

August 2016 Statewide Conservation Data

August Conservation Summary

August 2016 marks the 15th month since the state's 400-plus urban water suppliers were directed to be in compliance with the emergency [conservation standards](#) that followed the Governor's April 1, 2015, [Executive Order](#). The State Water Board has been requiring water delivery information from urban water suppliers for 27 consecutive months, following the historic [July 2014](#) board action to adopt emergency water conservation regulations.

On May 18, 2016, following the Governor's May 9 [Executive Order](#), the Board [adopted](#) a statewide water conservation approach that replaces the prior percentage reduction-based water conservation standard with a localized "stress test" approach that mandates urban water suppliers act now to ensure at least a three-year supply of water to their customers under drought conditions. This fact sheet summarizes the results for August 2016 and illustrates the progress made since June 2014 when urban water suppliers were first required to submit monthly conservation reports. Current conservation summary data are posted [here](#). Stress test results are [here](#).

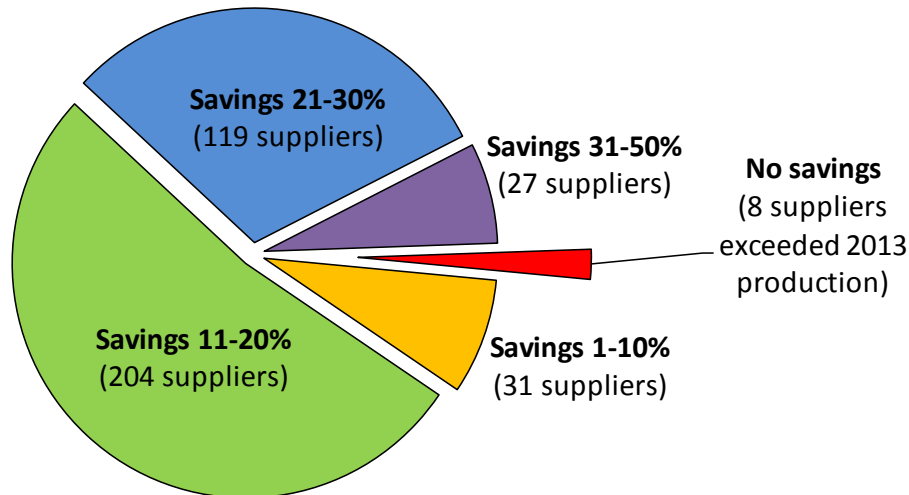
In August 2016 the cumulative savings were 17.7 percent compared to August of 2013. In August of 2015 the savings were 27%. Since June 2015, Californians have saved 659.7 billion gallons (2,024,599 acre-feet), which equates to a 15-month cumulative savings of 23.3 percent. Based on the estimate that the average person uses 0.2 acre-feet of water per year, this savings is enough to supply 10.1 million Californians with water for one-year; approximately the combined population of San Diego, Orange, San Bernardino, and Sacramento counties, or 26.1 percent of the state's population.

The data from August 2016 show a mixed picture of performance by agencies across the state, with many continuing to conserve significantly and others appreciably dropping their level of conservation accomplishment. In some cases, the drop may be because of high precipitation locally, while in others the drop may be due to factors such as a reduction in conservation messaging or less restrictive irrigation rules.

Breakdown of Water Savings

The chart on the next page shows the number of suppliers achieving various levels of water savings in August 2016 compared to August 2013 water production. Fifty two percent of suppliers reporting in August 2016 achieved water savings between 10 and 20 percent compared to the same month in 2013; these suppliers serve more than 24 million people. Thirty seven percent of suppliers, serving more than nine million Californians, reported water savings of 20 percent or more. As a large proportion of suppliers passed their stress test,

conservation rates above 20 percent are commendable. Eight suppliers reported water production exceeding the August 2013 volume.

