



## One Water and Stewardship Committee

Consider Changes to the  
Water Shortage Emergency Condition  
for the SWP Dependent Area and  
Reaffirm the Regional Drought  
Emergency for all Member Agencies

Item 7-9

March 14, 2023

# Current Status of Drought & Shortage Emergency Actions

## Entire Service Area:

- Subject to Governor's Statewide Drought Emergency Declaration & Executive Order N-7-22
- Regional Drought Emergency declared Dec. 2022

## SWP Dependent Area:

- Water Shortage Emergency Condition declared April 2022
- Emergency Water Conservation Program (EWCP) began June 2022

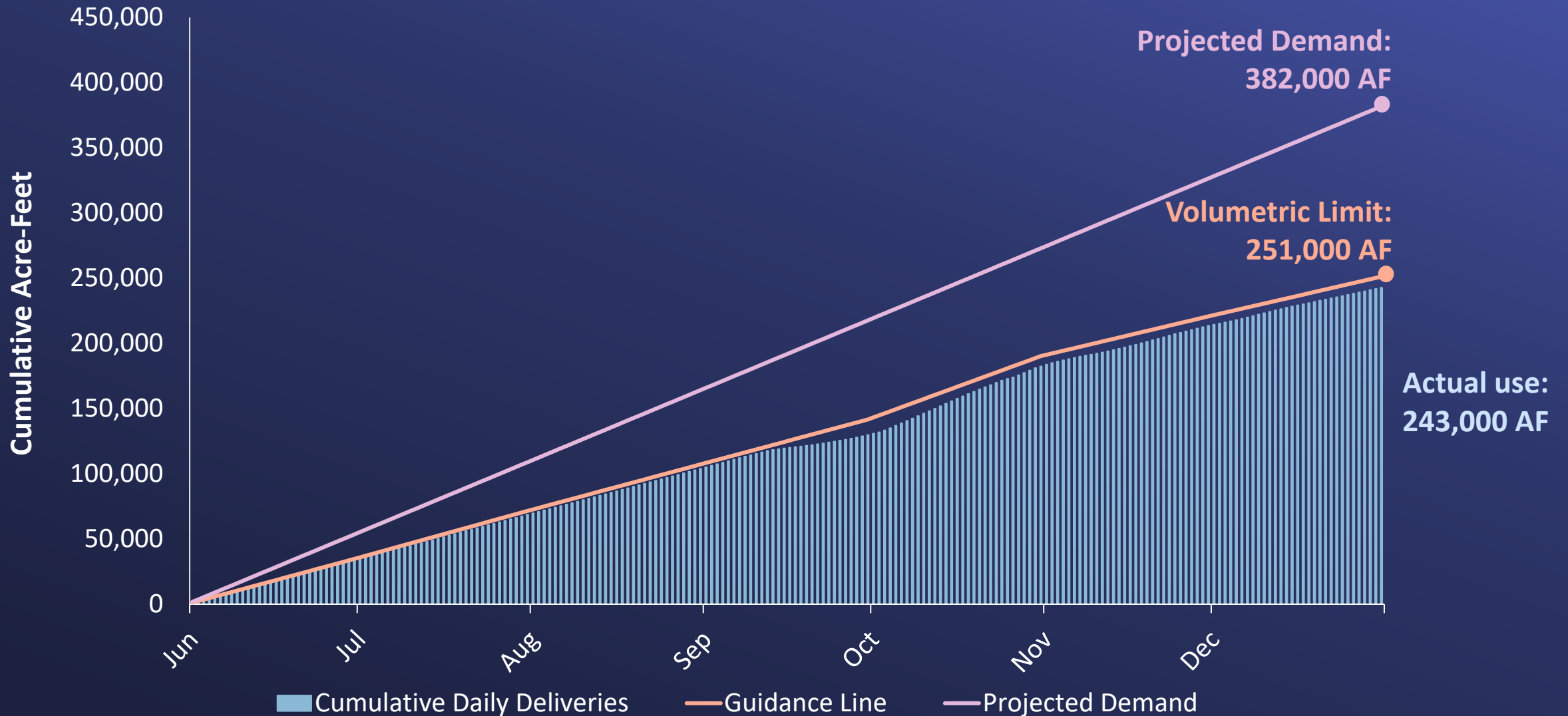
# Agencies Responded to the Need

2022 EWCP  
(June – December)

- SWP Dependent Area agencies faced severe mandatory requirements to reduce water use
  - Targeted 35% (on average) and up to 73% reduction from projected demands on MWD
  - Required complying with volumetric limits or strict one-day-per week watering limits
  - \$2,000/AF volumetric penalty if not in compliance
- SWP Dependent Area agencies collectively exceeded reductions required by EWCP objective
  - SWP water use reduced by 36% despite a record heat wave
  - No penalties assessed

