

April 13, 2015
Issue #35

League Launches Water Issues Listserv

In response to the state's first mandatory water restrictions, the League of California Cities has created a new Listserv to facilitate discussion among local officials about water issues.

The Listserv will allow city staff and elected leaders to share information about policy, community outreach and technical issues related to water conservation, stormwater, groundwater and other pressing water issues.

Members can subscribe to the list with city-issued email address by [clicking this link](#). Listserv subscribers can choose to receive message individually or in batches. This Listserv is a repurposing of one previously devoted to a water taskforce.

With California in the fourth year of drought and the Sierra snowpack at its lowest point in 60 years, Gov. Jerry Brown on April 1 issued an [executive order](#) directing the State Water Resources Board to implement mandatory water reductions in cities and towns to reduce water usage by 25 percent.

Among its directives, Brown's order: calls for a cooperative effort between the Department of Water Resources and local agencies to replace 50 million square feet of lawns with drought-tolerant landscaping, bans irrigation of ornamental turf on public street medians with potable water, requires commercial, industrials and institutional properties, like cemeteries and golf courses, and prohibits irrigation with potable water outside of new buildings not delivered by drip or microspray systems.

Brown's order also requires that urban water suppliers report monthly on water use, conservation and enforcement.

Cities can find more water resources on the website of the League's research and education affiliate, the Institute for Local Government, including a [Water Conservation Leadership Guide: Issues for Local Officials to Consider](#) and a section on [best practices](#).

Members can also keep up with water and other headlines from around the state by subscribing to the League's [free Local News RoundUp email newsletter](#).