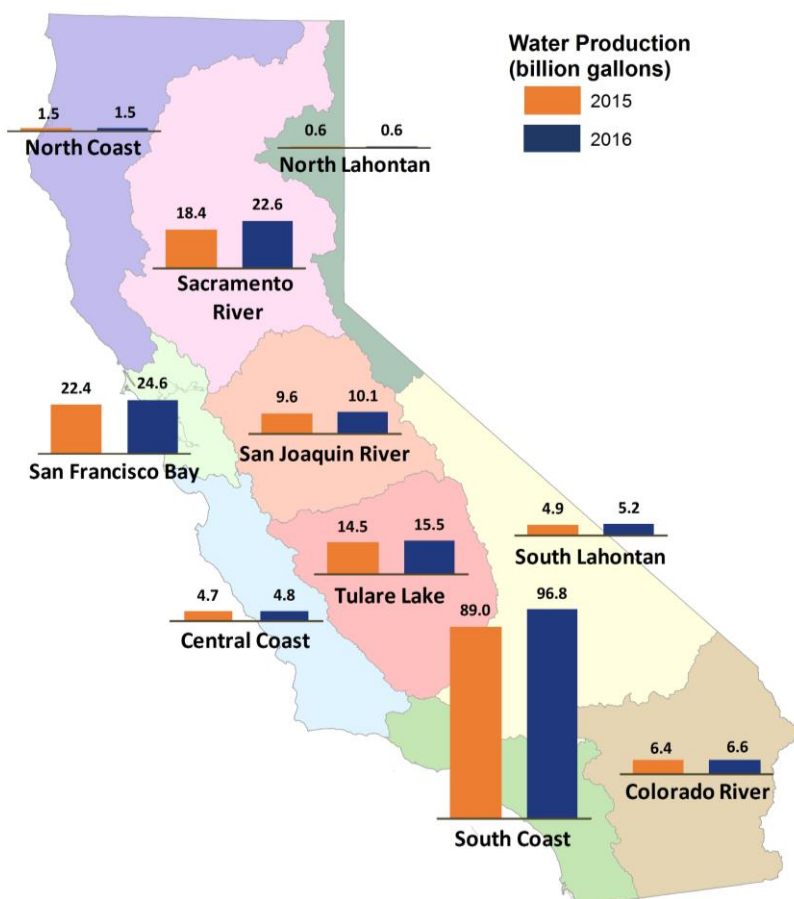


- Among the 27 suppliers that reported water savings greater than 30 percent in August 2016, eight suppliers also increased water savings over what they saved in August 2015: Benicia, Grover Beach, King City, Santa Barbara, Marina Coast Water District, Montecito Water District, North Coast County Water District, and Patterson.
- Multiple water agencies continued with strong conservation in August 2016. Despite slipping compared to last year's performance, some of the suppliers that reported high water savings in August 2016 include Alhambra, California Water Service Company Salinas District, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Lompoc, Millbrae, Oceanside, Pomona, San Buenaventura, San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz, Santa Monica, Soquel Creek Water District, and Suisun-Solano Water Authority. And there are additional examples of efforts that resulted in yet more savings this year compared to August 2015 savings, such as Alco Water Service, Fallbrook Public Utility District, Goleta Water District, Morro Bay, Petaluma, and Perris.
- Among those saving more than 20 percent in August 2016, 114 suppliers passed their stress test and do not have a state mandated conservation target. These suppliers serve more than seven million people, and include Sacramento, Alameda County Water District, San Gabriel Valley, Los Angeles County Public Works Waterworks District 40 (Antelope Valley), Contra Costa Water District, and Hayward.
- Several suppliers among the 31 that reported water savings between one and 10 percent in August 2016 had achieved water conservation above 20 percent in August 2015. Formerly high water savers but conserving less than 10 percent this year were: Amador Water Agency, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District, Casitas Municipal Water District, Folsom, Fortuna, La Habra, Los Angeles County Public Works Waterworks District 29 (Malibu), Mountain House Community Services District, Rubio Canyon Land and Water Association, South Tahoe Public Utilities District, Trabuco Canyon Water District, and Woodland. Some of these are in areas with obviously above average precipitation last winter; others are not.

