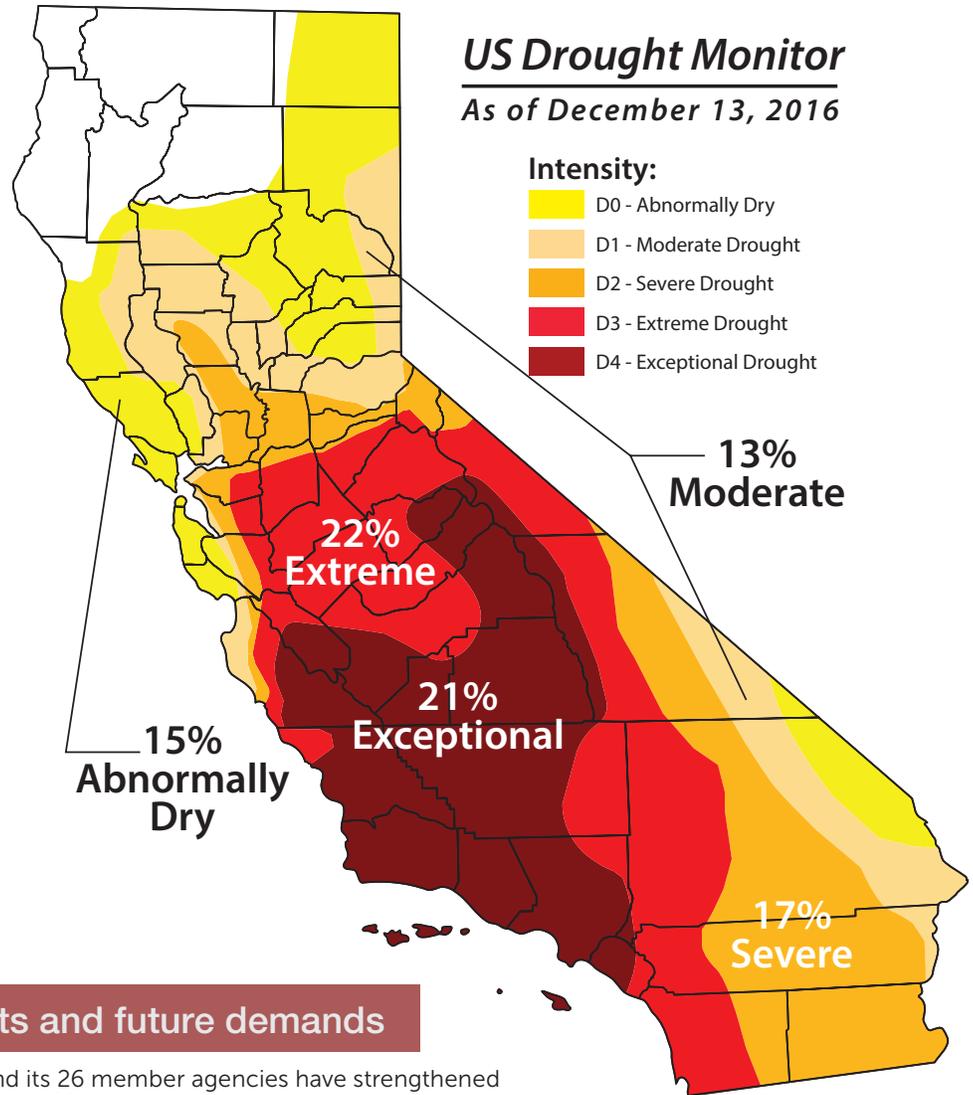


CONSERVATION AND PLANNING: MANAGING THROUGH DROUGHT



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.



Preparing for longer droughts and future demands

Over the past two decades, Metropolitan and its 26 member agencies have strengthened the reliability of the region's water supply to manage risks and prepare for drought. 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. This extensive storage infrastructure provides flexibility to allow water to be banked and stored in wet years so it is available for future drought and emergency needs.

In addition, Metropolitan's Integrated Water Resources Plan identifies a diverse portfolio of water resources to meet future demands, building on imported water with local supplies, such as recycled water, groundwater storage and recovery, desalination, and stormwater capture. Reducing demand through conservation is also an important element. Over the past 25 years, Metropolitan has invested nearly \$1 billion in conservation and reliable local supplies to better prepare the region for inevitable drought cycles.

Climate change means a future of longer droughts, higher temperatures and less snowpack, all of which will challenge the ability to provide reliable water to the region. Smart planning and strong conservation will help us overcome those challenges.

A Diversified Supply

Conservation, Rain or Shine: Cutting water use is essential during a drought. But regardless of the weather, conservation is necessary to ensure water reliability in Southern California. Metropolitan has taken great strides to help residents and businesses conserve long-term, including investing \$450 million in 2014-15 and 2015-16 for education programs and rebates for turf removal, water-efficient irrigation systems and other devices. That investment will continue in the coming years, with \$100 million more already committed to conservation programs. We are helping Californians make conservation a way of life.

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: Successful conservation efforts coupled with near average precipitation in Northern California and regional coordination of supply management allowed Metropolitan to lift the mandatory water restrictions instituted in 2015. Under those restrictions, Metropolitan's 26 member agencies were required to cutback water use 15 percent or pay stiff surcharges. While the allocation was lifted, Metropolitan's Board of Directors maintained a Water Supply Alert calling for continued awareness and reinforced conservation throughout the region. And a supply allocation remains a tool in Metropolitan's toolbox should conditions worsen.



Future Droughts: New Investments

Protecting Northern California Supplies: In an average year, about 30 percent of the Southland's water supply comes from Northern California. In wet years some of these supplies can be stored and used to replenish Southland reservoirs. Unfortunately, the current drought, together with pumping restrictions to address environmental needs and seismic vulnerability in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta threaten water supply reliability. Modernizing the water conveyance system across the Delta, via the California WaterFix, 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 also 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. Investing in projects to permanently lower outdoor water use and partnering with business to improve water use efficiency will also help meet new demands. The goal is for all new demands to be met entirely by local efforts.

WHO IS METROPOLITAN

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a state-established cooperative of 26 member agencies — cities and public water agencies — that serve 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.

OUR MISSION

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.

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