraft as “the condition of a groundwater basin in which the amount of water withdrawn exceeds the amount of water that recharges the basin over a period of years.” This definition is incomplete; a complete definition is “the condition of a groundwater basin in which the amount of water withdrawn plus the amount of discharge water required to prevent negative impacts to the groundwater quality or adverse environmental effects exceeds the amount of water that recharges the basin over a period of years.”

2 The UWMP defines sustainable yield as “the amount of groundwater that can be removed from an aquifer on a long-term/sustained basis without negative impacts to the groundwater quality or creating an undesirable effect.”
current groundwater levels would have negative impacts to groundwater quality, by impairing the aquifer with saline waters. In addition, any increase in pumping from long term historical averages will increase the overdraft and accelerate impairment.

Threats resulting from this overdraft will not be eliminated until groundwater levels recover to elevations that protect the basin from seawater intrusion. Groundwater levels have been recovering in recent years as SqCWD has reduced pumping from long-term averages, but we estimate that pumping will need to be reduced further to recover the basin and eliminate overdraft in the 20 year timeframe set by SqCWD (HydroMetrics WRI, 2012).

While we affirm that the basin is experiencing overdraft conditions, and that long-term pumping has exceeded the sustainable yield, we make no statement that existing conditions threaten the public health, safety, and welfare of the community. This additional finding is required by the UWMP in order for the District to declare a groundwater emergency. It is our understanding that the finding that a groundwater emergency is warranted based on the threat to public health, safety, and welfare of the community has recently been interpreted to be the responsibility of the SqCWD Board of Directors.

If the Board should find that existing conditions warrant the declaration of a groundwater emergency, we affirm that implementing a goal to eliminate overdraft within 20 years is an appropriate course of action. Implementing this goal would involve reducing the District’s groundwater pumping to approximately 2,900 acre-feet per year and adjusting the pumping based on the observed progress of groundwater level recovery.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Cameron Tana, Vice President

Derrik Williams, President
HydroMetrics Water Resources Inc.

Cc: Taj Dufour

References:
HydroMetrics LLC, 2009, *Groundwater levels to protect against seawater intrusion and store freshwater offshore*, prepared for Soquel Creek Water District, January.


In considering whether to declare a ground water emergency, the Board has several considerations:

1. Do the factual and procedural requirements for an emergency exist.

2. Do you declare the emergency under California Water Code Sections 350 et. seq.

3. Do you declare the emergency under the Urban Water Management Plan. (UWMP)

4. What are the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements.

A. Factual and Procedural Requirements:

Both California Water Code 350 et. seq. and the Urban Water Management Plan have similar factual findings:

California Water Code 350 provides: The governing body.....may declare a water shortage emergency condition to prevail within the area served by such distributor whenever it finds and determines that the ordinary demands and requirements of
water consumers cannot be satisfied without depleting the water supply of the distributor to the extent that there would be insufficient water for human consumption, sanitation, and fire protection. [Emphasis Added]

There may well be an issue as to whether a ground water overdraft that has been going on for over 30 years meets the definition of a water shortage emergency unless the District can demonstrate that there has been a significant drop in water levels or increase in chlorides during the recent period which may qualify as an emergency. In contrast, the findings in San Luis Obispo County which led to the enactment of their ordinance (generally referred to as the Paso Robles Ordinance) included private wells drying up etc. Nevertheless, as discussed below, the standard of judicial review is very favorable to the District so we would feel comfortable in defending the decision.

The code then goes on to provide for the steps to be taken including a public hearing CWC 351) Notice of the hearing (CWC 352) Adoptions of Regulations in the sound discretion of the governing body (CWC353) Priorities—not relevant here )CWC354) Duration of Regulations—until the supply of water has been replenished or augmented (CWC 355) and

The regulations and restrictions may include the right to deny applications for new or additional service connections, and provision for their enforcement by discontinuing service to consumers wilfully violating the regulations and restrictions.

While CWC 358 does provide for judicial review of a governing board’s finding of an emergency or of the regulations adopted, the code limits that review to a finding that the action by the governing board is “fraudulent, arbitrary or capricious” which is a very high standard of review. (See Building Industry of Northern California vs. Marin Municipal Water District, 235 CA3d 1641 (1991) affirming the same finding in Swanson vs. Marin Municipal Water District, 56 CA3d 512 (1976) (two different moratoriums). Nevertheless, a federal court in Lockary vs. Kayfetz 917 F.2d 1150 (1990) which was reviewing a moratorium in Bolinas held that the Plaintiffs could show that the District had sufficient water and that the moratorium there was not based on solid evidence. [Interestingly, after having won the appeal, the plaintiffs in that case dropped the case...]

The requirements for declaring a ground water emergency under UWMP are similar, although the standard of review is not set forth. The advantage of the UWMP is that it specifically describes an overdraft situation as a ground water emergency which clearly makes it the proper subject for resolution finding a ground water emergency exists. In other words, if the Board makes the determination in good faith that under the criteria of the UWMP there is a ground water emergency, it could probably be sustained.
Other water code sections (e.g. 31026-31029) have provisions for a Board, by ordinance, to enact water use restrictions other than for household purposes and enforce those restrictions as a misdemeanor, but the Board has generally not favored the cumbersome misdemeanor process.

In the course of this research, I came upon Government Code Section 53069.4 which doesn’t mention water districts, but in the definition of applicable entities would include a special district. That section allows the governing body, by ordinance, to impose administrative fines and penalties for violation and includes an appeal process etc. That avoids the whole misdemeanor problems associated with CWC31026-31029 and would allow the District to impose fines and penalties, have its own appeal process, and assuming that the fines and penalties were not directly related to rates for usage could be done without a Prop 218 process. This information has been forwarded to staff.

On a related issue that has been of interest to some board members, in one of the Goleta moratorium cases (Wright vs. Goleta Water District 174 CA3d 74 (1985) the court held that an adjudication decision could not in any manner limit the right of overlying landowners who were not part of the adjudication and who had not drilled wells on their land to use the water under their land. The court specifically held that an appropriator (in that case, the Goleta Water District) could not prescribe away the rights of an overlying landowner who (because he or she wasn’t extracting) was not a party to the adjudication. The court made it clear that even if they had been joined (which would require virtually every property owner in the district), it would not result in their right to extract water from their land being prescribed by appropriators. That is consistent with the Pasadena Case which we have previously discussed and the Mojave case, both of which only applied prescription to parties in the adjudication action who were already extracting water to equalize the burden of limitations on water extractions.

The CEQA Guidelines provide: The following emergency projects are exempt from the requirements of CEQA.

(c) Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. This does not include long-term projects undertaken for the purpose of preventing or mitigating a situation that has a low probability of occurrence in the short-term.

