



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

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METROPOLITAN RESPONDS TO THE GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY BECAUSE OF THE ONGOING DROUGHT

Timothy F. Brick, chairman of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and Jeffrey Kightlinger, Metropolitan's general manager, issued the following statement in reaction to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's declaration of a State of Emergency:

"We welcome the Governor's action today in drawing attention to the severe water supply challenges facing California," said Brick. "In the past year, Metropolitan has taken a number of critical steps to address the problems caused by the ongoing drought."

Last June, Metropolitan's board of directors ramped up the call for water conservation throughout its six-county service area by declaring a Water Supply Alert in Southern California.

The Water Supply Alert urged cities, counties, local public water agencies and retailers to achieve extraordinary conservation by adopting and enforcing drought ordinances, accelerating public outreach and messaging, and developing additional local supplies.

Many Member Agencies have implemented drought ordinances that might include fines and penalties for inefficient water use.

Over the past two years, Metropolitan has depleted half of its water reserves to deal with drought and court-ordered water cutbacks from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

"Metropolitan's Board of Directors is expected to take action in April on implementing an Allocation Plan that likely will reduce water supplies to its member agencies, leading to mandatory water conservation," said Brick.

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“Metropolitan will continue working with the Governor, the Legislature, our Member Agencies and other water agencies to implement long-term solutions to our water supply challenges, including a solution to the serious environmental problems in the Delta that will restore a reliable supply of water to our state,” Kightlinger said.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 19 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.