

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



June 8, 2021

To: All Investor-Owned Water Utilities

SUBJECT: Ongoing Dry Conditions in California – Preparation for Drought Impacts Statewide

Dear Water Utilities:

With California experiencing its second consecutive dry year and due to the effects of climate change, we are all reminded that drought planning and conservation are a California way of life. Earlier this year, Governor Newsom took actions¹ to respond to drought conditions across California by declaring 41 counties under a drought state of emergency.

On behalf of the CPUC, I call on the investor-owned utilities (IOUs) to remind your water customers of ongoing dry conditions and encourage actions to reduce water usage.

Two years of low precipitation and the most recent snow survey conducted by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on April 1, 2021, show California's snowpack well below normal, and the continued hydrologic conditions since 2020 are similar to the drought years from 2012 to 2016. We must be prepared if the years to follow are similarly dry. As leaders of water utilities, you should already be fully aware of the continuing dry conditions and may have implemented early measures to address these conditions. I encourage you to build on these early efforts.

To learn more about current conditions, the state's response and informational resources available to the public, please visit the state's drought preparedness website: <https://waterresilience.ca.gov/drought-preparedness/>.

The IOUs are encouraged to remind all Californians under its jurisdictions how to conserve water based on the best practices learned from the 2012-16 drought, including the drought procedures and guidance previously adopted with

¹ <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/4.21.21-Emergency-Proclamation-1.pdf>
<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/5.10.2021-Drought-Proclamation.pdf>

Standard Practice U-40² (SP-40). IOUs are also encouraged to promote DWR's Save Our Water Program (<https://saveourwater.com/>) or other water conservation programs.

Water systems that project they will face water shortages and be unable to meet demands should contact the appropriate State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water District Office. For a map with contact information, visit

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/districts/.

For information about what the CPUC is doing to prepare for drought, lessons learned from the 2012-16 drought, and information regarding voluntary water conservation efforts please visit <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/droughtinfo/>.

Please direct any questions to Terence Shia, Director, Water Division, at Water.Division@cpuc.ca.gov or Water Division, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102-3298.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marybel Batjer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Marybel Batjer, President
California Public Utilities Commission

CC: Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves
Commissioner Clifford Rechtschaffen
Commissioner Genevieve Shiroma
Commissioner Darcie Houck
Rachel Peterson, Executive Director, CPUC
Terence Shia, Water Division Director, CPUC
Grant Mack, Office of Government Affairs Director, CPUC

²https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUC_Public_Website/Content/Utilities_and_Industries/Water/Standard_Practice_U40W_2014_wo.pdf