These are the section which Paso Robles recently did in enacting their water demand offset policy for new agricultural uses. Despite that effort, there already have been three
lawsuits filed against the Paso Robles ordinance. (Paso Robles was a County Ordinance did not use California Water Code 350, but rather the emergency sections of the Government Code which are similar). Alternatively, Marin Municipal Water District did do a full EIR in enacting their second moratorium which was based on California Water Code 350 et. seq. and stood up to a court challenge aimed primarily at the EIR.

CONCLUSION

The Board of Directors has discretion to declare a water emergency under California Water Code Section 350 with standard of review which is favorable to the governing body, although at least in one court, not above attack. On the other hand, since the UWMP has similar language and the Board has undertaken at least a substantial portion of the requirements to declaring a ground water emergency, it probably would be wise to use both as the basis for any such declaration. While there are sections of CEQA that could be relied upon to avoid an EIR, doing an EIR avoids a potential area of attack.
May 16, 2014

Kim Adamson  
General Manager  
Soquel Creek Water District

Subject: Criteria for Moratorium or Groundwater Emergency

Kim:

I am commenting on the potential actions to adopt a connection moratorium and/or declare a groundwater emergency. I will be out of the country when the public hearing on the moratorium is scheduled. I want to commend the efforts to date of the Soquel Water District Board to reduce pumping from the groundwater basin and seek long term solutions to the current overdraft. The District’s phased approach to address the situation seems to make good sense.

I do not support a connection moratorium at this time, unless some new information comes out of the peer review of the current groundwater situation, or there is evidence of a significant worsening of overdraft or seawater intrusion. A moratorium does not seem consistent with the relatively modest level water use reduction proposed for Phase 1. Continued implementation of the WDO program for new development seems more consistent with the Phase 1 reduction target. The additional water savings from a moratorium, if any, would not be significant relative to the amount of the overdraft, and would create a significant burden on affected property owners and on the District. A moratorium may be warranted in the future if conditions worsen and/or you move into phase 2 or 3 of your reduction program, and could potentially be built into those plans.

Related to the issue of a moratorium is the declaration of a groundwater emergency by the District and/or the County. County code related to a declaration of groundwater emergency discusses several triggers, including a threat to “public health, safety and welfare of the community” and a finding that “the creation of new wells or expansion of existing wells will significantly increase the demand on the affected aquifer”. Given the relatively low rates of growth in the rural areas and within the District, it would be challenging to make the latter finding. A potential threat to public health and safety is usually fairly narrowly defined. It might include:

- Inadequate supply for drinking, cooking, washing and toilet flushing.
- Water quality that does not meet drinking water standards.
- A loss of supply due to seawater intrusion, declining water levels or some calamity that would cause either of the above.

At what point does a threat become imminent, requiring a declaration of emergency? When the impact could occur in 30 days, 6 months, or 2 years? I have not been able to find a clear definition of a broader threat to public health and safety from a potential water shortage.

Regardless of whether a moratorium is declared or a declaration of groundwater emergency, I look forward to further collaboration with the District in developing an effective long term approach to the eliminating the overdraft.

Sincerely,

John A. Ricker  
Water Resources Division Director
CEQA STATUTORY EXEMPTION FOR EMERGENCY
PROJECTS – (CEQA Statute and Guidelines§21060.3 and §15359 )

An emergency is defined in the CEQA Statute and Guidelines as “a sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services. “Emergency” includes such occurrences as fire, flood, earthquake, or other soil or geologic movements, as well as such occurrences as riot, accident, or sabotage.” The concept of “emergency” should be interpreted narrowly and would include such projects as the following:

- Projects to maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act. This includes projects that will remove, destroy, or significantly alter an historical resource when that resource represents an imminent threat to the public of bodily harm or of damage to adjacent property or when the project has received a determination by the State Office of Historic Preservation pursuant to Section 5028 (b) of Public Resources Code.
- Emergency repairs to publicly or privately owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety or welfare.
- Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. This does not include long-term projects undertaken for the purpose of preventing or mitigating a situation that has a low probability of occurrence in the short-term.
- Projects undertaken, carried out, or approved by a public agency to maintain, repair, or restore an existing highway damaged by fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide, provided that the project is within the existing Right-of-Way of that highway and is initiated within one year of the damage occurring. This exemption does not apply to highways designated as official state scenic highways, nor any project undertaken, carried out, or approved by a public agency to expand or widen a highway damaged by fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide.
- Seismic work on highways and bridges pursuant to Section 180.2 of the Streets and Highways Code section 180 et seq.

Projects which require specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency, can qualify for an exemption under CEQA. An emergency exemption under CEQA does not necessarily remove the Department’s responsibility to comply with other state laws nor does it have any bearing on compliance with federal laws. Informal consultation and further environmental studies may need to be initiated with applicable resource agencies, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, California Coastal Commission, park officials, U.S. Department of Interior/National Park Service, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and State Historic Preservation Office to obtain agreement on expedited environmental processes to address the requirements of other federal and state environmental laws. Please see the Environmental Compliance in case of emergency guidance for additional information.
Drought Response by Local Water Agencies

(5-13-14)

Local water agencies across California are taking action in the face of dry conditions in 2014, the state’s third consecutive dry year. Many water suppliers are calling on customers to step up conservation efforts, while some have implemented mandatory restrictions on water use. More on the drought and local water agencies is available at www.acwa.com.

Mandatory Restrictions / Stage 1, 2, 3 or 5 Water Alert Declared

- **Alameda County Water District** - March 13: Water Shortage declared. Residents are not allowed to water their lawns on consecutive days, refill swimming pools or use a hose to clean things. If residents must use a hose, it has to have a "shut-off" nozzle. Rule breakers get a written warning at first, followed by a knock on the door for a second violation. If they still don't comply, the district will shut the water off.

- **Atascadero Mutual Water Company** - Feb. 12 declared a Stage 2 Water Shortage Condition to more tightly control outdoor water use, which accounts for more than half of the total water demand. The goal of the declaration is to reduce overall water use by 20%.

- **Bella Vista Water District** - Feb. 27: Declared a water shortage emergency. No outside watering during daytime hours; no new landscaping for new development; no supply for construction or hauled water outside district boundary; no filling of new ponds or new lakes.

- **Big Bear City Community Services District** - On Monday, February 3, 2014 the CSD Board of Directors voted to implement mandatory Stage 1 Water Restrictions: Waste is prohibited; watering with sprinklers between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. is prohibited; no run-off; no turf irrigation between Nov. 1 and April 1; Decorative ponds, fountains and waterways in excess of 20 gallons shall not be filled with water from the District’s water system; brushes, not hoses; vehicles washed with buckets and shut-off nozzles; water only upon request in restaurants; fix leaks immediately.

