



**Water Resources Association
San Benito County**

AGENDA

1. Who we are?

The water agencies for the urban areas of SBC:

City of Hollister

Sunnyslope County WD

City of San Juan Bautista

**Federal Contractor (CVP), Wholesaler, Irrigation District, GSA,
Manages SBC River System, Owner of Lessalt and West Hills WTP's**

San Benito County WD

2.New local developments:

San Juan Bautista water and wastewater improvements

2. Restrictions and bans concerning water:

Ban on the installation of new water softeners. Why?

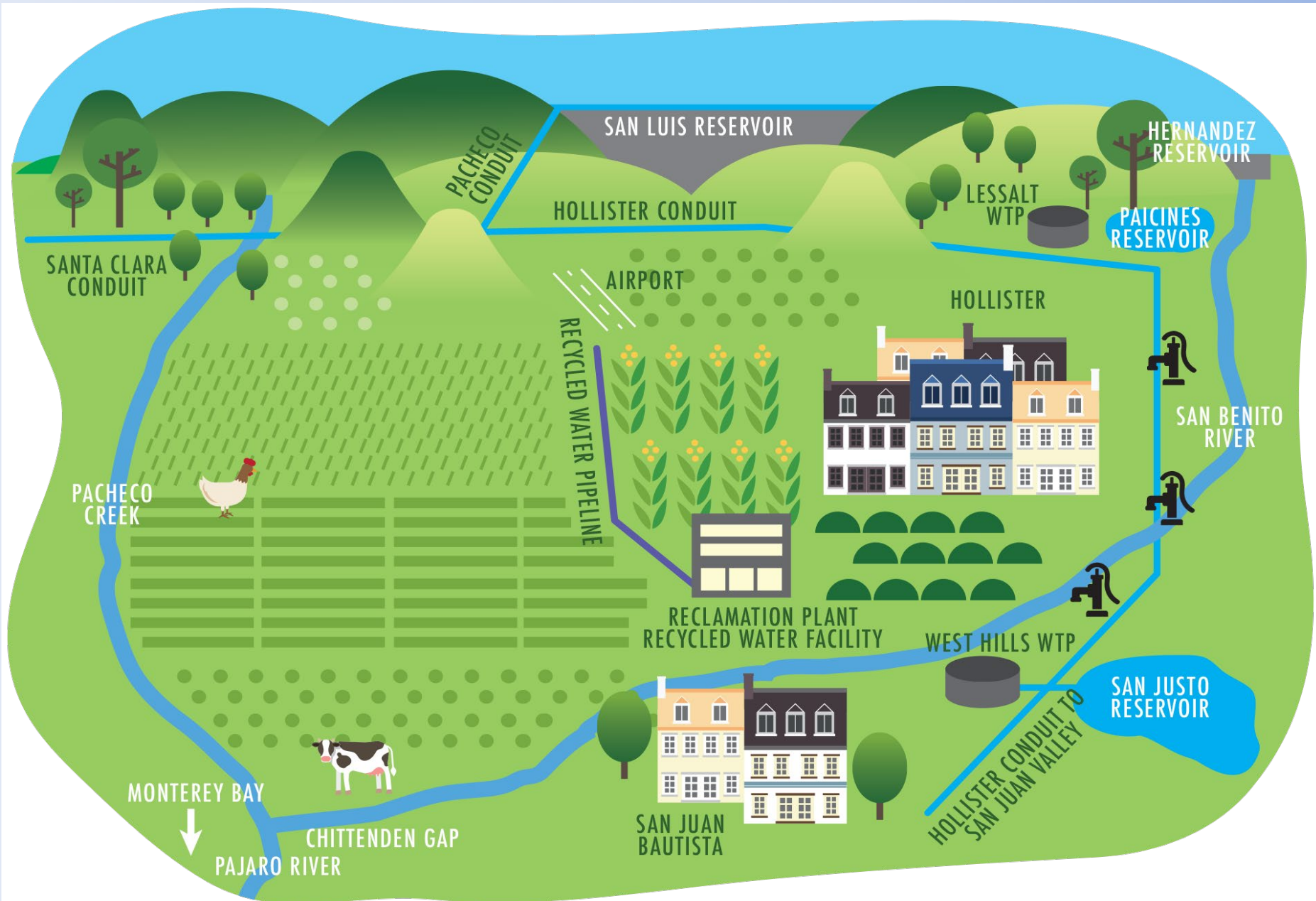
New state-wide water restrictions

3. Drought response

