



# Fact Sheet

## October 2016 Statewide Conservation Data

### October Conservation Summary

October 2016 marks the 17<sup>th</sup> 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 29 consecutive months, following the historic [July 2014](#) board action to adopt emergency water conservation regulations.

On May 18, 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 October 2016 and illustrates the progress made since June 2015 when urban water suppliers were first required to comply with state-mandated conservation standards. Current conservation summary data are posted [here](#). Stress test results are [here](#).

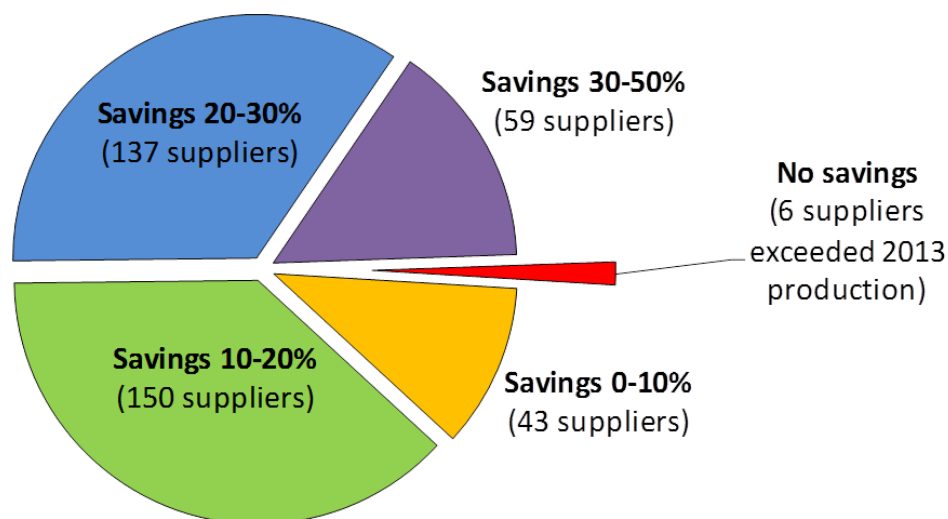
In October 2016 the monthly water savings were 19.5 percent compared to October of 2013 potable water production. In October of 2015 the savings were 22.2 percent. Since June 2015, Californians have saved 736 billion gallons (2,259,111 acre-feet), which equates to a 17-month cumulative savings of 22.8 percent. Based on the estimate that the average person uses 0.2 acre-feet of water per year, this savings is enough to supply more than 11 million Californians with water for one-year; approximately the combined population of San Diego, Orange, San Bernardino, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties, or 29 percent of the state's population.

The data from October 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. October 2016 was [one of the wettest Octobers on record](#), with well above double the average precipitation in much of Northern California and the Sierra Nevada. In contrast, Southern California had below average precipitation for October, and severe to exceptional drought remained entrenched in central and southern California. Average water savings in hydrologic regions that received lots of precipitation – North Coast, North Lahontan, Sacramento River, San Francisco Bay, and Central Coast, increased over conservation levels in September 2016, and conservation levels in October 2015. The increase could be due to turning off outdoor irrigation, which is the appropriate course. Where conservation levels dropped, the decline may be due to multiple factors, including low precipitation, a reduction in conservation messaging, less restrictive irrigation rules, or additional irrigation to establish new landscapes.



## Breakdown of Water Savings

The chart below shows the number of suppliers achieving various levels of water savings in October 2016 compared to October 2013 water production. Thirty eight percent of suppliers reporting in October 2016 achieved water savings between 10 and 20 percent compared to the same month in 2013; these suppliers serve almost 18 million people. Fifty percent of suppliers, serving more than 14 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. Six suppliers reported water production exceeding the October 2013 volume.



- Among the 59 suppliers that reported water savings greater than 30 percent in October 2016, 49 suppliers also increased water savings over what they saved in October 2015. Among them are: Benicia, California Water Service Company Redwood Valley, Westborough Water District, Hillsborough, California Water Service Company Chico District, California Water Service Company Dixon, California Water Service Company Oroville, San Jose, Santa Barbara, California Water Service Company Bear Gulch, Victorville Water District, Sonoma, and El Dorado Irrigation District.
- Multiple water agencies continued with strong conservation in October 2016. Despite slipping compared to last year's performance, some of the suppliers that reported high water savings in October 2016 include Glendora, Yorba Linda Water District, California Water Service Company Antelope Valley, Lemoore, Chino Hills, Porterville, Rosamond Community Service District, Orange, Contra Costa Water District, and Golden State Water Company Simi Valley.
- There are additional examples of efforts that resulted in yet more savings this year compared to October 2015 savings, such as Susanville, Fruitridge Vista Water Company, Manhattan Beach, Napa, Wasco, Sunnyvale, Sweetwater Springs Water District, Daly City, and Estero Municipal Improvement District.
- Among those saving more than 20 percent in October 2016, 158 suppliers passed their stress test and are not required by the emergency regulation to reduce total potable