- **Brooktrails Township** - April 22. Water emergency declared; limit of 180 gallons per day per connection.

- **Cambria Community Services District** – Water Rationing, March 1: Each permanent residence will be allotted two units of water per month, or four per the two-month billing cycle (one unit is 748 gallons, or 100 cubic feet). Permanent residents can apply for
additional unit allotments. If a dwelling exceeds the allotment, a 500 percent surcharge will apply for the first violation, a 1,000 percent surcharge for the second, and further violations will be subject to discontinuance. Commercial users will be required to reduce use to 80 percent of their 12-month average.

» **Citrus Heights Water District** - Stage 3 Mandatory Water Warning. No run-off; fix leaks; use trigger nozzles; pools, fountains, spas must recirculate; no washing down of paved surfaces; reduce irrigation by 11-25%; indoor use by 11-25%; restaurant water by request only; construction meters and fire hydrants will be monitored.

» **City of Arroyo Grande** - Permanent mandatory water conservation restrictions in effect. City is stepping up monitoring and enforcement of water use restrictions as of Jan. 17.

» **City of Calistoga** - Stage II Water Emergency Resolution. Beginning March 1, 2014, the city will be enforcing Stage II mandatory water conservation efforts to achieve the desired goal of a 20% reduction in water use as compared to the previous year’s water use, and impose economic penalties.

» **City of Folsom** - Adopted city-wide Water Warning requiring 20% reduction in water use. Mandatory water use restrictions for businesses and residences limit landscape watering to two designated days per week; prohibit washing of parking lots, street, driveways or sidewalks; and prohibit use of city water for construction purposes without approval.

» **City of Healdsburg** - Declared a water shortage emergency on Jan. 21, implementing Stage 2 mandatory conservation measures limiting outdoor irrigation and calling on businesses to reduce use. Healdsburg is aiming to cut use by 20%. Voluntary conservation was in effect since June 2013.

» **City of Long Beach** - Feb. 27: Declared a water supply shortage. Prohibited use of water: Irrigating landscape with potable water any day other than Monday, Thursday, or Saturday; serving drinking water if not requested; irrigating landscape with potable water for more than 10 minutes per authorized day if using sprinkler heads that emit one or more gallons per minute, or for more than 20 minutes per authorized day if using stream rotator-type or gear driven sprinkler heads rated at emitting less than one gallon per minute.

» **City of Modesto** - Outdoor water use restrictions in effect.

» **City of Morgan Hill** - April 2: Level 1 Water Supply Shortage Declared implementing the mandatory measures needed to achieve a 20% reduction in water use. Limits on Watering Days: Watering or irrigating of lawn, landscape or other vegetated area with potable water is limited to Monday, Wednesday and Friday, during the months of April through October. Watering limitations decrease further, to one day a week beginning in November. That day will be Wednesday. Fix leaks immediately; no washing down of hard surfaces.

» **City of Morro Bay** - Severely Restricted Water Supply Conditions. Irrigation of public and private landscaping by address; no water used for cleaning driveways, patios, parking lots, sidewalks and other hardscapes. Bucket to wash cars. Water upon request in restaurants.

» **City of Pismo Beach** - Feb. 6: declared Moderately Restricted Water Supply Conditions with modified restrictions: no run-off; trigger nozzles; broom not hose; no watering between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.; restaurants serve water upon request.
- **City of Roseville** - March 24: Calling for a mandatory 20% reduction in water use by residents and businesses. The water use reductions also require commercial water customers to reduce their outdoor irrigation by 30 percent, bans the washing of cars without a water nozzle or without going to a commercial car wash, prohibits washing of hardscape surfaces unless for health and safety purposes, and prohibits water waste.

- **City of Sacramento** – Adopted Stage 2 alert on Jan. 14 requiring customers to cut their water use by at least 20%. Stepping up enforcement of conservation ordinance, limits on outdoor watering, etc.

- **City of Santa Cruz** - On Feb. 25 formally declared a water shortage emergency. May 1: Residents in single-family homes will be allotted 249 gallons per day at regular rates. Households with more than four residents can request an additional allotment and households with fewer than four are asked to keep water use to 60 gallons per person per day. Customers who use more than their allotment will pay $25 for the first 10% over and $50 for every 10% over after that.

- **City of Sierra Madre** – Implemented mandatory water conservation measures for all water customers in Sierra Madre in May 2013. Still in effect.

- **City of St. Helena** - Effective Feb. 7: Phase II Water Shortage Emergency. Nov. - March, 65 gallons per person per day; April through October, 2,500 gallons per month is added for irrigation.

- **City of Visalia** – Adopted ordinance limiting outdoor watering, car washing, etc. to specific days.

- **City of Wasco** - The Wasco City Council voted in February to implement stage two of the city’s water conservation ordinance, which regulates outdoor watering, sidewalk washing and other uses. Enforcement begins March 4.

- **Cloverdale** – Imposed mandatory water conservation measures on Jan. 22, with the intent to curtail water use by 25%.

- **East Orange County Water District** - Year-round permanent mandatory restrictions since June 2009. Water only 10 minutes daily; no run-off; brooms, not hose; trigger nozzle, buckets to wash car; water and linens upon request.

- **Kirkwood Meadows Public Utilities District** - Stage I Conservation Alert. No runoff; continuous discharge from hose nozzle is prohibited; irrigation of non-landscaped, natural vegetation or undeveloped property is expressly prohibited.

- **Las Virgenes Municipal Water District** - Reduce usage by 20%. No irrigation between 10 a.m.-5 p.m., no run-off, broom instead of hose, trigger nozzles. Second violation $50, third violation $100, fourth $250, fifth district may restrict flow or terminate service.

- **Lompico County Water District** - On Jan. 16, Lompico issued a mandatory 30 percent cut in usage -- customers have already voluntarily cut usage by 20 percent since August.

- **Los Angeles Department of Water and Power** --Mandatory conservation measures in place since 2009, including limitations on outdoor watering (three days a week, assigned to odd / even addresses, prohibitions on runoff into streets and gutters from excessive watering, serving water to restaurant customers unless requested, etc.)

- **Montecito Water District** - Cessation of all new water service accounts, or increase in size of existing water meter accounts; scheduled irrigation; no draining and refilling of
pools; water upon request in restaurants; hotels offer no fresh linen service. Penalties imposed for violations. Water rationing in effect.

- **Mountain House Community Services District** - Approved mandatory water conservation rules on Feb. 12, restricting daytime irrigation and other outdoor water use.

- **Paradise Valley Water** - March 4: Elevated to stage 3 of the drought management plan. Stage 3 requires mandatory water rationing.

- **Rancho Murieta Community Services District** – Adopted a Stage 2 Water Alert on Jan. 17 requiring mandatory water use restriction for homes and businesses. Landscape irrigation is limited to a maximum of two days per week when necessary.

