The Soquel Creek Water District Board of Directors declared a Stage 3 Water Shortage Emergency on June 17, 2014, and re-declared that same level at their meeting on April 21, 2015, due to our community’s long-term groundwater shortage, which has been compounded by a fourth year of low rainfall. While the drought further impacts our water shortage condition, it is not the cause of it. Our groundwater basin, which is our sole source of supply, is overdrafted (which means more water is pumped out than is naturally replenished by rainfall). As such, the District has also declared a Groundwater Emergency which recognizes that our groundwater supply is in overdraft and seawater intrusion is being detected at our coastline.

For a Stage 3 Declaration, the water saving goal is to reduce the District’s overall water usage by 25% as compared to 2013.

Due to Governor Jerry Brown’s executive order and mandate for statewide reductions, agencies throughout California are calling for water cutbacks this year. Each month, water agencies are required to report consumption data to the state.

For more information, visit our dedicated webpage at www.soquelcreekwater.org/stage3-2015

What does this mean for Customers & District Operations?

The measures and actions pursued by the District under this Groundwater Emergency include:

- Continue to enforce the District’s year-round Water Waste Rules.
- Enact Stage 3 Emergency Water Rates
- Enact new rules in 2015 that include no residential washing of vehicles or structures and no re-filling of ponds and fountains
- No sprinkler use between 10am-8pm, and no irrigation during, or 48 hours after, rainfall.
- Required signage for all businesses to display.
- Reduce Discretionary Water Use by District Operations, unless necessary for special circumstances:
  - Stop or minimize flushing of water mains
  - Stop or reduce irrigating at District facilities
  - Stop washing District trucks and vehicles with potable water

We truly appreciate our customers for their continued efforts to reduce use and save water.

Our customers used about 20% less water in 2014 than the previous year. Your efforts are helping to protect our community’s scarce water supply and are an important part of our multiple yet balanced solutions to address our long-term water shortage problem.
Soquel Creek Water District customers have done an excellent job at conserving water and are continuing to adopt this “new normal”, making water conservation a way of life to protect our over-drafted groundwater basin. In 2014, our customers reduced their use by 20%. We are hopeful that we will achieve an additional 5% this year.

From the bottom of our hearts and wells, we thank you, because we recognize these savings take a lot of hard work, more than a few brown lawns, and a conscious effort to do more with less.

Thank You #waterchamps!

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**Soquel Creek Water District is a not-for-profit, public agency dedicated to providing a safe, high quality, reliable, and sustainable water supply to meet our community’s present and future needs in an environmentally sensitive and economically responsible manner.**