

Recent reports show that the State's drought conditions are accelerating at an unprecedented rate, outpacing the State's devastating 2012-16 drought. Reservoir levels across the State continue to drop, raising concern about the State's ongoing water supply and the potential impact on the population and the environment.

The Colorado River, and other water sources the City and region depend on, are seeing record-low water levels, including at Lake Mead, from where the City derives power generation. The worsening conditions call for immediate and aggressive water conservation efforts and other methods to mitigate drought impacts.

The City has been on the forefront of water recycling and reuse efforts and is seen as a global leader on issues related to mitigating climate breakdown, however more needs to be done to address the growing drought. An editorial from the May 2021 edition of the research journal, *Science*, says that scientists believe decision makers are not doing what needs to be done to fully incorporate the risks of climate change in the decisions that have to be made over the new few years on the Colorado River.

Colorado River Compact is a 1922 agreement between states, Native Tribes and jurisdictions in the Southwest which governs the allocation of Colorado River water rights. The Compact has significant implications as to the allocation of water to the City and region. The Compact's water allocation hasn't been updated since its inception in 1922. Conversations about an official Compact renegotiation are already underway.

Given the growing drought crisis, a report to Council about a review and update of the Compact's allocation is warranted. This report should also include options for implementation of water conservation elements, water recycling, and watershed management approaches, including stormwater capture and reuse, groundwater remediation, the use of native plants and turf removal programs.

By integrating new and effective water conservation elements in the Colorado River Compact, the City, region and Southwest will be able to meet the challenges posed by the drought crisis.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Water and Power and the Metropolitan Water District be requested to report to the Council in 30 days with a review about the update to the Colorado River Compact to meet the worsening drought conditions, including the implementation of water conservation elements, water recycling and watershed management approaches.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Water and Power and the Metropolitan Water District be requested to report to the Council as to local water resiliency strategies that can be employed in the region in order to effectively meet the growing drought crisis.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Water and Power be requested to report back on the potential impacts to Hoover Dam power generation due to the historic low water levels at Lake Mead.

PRESENTED BY:

  
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SECONDED BY:



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