In looking at the data, percentage savings alone do not tell a complete story of conservation achievement. Suppliers with already low R-GPCD use are taking more significant efforts to save water with small percentage reductions than big users of water for whom it easier to save water, particularly on outdoor ornamental landscapes. Over 50% of urban water use is used outdoors on average.

Water Savings by Hydrologic Region June 2015 to August 2016

Hydrologic Region	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16
Central Coast	30.6%	31.9%	28.1%	26.9%	24.1%	27.3%	24.7%	19.2%	20.7%	30.4%	29.0%	31.5%	24.7%	26.4%	25.4%
Colorado River	25.2%	34.0%	24.7%	17.4%	24.4%	21.3%	10.8%	28.5%	18.0%	17.6%	30.2%	29.3%	21.6%	21.9%	15.6%
North Coast	16.0%	32.5%	19.7%	20.0%	16.8%	18.0%	20.3%	19.5%	14.4%	13.6%	27.7%	29.5%	8.0%	23.2%	14.7%
North Lahontan	29.8%	32.4%	25.0%	16.2%	10.0%	12.9%	18.8%	27.7%	23.2%	18.4%	30.7%	42.7%	19.5%	13.9%	10.6%
Sacramento River	36.3%	37.4%	34.5%	28.2%	25.5%	31.3%	24.6%	13.4%	20.6%	36.6%	30.4%	35.4%	23.4%	23.6%	18.7%
San Francisco Bay	32.3%	32.3%	30.5%	25.3%	23.3%	26.8%	23.5%	13.6%	18.4%	25.0%	28.7%	30.7%	21.9%	22.3%	21.1%
San Joaquin River	33.4%	34.7%	30.0%	26.7%	26.7%	31.1%	20.2%	15.4%	17.1%	35.2%	32.7%	34.3%	24.7%	24.3%	20.6%
South Coast	22.9%	28.2%	23.7%	26.7%	20.6%	14.1%	15.9%	17.9%	6.9%	20.9%	22.8%	24.2%	19.9%	17.0%	15.4%
South Lahontan	31.1%	35.9%	29.3%	25.8%	22.9%	18.8%	5.0%	18.4%	13.1%	27.8%	27.5%	25.3%	24.0%	17.0%	23.5%
Tulare Lake	29.4%	32.2%	28.0%	25.9%	22.1%	28.3%	21.7%	15.8%	17.2%	27.0%	30.1%	31.1%	24.2%	22.8%	19.2%
Statewide	27.5%	31.3%	27.0%	26.2%	22.2%	20.2%	18.2%	17.2%	11.9%	24.3%	26.1%	28.1%	21.5%	20.0%	17.7%

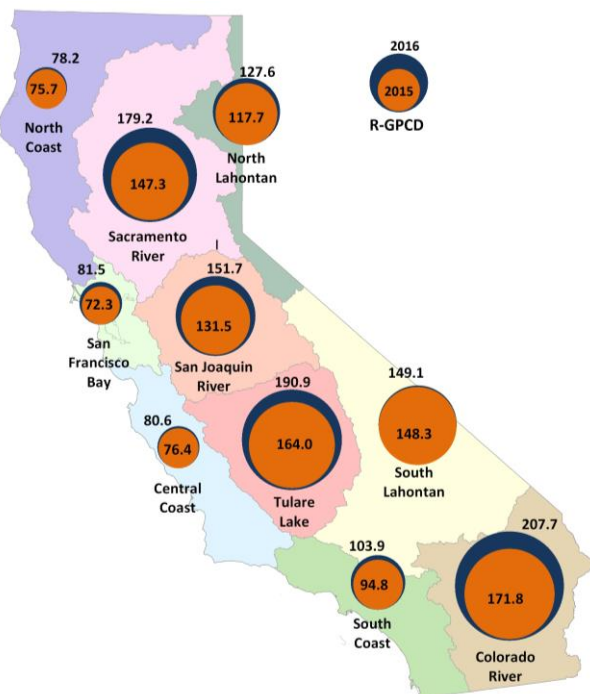


Water production by hydrologic region (in billions of gallons) for August 2016 (blue bars) compared to August 2015 (orange bars).