Brief History of Recent Drought

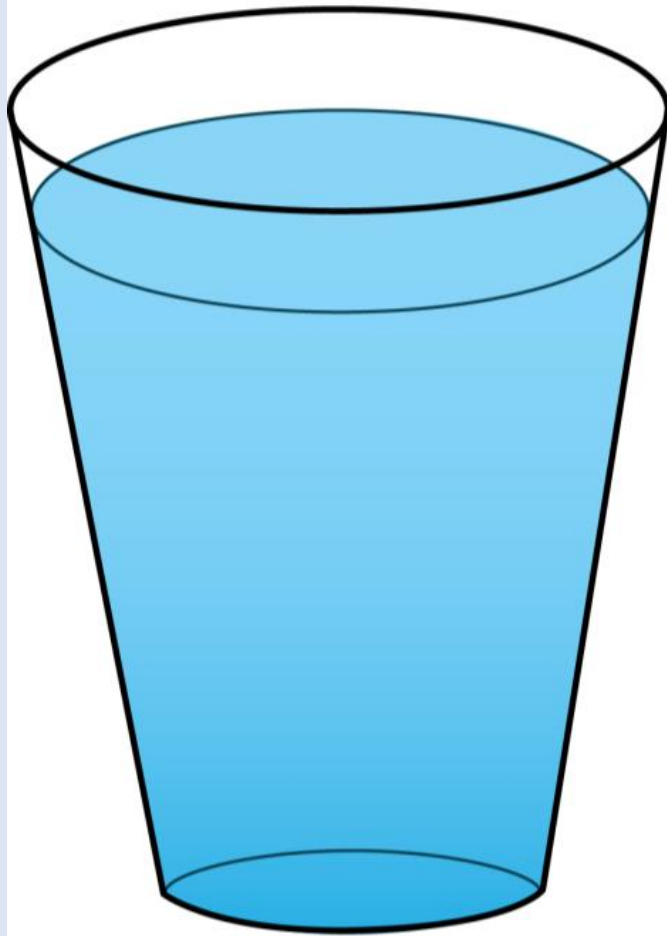
- **Drought persisted in California from December 2011 to March 2017.**
- **In March 2019, California was declared drought-free except for a small pocket of “abnormally dry” conditions in Southern California.**
- **California saw drought expand and worsen in 2020.**
- **Below-average precipitation, including a weak monsoon, and above-normal temperatures and evaporative demand intensified drought conditions and brought a record-breaking wildfire season.**
- **Conditions continued to deteriorate in 2020-2021.**
- **In April 2021, California declares a Drought Emergency.**

