



**Office of the Mayor  
City of Los Angeles**

## **ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA**

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### **MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA ISSUES CALL IN RESPONSE TO SEVERE, STATEWIDE WATER SHORTAGES**

*Mayor calls for accelerated water usage restrictions and  
shortage-year water rates*

LOS ANGELES - Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, in response to severe, statewide water shortages, today called for an acceleration of water use restrictions under his 20-year water strategy as well as implementation of shortage-year water rates.

“Water shortages are becoming permanent realities,” Mayor Villaraigosa said. “With new water-use prohibitions and shortage-year water rates in place, Los Angeles will continue to lead the state in water conservation and create a path for a more sustainable future.”

Mayor Villaraigosa called for moving Los Angeles from Phase I to implementation of Phase III of the City's Water Conservation Ordinance, which will restrict outdoor irrigation to two days a week - on Mondays and Thursdays only.

The Mayor asked the DWP to approve Shortage-Year Rates, which will lower customer water allocations according to a tiered pricing system. The Mayor also called on DWP to double the number of its Water Conservation Team and expand enforcement hours.

“The message is simple: if you save water, you will save money,” Mayor Villaraigosa said.

Facing a third straight dry year and court-imposed limits on imported water, California faces significant water shortages this year. Statewide reservoir levels are their lowest since the 1976-78 drought and currently stand at only one-third of capacity. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), the source of more than half of the City's water, has estimated that if statewide water conditions do not improve they will need to cut deliveries by 15 to 25 percent.

**- MORE -**

## Villaraigosa Water Strategy

In May of 2008, Mayor Villaraigosa rolled out a 20-year water strategy for Los Angeles that plans for enough water conservation and recycling measures to meet 100% our the city's water new water demand by 2030.

Angelenos have been responding to the Mayor's call for conservation. In 2008, commercial use is down four percent, single-family residential use is down 6.9 percent, and City government usage has led the way by reducing water consumption by 16 percent.

The water strategy includes a phased-in approach to water restrictions as well as the first real enforcement efforts since the 1990s. Today's announcement is an acceleration of these water restrictions.

On the technology side, the strategy shifts the city's focus from promoting efficient indoor plumbing to the outdoors, where Angelenos families use 30-40 percent of their water.

## BACKGROUND

### The Sources of Los Angeles' Water Supply



Los Angeles receives water from five major sources:

1. Eastern Sierra Nevada watershed (via **LA Aqueduct**);
2. Colorado River (via the **Colorado River Aqueduct**);
3. Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (via the **California Aqueduct**, aka **State Water Project**);
4. **Local Groundwater**; and
5. **Recycled Water**.

In the last 12 months the City of Los Angeles used 642 thousand acre-feet (TAF) of water, which, due to conservation, was 24 TAF less than the previous fiscal year (2006-2007). In order to meet this demand, the City of Los Angeles received, from each water source:

Source	Volume (TAF)	Percentage
1. <u>Los Angeles Aqueduct</u>	146,657	23%
2. Metropolitan Water District*, includes both <u>State Water Project</u> and <u>Colorado River Aqueduct</u>	428,103	67%
3. <u>Local Groundwater</u>	60,025	9%
4. <u>Recycled Water</u>	7,216	1%

\*Water from the Colorado River and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD).

### Current Water Supply Conditions

Each major source of water is experiencing a shortage of supply.

- **The Los Angeles Aqueduct (Eastern Sierra):** The Eastern Sierra snowpack is 71% of normal for this time of year, and only 45% of the total season normal, which will severely limit the water deliveries via the LA Aqueduct. If snowpack conditions do not improve, the LA Aqueduct may, for the first time in history, deliver less than 100 TAF to the City. As it stands, DWP estimates that the LA Aqueduct will deliver approximately 90-110 TAF (from an average of 200 TAF).
- **The Colorado River Aqueduct:** The Colorado Basin is emerging from 7-years of drought which the Colorado River System's storage to only 50% of capacity and limited surplus water deliveries to MWD for the past several years.
- **The California Aqueduct (State Water Project):** State Water Project (SWP) deliveries have experienced ~40% reduction in order to protect the Delta Smelt. In addition, the SWP Eight-Station Index shows that we have received 65% of normal rainfall to date. Currently, the SWP is allocating 15% of normal deliveries, which based on recent snow survey results will likely be reduced to 10%, or even a 5% allocation. MWD's contract with the SWP is for 2.0 million acre-feet of water, this contract will be reduced by 85 to 95 percent.

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## Impact on the Metropolitan Water District

Given the lack of surplus water from the Colorado River and supply reductions from the State Water Project, the MWD may experience a shortfall of 500 TAF (assuming an optimistic SWP allocation of 15%). MWD is now projecting a 75% chance it will have to allocate its water supplies in 2009, and is planning to decide in April whether or not to begin rationing water this July.

- MWD staff **estimates** that if statewide water conditions do not improve, deliveries to member agencies, including the City of LA, will be reduced by 15 to 25 percent.
- In the event of reduced deliveries by MWD, Los Angeles will have to conserve an additional 8% to 15% (50 to 100 TAF) beyond current conservation (24 TAF).
- Los Angeles must conserve two to four times the level of current conservation.

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