August 2016 savings by hydrologic region ranged from 10.6 percent to 25.4 percent. In August 2016, only one hydrologic region reported higher percentage of water saved than it did in July 2016. All hydrologic regions reported lower monthly savings in August 2016 than August 2015.

R-GPCD by Hydrologic Region June 2015 to August 2016

Hydrologic Region	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16
Central Coast	75.9	76.2	76.4	76.2	70.5	59.5	53.3	49.1	53.2	52.2	63.1	70.7	80.4	82.6	80.6
Colorado River	169.9	153.8	171.8	161.9	132.0	138.4	111.2	93.0	105.4	110.4	127.4	141.7	176.4	185.0	207.7
North Coast	78.7	73.5	75.7	73.3	70.7	53.4	52.5	50.1	52.3	52.0	55.3	62.4	85.4	80.1	78.2
North Lahontan	115.2	113.5	117.7	113.4	81.4	56.2	61.6	57.9	54.7	54.0	57.7	78.5	133.8	142.8	127.6
Sacramento River	137.1	152.8	147.3	141.6	117.9	80.5	68.5	68.1	66.4	68.5	92.3	121.0	163.3	186.8	179.2
San Francisco Bay	70.0	72.0	72.3	72.2	67.4	55.1	51.0	49.2	50.9	51.0	57.6	66.1	80.1	81.4	81.5
San Joaquin River	127.2	130.7	131.5	123.4	102.5	76.8	66.7	61.6	67.0	67.1	84.3	107.5	138.5	151.2	151.7
South Coast	91.4	88.6	94.8	89.3	83.5	78.5	70.4	62.4	71.6	68.1	77.0	81.5	94.3	101.4	103.9
South Lahontan	133.3	131.3	148.3	129.7	107.1	90.6	73.9	68.0	69.3	78.1	98.5	116.6	145.4	160.9	149.1
Tulare Lake	154.9	162.5	164.0	150.2	124.4	88.8	76.8	69.7	70.6	79.3	99.3	128.2	167.0	191.0	190.9
Statewide	98.1	98.1	102.2	96.9	87.2	75.6	67.2	61.1	67.1	66.1	77.1	86.9	105.3	113.5	114.1



