

14-0078-S1

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

MOTION

The United States is undergoing a nationwide drought, producing a crisis that some scientists believe will have greater consequences than rising sea levels. The latest drought monitor released by the National Climatic Data Center shows that the entire state of California is under moderate drought conditions; but within that map, 76.6% of the state is experiencing extreme drought conditions, and for 24.7% of the state, the level of dryness is "exceptional."

As a result of these circumstances, on January 17, 2014 Governor Jerry Brown declared a State of Emergency over the severity of this drought. State water officials say that California's river and reservoirs are below their record lows. Manual and electronic readings record the snowpack's statewide water content at about 20% of normal average for this time of year.

Extremely dry conditions have persisted since 2012 and will likely continue beyond this year, based on scientific projections regarding the impact of climate change on California's snowpack. This is not only devastating to our climate, but also on our economy. According to the UCLA Anderson Forecast, the ongoing drought in California could dampen employment growth in coming years and have a ripple effect on several industries in the state.

While the City of Los Angeles continues to encourage water conservation and promotes water efficiency through water conservation rebate programs (LEED Certified, and Water Efficiency Requirements) – we should explore new ways to promote water conservation.

Water conservation should no longer be considered an option. Current circumstances require our full attention, and ensuring our residents and business use water efficiently should be our top priority.

More technologically advanced solutions continue to be developed to address the increasing need to conserve water. Water efficiency strategies have been successfully used in arid climates throughout the world including Israel, Australia and in other parts of the Country.

Techniques employed in other communities include:

- Mandatory water reuse and recycling, gray water applications and requirements for rain/storm water catchment systems
- Committing the necessary funding for infrastructure repairs and upgrades
- Continuing and expanding rebate programs including the expanded use of reclaimed water
- Using solar energy applications for hot water heating and for recirculating pumps on domestic hot water systems
- Funding landscape water efficient sprinkler and plant system rebate programs
- Water conservation derived from sub-metering on multi-family buildings

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the City Council instruct/request the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation and the Department of Water and Power, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, the City Administrative Officer, Department of Building and Safety and the Department of City Planning, to report in 60 days on strategies and methods that are being used to manage drought conditions in arid climates; and recommendations for implementing effective drought-management/water conservations strategies in our City and region.

PRESENTED BY:


 GILBERT A. CEDILLO
 Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY:





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