- **Redwood Valley County Water District** - Households will receive 50 gallons per person; agricultural customers will receive 0%.

- **Rio Linda/Elverta Water District** - Adopted a mandatory Stage 2 water alert in 2008, which has remained in effect. Irrigation allowed only on designated days as per address, shut-off nozzles required on hoses, no washing down of hard surfaces, pools must recirculate water, etc. At Feb. 10 board meeting, stage may be elevated.

- **Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District** - On Feb. 24 adopted 50 percent mandatory cutbacks in an effort to maintain as much water as possible in drought-plagued Lake Mendocino.

- **San Juan Water District** - On Feb. 26 approved a Stage 3 water warning. All customers are required to cut water use by 25%.

- **Santa Clara Valley Water District** - Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution Feb. 25 calling for mandatory measures to reach a water use reduction target equal to 20% of 2013 water use, through Dec. 31, 2014. Retail water agencies, local municipalities and the county of Santa Clara are recommended to implement mandatory measures as needed to achieve the 20% water use reduction target.

- **South Coast Water District** - Three days to fix leaks; designated days to water.

- **Stinson Beach County Water District** - As of Feb. 15, a Water Shortage Emergency Condition prevails. Effective April 1, water use will be restricted to 125 gallons per day per residence until further notice. Commercial users are requested to reduce their water consumption by 20%.

- **Templeton Community Services District** – Jan. 1: Implemented mandatory restrictions and a Water Severity Level I. Customers must reduce use by 20%.

- **Trabuco Canyon Water District** - Mandatory restrictions in effect since Jan. 1, 2009. Watering between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., no more than 10 minutes per station, per day; no watering while raining; no runoff; no washing down hard or paved surfaces: prohibited except when necessary to alleviate safety or sanitary hazards, and then only by use of hand-held bucket or hose equipped with an automatic shut off nozzle. Same for car washing. No refilling of swimming pools and spas. Water fountains must have a recirculating water system. Drinking water served upon request only.

- **Tuolumne County** - Feb. 4 declared a drought emergency with a mandatory 50% reduction in water usage.

- **Tuolumne Utilities District** - Jan. 28 Drought Emergency Declared with Mandatory Restrictions: Excessive water usage is prohibited.
50% reduction is necessary by all of our customers to get through this water shortage. Any customer that does not reduce their water use compared to the same month last year by 25% could face fines. Limit or stop all outside watering. No lawn watering. Violators face a fine of up to $500 after failing to heed warnings. No washing vehicles, boats, trailers, equipment, or other vehicles. Also no washing of sidewalks, walkways or driveways by hose or faucet connected to the public water supply.

- **Twain Harte Community Services District** - All Phase III conservation measures be implemented immediately with a mandatory reduction of 50% until such time that the board of directors find that emergency conditions no longer exist.

### Voluntary Measures Enacted

- **Amador Water Agency** - Encouraging customers to voluntarily conserve water by 20%.
- **Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency** - Requests its water customers, including its 26 wholesale water customers, to voluntarily reduce water consumption by at least 10%.
- **Bolinas Community Public Utilities District** - Jan. 17, asked for voluntary 20%. Customers have reduced by 30%.
- **Camrosa Water District** - In keeping with the governor’s request, asking for customers to voluntarily reduce their usage by 20 percent.
- **Calaveras County Water District** - Voluntary reduction; no percentage given. Leak detection and non-revenue water aggressively addressed.
- **California American Water Sacramento** - Voluntary conservation program, aimed at reducing water usage and ending nonessential or unauthorized uses of water.
- **Calleguas Municipal Water District** - Voluntary 20%, in line with governor’s request.
- **Camrosa Water District** - In keeping with the governor’s request, asking for customers to voluntarily reduce their usage by 20 percent.
- **Carlsbad Municipal Water District** - Voluntary conservation. No washing down of paved surfaces; no run-off; automatic shut-off nozzle on hoses; wash vehicles using a bucket and an automatic shut-off nozzle; water upon request in restaurants; fresh linens optional in hotels; fix leaks.
- **Carmichael Water District** - Voluntary 10% reduction. No water runoff from property allowed. Trigger nozzles; recirculating pools, spas and fountains; fix leaks; water once a week early in the morning or late at night; only full loads.
- **Casitas Municipal Water District** - Voluntary 20% reduction. Fix leaks, wash full loads, use a broom instead of hose, fix leaks.
- **Castaic Lake Water Agency** - Calling on residents and businesses in the Santa Clarita Valley to take reasonable actions to reduce water use and eliminate waste.
- **City of American Canyon** - Declared a Stage 1 drought emergency on March 4. Turn off water while brushing teeth; full loads; short showers; check for leaks. Reduce consumption by 20%.
- **City of Anaheim** - Voluntary 20% reduction. Shorter showers; full loads; fix leaks; broom not hose; water one day a week.
- **City of Benicia** - City requests reduction of water consumption by 20% citywide. Water outdoor landscaping half as much; manage your irrigation timer every 2-4 weeks; fix leaks; use mulch.

- **City of Berkeley** - Asking residents to reduce water waste.

- **City of Corona** - Has declared a Stage 2 Water Supply. Irrigation by address, no watering of paved surfaces, cut indoor use by 10%.

- **City of Corning** - On Feb. 11 City Council unanimously approved implementing Stage 1 of the city’s water conservation plan. Stage 1 seeks voluntary water conservation measures to reduce water use by 15%.

- **City of Indio** - Feb. 10 ACWA survey: Voluntary conservation.

- **City of Grover Beach** - Stage 2 Water Shortage. Voluntary reductions: Hose instead of brush, recirculated water for fountains, water service upon request, trigger nozzles, no refilling of existing pools.

- **City of LaVerne** - On Feb. 18, the City Council declared Phase 1 voluntary water use restrictions. The city will offer residents the chance to get cash for each square foot of grass removed and replaced with drought-tolerant and California friendly plants.

- **City of Lincoln** - Voluntary 20% reduction.

- **City of Malibu** - Irrigation is prohibited between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.; no leaks; no run-offs; trigger nozzle is required on hoses used for home car washing; washing down of sidewalks, parking areas, and driveways is not permitted; topping off of pools only; restaurants, hotels, and cafes shall only serve drinking water upon request.

- **City of Mountain View** - Implementing the first stage of the City Water Shortage Contingency Plan, which is to ask customers to voluntarily reduce water use by at least 10 percent. Check for leaks, especially in your irrigation system; adjust your irrigation timer to decrease your watering days; take shorter showers and replace existing showerheads with water-saving models.

- **City of Napa** - Encouraging customers to heed the governor’s call for 20% reduction in water use, with enhanced outreach campaign to eliminate unnecessary winter irrigation.

