



**Statement from Nicole Sandkulla, Chief Executive Officer, Regarding Current
Water-Use Reduction and Water-Supply Issues**

July 11, 2021

The Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) and the 1.8 million residents, 40,000 businesses, and hundreds of communities in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties it represents under California law (AB 2058), are confronted today with two very serious water-supply policy issues.

The first and most pressing issue is an immediate, voluntary, state-wide, water-use reduction of 15 percent requested by Governor Newsom yesterday (July 8) to protect water reserves given the severe drought conditions throughout the State through aggressive conservation strategies and policies already in use, but which may be broadened and intensified promptly by the BAWSCA agencies and their water customers.

The second equally serious issue for the water users in these counties is guaranteeing a long-term water-supply source and providing critically needed benefits for the fish and environment in the Tuolumne River, which is the primary water source for BAWSCA's constituents. The Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement (TRVA) was developed by the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to provide those important environmental benefits and reasonable protection for water supply for BAWSCA's agencies and their customers.

If approved ultimately by State Water Resources Control Board, which has invited voluntary agreements to address California's water-supply issues, the TRVA can provide a continuing and essential supply for BAWSCA's water users, but the immediate priority must be to support the Governor's water-reduction request.

BAWSCA will do everything possible to help the Governor to address these two serious matters involving the health, safety, and economic well-being of its constituents and follow the Governor's vitally important leadership. BAWSCA's Board of Directors, member agencies, its Chief Executive Officer, labor unions, local governments, businesses, and communities in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties are primed and ready to help as well with these issues.

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