

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

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Supporting Urban Water Conservation in Los Angeles County

Following a second consecutive dry winter for the State, we are again faced with the potential for a prolonged drought and the widespread impacts it will have on communities, the environment, and the economy. In April of this year, Governor Newsom issued a State of Emergency Proclamation in response to severe drought conditions in parts of the State, which has since been expanded to cover 50 counties. In July, the Governor issued an [Executive Order](#) that further asked Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15 percent.

The fact that the previous drought ended just a few years ago illustrates the reality that drought cycles are becoming more pronounced and frequent, and will continue to do so as climate change intensifies. Adapting to this future requires long-term changes in behavior and rethinking what we consider to be necessary uses of water. The County can facilitate these shifts by showing leadership through implementation of robust water efficiency measures at its own facilities, and ensuring that education and outreach efforts

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are comprehensive and effective. This means targeting the highest water users in the County, while also ensuring that low income and linguistically isolated communities are aware of programs that could allow them to access water efficiency measures that can result in cost savings to households.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Chief Executive Officer, in collaboration with the Directors of the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Public Works, and the Internal Services Department, to report back within 120 days on the following:
 - a. Baseline water usage based on an average of 2017, 2018, and 2019 annual usage data at the top 100 County facilities;
 - b. The percentage of water sourced from recycled water sources particularly for irrigation of large landscaped areas such as golf courses;
 - c. A summary of planned and recently completed water efficiency upgrades and the status of that work; and
 - d. Recommendations on how to achieve a 15% reduction in water use as compared to the 2017-2019 baseline at County facilities that are in alignment with other County sustainability goals, such as preservation of the urban tree canopy.
2. Instruct the Director of Public Works to conduct a survey of current and planned drought-related education and outreach efforts by local water agencies targeting communities in County unincorporated areas, and within 120 days, report back with a plan that accomplishes the following:
 - a. Enhances these current and planned efforts through the Water for LA

program;

- b. Utilizes best practices learned from campaigns during the previous drought to reach the highest water users, and;
- c. Ensures that education and outreach efforts reach linguistically isolated communities, and include information on resources to support water efficiency upgrades such as free or low cost fixtures, and rebate programs.

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