



Meeting Date: March 17, 2021
Staff Contact: Mark Kelly, Water Resources Manager

TITLE: R-21-5 – Declaring a Drought Stage One: Drought Watch for Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority Service Area Until September 30, 2021

ACTION: Recommend Suspension of the Rules and Immediate Action for Approval

SUMMARY:

2020 was the fifth warmest and fourth driest year on record in Albuquerque. The National Weather Service has designated most of central and western New Mexico as being in extreme drought. Higher than average temperatures and lower than average precipitation are expected to continue for at least the next three months.

In April 2018, the Water Authority Board approved an update to the Conservation Plan. An appendix of the Conservation Plan is the Plan for Customer Demand During Drought, also called the Drought Management Strategy. The Drought Management Strategy uses both customer behavior and the amount of ground water being produced to determine the drought stage and the water use reduction methods to be enacted.

This resolution declares Drought Stage 1: Drought Watch beginning immediately. A Drought Watch would authorize the following measures: increase public education, double water waste fees and offer a \$20 bill credit to customers who attend a DroughtSmart class. These measures would have the following water savings potential:

DROUGHT STAGE 1: DROUGHT WATCH			
Water Use Reduction Method	Savings Goals as a percentage of total annual ground water production	Average Savings Goals in acre-feet	Average Savings Goals in gallons
Increase public education	12%	4,650	1,515,000,000
Double Fees for Wasting Water	5%	1,940	632,000,000
Offer Drought Smart \$20 rebate classes	3%	1,160	378,000,000
TOTAL	20%	7,750	2,525,000,000

Both the Water/Sewer Rate and the Water Waste Ordinances as well as the Conservation Plan have adopted policies that allow the Water Authority to declare to the public the Drought Level and the ability to increase fees or surcharges. The resolution directs the Executive Director to implement the Drought Watch measures which is consistent with the adopted Ordinances. The purpose of the resolution is to declare the Drought Level and the measures that will be implemented by the Executive Director. It should be noted that the Water Waste Ordinance only assess fines after the third violation.

The Technical Customer Advisory Committee has reviewed and is supportive of the imposition of a Drought Watch.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None. Additional outreach and drought smart rebates can use existing budgets.

1 immediately:

2 A. Increase Public Awareness; and

3 B. Double Fees for Wasting Water; and

4 C. Offer DroughtSmart Classes with a \$20 rebate.

5 Section 2. Increase Public Awareness. Until such time as the Drought Watch
6 expires or is lifted, the Water Authority shall provide an increased public awareness
7 campaign on drought severity, water use and conservation utilizing TV, radio, outdoor
8 advertising, bill inserts and social media. In addition, drought information shall be
9 incorporated into all levels of the education program.

10 Section 3. Drought Water Waste Fees. The existing water waste fees shall be
11 doubled. The Water Authority may increase the number of water waste enforcement
12 staff during this period.

13 Section 4. DroughtSmart Class. Beginning in March 2021 and continuing
14 throughout the irrigation season or until the Drought Watch is lifted whichever comes
15 first, the Water Authority shall offer classes on how to conserve during the drought.
16 Customers who attend the class will receive a one-time \$20 credit on their water bill.
17 These rebates will be managed within the existing rebate program costs.

18 Section 5. Water Usage and Drought Update. As long as the Drought Watch
19 remains in effect, the Executive Director and staff shall report to the Board at each
20 Board meeting on the status of water usage, precipitation and drought predictions.

21 Section 6. The Drought Watch shall remain in effect until repealed by the Water
22 Authority or until September 30, 2021.

