



NEWS RELEASE

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Sacramento-Area Environmental, Water, Business Interests Urge Conservation Amid Dire Statewide Drought

SACRAMENTO—Over 50 environmental, water provider, business and public agency interests representing over two dozen organizations passed an urgent resolution Thursday night calling on the Sacramento Water Forum, its members and the public to reduce water use by 15 percent to preserve water supplies in Folsom Reservoir.

“The urgent call for action passed by Water Forum members reflects a growing water and environmental emergency in the Sacramento region, across California and the West,” said Water Forum Executive Director Jessica Law. “It is critical that the public conserve water now.”

The Water Forum is a regional organization that has been working for the past 20 years to develop and implement long-lasting solutions to maintain the region’s water supply reliability, economic health, and preserve the fishery, wildlife, recreational and aesthetic values of the Lower American River.

Facing one of the most serious statewide droughts on record, the resolution urges the Water Forum and its members to “promote, with a sense of urgency, the reduction of summer and fall water usage through voluntary and robust conservation at a minimum of 15 percent or other actions to reduce pressure on Folsom Reservoir and the lower American River.”

“If the drought extends into 2022, regional water supplies may be threatened and may be unacceptably unreliable, with Folsom Reservoir possibly dropping to dead pool, which is below the intakes to water pipes of some municipalities,” the resolution reads. “The American River and its struggling fisheries would be significantly impacted. Recreational and aesthetic values will be impacted. The Water Forum would not be meeting its coequal objectives.”

In addition, the resolution calls on members to optimize sustainable use of groundwater; monitor fishery conditions in the Lower American River; implement an aggressive public outreach campaign to increase water conservation; and continue coordination with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to meet its goals for reservoir storage.

“Water conserved this year provides a buffer against catastrophic impacts to Folsom Reservoir and the Lower American River if the drought continues into 2022, and protects groundwater resources this year so that they are available next year and beyond,” the resolution reads.

The full resolution can be found [here](#) and at <https://www.waterforum.org/2021-dry-year-information/>.

The Sacramento Water Forum is a diverse group of business and agricultural leaders, citizen groups, environmentalists, water managers and local governments working together to balance two coequal objectives: to provide a reliable and safe water supply for the region's economic health and planned development through to the year 2030; and preserve the fishery, wildlife, recreational, and aesthetic values of the Lower American River. Learn more at waterforum.org.

WATER CONSERVATION ACTIONS TO TAKE NOW

- **Stress Your Lawn and Save Your Trees. Skip a watering cycle or reduce lawn watering times by two minutes**, but remember to take steps to protect your trees. Lawn can handle less water and eventually recover while trees can be lost forever. You can find tips and videos for efficiently watering trees at BeWaterSmart.info/trees or sactree.com.
- **Begin the transition to a beautiful low-water garden by removing half of your lawn this summer. You'll be ready to add low-water native plants and drip irrigation this winter—saves 90 gallons of water per day per 1,000 square feet of lawn removed each time you water.**
- **Check soil moisture with a moisture meter before turning on sprinklers—saves 80 gallons of water per day.**
- **Water plants early in the morning to reduce evaporation—saves 50 gallons of water each time you water.**
- **Contact your water provider about rebates to replace older irrigation equipment, fixtures and appliances with high-efficiency models**, including rebates on smart sprinkler timers, high-efficiency sprinklers, drip irrigation and more. Many have increased rebate amounts to help offset costs.

Information about how to implement these actions, additional water-saving tips and a map with watering guidelines for each agency are available at BeWaterSmart.info.

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