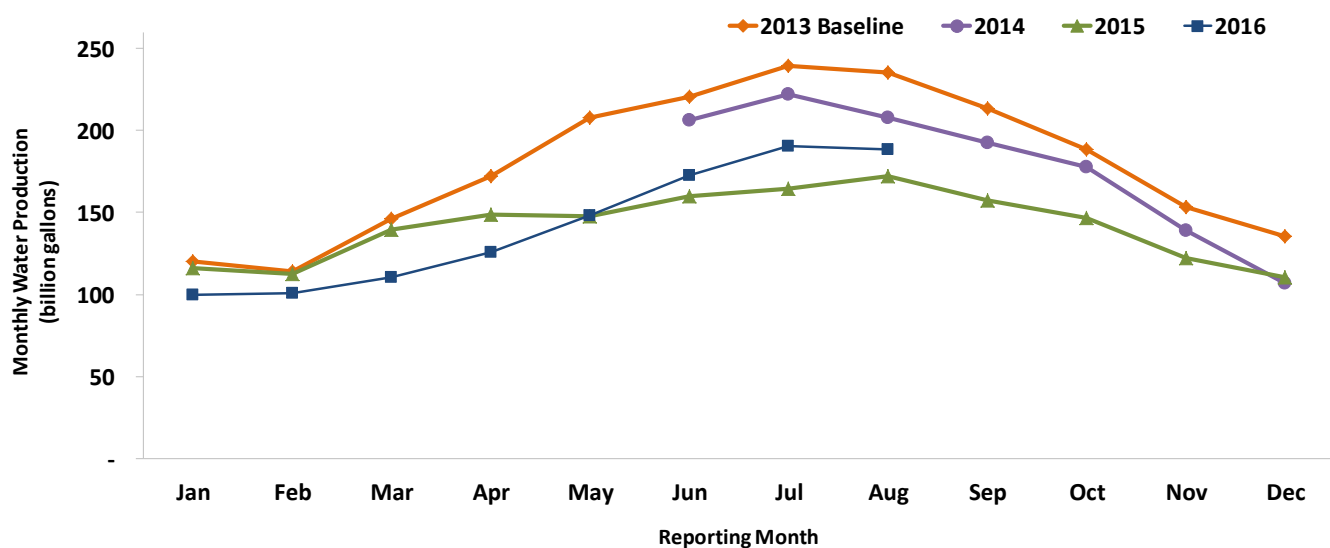
As stated above, the average statewide R-GPCD for August 2016 was 114.1. Average hydrologic region R-GPCDs for August 2016 range from 78 to 208, with all ten hydrologic regions reporting higher R-GPCDs in August 2016 than they did in August 2015. However, all hydrologic regions had the average R-GPCD in August 2016 lower than in either August 2013 or 2014. Four hydrologic regions reported higher R-GPCDs in August 2016 than they did in July 2016.

Residential Gallons per Capita per day (R-GPCD) for August 2016 is shown in (blue circles) and compared to August 2015 R-GPCD (orange circles).

Statewide Water Production Trends

The graph below shows the statewide trends in water production reductions for the June 2014 through August 2016, as compared to reported production in the respective 2013 baseline month.

Statewide Water Conservation Results
Water Production June 2014 - August 2016 (Billion Gallons)