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Drought Watch Resolution

Mark Kelly, PE

Water Resources Division Manager

March 17, 2021

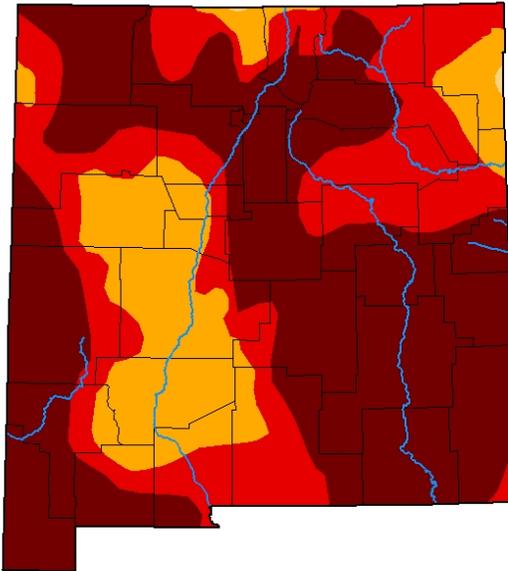


Albuquerque Bernalillo County
Water Utility Authority

Drought Update

U.S. Drought Monitor
New Mexico

March 2, 2021
(Released Thursday, Mar. 4, 2021)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

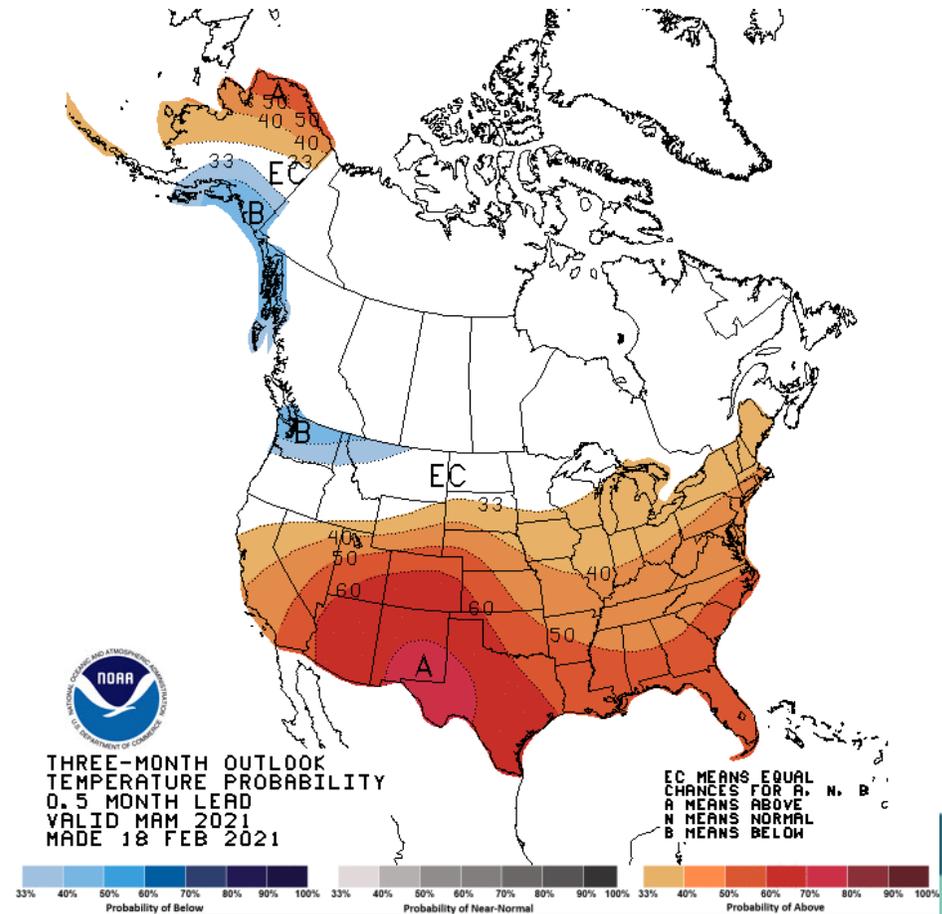
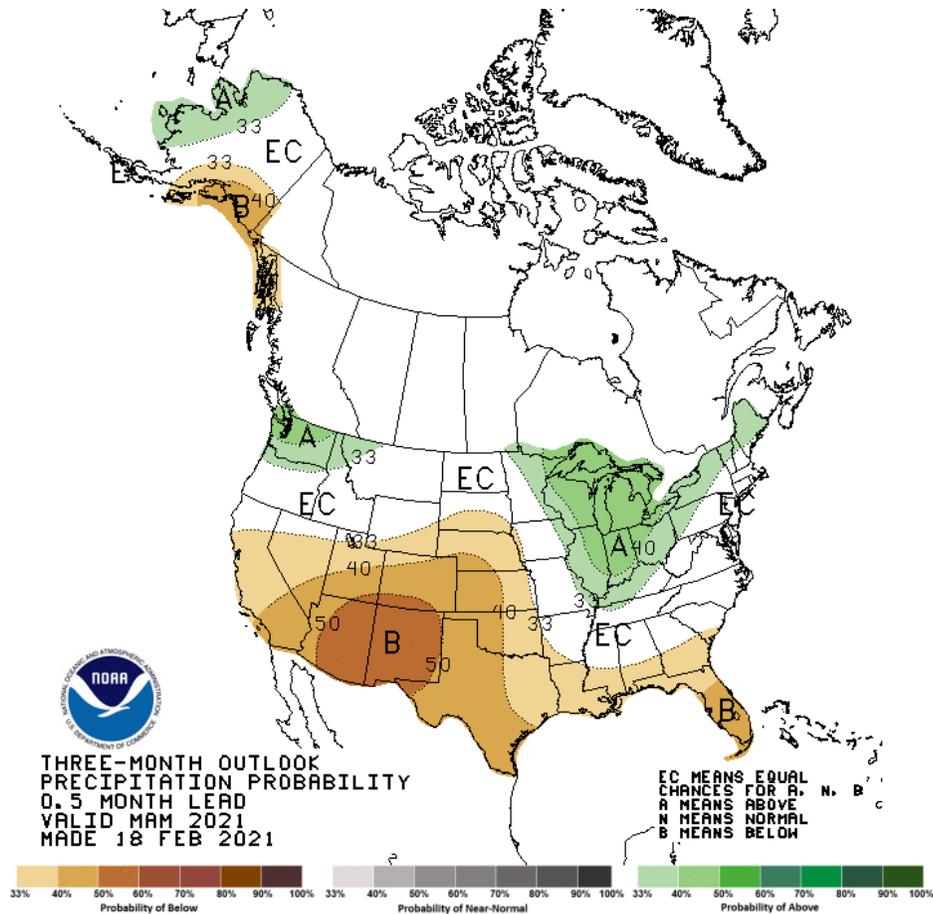
Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



