



Metropolitan Proposed Emergency Drought Actions April 2022



The Drought Emergency is Becoming Much More Severe

- Now in our third year of an historic drought, California just endured the driest January, February and March in recorded history. Normally these are the state's wettest months.
- Southern California water agencies that depend on the State Water Project are facing immediate and dire challenges due to extremely limited supplies this year.

Outdoor Watering Would Be Cut to One Day a Week for Six Million Southern Californians

- Metropolitan has declared a drought emergency in the many Southern California communities that are dependent on the State Water Project for their supplies. This includes about one-third of Southern California's population in portions of Los Angeles, Ventura and San Bernardino counties.
- Outdoor watering in these areas may be restricted to one day a week under recommendations before Metropolitan's board. The proposed plan, which would be finalized in late April, will also include financial penalties for non-compliance and non-enforcement of these new rules.
- If enough water isn't conserved through these actions, or if water supply conditions worsen, outdoor watering could be eliminated.

Conservation is Needed to Get Through This Drought

- The situation is extremely serious. All Southern Californians must cut back their water use by 20 percent to stretch available supplies and storage.
- Metropolitan is working closely with its member agencies. We're in this together – and if we all reduce our water use, we can get through this drought. Every drop counts.
- To support conservation, Metropolitan has expanded its rebate programs and offers many indoor and outdoor water-saving tips on bewaterwise.com.
- While we address these immediate challenges, Metropolitan is also committed to taking bold actions to adapt to climate change, including investing in local supplies, storage, system flexibility and making conservation a way of life.