- **City of Pasadena** - Supports governor’s call for voluntary 20% reduction.

- **City of Paso Robles** - Adopted voluntary Level 2 alert, asking for 20% reduction. No runoff from watering, no washing of paved surfaces, pools must recirculate water, hotels should offer optional fresh linen service.

- **City of Petaluma** - March 3: Asking for voluntary 20% reduction in water usage. Residents are asked to stop watering outdoors, cut back on car washes and be diligent about conserving.

- **City of Pleasanton** - Declared Stage One of water shortage asking for voluntary 20% reduction. Fix leaks; no run-off; water one-day-a-week or less between 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.; use shut-off nozzles; turn off water when brushing teeth, shaving, or hand dishwashing; wash only full loads; install water-efficient devices, such as faucet aerators and showerheads; take shorter showers.

- **City of Redding** - On Feb. 18 City Council approved enacting stage one of the city’s drought management plan, which calls for residents to voluntarily reduce water use by 15%.
- **City of San Bernardino** - Asking for 20% voluntary reduction.
- **City of Santa Barbara** - Stage 2 Water Shortage. Voluntary reductions: Hose instead of brush, was declared by the Santa Barbara City Council. The city is asking residents and businesses to reduce water use by 20% with extraordinary water conservation measures. Water customers currently watering their landscape are encouraged to reduce more than 20%.
- **City of Santa Monica** - Asking for voluntary 20% reduction.
- **City of Santa Rosa** - Asking for voluntary 20% reduction.
- **City of Solvang** – the City Council adopted a Stage One drought declaration, asking customers to voluntarily reduce water use by 15%; water only between 10 p.m., and 6 a.m., serve water in restaurants only upon request, etc.
- **City of Torrance** - March 18: Level 1 Water Shortage. No watering between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.; only three days a week; repair leaks within seven days.
- **City of Ventura** - On Jan. 29, asked for voluntary 10% reduction. Check for leaks, review water consumption history.
- **City of Watsonville** - Asking for voluntary 20% reduction.
- **City of West Sacramento** – On Jan. 25, the City of West Sacramento asked the public to voluntarily reduce water use by 20%, cutting back on watering, indoor use; e.g. shorter showers, only full loads for washers, etc.
- **City of Willits** - April 10: Stage 1 Water Shortage Level. No watering between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m.; watering by address; fix leaks; wash vehicles with shut-off nozzle and bucket.
- **City of Windsor** - Feb. 19: Declared a water shortage emergency and is asking their residents to conserve. Seeking voluntary reductions in water use of 20%.
- **City of Woodland** - Voluntary 20%. Avoid washing down hardpaved surfaces; recycle water or turn off decorative water features; patronize carwashes that use recycled water; limit outdoor watering of lawns and landscaping to no more than two times a week.
- **City of Yountville** - Voluntary conservation.
- **Coastside County Water District** - Implemented a Stage I Water Shortage in October 2013. As of Feb. 11, asking customers to reduce water use by 10%.
- **Cosumnes Community Services District** - Feb. 4: Resolution asking for regional effort to voluntarily reduce water use by 20%.
- **Contra Costa Water District** - On March 19, the Contra Costa Water District Board of Directors approved a program asking customers to voluntarily reduce their water use 15%. The request goes into effect on April 1.
- **Crescenta Valley Water District** - Has asked for an increased voluntary water conservation green alert. No watering between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.; and based on address; brooms instead of hoses; no runoff, recirculating fountains; fix leaks; trigger nozzles; only full loads.
- **Cucamonga Valley Water District** - Stage 1 of Ordinance 47 is in place prohibiting wasteful water use practices. Customers are encouraged to continue best management practices for water use efficiency which are listed on the District’s website.
- **Del Oro Water Company** - All Del Oro Water Company customers are asked to voluntarily conserve 20% of their monthly usage as ordered by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. on Jan. 17, 2014.

- **Del Paso Manor Water District** - Asking for a voluntary reduction of 20% indoors and outdoors. No runoff when watering, turn off water when brushing teeth or shaving, only was full loads of dishes, clothes.

- **Desert Water Agency** - April 15: Resolution calling on all customers to voluntarily reduce water use by 20%. Fix leaks; water in early morning or evening; run full loads; fill bath half full; shorter showers.

- **Dublin San Ramon Services District** - Declared a Community Drought Emergency on Jan. 18, called for 20% voluntary conservation.

- **East Bay Municipal Utility District** - As of Feb. 11, customers are being asked to voluntary cut water use by 10% to stretch supplies.

- **East Valley Water District** - Voluntary 20% reduction.

- **Eastern Municipal Water District** - April 16: Stage 2 Storage Contingency Plan. Voluntary 20%. Only automated irrigation systems between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. and for no more than 15 minutes per day; watering during the rain is prohibited; no watering their driveway or other hard surfaces; new turf may be installed for functional purposes only; new landscaping must be done with drought-tolerant plants and trees.

- **El Dorado Irrigation District** - Encouraging customers to voluntarily reduce their water use by 30%. Effective April 22: implemented mandatory watering restrictions, based upon address.

- **Elk Grove Water District** - On Jan. 22, Board of Directors voted to ask the public to voluntarily reduce their water use by 20%, even-odd numbered watering days, checking for leaks, irrigation reviews, no water washing of pavement, etc.

- **Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District** - Voluntary 20% reduction. Replace washers and toilets with high efficiency models, check for leaks, use faucet aerators.

- **El Toro Water District** - Asking for 20% reductions.

- **Elk Grove Water District** - Jan. 22: the Board of Directors called on the public to voluntarily reduce their water use by 20%.

- **Fair Oaks Water District** - Requesting customers to immediately reduce water use by at least 20% as part of a Stage 3 water warning to help conserve water for the region.

- **Fallbrook Public Utilities District** - Asking for voluntary conservation.

- **Foothill Municipal Water District** - Increased Water Conservation Alert Status: voluntary 20% requested. Water early morning, late in evening; check sprinkler systems frequently; no run-off, overspray; use mulch; broom to clean, not hose; wash vehicles with shut-off nozzle and bucket.

- **Georgetown Divide Public Utility District** - Encourages all GDPUD customers to take immediate personal actions to reduce their water usage by 20% to help prevent severe water cutbacks this summer.

- **Glendale Water & Power** - March 21: Called for residents to reduce their water use by 20%, through measures such as — Turning the faucet off when brushing teeth and limiting outdoor watering to three days a week.
- **Golden State Water Company** - Voluntary 20% reduction. Only full loads of clothes and dishes; repair leaks; use a broom instead of a hose.

- **Goleta Water District** - On March 11, Board of Directors declared a water shortage and asked for voluntary 20% reductions.

