

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



March 23, 2022

Dear State Water Project Contractor:

Earlier this month I wrote to encourage proactive conservation measures by all State Water Project (SWP) contractor agencies. The continued dry hydrologic conditions over the last several weeks have resulted in the need for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to reduce its SWP water supply allocation from 15 percent to the current 5 percent plus any unmet human health and safety needs. DWR has also petitioned the State Water Resource Control Board requesting urgent action to modify Delta standards so that our limited water supply can be conserved for when it is most needed.

Conservation among all SWP contractor agencies continues to be a critical component of our response to this drought. This is especially true for agencies that must rely upon the SWP for additional water to meet their human health and safety needs. Use of this additional human health and safety supply includes an expectation that agencies are implementing robust conservation efforts with mandatory requirements. Contractors receiving additional water to meet their unmet human health and safety needs will need to reimburse the SWP for these supplies in future years when allocations are greater. Additionally, agencies need to be making investments to reduce their reliance on the SWP to meet their human health and safety needs including developing alternative supplies and improving interconnections to adjacent systems. The State looks forward to partnering on these projects. These actions are necessary to stretch our limited water supply for 2022 as well as prepare for possible dry conditions in 2023 and beyond.

Our forecasts indicate that 2022 drought conditions will deepen further with cascading impacts through communities and ecosystems statewide. I look forward to partnering with you to ensure the most effective use of our limited water supply to protect against these impacts. While this year has become considerably more challenging, I remain firmly confident that together we are more than up to the task.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ka", written over a horizontal line.

Karla A. Nemeth
Director
Department of Water Resources

CC: See attached list

State Water Project Contractor

March 22, 2022

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General Managers from the following agencies:

County of Butte

Plumas County FC&WCD

City of Yuba City

Napa County FC&WCD

Santa Clara Valley WD

County of Kings

Antelope Valley-East Kern WA

MWDSC

General Managers from other SWC agencies not listed above

State Water Project Contractor

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bcc:

Cindy Messer

Ted Craddock

Tom Gibson

John Yarbrough

Jennifer Pierre

John Leahigh