

Working Together Through the Drought



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Metropolitan's Water Supply Allocation Plan

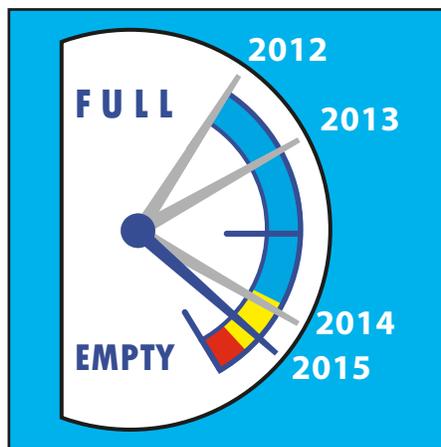
Southern California is one region when it comes to water. The Metropolitan Water District imports about half of the six-county region's overall supply from the Colorado River and Northern California and holds water in storage in case of drought. When Metropolitan must limit supplies during an extraordinary drought cycle, local mandatory conservation becomes the norm. Metropolitan's Water Supply Allocation Plan was created to approach drought in a regional, fair manner to minimize impacts.

Setting the Baseline

Limiting supplies begins with establishing baseline needs for Metropolitan's 26 member agencies. Accurate and fair baselines creates a shared Southland approach to weathering the drought.

Taking into Account Unique Local Circumstances

Some communities are more dependent on imported supplies than others. Or have achieved greater gains in conservation. Or developed more local supplies. The Water Supply Allocation Plan takes unique local circumstances into account so that restrictions are as regionally fair as possible.



A forward-looking ratepayer investment is the region's largest reservoir, Diamond Valley Lake in Riverside County. Metropolitan's vast storage network has been tapped during this drought. Remaining reserves must be managed carefully to minimize impacts of potential shortage.



Diamond Valley Lake before drought



Diamond Valley Lake during drought

Setting the Allocation: A Careful Balancing Act During Drought

On April 14, 2015, the Metropolitan Board voted to impose a Level 3 allocation starting in July. While numbers will vary among agencies based on local conditions, this is roughly a 15% reduction in wholesale water use on a regional level and establishes a surcharge of roughly four times the normal price of an acre foot of water for use beyond the allocated amount. Funds collected from the surcharge will go toward additional conservation. The allocation plan is one tool Metropolitan will be using to support the Governor's call for a 25% reduction in urban water use statewide, along with conservation programs, rebates, accelerated state funding for projects, and enforcement actions.

Northern California's supply comes from the Sierra Nevada and Lake Oroville, now low due to drought.
(Photo courtesy California Department of Water Resources)

Your Role in the Drought: Conservation

Conservation starts with you and adds up to big regional savings. Collectively, reductions in outdoor water use, and the smarter use of water indoors, is saving Southern California annually more than 300 billion gallons of water— enough for San Diego and Los Angeles for a year. The region has added 5 million people in the last generation without increasing water demand. But more conservation is needed as the drought goes into its fourth year. Every gallon saved is a gallon kept in reserve for a more reliable future.

Outdoors

- Replace your thirsty lawn with California Friendly plants that use much less water
- Repair sprinkler leaks, reset sprinkler timer to reduce watering
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks

Indoors

- Make the switch to high efficiency toilets. They can save the average family up to 40,000 gallons every year!
- Wash only full loads of dishes and laundry
- Take shorter showers



Conservation isn't just for extraordinary droughts. It is a way of life for Southern California and all of the state. Replacing turf with California-friendly plants is an example of an individual conservation action that can add up to big savings. Information on rebates, landscaping and other water-saving tips is available at bewaterwise.com.



Before



California Friendly

About Metropolitan: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-chartered cooperative of 26 member agencies — cities and public water agencies — that serves nearly 19 million people in six counties. Metropolitan imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies and helps its members develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

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