



Statement from Nicole Sandkulla, Chief Executive Officer, Regarding Governor's Recent Executive Order and Continued Need for Voluntary Conservation

April 6, 2023

This winter brought historic rainfall and snowpack. As of March 28, 2023, more than half the state was no longer in any stage of drought. On March 24, 2023, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order (N-5-23) easing drought emergency provisions that are no longer necessary while maintaining certain requirements that are still needed in parts of the state that remain in low to moderate levels of drought.

The Governor's recent action also eliminated his directive that water agencies implement level 2 of their drought contingency plans. However, the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) drought emergency regulations requiring implementation of level 2 drought contingency plans remain in effect.

On April 11, 2023, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) will consider rescinding its drought emergency declaration while retaining its call for voluntary system-wide water use reduction of 11% compared to fiscal year 2019-2020 water use in order to remain compliant with the State Water Board's emergency drought regulations that are still in effect. SFPUC staff will seek Commission approval to rescind the voluntary system-wide water use reduction of 11% when the State Water Board modifies or ends its drought emergency regulations.

The Governor and BAWSCA continue to encourage ongoing water customer efforts to make water conservation a California way of life. Additionally, wasteful practices prohibited by the State Water Board's drought emergency regulations also remain in effect until they expire or are rescinded. These prohibited actions include, but are not limited to, the use of potable water for washing hard surfaces and filling decorative fountains and ponds, irrigating landscapes within 48 hours after measurable rainfall, and irrigating non-functional turf with potable water on commercial and institutional properties.

Thanks to the efforts of BAWSCA member agencies and their water customers, significant progress was made towards the BAWSCA region's conservation targets.

BAWSCA continues to offer a wide range of conservation 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 more.

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

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