



Statement from Nicole Sandkulla, Chief Executive Officer, Calling for a Voluntary 15 Percent Water Use Reduction Given Ongoing Drought Conditions

March 29, 2022

On March 28, 2022, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order reaffirming the State's call for 15 percent voluntary water use reduction from all Californians and directing State and local water agencies to consider enacting shortage response actions consistent with local drought contingency plans.

On November 23, 2021, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) declared a water shortage emergency and a request for 10 percent system-wide reductions by its water customers compared to 2019-2020 water use levels.

Effective immediately, this system-wide reduction target translates to a 14 percent reduction request for the 26 water suppliers that purchase water on a wholesale basis from the San Francisco (Hetch Hetchy) Regional Water System (System) and deliver that water to 1.8 million residents and over 40,000 commercial, industrial, and institutional accounts in San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Alameda Counties. These 26 water suppliers are represented by BAWSCA.

Governor Newsom issued the first of four Executive Orders in April 2021 declaring a drought emergency in critically dry counties. Each successive Executive Order expanded the drought emergency to additional counties, with the final Executive Order establishing a drought emergency in all 58 counties across California.

Water customers are asked to use water wisely and take actions to reduce their water usage, such as fixing leaky toilets, installing low-flow fixtures, and reducing outdoor irrigation. The efficient management of outdoor water use is a particularly effective means to conserve water.

BAWSCA offers a wide range of programs, rebates, and water conservation tips to help water customers reduce outdoor and indoor water use including turf replacement incentives, water efficient landscaping classes, low-flow fixture replacement rebates, and much more.

Please visit www.BAWSCA.org/drought for more information regarding conservation programs, drought information, and water supply conditions.

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