Water System for San Benito County

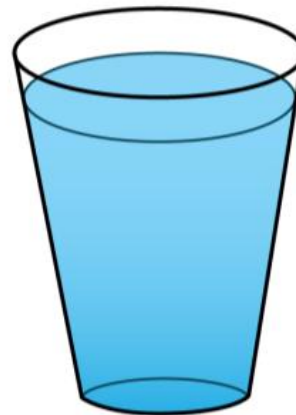


Our Groundwater Basin

Backup Water Supply During Drought



San Luis Reservoir
2,000,000 AF



Groundwater
500,000 AF



Local Reservoirs
43,600 AF

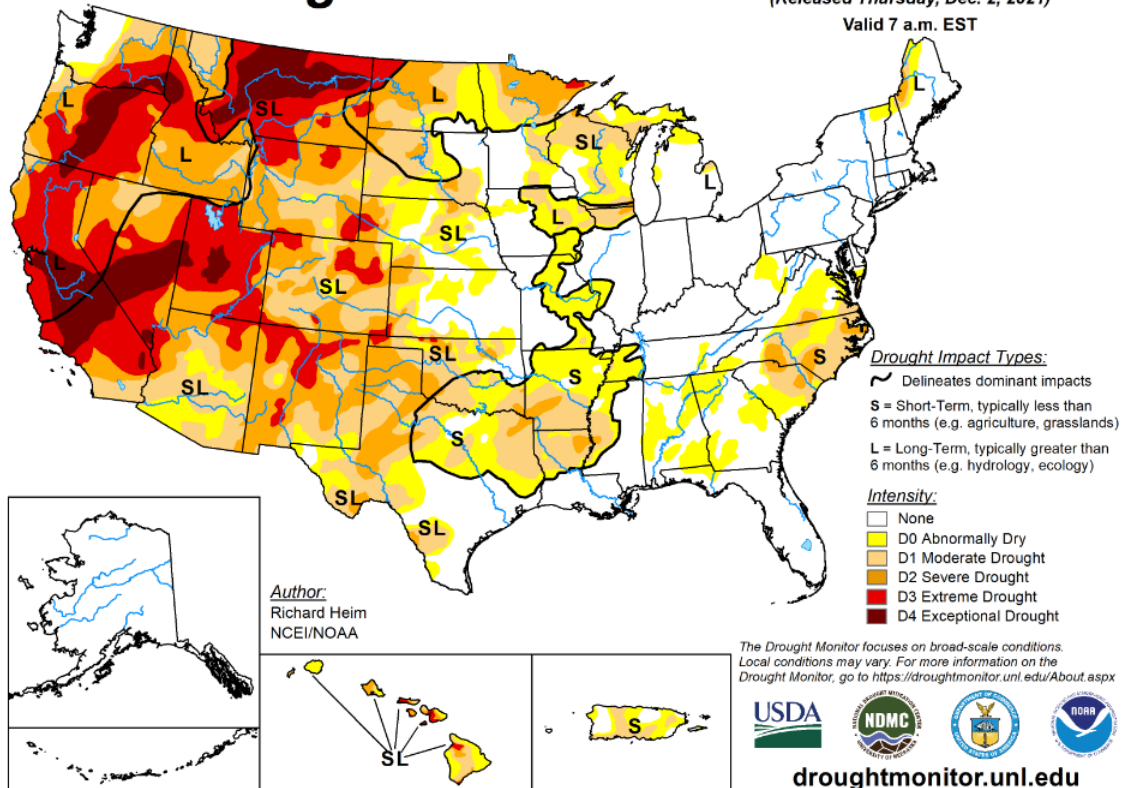
DROUGHT MONITOR – Nov. 30, 2021

Date < November 30, 2021 > Area type: National Area: U.S. with Impacts (page 1)

Map type:

