

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

February 11, 2014

On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown proclaimed a State-wide drought in response to the State’s severely low water supply due to years of below-average rainfall. While extremely serious and potentially devastating to the State, agencies in Los Angeles County, including Public Works and the Waterworks Districts, have been preparing the region for this situation.

Public Works has been maintaining County reservoirs including removal of sediment so more stormwater can be captured for local water supply. Public Works also has been aggressively constructing enhancement projects at County dams and downstream spreading grounds to increase the capture and recharge of stormwater runoff. In an average year, Public Works captures 210,000 acre-feet of stormwater to recharge local aquifers along with 45,000 acre-feet of recycled water, and in fiscal year 2013 the Department invested \$22 million dollars on water supply and water conservation facilities. These efforts, along with additional projects that are currently in development have the potential to significantly increase the volume of stormwater captured and recharged.

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RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

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The County Waterworks Districts have developed a recycled water distribution master plan in the Antelope Valley and have begun to implement the plan in collaboration with the cities of Palmdale and Lancaster. The Districts have implemented water conservation programs, which include rebates for water-saving devices and grass removal. Additionally, the Districts are collaborating with water wholesalers to develop robust drought mitigation plans, additional conservation programs, managing water reserves and developing local water resources including water banking to offset the region's demand for water imported from the Bay Delta.

Because of the collective efforts of water agencies throughout Los Angeles County, water use in Southern California has remained relatively the same despite adding approximately three million people to the region's population during the past 20 years. In the Los Angeles area, it is estimated that per capita water usage has been reduced from 157 gallons in 2004 down to 123 gallons in 2012.

The County's continued support for integrated water resources planning efforts such as low impact development and green streets, drought tolerant landscaping and water wasting ordinances, enhanced watershed management planning, as well as support of key pieces of legislation, policy, and bonds, have contributed greatly towards the region's water sustainability.

However, we must do everything we can to minimize the long-term impacts of a prolonged drought and future water supply impacts from climate change.

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**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Urge Los Angeles County residents to continue their efforts to reduce water usage;
2. Request the Department of Public Works to continue to pursue expanding local stormwater capture efforts to further increase the region's locally available water supply. These efforts include continued maintenance of Flood Control District reservoirs including removal of sediment so more stormwater can be captured for local water supply, and in collaboration with other agencies, developing new projects to increase groundwater recharge;
3. Request the Department of Public Works to continue to work collaboratively with other agencies to increase the use of recycled water including for groundwater recharge;
4. Request the County Waterworks Districts and other water providers to continue to offer programs to their customers which provide incentives to conserve water;
5. Instruct the County's legislative advocates in Sacramento and Washington D.C., in coordination with the Department of Public Works, to take appropriate actions to ensure passage of legislation which allocates additional funding and direction necessary to streamline regulatory agency permit processes, in order to increase the reliability of State and local water supplies.

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