



Statement by BAWSCA Chief Executive Officer Nicole Sandkulla About the Need to Reduce Water Use by 10 percent in Response to Drought Conditions

BAWSCA supports today's request by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) to its water customers, including its 26 wholesale water customers, to voluntarily reduce water consumption by at least 10%. BAWSCA represents the interests of the SFPUC's 26 wholesale customers who deliver water to 1.7 million people, over 30,000 businesses, and thousands of community organizations in Alameda, Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

This action follows SFPUC General Manager Harlan Kelly's statement on Tuesday notifying the Commissioners of his intent to make such a request.

Periodically, the SFPUC will update its water supply conditions and adjust its estimates of available water. These updates will be available at www.sfwater.org/supplyupdate.

BAWSCA and the wholesale customers are committed to doing their part to respond to the SFPUC's request and will work with the SFPUC if additional measures are necessary in the coming months.

To help achieve the 10% target, here are some suggestions about how customers can save water:

- Turn off the faucet when you are brushing your teeth or doing dishes - saves 2 gallons per minute.
- Take shorter showers with high-efficiency showerheads. Each minute you cut saves 2.5 gallons.
- Operate your clothes and dishwashers with full loads only; even if the machine has an adjustable load setting.
- Use a broom to clean sidewalks and pavement instead of a hose.
- Reduce outdoor watering needs by planting species appropriate for the Bay Area's dry climate.
- Water during the cool part of the day. Reduce evaporation by watering lawns and plants only at night or early morning before dawn.
- Detect leaks. Do you hear the toilet running or your faucet dripping? Contact your local water agency for information on locating your water meter and detecting plumbing leaks using meter readings. Conduct a dye-test in toilet tanks to identify silent leaks.
- Install aerators on bathroom/kitchen sinks to reduce water use by 4%.
- Replace your old toilet, the largest water user inside your home. New high-efficiency toilet models flush at 1.3 gallons or less compared to older models, which use up to 7 gallons per flush. Bay Area water agencies offer rebates for the purchase of select high-efficiency toilets.
- Replace your clothes washer, the second largest water user in your home. High efficiency clothes washers can reduce water and energy use by 40%. Bay Area water agencies offer cash rebates for the purchase of select high-efficiency clothes washers.

For information about BAWSCA's water conservation programs, visit www.BAWSCA.org.