



Water Planning & Stewardship Committee

# Adopt resolution reaffirming the Regional Drought Emergency

Item 7-13

December 12, 2022

## Purpose of Resolution

- Reaffirm the Regional Drought Emergency in effect since Nov. 2021
  - Call on region to reduce use of State Water Project & Colorado River supplies
  - Defer mandatory actions to local agencies
  - Work within Water Shortage Contingency Plan actions
- Provide opportunity to constrain high demands that could develop in 2023
- Recognize serious Colorado River drought & publicly call for urban reduction
- Prepare for potential Water Supply Allocation in spring 2023

# Resolution continues Board's drought actions

Apr. 2022

Water Shortage  
Emergency  
Condition

Aug. 2022

Commitment to  
Regional  
Reliability

Nov. 2021

Regional Drought  
Emergency

Dec. 2022

Reaffirm  
Regional Drought  
Emergency

Aug. 2021

Water Supply  
Alert

Apr. 2023 ?

Regional Water  
Supply Allocation



# Major Water Supply Goals for 2023

- Current status
  - 5% SWP Allocation
  - Emergency Water Conservation Program continues in SWP-dependent area
  - Colorado River Aqueduct available, but must consider best use of Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) for 2023
- Goals
  - Minimize use of SWP supply to meet demands
  - Sufficiently replenish SWP storage
  - Manage to available Colorado River supply and prudent use of ICS

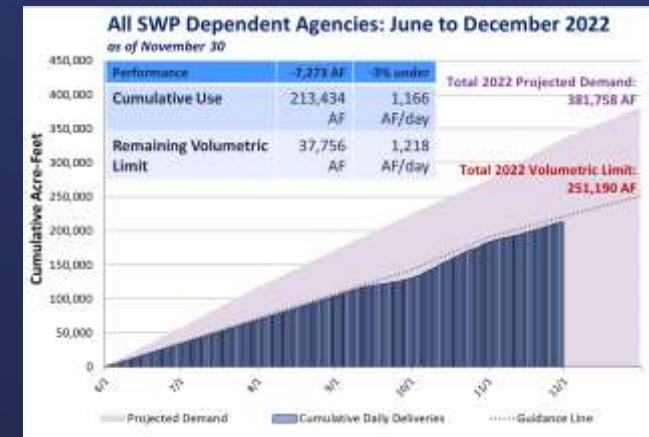
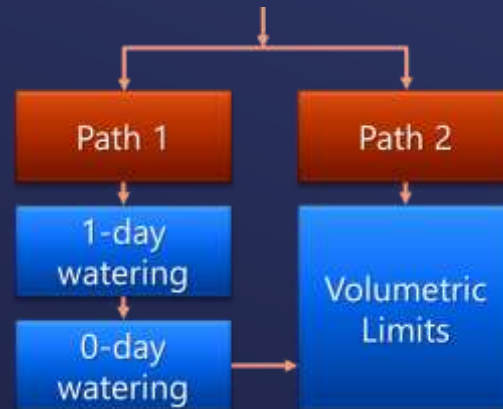
# Resolution acknowledges uncertainties in coming months

- SWP allocation at 5 percent; allocation finalized in late spring
- SWP-dependent area remains under Emergency Water Conservation Program through Jun. 2023 unless SWP allocation increases
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Commissioner announced needed reductions by Colorado River users
  - *Federal Register* notice of revisions to operating guidelines for Glen Canyon and Hoover Dams in 2023 and 2024 to address potential for low runoff
- Affirms that Board would consider further action in 2023
  - Possible declaration of Water Supply Allocation



# Emergency Water Conservation Program

- Framework unchanged from April 2022
  - Two paths for compliance
    - 1-day-per-week watering
    - Volumetric limits with penalties
  - New volumetric limits provide through Jun. 2023
    - Recognizes severe impact through a “guardrail” limiting reduction from average dry-year to 60%
    - Commits to aggressive pursuit of transfers



# Resolution calls on Member Agencies to:

- Review current drought response measures
- Adjust operations to reduce use of **State Water Project (SWP) & Colorado River** supplies
- Immediately mandate and implement conservation/water-use efficiency measures to reduce the use of Metropolitan's imported supplies
  - **Actions should reflect Level 2 or Level 3 response from Water Shortage Contingency Plans**

# Resolution directs General Manager to:

- Advance a unified regional message
- Aggressively pursue short-term water transfer and exchange opportunities
- Expand regional conservation programs
- Identify and implement measures to ensure service area achieves high reliability against multi-year, severe droughts
- Pursue state and federal funding to accelerate actions



# Board Options

- Option #1
  - Adopt resolution reaffirming the Regional Drought Emergency for all member agencies and calling on all member agencies to reduce the use of State Water Project and Colorado River supplies
- Option #2
  - Adopt the resolution reaffirming a Regional Drought Emergency with modifications to the actions called for within the resolution
- Option #3
  - Do not adopt the resolution reaffirming the Regional Drought Emergency at this time

# Staff Recommendation

- Option #1