- **Helix Water District** - Declaration of "Drought Level 1" on Feb. 19, increased voluntary conservation.

- **Indian Wells Valley Water District** - Asking for voluntary 20% reduction. Landscape watering limited to between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. from May 1 to Oct. 31.

- **Inland Empire Utilities District** - Voluntary reduction: choose drought-resistant trees and plants; water early in the morning or later in the evening when temperatures are cooler; no run-off or overspray; use a broom to clean driveways, sidewalks and patios; wash cars/boats with a bucket, sponge, and a hose with a self-closing nozzle.

- **Irvine Ranch Water District** - Asking customers to voluntarily reduce water use by 20%.

- **Jurupa Community Services District** - Level I Water Conservation. Residents and businesses are asked to voluntarily conserve water by 10%.

- **Kinneola Irrigation District** - Voluntary 20% reduction. Bucket and trigger nozzle for washing cars; early morning, late night watering; no run-off.

- **La Canada Irrigation District** - Increased Voluntary Conservation Alert. Customers are asked to follow strict water conservation practices indoors and limiting outdoor water use to odd or even days based on the ending number of the customer’s address.

- **Laguna Beach County Water District** - Voluntary 20% reduction.

- **Lake Hemet Municipal Water District** - Asking for 10% voluntary water reduction. Users urged to use a broom instead of hose; fix leaks; irrigate lawns between 5 p.m. and 10 a.m.; no run-off; fountains must have recycling systems; cover pools and spas to avoid evaporation; bucket and trigger nozzle to wash car.

- **Lake Don Pedro Community Services District** - Declared a Stage 1 Drought Emergency. Asking for voluntary measures: No run-off; fix leaks; no washing down of paved areas; restaurants serve water upon request only.

- **Lincoln Avenue Water Company** - Voluntary 20% reduction. Water only when needed, once or twice a week; fix leaks; trigger nozzles; broom instead of hose; no watering between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.; only full loads; 5 minute showers; capture tap water; don't run water while shaving, brushing teeth.

- **Los Angeles County Waterworks District** - Voluntary 20% reduction. Turn off water shaving or brushing teeth; shorter showers; full loads; broom not hose; water in early a.m.

- **Mammoth Community Water District** - Level I Voluntary Water restrictions.

- **Marin Municipal Water District** - Passed resolution Jan. 21 calling for an immediate 25% voluntary reduction in water use by district customers. As of Jan. 16, the district is pumping water from a reserve reservoir. Depending on the reservoir storage levels on April 1, MMWD may need to adopt mandatory reductions in water use.

- **Mariposa Public Utilities District** - Voluntary 20% reduction.
- **Meiners Oaks Water District** - A Phase one water shortage emergency requests that every customer served by Meiners Oaks Water District voluntarily reduce their water use by 20%.

- **Mendocino County Board of Supervisors** - Jan. 7 and extended on Jan. 21. Voluntary conservation.

- **Merced County** - The Merced County Board of Supervisors declared a local drought emergency on Feb. 25, citing the drought's impacts on the county's local economy. Voluntary conservation: Full loads; aerators and low-flow showerheads and faucets; check for leaks; turn sprinklers off in winter; turn off water while brushing teeth or shaving; shorter showers.

- **Mesa Water District** - Voluntary 20% reduction.

- **Metropolitan Water District of Southern California** - Declared formal water supply alert on Feb. 11. Asking for voluntary reduction of 20%. See more under "Other Actions" below.

- **Mid-Peninsula Water District** - Pending a formal decision, asking customers to voluntarily reduce water use by 10%.

- **Monte Vista Water District** - April 9, 2014: Calling on customers to reduce water use by additional 20%. The district's Ordinance 33, adopted in 2010, establishes "best practices" mandatory at all times: automatic irrigation timers set between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.; no run-off; turn off during rain; use shut-off nozzles; no washing down of paved surfaces.

- **Monterey Peninsula Water Management District** - Stage I Mandatory Conservation: Fix leaks; water before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m., by address; no run-off; all non-residential water users within the district must have low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators; water served upon request; Swimming pools or spas should not be drained or refilled; wash vehicles with a trigger nozzle; fountains, ponds, lakes or other ornamental water uses must recycle water if the water is from a potable source.

- **Moulton-Niguel Water District** - Calling for a voluntary reduction in water usage.

- **Mountaineer Community Services District** - Stage I of the Voluntary Drought Contingency Plan. Asking for 25% reduction: every other day watering, evening and early morning; postpone new landscaping; discourage filling of pools, fountains; topping off is allowable.

- **Municipal Water District of Orange County** - Metropolitan has declared a Water Supply Alert calling for all cities, counties, member agencies and retails water agencies to implement extraordinary water use efficiency measures, adopt and implement local drought ordinances to preserve regional storage reserves.

- **Nevada Irrigation District** - Asking customers for voluntary 20% reduction.

- **Newhall County Water District** - Voluntary 20% reduction. Check for leaks, water only when needed.

- **North Coast County Water District** - Voluntary 20% reduction. Wash only full loads, replace old toilets, shorter showers, use a broom instead of hose, irrigate late night or early morning.
North Marin Water District - Voluntary 20% reduction, consistent with the governor. Customers are urged to turn off all unnecessary outside irrigation, fix any leaks promptly and participate in district conservation program.

Olivenhain Municipal Water District - Adopted a level 1 Water Supply Shortage on July 1, 2010, still in effect, which calls for a 10% voluntary reduction.

Orange Vale Water Company - Voluntary Stage 2 Water Alert adopted. No run-off, shut-off nozzles on hoses, leaky pipes fixed within five days, reduce indoor and outdoor use by five to 10%.

Ojay Water District - Declared a Level 1 – Supply Watch Condition. Customers are urged to voluntarily reduce water use by 10 percent.

Orchard Dale Water District - Asking residents and businesses to take voluntary actions to reduce water use by 20% and eliminate water waste.

Palmdale Water District - Voluntary 15% reduction. Rinse produce in pan; turn water off while shaving, brushing teeth; use trash instead of disposal; broom instead of hose.

Paradise Irrigation District - The district is encouraging residents to conserve water now by eliminating wasteful water practices and cutting back on general water use.

Placer County Water Agency - April 11: asking that all customers reduce water use by a minimum of 10% with overall conservation of 20%, a desired goal for the duration of the drought. Landscape watering to a maximum of 2 days per week during the months of April, May, June, September, October and November; a maximum of 3 days per week during the months of July and August, only between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 a.m.; no run-off; fix leaks; use mulch; wash cars with bucket and shut-off nozzle or take to recycling car wash; recycling pump in decorative fountains; cover pools; broom instead of hose.

Purissima Hills Water District - Voluntary 10% conservation.

