



Long-Term Water Conservation and Management Strategies

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As the state's focus begins to transition from the State Water Resources Control Board's 2015 emergency regulation to a long-term water management vision for California's future, the Squaw Valley Public Service District strongly believes that any long-term policy should recognize investments in drought-resilience, emphasize ongoing water-use efficiency, and leave local management discretion to local water agencies.

- With the public's support, local water agencies have invested nearly \$20 billion in the past 20 years to build and prudently manage diverse water supply portfolios to meet their customers' needs and provide reliable supplies during times of drought.
- Local water supply investments since the 1990s include everything from water recycling to local and regional water storage to desalination of brackish groundwater and ocean water. These types of investments have added nearly 5 million acre-feet of local and regional water supply across the state.
- Local water supply investments are widely credited with keeping California's economy intact throughout the current multiyear drought.
- The emergency drought regulation adopted in May 2015 and extended in February 2016 by the State Water Resources Control Board largely overlooked local water supply

investments and required local urban water suppliers to impose mandatory water use restrictions even where local water supply conditions did not warrant such stringent restrictions.

- As the state's focus transitions from the emergency regulation to a potential long-term policy on conservation, the state's policy should emphasize local investments in drought resiliency and ongoing water use efficiency and leave discretion with local water agencies to choose appropriate management strategies.
- California water agencies support a long-term policy that demands high levels of water use efficiency, promotes innovation in developing water shortage contingency plans, requires high levels of accountability at local water agencies, and preserves local control over water management decisions.
- Any long-term policy adopted by the State Water Board must recognize the diversity of local water supply conditions throughout the state. Local water managers are best suited to make responsible water management decisions based on these local water supply conditions.
- California will benefit most from a long-term water management policy such as the "all-of-the-above" strategy outlined in the California Water Action Plan. This strategy, which focuses on drought-resiliency and recognizes water supply and water efficiency tools, will result in a more efficient and resilient water future for California.
- Long-term water management policy is most appropriately developed and administered by the California Department of Water Resources, which already has a lead role in managing the state's Urban Water Management Plan / Water Shortage Contingency Plan process.