



KAREN BASS  
MAYOR

May 2, 2023

Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council  
c/o City Clerk  
Room 395, City Hall

Re: Water Conservation Plan Ordinance - Ease Watering Restrictions

Dear Honorable Councilmembers,

On March 15th, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power General Manager Martin L. Adams, in accordance with Section 121.07 of the City of Los Angeles' Emergency Water Conservation Plan Ordinance, recommended the de-escalation of current Phase III water conservation (2/day a week watering) to Phase II restrictions (3/day a week watering). In concert with the General Manager's recommendation, I have determined that Phase II should be implemented immediately upon your concurrence.

The state is currently experiencing its wettest year since record keeping began in 1895. As of April 11th, Eastern Sierra snow packs were 307% of normal. According to the U.S. Drought Report, only 7% of California remains in moderate drought conditions and 1% remains in severe drought. This is a turnaround from this time last year, when 99% of California was in some category of drought. Additionally, key reservoir levels throughout the state have dramatically improved.

Furthermore, the California State Department of Water Resources announced a 100% allocation for deliveries to its State Water Project customers due to improved snowpack and reservoir conditions. This is up from 0% in 2022. Finally, on March 14, 2023 the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) approved the termination of its shortage allocation on the City of Los Angeles and the five other agencies that it imposed in 2022.

Enclosed is a copy of the GM's recommendation. While this year's record storms have mitigated the impact of three years of extreme drought, we cannot rely on subsequent years like it to address our long-term water needs. I look forward to working with you to ensure that the City captures more water from future wet years, invests in potable reuse, and to make sure that our water supply is resilient and sustainable.

If you have any questions or if further information is required, please contact Deputy Mayor of Energy and Sustainability, Nancy Sutley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and the last name "Bass" clearly legible.

KAREN BASS  
Mayor

Cc: Board of Water and Power Commissioners  
Mr. Martin L. Adams, General Manager, LADWP  
City Attorney  
City Administrative Officer  
Chief Legislative Analyst

Attachment:

- LADWP Recommendation for Implementation of Phase III, Emergency Water Conservation Plan Ordinance

March 15, 2023

The Honorable Karen Bass  
Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
Room 303, City Hall  
Mail Stop 370

Dear Mayor Bass:

Subject: Emergency Water Conservation Plan Ordinance – Recommendation for  
De-Escalation of Phase III to Phase II

In accordance with Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 121.07, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is providing a recommendation to the Mayor and City Council for the de-escalation of current Phase III water conservation restrictions to Phase II restrictions contained in the City of Los Angeles' Emergency Water Conservation Plan Ordinance (Conservation Ordinance). Last year, former Mayor Eric M. Garcetti and City Council approved a recommendation to implement Phase III restrictions effective June 1, 2022, as a result of worsening drought conditions.

The State of California (State) is currently experiencing an extreme wet year, which follows severe dry conditions for the three previous years. The California State Department of Water Resources announced an increase in deliveries to all State Water Project (SWP) contractors to 35 percent of contracted amounts on February 22, 2023. This increase was based on significantly improved snowpack and reservoir conditions on the State's system, due to recent storms, current hydrology conditions, and spring runoff forecasts.

This increased SWP allocation eliminated the need for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to acquire Human Health and Safety supplies from the State. MWD has determined that available supplies on the Colorado River and SWP will exceed 100 percent of projected demand and therefore MWD does not anticipate a need for a region-wide allocation during fiscal year 2023-2024. MWD subsequently announced on March 14, 2023, the termination of their Emergency Water Conservation Program, which imposed a shortage allocation on the City of Los Angeles and five other agencies.

The Honorable Karen Bass  
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LADWP now anticipates runoff from the Owens Valley and Mono Basin to exceed 200 percent of April 1 normal for 2023. Based on these conditions, LADWP conducted a water shortage level evaluation as defined in its Water Shortage Contingency Plan and expects to have sufficient local and supplemental supplies available to meet normal demands throughout its service territory.

These conditions result in our recommendation to de-escalate the Conservation Ordinance Phase III to Phase II, effective immediately.

If you have and questions or require further information, please contact me at (213) 367-1338, or have a member of your staff contact Mr. Anselmo G. Collins, Senior Assistant General Manager–Water System, at (213) 367-1022.

Sincerely,



Martin L. Adams  
General Manager and Chief Engineer

BW:lj

c: Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, Council District 1  
Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Council District 2  
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Council District 3  
Councilmember Nithya Raman, Council District 4  
Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, Council District 5  
Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, Council District 7  
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Council District 8  
Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr., Council District 9  
Councilmember Heather Hutt, Council District 10  
Councilmember Traci Park, Council District 11  
Councilmember John Lee, Council District 12  
Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez, Council District 13  
Councilmember Kevin de León, Council District 14  
Councilmember Tim McOsker, Council District 15  
Deputy Mayor Nancy H. Sutley  
Ms. Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst

Mr. Anselmo G. Collins