Rincon Del Diablo Municipal Water District - The district has initiated a Level 1 voluntary 10%-20% reduction in water use.

Sacramento County Water Agency – Urging customers to voluntarily reduce water use by 20%.

Sacramento Suburban Water District - On Jan. 27, adopted a Stage 2 Water Warning. Asking for a voluntary 20% reduction. Irrigation allowed twice a week, restaurants serve water upon request only, only drought-tolerant plants allowed in new landscaping.

San Benito County Water District - Feb. 20: Issued a resolution declaring an emergency water shortage condition in the county and impose a fee for water overuse. Voluntary conservation with a goal of 15 percent reduction.

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District - Voluntary 20%, in compliance with governor.

San Diego County Water Authority -- Level 1 Drought Watch: The San Diego region is at a Level 1 Drought Watch condition that calls for voluntary conservation efforts such as: Repair leaks quickly; wash paved surfaces only when necessary for health and safety; no run-off and overspray; irrigate only during early morning and evening hours; use hoses with automatic shut-off valves; serve and refill water at restaurants only upon request; offer hotel guests the option of not laundering their linens and towels daily. For more information, go to www.whenindrought.org.
- **San Dieguito Water District** - Feb. 19: Cut water use by 10 percent, limit landscape irrigation hours and stop washing down paved surfaces, on “Drought Watch” status.
- **San Francisco Public Utilities Commission** - On Jan. 31 asked local residents to reduce water use by at least 10%.
- **San Gabriel County Water District** - Asking for 10% voluntary reduction.
- **San Jose Water Company** - SJWC’s water conservation rules to achieve the 20% conservation target is now in effect through December 31, 2014. The rules mostly apply to outdoor use that typically accounts for 50% of a typical customer’s usage.
- **San Lorenzo Valley Water District** - May 1: Stage two shortage: Customers asked to only water outdoor plants three days per week, not between 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Even-numbered addresses can water Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and odd-numbered Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Customers who don’t comply will first receive a warning, then a fine, starting at $100, that increases with subsequent offenses. Repeat offenses could result in service disconnection.
- **Santa Barbara County** - Jan. 21. Asking for immediate 20% reduction in water use.
- **Santa Cruz County** - Jan. 28, 2014, declared a state of drought: All county residents including those on small water systems and private wells are urged to reduce water use by at least 20%; all county departments and employees are directed to immediately implement water conservation measures and take all reasonable actions to reduce water use by at least 20% at county facilities.
- **Santa Fe Irrigation District** - The Santa Fe Irrigation District activated its Level 1 Water Shortage Response on February 20, and is asking all its customers to increase their water conservation efforts.
- **Santa Margarita Water District** - Adopted Board resolution implementing conservation measures in response to Gov. Brown’s recent drought declaration; asking customers to voluntarily reduce their water usage by 20%.
- **Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District** - Asking for voluntary 20% reduction.
- **Scotts Valley Water District** - Voluntary 20% reduction: No spray irrigation between the hours of 10am and 5pm, and - No spraying down hardscapes- driveways, sidewalks, pathways, etc.
- **Serrano Water District** - Asking its customers to voluntarily reduce their water usage by 20%.
- **Shasta County Water Agency** - Feb. 10 ACWA survey: Voluntary 20% reduction.
- **Solano County Water Agency** - Voluntary 20% reduction.
- **Sonoma County Water Agency** - On Feb. 3, asked for voluntary 20% reduction through actions such as eliminating outdoor irrigation.
- **Soquel Water District** - Voluntary 20% reductions.
- **South San Joaquin Irrigation District** - Voluntary 20% reductions.
- **Sweetwater Water Authority** - Voluntary reduction up to 10%.
- **Tahoe City Public Utilities District** - Voluntary conservation.
- **Three Valleys Municipal Water District** - Voluntary 20% reduction.
- **Truckee-Donner Community Services District** - Supports California Governor Brown’s request for all Californian’s to voluntarily reduce water use by 20%.
- **Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District** - Calling for a 20% voluntary reduction in water use and directing San Gabriel Valley residents to receive rebates for high-efficiency toilets and other water-saving tools.
- **Vallecitos Water District** - Drought Response Level 1 of its drought ordinance, calling for increased voluntary conservation efforts for all customers within its 45-square-mile boundary.
- **Valley Center Municipal Water District** - Level 1, “Water Shortage Watch Condition,” asking customers to voluntarily conserve: Stop washing down paved surfaces; no run-off; irrigate residential and commercial landscape before 10:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m. only; use hose equipped with shut-off nozzle or bucket to water plants and wash vehicles; repair all water leaks within five days of notification.
- **Valley of the Moon Water District** - Voluntary 20% reduction.
- **Vandenberg Village Community Services District** - Voluntary 20% conservation.
- **Vista Irrigation District** - The Vista Irrigation District is in Level 1, Water Efficiency, of its Water Supply Response Program. The District is asking customers to voluntarily conserve and continue to implement water-use efficiency practices set forth in Level 1, such as not washing down paved surfaces, eliminating irrigation run-off and over-spray and repairing leaks within five days of receiving notification from the District.
- **Walnut Valley Water District** - Directors adopted a resolution requesting a 20% voluntary reduction in water usage by all district’s customers.
- **West Basin Municipal Water District** - Feb. 24, 2014 declared a Drought Alert. The Resolution calls for the District’s 17 cities, unincorporated county areas and its retail customer agencies to implement conservation measures to meet California Governor Brown’s goal of a 20 percent water use reduction.
- **West Kern Water District** - Asking customers to cut back 15%.
- **Western Municipal Water District** - April 2: 20% voluntary reduction of water use by its customers in support of Governor Brown’s Drought Declaration. No run-off; fix leaks; broom, not hose; water between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.
- **Yorba Linda Water District** - Calling for voluntary water conservation.
- **Zone 7 Water Agency** - Asking everyone to conserve as much water as possible with a target of at least 20 percent savings, keeping in line with the governor’s proclamation (Jan. 17).

**Drought Emergency / Water Shortage Declared or Proclaimed by Cities and Counties**

- **City of American Canyon** - Declared a Stage 1 drought emergency on March 4. Turn off water while brushing teeth; full loads; short showers; check for leaks. Reduce consumption by 20%.
- **City of Calistoga** - Stage II Water Emergency Resolution. Beginning March 1, 2014, the city will be enforcing Stage II mandatory water conservation efforts to achieve the desired goal of a 20% reduction in water use as compared to the previous year’s water use, and impose economic penalties.
- **City of Grover Beach** - Stage 2 Water Shortage. Voluntary reductions: Hose instead of brush, recirculated water for fountains, water service upon request, trigger nozzles, no refilling of existing pools.

