



# Media Release

## Statewide urban water use 3.1% lower in May 2022 than water use in May 2020

**Preliminary numbers for June 2022 show 7.7% savings from June 2020**

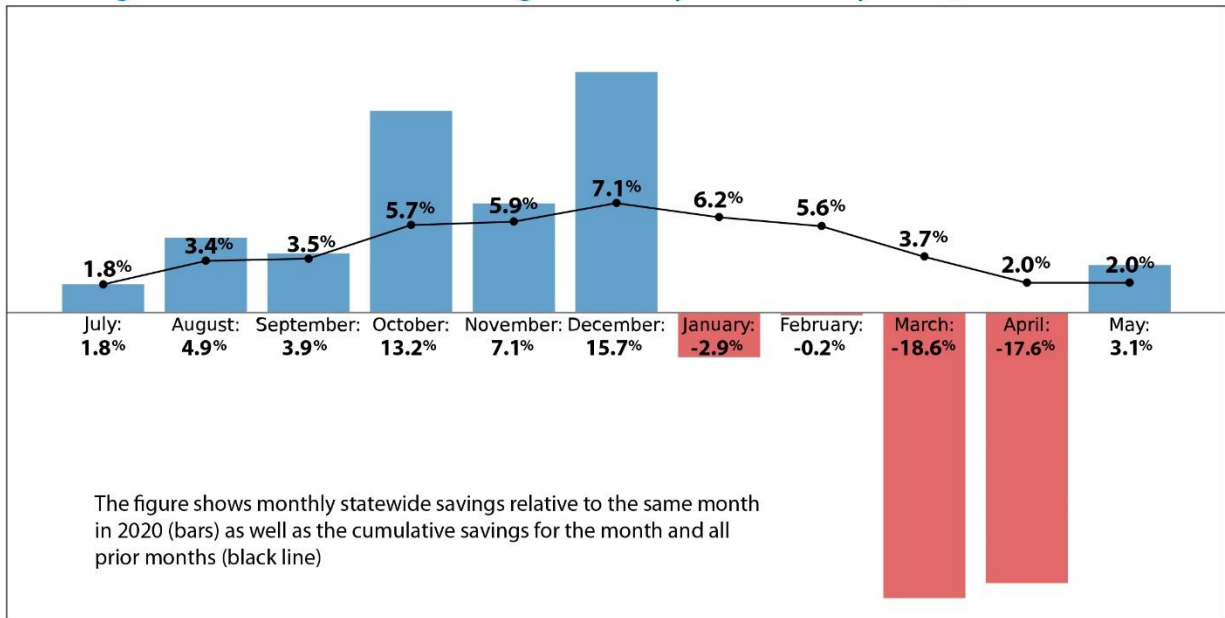
July 8, 2022

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**SACRAMENTO** – Statewide urban water use in May of 2022, was 3.1% lower than in May 2020, and preliminary data from June 2022 representing 30% of the state’s population, shows water savings of 7.7% for June 2022 compared to June 2020.

This increase in conservation reverses the trend we saw in March and April, when water use spiked at the conclusion of what was the driest January, February and March on record dating back over 100 years. While the state is heading in the right direction, every Californian and business needs to do more to conserve water.

**Changes in statewide water savings from July 2021 to May 2022, relative to 2020**



So far, weather and precipitation have been determining California’s water use instead of a collective drive to conserve. Many Californians turned on irrigation systems earlier



