



California's Third Year of Drought And What **WE** Must Do

THE SITUATION

Three months into 2014 and we are tracking less than 14% of average local precipitation levels. The combined stores of our three San Gabriel Canyon dams - water stores we depend on, are at less than 18% capacity. The past two winters have been especially dry. The Sierra snowpack is at less than 13% of normal. This snowpack normally serves to replenish our water reserves, but amounts have been so thin for so many years in a row, the culminating effect is the worsening of our already starved water supply.

We currently rely on imported water to make ends meet. A full 20% of the water we use has been imported from other reserves. Now, because of the diminished snowpack, scant local rainfall, and the drying up of our groundwater and dam stores, the State Water Project is allocating 0% of its water stores to the aid of the Metropolitan Water District. Meeting this year's obligations is expected to drain 25-50% of the Metropolitan Water District's reserves.

We have enough water in our groundwater basin to keep water flowing reliably to the public for now, but we must take immediate action just in case this three year drought continues. In January, our governor issued a declaration of emergency attributed to this continued drought.

THE SOLUTION

The Basin serves the water needs of 1.2 million people living in the San Gabriel Valley. We are calling on this population to reduce their water expenditure by 20%. A 20% reduction in our water demand would alleviate the strain we have placed on our regional water infrastructure. It is important that we slow our flow, so that our state staves off liquid bankruptcy if this drought continues into 2015.

Reducing 20% of your water use is not unrealistic, but it requires action be taken on your part.

Residents can visit www.SaveOurH2O.org or www.BeWaterWise.com for tips, tricks, and ideas you can put into practice to do your part to save our state's water.

Businesses and commercial users can visit www.SoCalWaterSmart.com to learn about rebates on water efficient appliances, turf removal, smart irrigation controllers, soil moisture sensors and other water saving devices.

Together, we can save our state in this emergency.