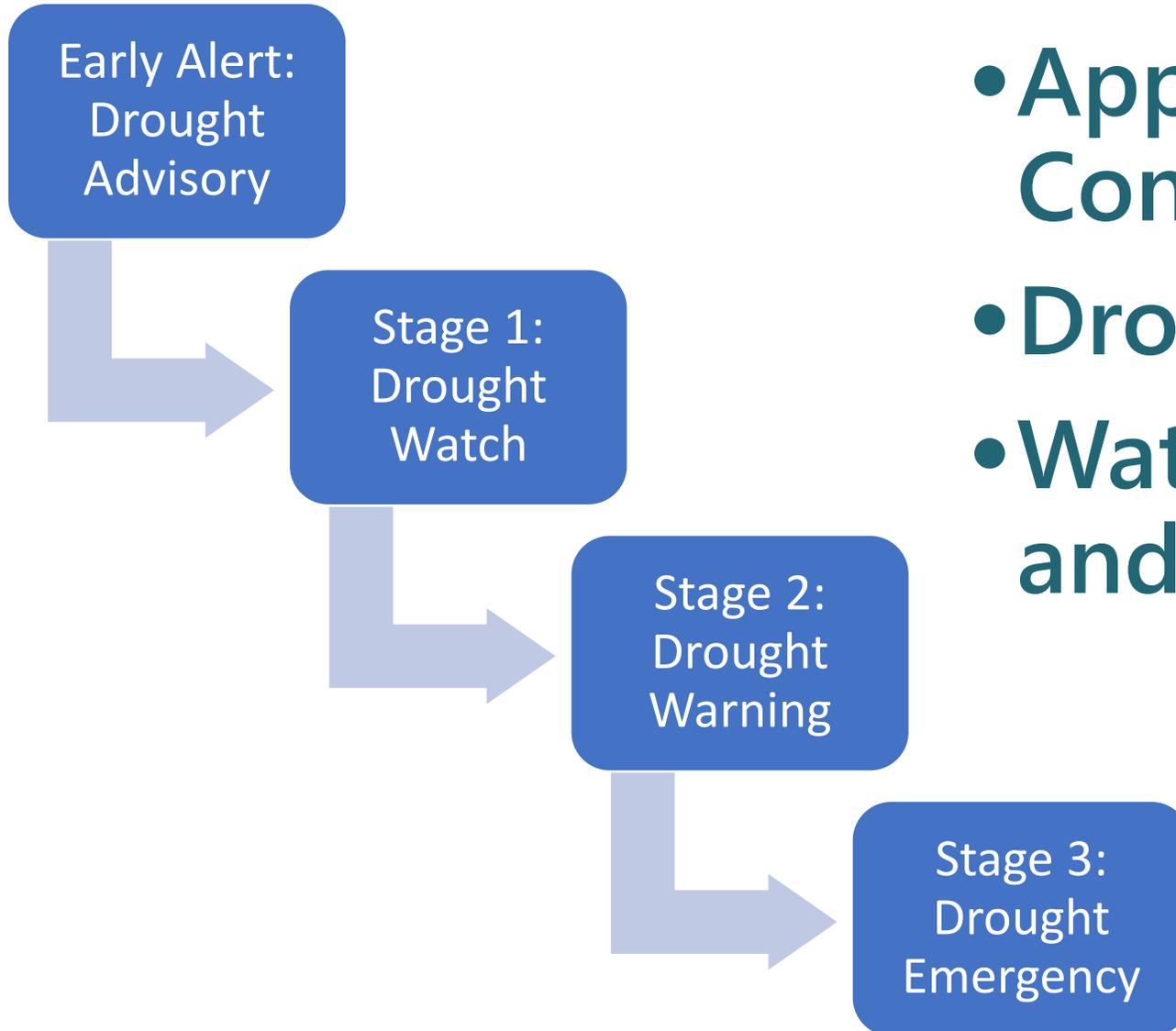
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

