

MOTION

This year marks the third consecutive year of climate-exacerbated water scarcity, highlighted by the three driest months on record this very year (January - March 2022). On March 28th 2022, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-7-22, which requires that local water suppliers move to "Level 2" of their water shortage contingency plans, meaning a reduction of 10-20% within a district. The Governor's state of emergency declaration aims at urban and other water suppliers, requiring a variety of plans and updates to be developed for State regulators, due on June 1, 2022.

In Southern California, the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) is the largest aggregate purchaser of water for over 26 member agencies, collectively working to bring water to over 19 million people across six counties. Angelenos own and oversee the largest municipal water and power agency in the country in the Department of Water and Power (LADWP) -- the region is a statewide and national leader with respect to water stewardship. While both LADWP and the greater Metropolitan Water District collaborate to meet the intensity of practical issues faced by ratepayers and local governments, a clearer direction and focus on long-term fundamental issues is needed to meet the urgency of the moment.

The most recent MWD Board of Directors meeting saw an adoption of the following: 1) A declaration of a water shortage emergency condition; 2) An adopted framework which included two options for member agencies to comply under the drought conditions, and; 3) support for the Governor's statewide declaration. According to the Los Angeles Municipal Code, sec. 121.07 (B): "The Department shall monitor and evaluate the projected supply and demand for water by its customers monthly...the Mayor may, with concurrence of the Council, order that the appropriate water conservation be implemented...". The MWD board action requires member agencies to respond to its adopted policy by June 1, 2022; the board action also includes criteria for enforcement of the rules when a member agency is in non-compliance.

While the City complies with the Governor's emergency declaration and the MWD Board action, it is imperative that LADWP and MWD staff report to Council on areas of mutual collaboration with respect to conservation, procurement, infrastructure, short- and long-range planning, and how local water supply projects provide good, well-paying jobs. Angelenos must fully understand all possible avenues and options that public institutions will recommend, such as the recently-proposed statewide ban on irrigation of "non-functional grass (turf)". Further, an expansion of LADWP and MWD budgets focusing on conservation is needed to reflect an all-hands-on-deck approach for the region with respect to water-saving strategies for all ratepayers, residents and business owners.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Water and Power and the Metropolitan Water District report on current and projected water drought conditions statewide from all sources of water, including stored water supplies and conveyance infrastructure, and potential impacts to LADWP ratepayers, so as to clearly describe and recommend both voluntary and mandatory options to conserve water.

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I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Water and Power report on the impacts of the drought on hydroelectric resources and the implications for meeting our plan towards reaching LA100: 100% carbon-free electricity.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Water and Power, and the Metropolitan Water District report on the expansion of large scale water recycling projects and budgetary programs meant to increase water conservation and expand our local water supply in order to reduce reliance on increasingly unpredictable imported water supplies, which could include but is not limited to a focus on disadvantaged communities, including potential for direct install of water efficiency improvements to remove barriers for conservation and reduce water bills, more aggressive and focused rebates / incentives, opportunities for funding community engagement efforts, e.g., the Cool City Challenge Cool Blocks program and others, and infrastructure investments directly associated with conveyance and the distribution of water.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Water and Power, and the Department of Building and Safety, with the assistance of all Departments as needed, report on current enforcement efforts against water wasters, all possible water conservation code improvements in the City and how to implement and enforce them, including, for example, the possible benefits of requiring circulating pumps in new construction, to save water from hot water warm-up flows.

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