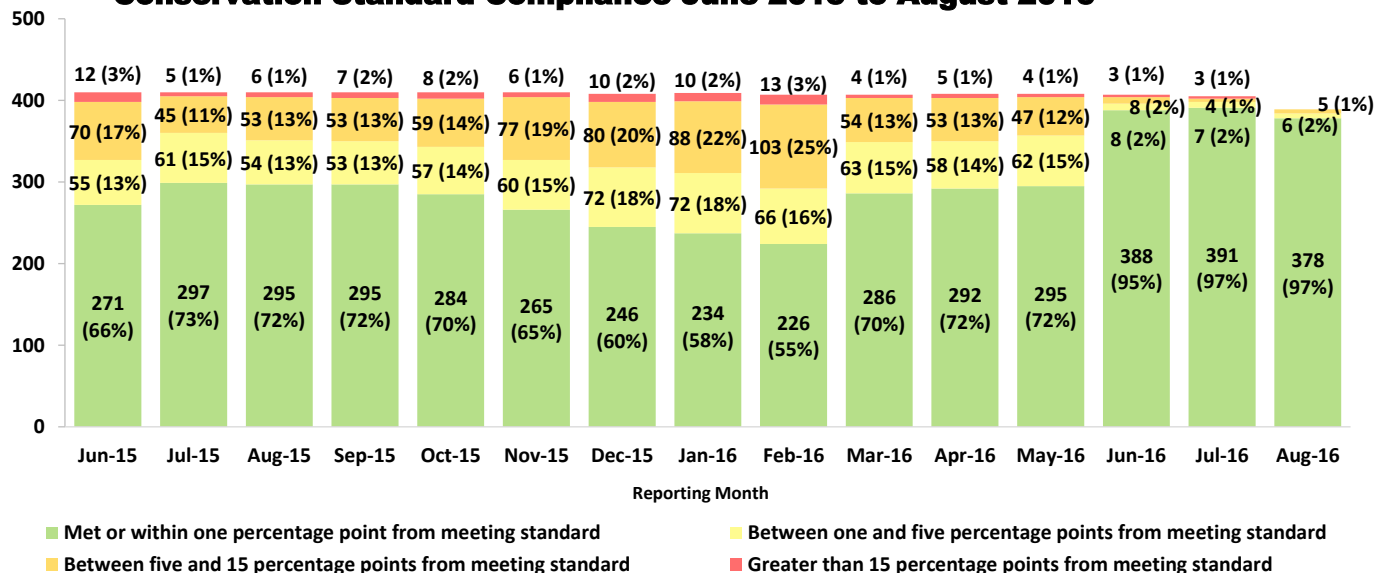


Compliance

The stress-test based regulation that went into effect in June 2016 resulted in many suppliers having a zero percent conservation mandate, and nearly all of those suppliers are in compliance by having water production levels below 2013 levels (the baseline year for the emergency regulation).

With 389 water supplier reports submitted for August, 378 suppliers (97 percent) met or were within one percentage point of their conservation standard; 6 suppliers (2 percent) were between one and five percentage points of meeting their conservation standard; and 5 suppliers (1 percent) were between five and 15 percentage points of meeting their conservation standard. The State Water Resources Control Board continues to work closely with water suppliers to implement recent changes to the regulation that took effect in June and to support improved local efforts where conservation savings are falling short. Information about the Board's compliance actions is located [here](#)

Conservation Standard Compliance June 2015 to August 2016*



Caring for Trees While Conserving Water

Saving trees is important for cooling city streets and public safety, and watering them is essential and requires some care. That is why the [Save Our Water campaign](#) has partnered with California ReLeaf to provide residents with tips on how to maintain trees while reducing outdoor water use. Information is available at: www.saveourwater.com/trees.

Rebate Programs for Turf Removal and Toilet Replacement

Inefficient toilets and turf grass use large volumes of water, and present opportunities for significant water savings. Rebates are now available at: <http://saveourwaterrebates.com/>.

Background

In his April 1, 2015 [Executive Order](#), in light of three unusually dry years, including the worst snowpack in 500 years, Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. mandated a 25 percent water use reduction by users of urban water supplies across California. In May 2015, the State Water Board adopted an emergency regulation requiring a 25 percent reduction in overall potable urban water use statewide from June 2015 through February 2016 compared with 2013. The board implemented tiered conservation requirements, ranging from 8 percent to 32 percent, so that areas that had reduced their per capita water use over the years had lower targets than those areas using more water per person.

On Feb. 2, 2016, based on Gov. Brown's [November 2015 Executive Order](#), the State Water Board approved an updated and extended emergency regulation. The extended regulation responded to calls for continuing the conservation structure that had spurred such dramatic savings while providing greater consideration of some factors that influence water use: climate, population growth and significant investments in new local, drought-resilient water supplies such as wastewater reuse and desalination.

On May 9, 2016, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. issued [Executive Order B-37-16](#), requiring the Board to adjust its emergency water conservation regulation through the end of January 2017 in recognition of improved urban water supply conditions across the state and, separately, take action to make some of the requirements of the regulation permanent. The Board [adopted the revised regulation](#) on May 18. June was the first month under the revised regulation.

Since June 2014, the State Water Board has been tracking water conservation for each of the state's larger urban water suppliers (those with more than 3,000 connections) on a monthly basis. Compliance with individual water supplier conservation requirements is based on cumulative savings. Cumulative tracking means that conservation savings will be added together from one month to the next and compared to the amount of water used during the same months in 2013.

California has been dealing with the effects of an unprecedented drought. To learn about all the actions the state has taken to manage our water system and cope with the impacts of the drought, visit [Drought.CA.Gov](#). Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at [SaveOurWater.com](#). While saving water, it is important to properly water trees. Find out how at [www.saveourwater.com/trees](#). In addition to many effective local programs, state-funded turf removal and toilet replacement rebates are also available. Information and rebate applications can be found at: [www.saveourwaterrebates.com/](#).

(This fact sheet was last updated Oct.5, 2016)