- **City of Long Beach** - Feb. 27: Declared a water supply shortage. Prohibited use of water: Irrigating landscape with potable water any day other than Monday, Thursday, or Saturday; serving drinking water if not requested; irrigating landscape with potable water for more than 10 minutes per authorized day if using sprinkler heads that emit one or more gallons per minute, or for more than 20 minutes per authorized day if using stream rotator-type or gear driven sprinkler heads rated at emitting less than one gallon per minute.

- **City of Santa Barbara** - Stage 2 Water Shortage. Voluntary reductions: Hose instead of brush, was declared by the Santa Barbara City Council. The city is asking residents and businesses to reduce water use by 20% with extraordinary water conservation measures. Water customers currently watering their landscape are encouraged to reduce more than 20%.

- **City of Santa Cruz** - On Feb. 25 formally declared a water shortage emergency. May 1: Residents in single-family homes will be allotted 249 gallons per day at regular rates. Households with more than four residents can request an additional allotment and households with fewer than four are asked to keep water use to 60 gallons per person per day. Customers who use more than their allotment will pay $25 for the first 10% over and $50 for every 10% over after that.

- **City of St. Helena** - Effective Feb. 7: Phase II Water Shortage Emergency. Nov.-March, 65 gallons per person per day; April through October, 2,500 gallons per month is added for irrigation.

- **City of Windsor** - Feb. 19: Declared a water shortage emergency and is asking their residents to conserve. Seeking voluntary reductions in water use of 20%.

- **Glenn County** - Designated as a disaster area and declared a drought emergency on Feb. 4.

- **Inyo County** - Inyo County Board of Supervisors approved Resolution 2014-09 proclaiming a Local Drought Emergency.

- **Kings County** - Has been renewing drought emergency every month since March 2012.

- **Lake County** - March 4: Declared a state of emergency, due to the extreme drought conditions.

- **Madera County** - On Jan. 28 adopted an emergency resolution declaring a local drought.

- **Mendocino County** – Jan. 7 and extended on Jan. 21.

- **Merced County** - The Merced County Board of Supervisors declared a local drought emergency on Feb. 25, citing the drought's impacts on the county's local economy. Voluntary conservation: Full loads; aerators and low-flow showerheads and faucets; check for leaks; turn sprinklers off in winter; turn off water while brushing teeth or shaving; shorter showers.

- **Placer County Water Agency** - Declared a Drought Emergency on Feb. 6. Reduce indoor water use by 25% and outdoor use by 50%.
- **Santa Cruz County** - Jan. 28, 2014, declared a state of drought: All county residents including those on small water systems and private wells are urged to reduce water use by at least 20%; all County departments and employees are directed to immediately implement water conservation measures and take all reasonable actions to reduce water use by at least 20% at County facilities.
- **San Joaquin County** - Jan. 28. Local drought emergency proclaimed.
- **San Luis Obispo County** - The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors officially declared a local drought emergency on March 11.
- **Santa Barbara County** - Jan. 21. Asking for immediate 20% reduction in water use.
- **Siskiyou County** - On Feb. 11, Board of Supervisors issued a proclamation declaring a Drought Emergency.
- **Sutter County** - Declared a drought emergency.
- **Tulare County** - Feb. 4 unanimously proclaimed a local emergency due to the statewide drought and formed an ad hoc committee to address future water advocacy strategy.
- **Tuolumne County** - Feb. 4 declared a drought emergency with a mandatory 50% reduction in water usage.
- **Yuba County** - Proclaimed a local water emergency on Feb. 25.

### Agricultural Impacts

- **Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District** - On Feb. 17 the District received notification of its initial allocation for water for 2014: 40% of their contract supply.
- **Browns Valley Irrigation District** - Mandatory. Not making deliveries at this time; only have 30% of needed supply.
- **Kern County Water Agency** - 13 water districts will receive 0% allocations; groundwater is all that's available.
- **Modesto Irrigation District** – Planning reduced deliveries to growers in 2014, voluntary fallowing.
- **Nevada Irrigation District** - Placed a freeze on new agricultural contracts or increases in those currently in place.
- **Richvale Irrigation District** - Mandatory 50% cut to acreage irrigated by district.
- **Shafter - Wasco Irrigation District** - An ag irrigation district with no water to deliver from the CVP this year. Growers are relying solely on groundwater.
- **Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority** - Mandatory. 17 water districts will receive 0% allocations; groundwater is all that is available.
- **Turlock Irrigation District** - Drought rates / surcharge to discourage high water use. On Feb. 25 the Turlock Irrigation District board voted to set a 20-inch allotment for growers during the 2014 irrigation season, about half of what they usually get. The 2014 irrigation season is slated to begin on April 3, a week later than initially planned.

### Other Actions

- **Desert Water Agency** is investigating additional conservation programs and measures in light of the dry conditions.
➢ **East Valley Water District** - Encouraging residents to be a part of the Conservation Transformation to use water as efficiently as possible.

➢ **Metropolitan Water District of Southern California** on Feb. 11 declared a Water Supply Alert throughout Southern California in response to statewide drought. The MWD board also formally endorsed Gov. Brown’s statewide call for conservation in response to the ongoing drought. Along with urging cities, counties, local public water agencies and retailers to achieve extraordinary conservation, the board doubled Metropolitan’s annual conservation and outreach budget from $20 million to $40 million. The increase will provide additional rebate incentives for Southern Californians to purchase water-saving devices throughout the district’s six-county service area and help reach the Brown Administration’s goal of a statewide per-capita water use reduction of 20%. The board also pledged to explore ways Metropolitan can help other parts of the state address water supply challenges.

➢ **Mono County** - Declared a natural disaster area by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

➢ **Sonoma County Water Agency** won approval from the State Water Resources Control Board to reduce flows from Lake Mendocino into the Russian River in order to conserve the surface water supply.

➢ **Southern California Water Committee** announced on Jan. 29 that its Board of Trustees unanimously approved supporting Gov. Jerry Brown’s emergency drought declaration and is encouraging Southern Californians to support the call for additional voluntary water conservation, as the state experiences record dry conditions.

➢ **University of California** President Janet Napolitano on Jan. 16 announced a system-wide goal of reducing per-capita water use by 20% by 2020.

➢ **Water agencies in Southern California** are keeping a close eye on conditions, though surface storage and groundwater reserves established over the past few years are expected to help the southland cope this year.

➢ **Woodbridge Irrigation District** - March 13: The Woodbridge Irrigation District has begun rationing the water it allocates to the City of Lodi. Lodi currently pays $1.2 million a year for 6,000 acre-feet of water from WID, and that may be cut to 3,000 acre-feet this summer.

*Information compiled by the Association of California Water Agencies. ACWA is a statewide association of public agencies whose 440 members are responsible for about 90% of the water delivered in California. For more information, visit [www.acwa.com](http://www.acwa.com).*