

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Drought Emergency Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. How severe is the drought emergency that we are currently facing?

The state of California is facing an unprecedented drought, which is currently in its fourth consecutive year. California experienced the driest January on record in 2015. The lack of rain, combined with record low snowpack in Northern California, has led to shortfalls in available water resources for the state.

2. What is the drought emergency?

In response to the current drought in California, Governor Jerry Brown declared a drought State of Emergency in January 2014. For more information, click on the following link, <http://www.lacountydrought.com>.

3. What are the new regulations and restrictions that were just passed by the State?

On April 1, 2015, Governor Brown directed the State Water Board to implement mandatory water use restrictions in cities and towns across California to collectively reduce potable urban water usage by 25% statewide. The State Water Board formally adopted these restrictions at its May 5-6, 2015 meeting. The water use reductions are effective June 1, 2015.

4. How are the new reductions being determined?

Individual cities and communities are facing mandatory water use reductions ranging from 4% up to 36%, from their residential customer water usage in 2013. The State Water Board has required those areas with higher per capita use to achieve proportionally greater reductions than those with lower use. These reductions will help meet the statewide goal of reducing overall water consumption by 25%. For more information, click on the following link, <http://www.lacountydrought.com>.

5. How much will my community have to reduce?

Residents can go to <http://www.lacountydrought.com> to find their water provider and view the State Water Board's table to find their community's mandatory reduction level.

A list of unincorporated Los Angeles County community areas with their water providers, contact information, and corresponding water use reduction percentage is also available at this website.

6. I already conserve. How can I conserve even more?

While many Los Angeles County residents have been actively conserving water, there are still more ways to save water. Outdoor water use for landscaping and irrigation makes up the majority of average household water use. Reducing your outdoor watering from 10 minutes to 8 minutes, could reduce your water usage almost 20%. More water conservation tips can be found at the following link, <http://www.lacwaterworks.org/Conservation/Tips.aspx>.

7. What does this mean for me, specifically?

Contact your water provider for information on how the drought emergency will impact you.

Customers of the Waterworks Districts will receive notices prior to June 1, 2015 that will notify them of their water use target. Customers will be asked to meet those water use targets to ensure that their community is meeting the state's mandatory water reductions.

8. Where can I apply for water conservation rebates?

Contact your water provider for information on available rebates.

Most Los Angeles County residents are eligible for rebates through SoCal Water Smart, at <http://www.socalwatersmart.com>.

9. Where can I find a list of drought tolerant plants for my yard?

A list of drought tolerant plants and landscaping can be found at the following link, <http://www.lacwaterworks.org/Conservation/NativePlant.aspx>. Contact your water provider to determine the eligibility of specific plants.

10. I have seen people wasting water. How do I report instances of water waste?

Contact the local water provider to report any instances of water wasting. The water provider can be found at the following link, <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/general/servicelocator/>, or by using The Works mobile reporting app, which can be found at the <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/theworks/>.