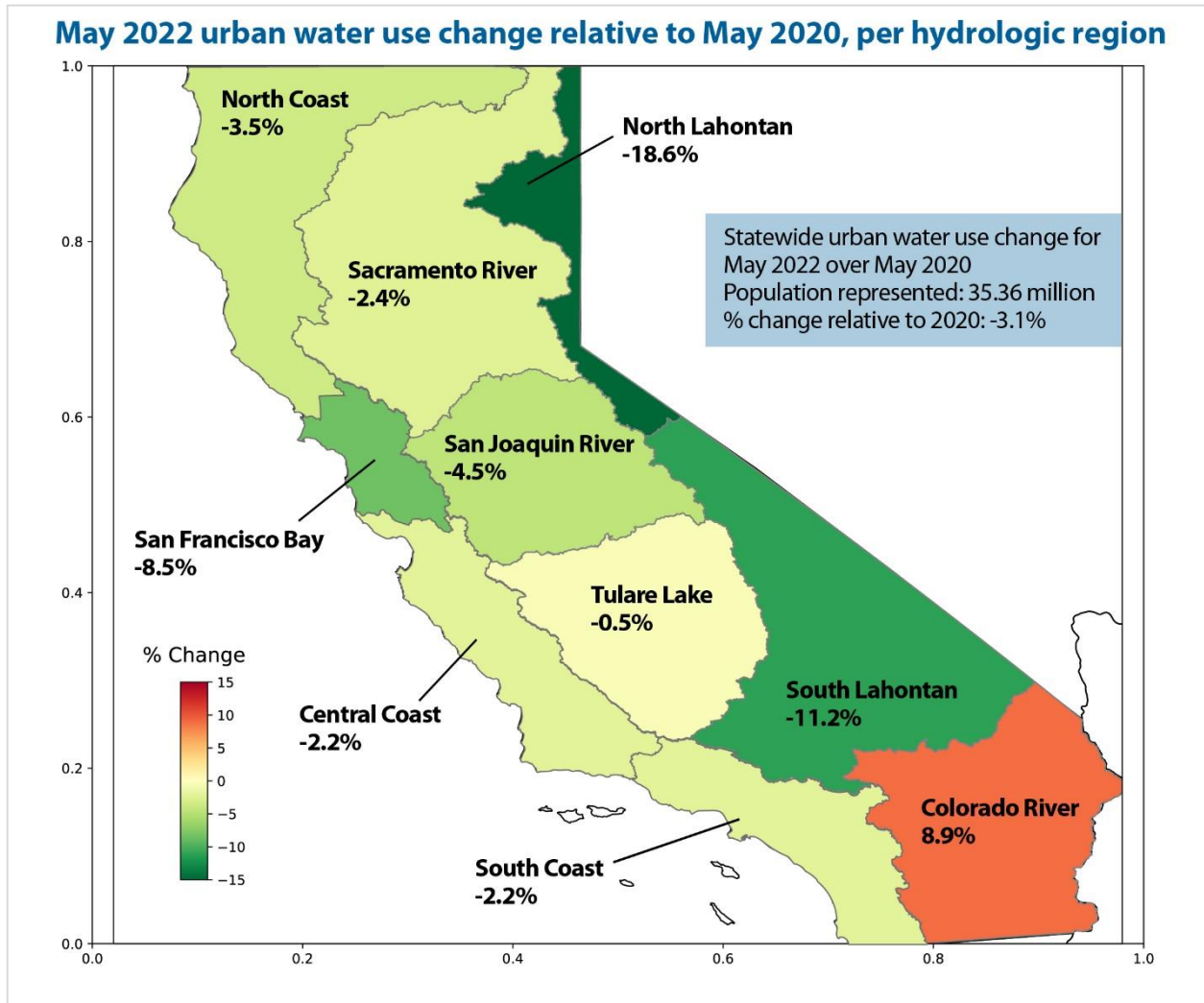
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

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this year in response to historically hot and dry conditions, increasing water use. California must continue to make up lost ground from past months to meet the 15% goal; doing so will require more aggressive conservation actions on everyone's part.



## Preliminary June Outlook

In May, Governor Newsom met with the state's largest urban water suppliers to urge them to take more aggressive actions while warning that the state might be forced to enact mandatory restrictions if there is no significant progress on water conservation in the summer months. It appears the governor's message is being heard by Californians and that state actions from his March executive order are beginning to take hold. Preliminary data from June 2022 indicate that statewide water savings will likely build on

savings from May and continue to head in the right direction. Based on data representing 30% of the state's population, preliminary water savings are 7.7% for June 2022 compared to June 2020.

### **A Greater Sense of Urgency**

In Southern California, and elsewhere, we've seen growing local response to the drought; many suppliers have implemented restrictions on outdoor irrigation. This shift, plus the impact of the State Water Board's emergency conservation regulations that went into effect on June 10, are beginning to be reflected in the state's water savings. Final urban water data for June will be reported at the State Water Board's August 2 meeting.

Thirsty lawns and plants account for a significant amount of our water use, especially during summer months. Cutting down on outdoor irrigation — which can account for up to 80% of urban water use and is higher in the summer — is a critical to reaching our conservation goals. As California's climate becomes more and more similar to what we'd see in Mediterranean parts of the world, it's time to shift our perspective on what beautiful landscaping looks like.