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Issue #44

State Water Resources Control Board Formally Adopts Strict Water Restrictions

Californians are about to feel the severity of the drought more acutely later this month when the severe water restrictions adopted yesterday by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) go into effect. Unanimously adopted by the water board on a 5-0 vote, the [emergency regulations](#) will reduce urban water usage statewide by 25 percent. These temporary regulations, which will remain in effect for 270 days, implement the urban water conservation called for in Gov. Jerry Brown's April 1 [Executive Order](#). The Office of Administrative Law will next review and approve the regulations. *For more, see Page 2.*



Join NLC's Big Ideas for Cities in Los Angeles or Via Webcast

Big Ideas for Cities is coming to Los Angeles on May 8. Co-hosted by the National League of Cities (NLC) and the city of Los Angeles, the event offers a chance to convene for an interactive dialogue with mayors who are deeply committed to moving our country forward by taking bold steps at the local level. *For more, see Page 2.*

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Conditions are so dire that the Department of Water Resources skipped the final May 1 [snow survey](#) because there was literally nothing to measure at the Phillips Stations in the Sierra Nevada. Voluntary cut backs have not been effective according to SWRCB, which reported that in March, water usage was down a mere 3.6 percent compared to the same month in 2013.

[The Sacramento Bee](#) also reports that water usage is only down approximately 9 percent since June 2014. Water agencies are under fire. Although 10,000 complaints have been filed against water wasters, water agencies have issued just 682 actual citations. Local agencies will be under pressure to meet these very stringent water conservation requirements.

The adopted restrictions establish a range of water reduction mandates depending on agencies usage. Some agencies will have to cut back 4 percent but others, which have not been as successful meeting the [January 2014 voluntary restrictions](#), will have to meet a more drastic 36 percent conservation rate. The restrictions only apply to potable water use.

Additional Resources

The SWRCB has issued a detailed [FAQ](#) to help water agencies and the public understand the Governor's April 1 Executive Order.

It has also issued an [Emergency Regulations Digest](#) that details the prohibited activities and mandatory actions during the drought emergency.

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This free, one-day event will feature some of America's mayors as they share their "big ideas" that are driving innovation within their communities, and more importantly, will give you the opportunity to adapt these ideas to solutions for your community.

Mayors from across the country — including two from California, Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles mayor and Lindsey Horvath, West Hollywood mayor — will share a compelling idea or innovation that can make a dramatic difference to the future of our cities through a TED-style talk or panel discussion.

Workshop Details

May 8 at 1 p.m.
Los Angeles Public Library, Central Library
Mark Taper Auditorium
630 W. 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Register [online](#).

NLC will offer a live webcast of the event on www.nlc.org for those who are unable to attend in person. More information will be posted on NLC's [website](#) as details emerge.