U.S. Drought Monitor

November 30, 2021
(Released Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



DROUGHT MONITOR – Jan. 27, 2022

U.S. Drought Monitor

Current Map

Maps

Data

Summary

Press F11 to exit full screen

About

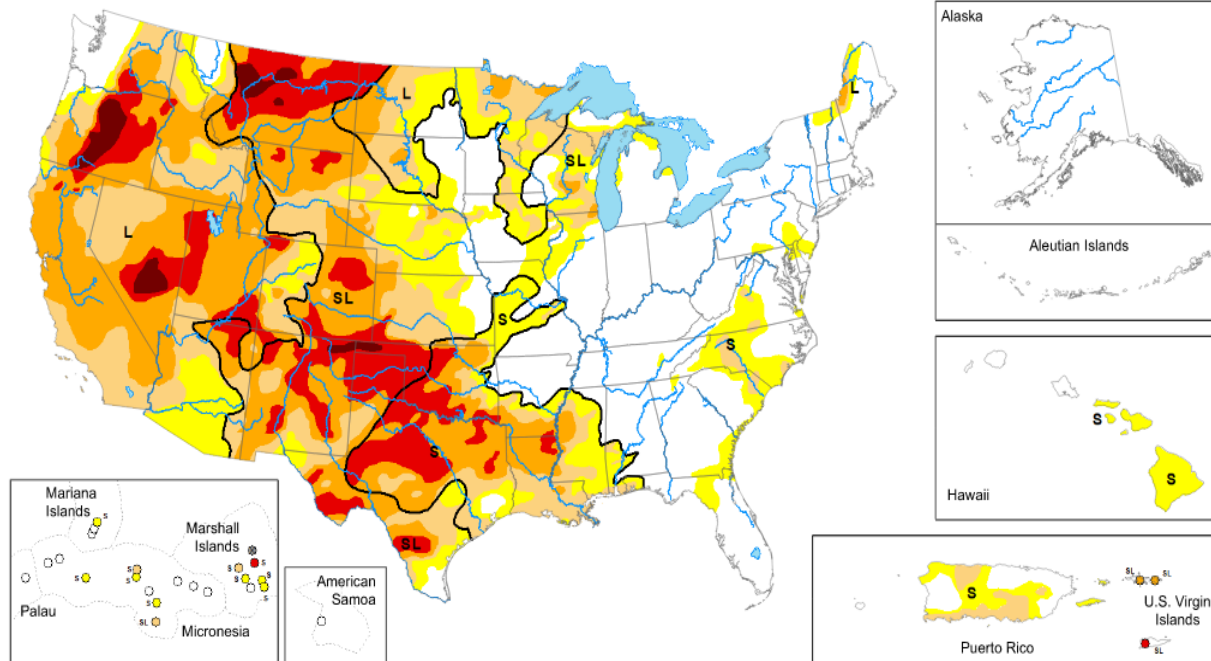
Conditions & Outlooks

En Español

NADM

Map released: January 27, 2022

Data valid: January 25, 2022

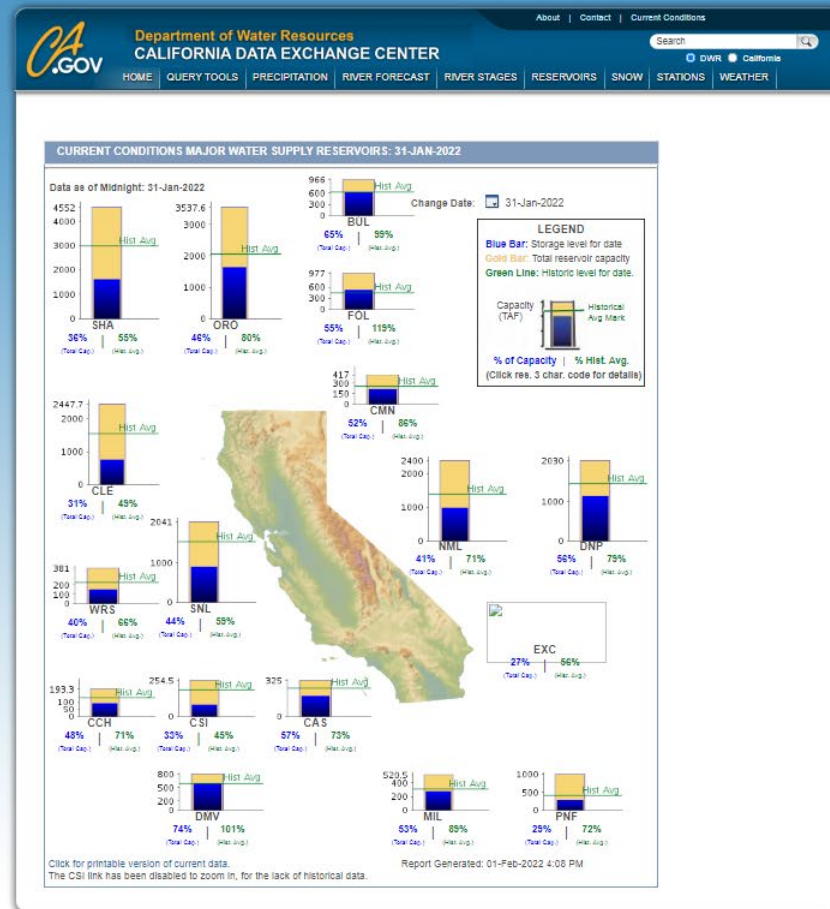


United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
Richard Heim, NOAA/NCEI

☐ View grayscale version of the map

RESERVOIR CONDITIONS – Jan. 31, 2022



WHAT ARE WE DOING?

