

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

April 7, 2015

Following four critically dry years in California, and after declaring on January 17, 2014, that a State of Emergency exists throughout California due to severe drought conditions, on April 1, 2015, Governor Brown issued, for the first time in the State's history an Executive Order directing the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to impose restrictions to achieve a Statewide 25 percent reduction in potable urban water usage through February 28, 2016.

California's water supplies continue to be severely depleted despite a limited amount of rain and snowfall this winter, with record low snowpack in the Sierra Nevada, decreased water levels in the majority of the State's reservoirs, reduced flows in the State's rivers, and shrinking supplies in underground water basins Statewide. Although progress has been made in reducing water usage, County residents must prepare to implement additional water conservation measures to meet the 25 percent reduction to be established by the SWRCB.

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On July 22, 2014, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a measure instructing all County personnel, departments, and facilities to immediately implement Statewide emergency water conservation regulations that were adopted by the SWRCB on July 15, 2014.

The proposed emergency regulations announced by the SWRCB and adopted by the Board of Supervisors included a prohibition on certain classes of water use and an order for all urban water suppliers to implement mandatory conservation measures. Additionally, the County's Chief Executive Officer instructed all County personnel, departments, and facilities to take immediate action to fully implement all Best Management Practices related to outdoor water usage throughout the County's operational area.

The County continues to play a leading role in implementing regional water conservation programs such as low impact development and green streets, drought-tolerant landscaping and water wasting ordinances, integrated watershed management planning, as well as supporting key legislation, policy, and bonds. These efforts have contributed greatly toward the region's water sustainability over the years. Although much has been accomplished, we must do everything we can to reduce our reliance on far away water sources and minimize the long-term impacts of a prolonged drought and future water supply impacts from climate change. The current drought has underscored the value of storm water, groundwater, imported water, and recycled water as a source for our local supply. They are all part of the County's water portfolio that must be managed in a strategic, integrated fashion.

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The severity of this drought presents threats to our State and County beyond the control of any single local government entity. It will require the combined attention and effort of an entire region to combat. We must all take responsibility and work collaboratively to further reduce the amount of water we are using. The County of Los Angeles can play an important leadership role by continuing to reduce the amount of water used by our employees, in our operations at our properties and facilities, and in assisting local water suppliers throughout the region in increasing our local water supply sustainability along with their efforts to implement, promote, and enforce greater restrictions on use.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instruct all County personnel, departments, and facilities to continue implementing and strictly adhering to the emergency water conservation regulations adopted by the SWRCB on July 15, 2014, and mandated by the Board of Supervisors on July 22, 2014, and to fully implement all Best Management Practices related to outdoor water usage throughout the County's operational area, and to approve the following related actions:

1. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to immediately review the status of the Board of Supervisor's July 22, 2014 directive, and to report on the specific actions taken by each County department in their effort to comply along with future actions that can be taken, with a report back to the Board in 30 days;
2. Instruct the Waterworks Districts to notify its customers of the impending 25 percent reduction to be imposed by SWRCB and the need to further reduce water usage; and

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3. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer together with the Department of Public Works to review the provisions contained in the Governor's Executive Order and to report back in 30 days on its impacts to the Waterworks Districts and County Unincorporated Areas, along with additional recommended actions to be taken by the County.

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