

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

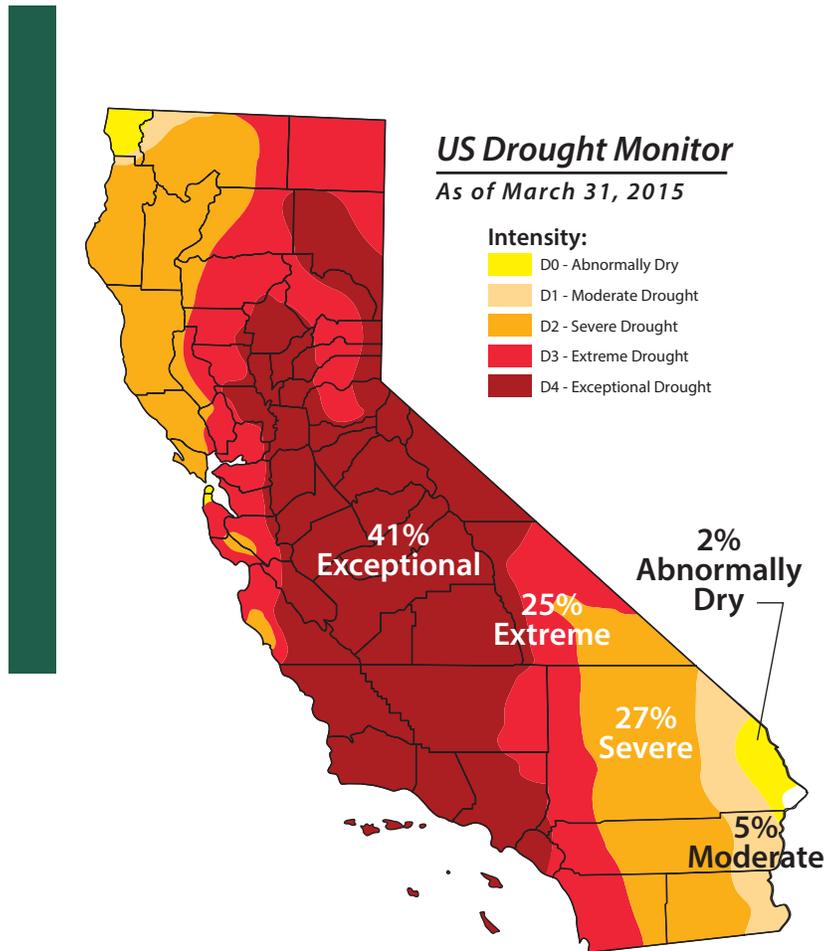


WATER IS SERIOUS BUSINESS: MANAGING THROUGH DROUGHT

As the regional water planner and importer of supplies for a six-county Southland region with a \$1 trillion economy, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has a comprehensive plan to prepare for and manage through inevitable drought cycles.

Metropolitan's extensive storage infrastructure provides flexibility to allow water to be banked and stored in wet years when it is available for future drought and emergency needs.

Metropolitan's Integrated Resources Plan identifies a diverse portfolio of water resources to meet future demands that include imported and local supplies, such as recycled water, groundwater storage and recovery, desalination, and stormwater capture. Demand management, or conservation, is an important element. As the co-sponsor of statewide legislation in 2009 requiring urban agencies to reduce per-capita water use 20 percent by 2020, Metropolitan stands out as a leader in conservation. Through implementation of the plan, Metropolitan's cumulative investment in conservation and reliable local supplies now exceeds \$1 billion and prepares the region well for future drought cycles.



Preparing for Drought

Over the past two decades, Metropolitan and its 26 member agencies have strengthened the reliability of the region's water supply in preparation for droughts. Metropolitan constructed Diamond Valley Lake in the late 1990s to provide critical water storage for drought and emergency needs and nearly double the region's storage capacity. Metropolitan's network of surface and groundwater reservoirs now stores more water than the state's largest reservoir, Shasta Lake. Metropolitan's extensive storage infrastructure provides flexibility to allow water to be banked and stored in wet years when it is available for future drought and emergency needs.

A Diversified Supply

Conservation: Increased conservation during drought is a top priority as it allows saved water to remain in storage. In February 2014, Metropolitan's Board of Directors issued a regional call to action for increased conservation by declaring a Water Supply Alert. The board also increased the regional budget for conservation incentives to \$100 million, called on local governments to adopt and enforce water conservation ordinances, and authorized \$11 million for multimedia campaigns to raise conservation awareness. Metropolitan supports the state's adoption of emergency water conservation regulations limiting outdoor water use and water waste.

Resource Management: Metropolitan is working closely with its member agencies, the state Department of Water Resources, the federal Bureau of Reclamation, and water agencies throughout California and the Southwest to coordinate management of the limited water supplies on the State Water Project and Colorado River systems, groundwater storage, and surface reservoirs. Conservation response, local supplies, and reservoir storage levels are evaluated weekly to determine appropriate management actions.

Supply Allocation: The success of conservation efforts coupled with regional coordination on supply management will determine when and how Metropolitan must allocate its water supplies to its 26 member agencies in order to meet future needs. With an allocation, Metropolitan charges higher rates for water deliveries that exceed an agency's allotment. The higher rate is reflected in retail water rates, helping lower demand and increase conservation.



Future Droughts: New Investments

Protecting Northern California Supplies: About 30 percent of the Southland's water supply comes from Northern California. A single wet year in Northern California can replenish Southland reservoirs. Unfortunately, the current drought, pumping restrictions due to environmental problems and seismic vulnerability in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta threaten water supply reliability. Modernizing the water conveyance system across the Delta, via the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, can protect the future reliability of this supply.

Managing Colorado River Supplies: About 25 percent of the region's water supply comes from the Colorado River, a resource that is experiencing long-term drought conditions. Metropolitan is working with stakeholders in the Colorado River basin to enhance storage, increase conservation, and augment water supplies.

Developing New Local Supplies: Metropolitan will continue to partner with its member agencies to advance recycling, groundwater cleanup, stormwater capture and desalination as the largest elements in the Southland's future water portfolio. Metropolitan is also investing in projects to permanently lower outdoor water use and partnering with business to improve water use efficiency. The plan is that all new demands will be met entirely by local efforts.

About Metropolitan: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-chartered cooperative of 26 member agencies – cities and public water agencies – that serves nearly 19 million people in six counties. Metropolitan imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies and helps its members develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.