



# Media Release

## July 2022 urban water use 10.4% lower than in July 2020

*One-quarter of water suppliers reduce water use by 15% or more*

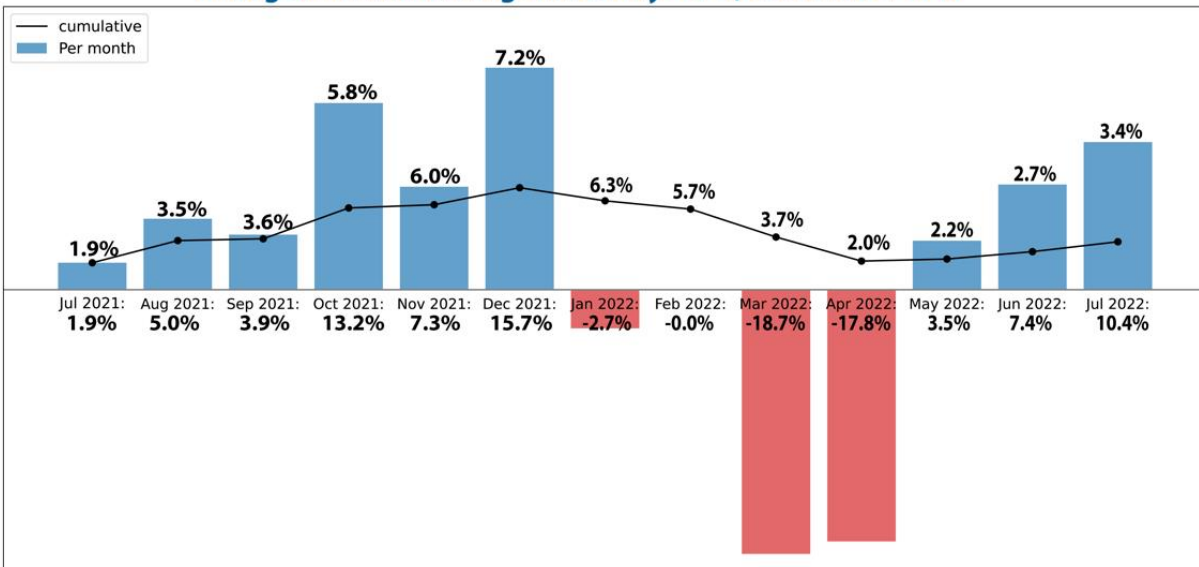
**September 7, 2022**

**Contact:** [Edward Ortiz](#) – Public Information Officer

**SACRAMENTO** – Statewide [water use dropped](#) in July by 10.4% relative to July 2020, as state conservation actions continued to take hold and build momentum toward greater water savings.

Most residential water use occurs outdoors during warm weather, making summer the season with the greatest opportunity for conservation. The State Water Resources Control Board’s [recent emergency conservation regulation](#), enacted in June, has contributed to steadily increasing water savings during the summer months. Many local utilities and suppliers have set restrictions on residential outdoor watering as well, reinforcing the impact of state-level actions. Statewide water use prohibitions adopted by the State Water Board in January 2022 are also still in effect.