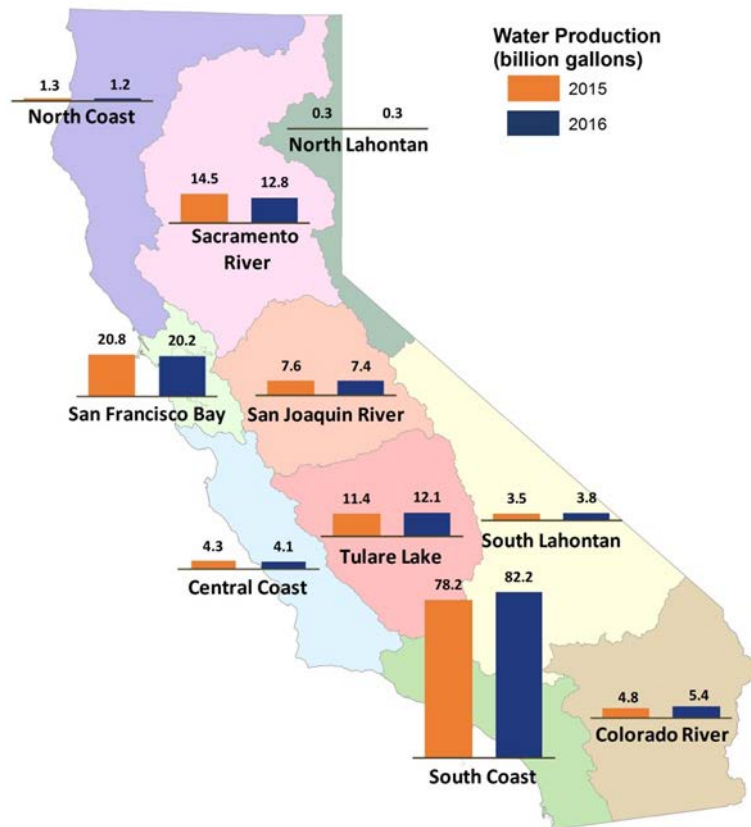
water production from their 2013 production. These suppliers serve more than 11.3 million people, and include East Bay Municipal Utilities District, Sacramento, Alameda County Water District, California-American Water Company Sacramento District, Contra Costa Water District, Huntington Beach, Marin Municipal Water District, Sacramento County Water Agency, Stockton, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Santa Rosa, California Water Service Company Stockton, Ontario, Hayward, Pomona, and Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District.

- Among suppliers that did not self certify supply, and continued with strong conservation exceeding the mandatory standard in October 2016 are Santa Barbara, Bella Vista Water District, East Palo Alto, Grover Beach, Soquel Creek Water District, Marina Coast Water District, Goleta Water District, Atwater, Santa Cruz, Cambria Community Services District, Lompoc, Newman, and San Buenaventura.
- Several suppliers among the 43 that reported water savings below 10 percent in October 2016 had achieved water conservation above 20 percent in October 2015. Among formerly high water savers but conserving less than 10 percent this year were: Vaughn Water Company, Coachella Valley Water District, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, and Oakdale. Some of these are in areas with 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. Despite less than 10 percent water savings in October 2016, examples of communities with low R-GPCD and already significant conservation and efficiency achievements include San Diego, Golden State Water Company Florence Graham, Seal Beach, and Hi-Desert Water District.

