



LOS ANGELES WATERKEEPER®

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Los Angeles Waterkeeper Evaluates Long-Term Solutions to California's Drought

*Governor Brown Declares Statewide Drought Despite Local Agencies Saying
LA County Has Plentiful Water Supply*

January 17, 2014 (Los Angeles, CA) — While water agencies in Southern California continue to say that water supplies are ample for the next couple of years, Governor Brown announced today the drought in California a State of Emergency.

LA Waterkeeper Executive Director Liz Crosson both appreciates and raises concerns about the Governor's declaration. "Although LA Waterkeeper commends the Governor bringing this to the attention of all Californians, this acknowledgement of what may become the 'new normal' should be used as a platform to discuss long-term sustainable solutions and not outdated infrastructure projects or relaxed regulation of our precious water resources."

Los Angeles has historically relied on water imported from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Colorado River to meet its needs, and now these sources are over-tapped. With our population growing, changes in climate patterns, and oversubscribed aquifer and river systems, Los Angeles needs to find new sources of water to address the drought. Los Angeles Waterkeeper, whose mission is to protect and restore LA County's water resources, urges state and local agencies to prioritize conservation and water reuse and recycling in Los Angeles in order to solve the water supply crisis.

"Because Los Angeles significantly relies on imported water from faraway ecosystems and communities, we have a responsibility to conserve and invest in local solutions to our water supply problem, such as use of stormwater as a resource for augmenting local groundwater aquifers," said Crosson. "We can no longer rely on outdated, expensive, and energy-intensive solutions like dams and water transfers. It is time to strive for regional self-sufficiency."

In Los Angeles, residents use about 123 gallons of water per day. That compares to less than 50 gallons of water per day per person in Australia, where there are similar weather patterns and living standards. Los Angeles Waterkeeper encourages residents to do their part to conserve water by prioritizing the 4R approach—reduce (conservation and efficiency), reuse (rainwater harvesting and greywater use), recycle (water reclamation) and restore (watershed restoration).

For further information, please contact Rachel Stich at (310) 394-6162 x108.

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ABOUT LOS ANGELES WATERKEEPER

Founded in 1993, Los Angeles Waterkeeper's mission is to protect and restore Santa Monica Bay, San Pedro Bay, and adjacent waters through enforcement, fieldwork, and community action. It works to achieve this goal through litigation and regulatory programs that ensure water quality protections in waterways throughout L.A. County. Los Angeles Waterkeeper's Litigation & Advocacy, Marine, and Water Quality teams conduct interconnected projects that serve this mission.