

Urban water suppliers see continued water savings in response to Governor Newsom's conservation directive

Preliminary data show continued progress in conservation throughout CUWA agencies' service areas

WALNUT CREEK, Calif., August 5, 2022 — Following Governor Gavin Newsom's recent [executive order](#) and a State Water Board [emergency regulation](#), members of the California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) continue to advance water saving efforts and are seeing results.

CUWA is a nonprofit corporation of 11 large urban water suppliers responsible for delivering drinking water to two-thirds of the state's population.

These efforts come on the back of the driest first quarter in California's history, which prompted the Governor to call for local water conservation steps rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. As severe drought conditions persist, state and local agencies are working together to support the Governor's call to action and lower water use across all sectors through a variety of measures.

"While we have made historic investments to protect our communities, economy, and ecosystems from the worsening drought across the West, it is clear we need to do more," said Governor Newsom in a [press release](#). "Amid climate-driven extremes in weather, we must all continue to do our part and make water conservation a way of life."

Over the past few months, the Governor has convened a series of meetings with local water agencies, including CUWA representatives, to discuss progress and call for continued action. Since the first meeting in May, Californians have made substantial progress in conservation, with preliminary numbers suggesting overall water use was down 7.5 percent in June compared to June 2020. Based on an analysis of provisional data, CUWA agencies anticipate even greater savings in July—about 10 percent on average compared to 2020, with several agencies exceeding 15 percent savings. This is due to significant investments in conservation rebates, turf replacement programs, public messaging, and outreach—including stringent water use restrictions where necessary.

Beyond the immediate need for water conservation, Governor Newsom also recognizes the importance of long-term drought resilience. "We are dealing with a changed climate in California that demands we reimagine not just how we use water, but how we capture, store and distribute it throughout the state," said the Governor in a [recent meeting](#).

In alignment with State priorities, CUWA members continue to invest in storage and drought-resilient supplies, such as water reuse and desalination, through local and collaborative regional efforts.

"Governor Newsom has demonstrated strong leadership in directing water agencies to implement actions that are the best fit for the communities we serve," stated San Diego County Water Authority General Manager and CUWA Board Chair Sandy Kerl. "We look forward to continued collaboration at the state and local level as we collectively prepare for a more resilient future."

###

About CUWA

Established in 1990, the California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) is a nonprofit corporation of 11 major urban water agencies that are responsible for delivering drinking water to about two-thirds of California's population. As the collective voice for the largest urban water purveyors in California, CUWA provides technical perspective to promote common understanding and consensus solutions among the urban water community. CUWA agencies include Alameda County Water District, City of Fresno, Contra Costa Water District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, City of San Diego Public Utilities Department, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, San Diego County Water Authority, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Valley Water, and Zone 7 Water Agency. For more information, visit www.cuwa.org

Contact:

Wendy Broley, CUWA Executive Director

WBroley@brwncald.com | 925.210.2525