- October 2020 – NOAA Drought Advisory
 - National Weather Service announced >50% of Bernalillo County in Severe Drought
 - Increased public education
- December 2020 – Governor’s Executive Order Drought Declaration
- February 2021 – NOAA Bernalillo County Remains in Severe to Exceptional Drought

Drought Update



Water 2120 – Plan for Customer Demand Reduction During Drought



- Appendix to 2018 Conservation Plan
- Drought Stage Responses
- Water 2120 plans for dry and wet years



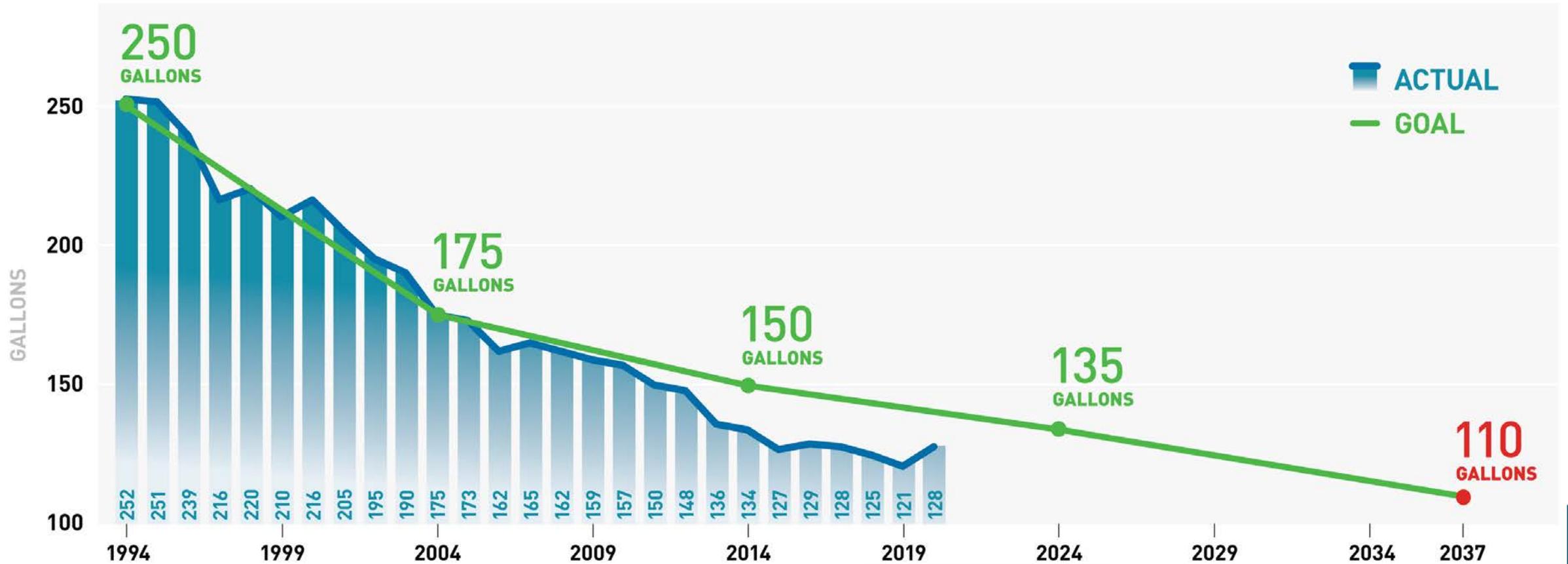
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Water Utility Authority

