



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

March 20, 2023

So far, this winter has brought historic rainfall and snowpack. However, much of the State remains in some level of drought. It is still too early in the water year to declare the drought is over for our region.

On February 13, 2023, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order reaffirming the State's call for a 15 percent voluntary water use reduction from all Californians. Governor Newsom also directed state agencies to provide to him, no later than April 28, 2023, recommendations for what further actions, if any, are necessary for ongoing emergency drought response and whether any existing provisions in his proclamations or executive orders related to the drought emergency are no longer needed.

San Francisco's request for an 11 percent voluntary system-wide reduction remains in place as well. San Francisco will make a final water supply availability determination by mid-April.

This system-wide reduction target translates to a 16 percent reduction request for the 26 water suppliers that purchase water on a wholesale basis from the San Francisco (Hetch Hetchy) Regional Water 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.

Thanks to the efforts of the water customers, overall water use is down significantly. Water customers are asked to continue 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.

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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