# All SWP Dependent Agencies Water Use Tracking: Jun. to Dec. 2022

As of 12/31/2022



# Improved Conditions for SWP Dependent Area

Acute Shortage  
Conditions are  
Alleviated

- SWP allocation increased from initial 5% to 35%
  - Hydrology improved beginning in late December
  - Allocation exceeds unmet Human Health & Safety need
  - Storage of SWP supplies now planned
- Member Agency demands on Metropolitan lower than earlier projections
  - Conservation increase from drought actions and wet weather
  - Local supply boosted by current hydrologic conditions
- Acute water shortage for the SWP Dependent Area is alleviated at a 35% SWP allocation

# Board Consideration to End Most Severe Restrictions

Measured  
Response to  
Improved 2023  
Conditions

- Remove Water Shortage Emergency Condition currently declared for the SWP Dependent Area
- Remove Emergency Water Conservation Program (EWCP) for the SWP Dependent Area
  - Mandatory outdoor restrictions and enforcement
  - Penalty-enforced volumetric limits on supply
  - MAAP funding and procedures will revert to established guidelines
- Reaffirm the Regional Drought Emergency for all member agencies
  - Colorado River watershed remains in a 23-year drought
  - Future year SWP supplies remains uncertain
  - All counties in Metropolitan's service area remain under the Governor's statewide drought emergency declaration

# Regionwide Actions Remain in Place

Regional Drought  
Emergency  
Resolution  
(December 13, 2022)

- Reduce use of imported water supplies and immediately enhance and intensify conservation actions
- Implement demand response actions outlined in State-mandated Water Shortage Contingency Plans for a shortage level of up to 20 percent
- Emergency authorities delegated to the General Manager to address ongoing drought conditions

## Alternatives Considered to Recommended Action

- Delay the action to remove the Water Shortage Emergency Condition and terminate the EWCP until future SWP allocation increases
- Suspend the Regional Drought Emergency declared in December 2022
- Move beyond the current requirements and actions specified in the Regional Drought Emergency and implement a regionwide supply allocation for FY 2023-24 (Water Supply Allocation Plan)



# Water Supply Allocation Plan (WSAP)

## Update & Outlook

- Ongoing coordination with Member Agencies to discuss WSAP updates and potential implementation
- Considerations for implementation include
  - Hydrologic conditions
  - Imported supply outlook
  - Projected demands on Metropolitan
  - Projected end-of-year storage levels
- Under current and projected supply and demand conditions, staff does not anticipate a need for a regionwide WSAP supply allocation during fiscal year 2023-24

# Keeping the Public Engaged

## Continuing Drought & the Need to Conserve

- Messages
  - California vulnerable to extreme, variable weather
  - Need to adapt how we manage, invest in our water systems
  - Need to continue to use water wisely, Metropolitan and local water agencies are here to help with rebates and water saving tips
- Strategies
  - Multi-lingual messaging on current water conditions through earned media, community outreach, member agency support
  - Promote rebates, landscape transformations, and other water-saving actions for businesses, homes
  - Expand community partnerships and collaborations with Save Our Water, ACWA, other agencies

# Board Options

## Option #1

- Remove the Water Shortage Emergency Condition declared on April 26, 2022, for the SWP Dependent Area, terminate the Emergency Water Conservation Program and application of any penalties accrued, and reaffirm the Regional Drought Emergency declared on December 13, 2022.

## Option #2

- Continue the Water Shortage Condition declared on April 26, 2022, for the SWP Dependent Area, continue the Emergency Water Conservation Program, and reaffirm the Regional Drought Emergency declared on December 13, 2022.

Staff  
Recommendation

Option #1