**Changes in water savings since July 2021, relative to 2020**

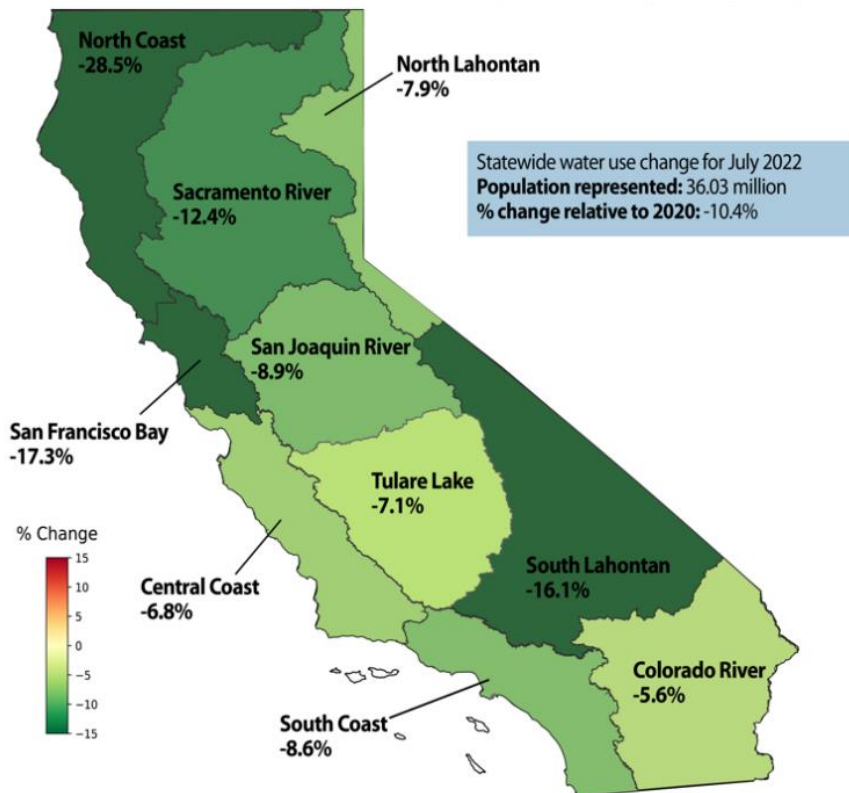


The board’s emergency conservation regulation bans irrigation of decorative grass on commercial, industrial, and institutional premises, and requires suppliers to implement the water-saving actions that they included in Level 2 of their water shortage contingency plans. The irrigation ban alone is expected to save between 156,000 acre-feet and 260,000 acre-feet per year, the equivalent of water used by 780,000 households annually.

## Local Water Savings

In July 2022, all hydrologic regions saw clear decreases in water use relative to July 2020, with the northern half of the state continuing to conserve at a more rapid pace than the more arid and populous south. The North Coast hydrologic region, where the drought was first declared, almost tripled its June savings in July, and has achieved nearly 15% cumulative savings since July 2021.

**July 2022 urban water use change relative to July 2020, per hydrologic region**



Monthly (July 2022) and cumulative savings by hydrologic region were as follows:

- North Coast: -28.5% **(-14.7% cumulative)**
- San Francisco Bay: -17.3% (-9.7% cumulative)
- South Lahontan: -16.1% (-3.7% cumulative)
- Sacramento River: -12.4% (-6.1% cumulative)
- San Joaquin River: -8.9% (-3.2% cumulative)
- South Coast: -8.6% (-1.3% cumulative)
- North Lahontan: -7.9% (-9.1% cumulative)
- Tulare Lake: -7.1% (-1.9% cumulative)
- Central Coast: -6.8% (-2.5% cumulative)
- Colorado River: -5.6% (+0.9% cumulative)

## Conservation Data by County

Fourteen counties reached the 15% voluntary conservation goal in July 2022, with three counties (Sonoma, Marin and Napa) achieving more than 15% in cumulative savings since July 2021.

1. Sonoma	-33.9% (-18.9% cumulative)
2. Marin	-29.4% (-25.0% cumulative)
3. Shasta	-24.8% (-11.1% cumulative)
4. Ventura	-22.7% (-3.9% cumulative)
5. Del Norte	-20.8% (-9.2% cumulative)
6. Humboldt	-18.9% (-9.0% cumulative)
7. Santa Clara	-18.8% (-9.9% cumulative)
8. Napa	-18.0% (-16.5% cumulative)
9. San Mateo	-17.9% (-9.7% cumulative)
10. Glenn	-17.4% (-12.1% cumulative)
11. Amador	-17.2% (-5.3% cumulative)
12. Mono	-17.1% (-6.6% cumulative)
13. Alameda	-16.6% (-8.3% cumulative)
14. San Benito	-15.3% (-1.6% cumulative)

For 108 water suppliers serving 17% of the state, or 6.7 million residents, July 2022 water use dropped at least 15% relative to July 2020.

## This Month's Conservation Tips

With the current drought and extreme heat conditions in California, we need everyone to help conserve water where possible. During this emergency, there are several things you can do to reduce stress on supplies without sacrificing your comfort, convenience, or curb appeal:

- **Follow the rules.** The State Water Board and communities across California have put temporary water restrictions in place to save limited supplies for those who need it most, including firefighters, health care facilities, and electrical utilities. Please respect the rules during the emergency.
- **Consider an upgrade.** If you're thinking about a bathroom update, now is the time to replace old plumbing fixtures with more efficient, high-performing models. New toilets, faucets, and showerheads perform well and use less water than standard models. You could even save a little green on utilities!
- **Take a sprinkler break.** Grass doesn't have to be bright green year-round. It's natural for your landscape to turn a little brown at the tips during summer's hottest months. You can cut back on watering without compromising the health of your lawn. And if you have an irrigation system with a clock timer, consider upgrading to an efficient labeled controller, which tells your system when and how much to water based on local weather and landscape conditions.

*The State Water Board's mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper allocation and efficient use for present and future generations.*