IMMEDIATE & FUTURE

Due to the extreme conditions, local water agencies implemented Stage 1-Voluntary Water Conservation Measures contained in the Water Shortage Contingency Plan



STAGE 1 WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENY PLAN HAS BEEN ENACTED VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION GUIDELINES

OUTDOOR WATER RESTRICTIONS

- **Landscape watering shall be limited and restricted to no more than three (3) days per week with a duration of fifteen (15) minutes watering per water day per station.**
- **No watering of landscaping between the hours of 9am and 5pm by means other than drip irrigation or hand watering with a quick acting positive shut off nozzle.**
- **No washing down sidewalks, driveways, or other hardscape surfaces.**
 - **No watering landscape in a manner that causes runoff to adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, or parking lots.**
- **No washing of cars without the use of a quick acting, positive shutoff nozzle.**
- **No operation of decorative fountains or other water features unless the water is recirculated.**

GENERAL

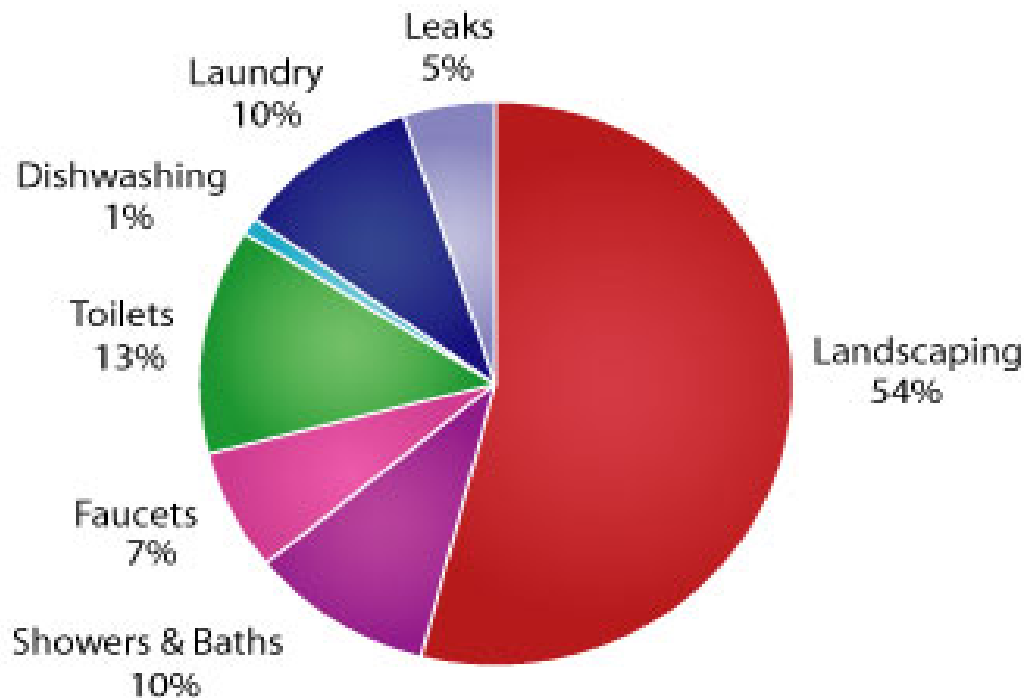
- **Leaks, breaks and malfunctions of irrigation systems and plumbing equipment causing waste of water shall be repaired and corrected within a reasonable amount of time**

PROHIBITONS AFFECTING COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES

- **Restaurants and other food service establishments are requested to serve water on request.**
 - **Operators of hotels and motels must provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily and prominently display notice of this option.**

Why focus on landscapes to conserve water?

