



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT BOARD ASKS RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES TO REDUCE WATER USE THROUGH ENHANCED WATER USE EFFICIENCY EFFORTS

Fountain Valley, CA (February 19, 2014) – The Board of Directors of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) is calling for Orange County residents and businesses to reduce their water use through enhanced water use efficiency measures. Today, the MWDOC Board passed a [resolution](#) asking all water users to take necessary actions in an effort to extend stored water supplies and prepare for a prolonged drought.

The call for enhanced water use efficiency comes on the heels of extremely low snowpack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, where snow levels measured just 12 percent of average water content during the January snow survey. This led the California Department of Water Resources to take the unprecedented step of reducing anticipated water supply deliveries through the State Water Project (SWP) to zero percent – meaning SWP Contractors are expecting to receive no water from the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta this year.

Orange County receives approximately 30% of its annual water supply from this source, so enhanced water use efficiency efforts are needed in order to reduce the amount of water that must be taken out of storage this year. There is no immediate danger of water supply interruptions here in Orange County, but we don't know how long the drought will last. We must be good stewards and use our water supplies as efficiently as possible now.

“The MWDOC Board wishes to thank our ratepayers for supporting investments in local water reliability projects, like water recycling and water use efficiency programs, that are now sustaining the region,” remarked Larry Dick, who was recently elected Board President. “The drought is a reminder that we must continue to invest in water infrastructure and reliability projects, like the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, in order to ensure our water supplies remain reliable for future generations.”

As result of the drought conditions and severe impacts to communities in many parts of the state, last month Governor Brown issued a drought emergency in the state of California. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) responded by endorsing Governor Brown's statewide call for a reduction in water use and declaring a Water Supply Alert throughout its 5,200 square mile service area.

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MWDOC is working closely with Metropolitan and its member agencies to monitor water supplies and accelerate outreach efforts to communicate the need for additional water use efficiency efforts.

MWDOC and its member agencies offer a wide variety of water use efficiency programs and rebates to assist residents, businesses, and institutions in reducing their water use. Residents are encouraged to consider planting California Friendly plants that require very little water, install rotating sprinkler nozzles and a “smart” sprinkler timer that gives plants the appropriate amount of water, check for and promptly repair leaks inside and outside the home. For information on water use efficiency programs, rebates, and water-saving tips, please visit www.mwdoc.com/wue.

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The Municipal Water District of Orange County is a water resource management and planning agency dedicated to ensuring supply and system reliability for the 2.2 million residents we serve through our 28 member agencies.