Drought Stage Criteria Chart

Groundwater Pumping /GPCD	Less than 120% of the GW pumping goal	Between 120% and 130% of GW pumping goal	Between 130% and 140% of GW pumping goal	More than 140% of the GW pumping goal
< 2 GPCD over the goal	None	None	None	Stage 1
2-4 GPCD over the goal	None	Stage 1	Stage 1	Stage 2
4-6 GPCD over the goal	None	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
> 6 GPCD over the goal	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 3

Figure 3. Drought Stage Criteria Chart

Gallons Per Capita Per Day, 1994-2037



Drought Stage Criteria Chart

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2-4 GPCD over the goal	None	Stage 1	Stage 1	Stage 2
4-6 GPCD over the goal	None	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
> 6 GPCD over the goal	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 3

Figure 3. Drought Stage Criteria Chart

Drought Stage 1: Drought Watch

DROUGHT STAGE 1: DROUGHT WATCH			
Water Use Reduction Method	Savings Goals as a percentage of total annual ground water production	Average Savings Goals in acre-feet	Average Savings Goals in gallons
Increase public education	12%	4,653	1,516,184,703
Double Fees for Wasting Water	5%	1,938	631,499,238
Offer Drought Smart \$20 rebate classes	3%	1,163	378,964,713
TOTAL	20%	7,754	2,526,648,654