Single Family Residential Water Use



Turf Uses Lots of Water

- 💧 500 square feet of turf uses approximately 750 gallons of water per month (9,000 gallons per year)
- 💧 Promote plants more appropriate to our climate/rainfall that use less water.
- 💧 SBC receives 11"-13" of rain per year.
- 💧 Turf can use up to 60" per year!



WRASBC Turf Removal Program 2014-2015 & MWELO

- **Over 100,000 square feet of turf were removed through program**
- **Resulting in approximately 1,800,000 gallons of water diverted from turf irrigation each year**
- **New homes constructed since 2010 are subjected to the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO)**
- **MWELO promotes efficient water use in new and retrofitted landscapes.**
- **Provisions of MWELO state total turf area shall not exceed 25% of the landscape area.**

AGENCY ACTIONS TO REDUCE WATER USE:

- 💧 **Continuous focus on urban irrigation and water-wise landscape education and outreach.**
- 💧 **January 2022 – March 2022:**
 - **Drought presentation to Boards and Councils in SBC. Contact Service Organizations and San Benito County Association of Realtors for presentations.**
 - **Water conservation reminders through online media, social media and print**
 - **Establish Water Waste Email Address for residents to report water waste**
 - **All water agencies to review their infrastructure for leaks and repair immediately**

AGENCY ACTIONS TO REDUCE WATER USE:

💧 **January 2022 – March 2022 continued**

Start production:

- **Videos for schools on various water related topics**
- **Virtual workshops for agricultural customers (water efficiency, nutrient management, soil management, etc.)**

💧 **April 2022:**

- **Start large campaign to encourage efficient irrigation practices before start of irrigation season. Promote irrigation check by WRASBC**
- **Earth Day (April 22, 2022) Virtual or in-person celebration in collaboration with the SBC Chamber of Commerce Green Committee**
- **WRASBC newsletter (bill insert)**

AGENCY ACTIONS

TO REDUCE WATER USE:

💧 May 2022 (Water Awareness Month)

- Proclamations to declare May as Water Awareness Month
- Banners, ads, articles for local media
- Farmer's Market starts-WRASBC booth
- Drought response update to Councils and Boards in SBC



IMMEDIATE CUSTOMER ACTIONS

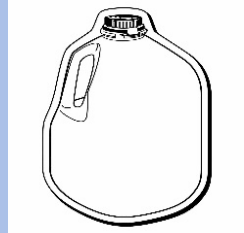
TO REDUCE WATER USE:

- **Replace your turf or grass with a water-friendly garden with drought-tolerant plants. Install water-efficient equipment throughout your home, i.e., water-efficient showerhead, toilet, etc.**
- **Go 'Dirty for the Drought,' and hold off on washing your car. When you're ready, take it to a car wash that recycles its water.**
- **Water plants early in the AM or at night. Shutoff irrigation system when rain is imminent.**
- **Use a broom to sweep down your driveway or porch instead of hosing it down.**
- **Repair leaks immediately**
- **Have a pool or spa? Cover them to reduce evaporation and save energy.**



Water use in Hollister Urban Area

- **1998= 220 gallons per person per day**
- **2020= 117 gallons per person per day**



- In 2015, during the last drought, the state mandated a 25% reduction in water use from pre-drought levels for every Californian.
- The Hollister Urban Area exceeded that amount (28%)
- If 25% reduction mandates are in place in 2022, water use would have to drop to 88 gallons per person per day

POSSIBLE FUTURE WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS/ACTIONS:

- 💧 **Turf Removal Program (state and/or local funds)**
- 💧 **Incentive to use Free WRASBC Water-Wise Landscape Plans. \$250 gift card upon completion of water-wise landscape transition . Post before and after pictures on social media.**
- 💧 **Leak Notification Program**
- 💧 **Use of Recycled Water for Construction and/or Dust Control instead of potable water**

***Mandatory water conservation mandates could be imposed by the state in 2022**

The BrightAction platform makes it easy to help your community take simple, everyday actions and make an impact.

Assist agencies in creating custom engagement campaigns that fit unique communities and cultures.



Community Media Platform



QUESTIONS?



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San Benito County

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