Water 2120 – Plan for Customer Demand Reduction During Drought

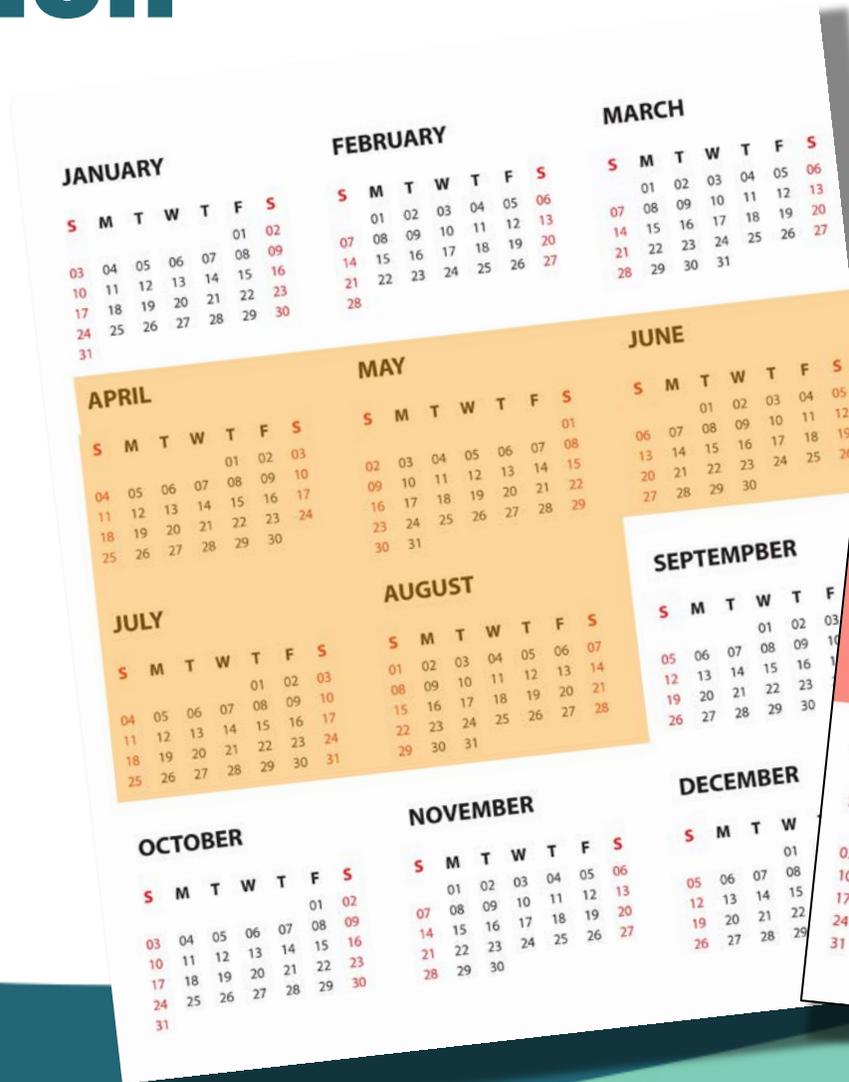
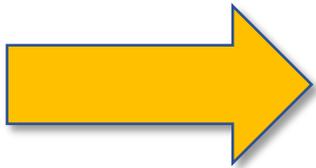
“Drought in the Water Authority’s service area relates to the supply of surface water and the amount of ground water pumped during dry, high-demand periods. Because drought has its greatest impact in the summer and early fall (the highest water demand times of the year) drought mitigation focuses on these time periods and reducing outdoor water use.”



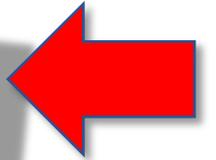
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Outreach Campaign Duration

Normal Year



Drought Year





Conservation Actions

- Drought Public Information
- Increase Water Use Compliance
- Water Smart Classes
- Water Smart Academy
- Water Sense Label
- Ask An Expert



Drought Stage 2: Drought Warning

DROUGHT STAGE 2: DROUGHT WARNING		
Water Use Reduction Method	Savings Goals as a percentage of total annual groundwater production	Average Savings Goals in acre-feet (based on 2012-2022 goals)
Increase public education	2%	840
Double Fees for Wasting Water	4%	1,680
Offer Drought Smart \$20 rebate	2%	840
Double Surcharges	10%	4,201
Water by the Numbers becomes mandatory	8%	3,360
Change Time of Day Watering Restrictions (no watering 9AM to 9PM)	2%	840
No variances granted to Time of Day Watering Restrictions	2%	840
Distribute low-flow showerheads and/or timers and educate on 5-minute showers	1%	421
TOTAL	31%	13,021



Drought Stage 3: Drought Emergency

DROUGHT STAGE 3: DROUGHT EMERGENCY		
Water Use Reduction Method	Savings Goals as a percentage of total annual groundwater production	Average Savings Goals in acre-feet (based on 2012-2022 goals)
Increase public education	2%	904
Double Fees for Wasting Water	4%	1,809
Offer Drought Smart \$20 rebate	2%	904
Change Time of Day Watering Restrictions (no watering 9AM to 9PM)	2%	904
No variances granted to Time of Day Watering Restrictions	2%	904
Distribute low-flow showerheads and/or timers and educate on 5-minute showers	1%	452
Triple Surcharges	14%	6,333
Reduce mandatory Water by the Numbers by one day/week	12%	5,428
20% Reduction Rebate	2%	904
TOTAL	41%	18,542



Questions?