## Water Savings by Hydrologic Region June 2015 to October 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	Sep 16	Oct 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%	24.9%	25.9%
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%	23.8%	23.7%	15.1%	8.0%	12.1%
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%	8.9%	23.5%	15.5%	11.7%	22.5%
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%	7.6%	16.4%
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%	15.5%	30.4%
San Francisco Bay	32.3%	32.3%	30.5%	25.3%	23.3%	26.8%	23.5%	13.2%	18.1%	25.1%	28.8%	30.9%	22.5%	22.4%	21.1%	17.9%	26.1%
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%	19.7%	19.2%	26.1%
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%	15.3%	19.4%	15.7%
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%	13.4%	17.5%
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%	22.7%	18.6%	18.9%	15.5%
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>27.5%</b>	<b>31.3%</b>	<b>27.0%</b>	<b>26.2%</b>	<b>22.2%</b>	<b>20.2%</b>	<b>18.2%</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	<b>24.3%</b>	<b>26.1%</b>	<b>28.1%</b>	<b>21.7%</b>	<b>20.1%</b>	<b>17.6%</b>	<b>18.3%</b>	<b>19.5%</b>

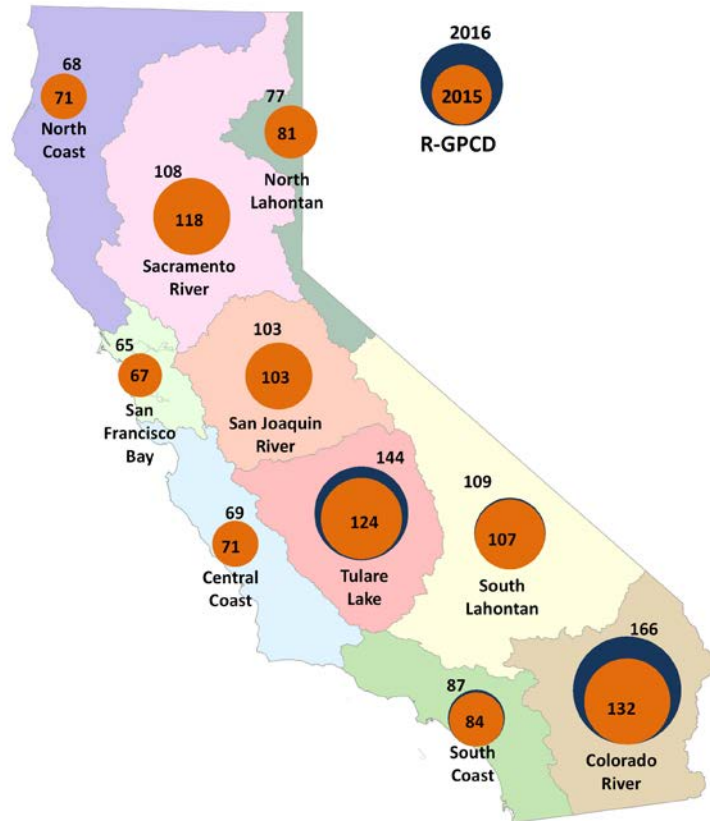


Water production by hydrologic region (in billions of gallons) for October 2016 (blue bars) compared to October 2015 (orange bars).

October 2016 savings by hydrologic region ranged from 12.1 percent to 30.4 percent. In October 2016, eight hydrologic regions reported higher percentage of water saved than in September 2016. Five hydrologic regions reported greater monthly savings in October 2016 than October 2015.

## R-GPCD by Hydrologic Region June 2015 to October 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	Sep 16	Oct 16
Central Coast	75.9	76.2	76.4	76.2	70.5	59.5	53.3	49.1	53.2	52.2	62.9	70.7	80.4	82.6	80.0	79.3	68.8
Colorado River	169.9	153.8	171.8	161.9	132.0	138.4	111.3	93.0	105.5	110.2	127.2	141.5	169.9	179.5	195.8	184.5	165.7
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	85.8	82.8	81.6	82.3	68.2
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	128.1	77.1
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	178.2	160.5	108.0
San Francisco Bay	70.0	72.0	72.3	72.2	67.4	55.1	51.0	49.5	51.1	50.9	57.4	65.9	79.3	81.3	82.0	79.8	65.0
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	138.1	150.0	149.5	130.8	102.6
South Coast	91.4	88.6	94.8	89.3	83.6	78.5	70.4	62.4	71.6	68.1	77.0	81.6	94.4	101.5	103.4	96.5	87.2
South Lahontan	133.3	131.3	148.3	129.7	107.1	90.6	73.9	68.0	69.3	78.1	98.5	116.4	145.4	160.9	149.1	146.4	109.0
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	190.4	187.6	176.0	143.7
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>102.2</b>	<b>96.9</b>	<b>87.2</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>61.1</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>77.0</b>	<b>86.9</b>	<b>105.0</b>	<b>113.5</b>	<b>113.7</b>	<b>106.4</b>	<b>89.5</b>



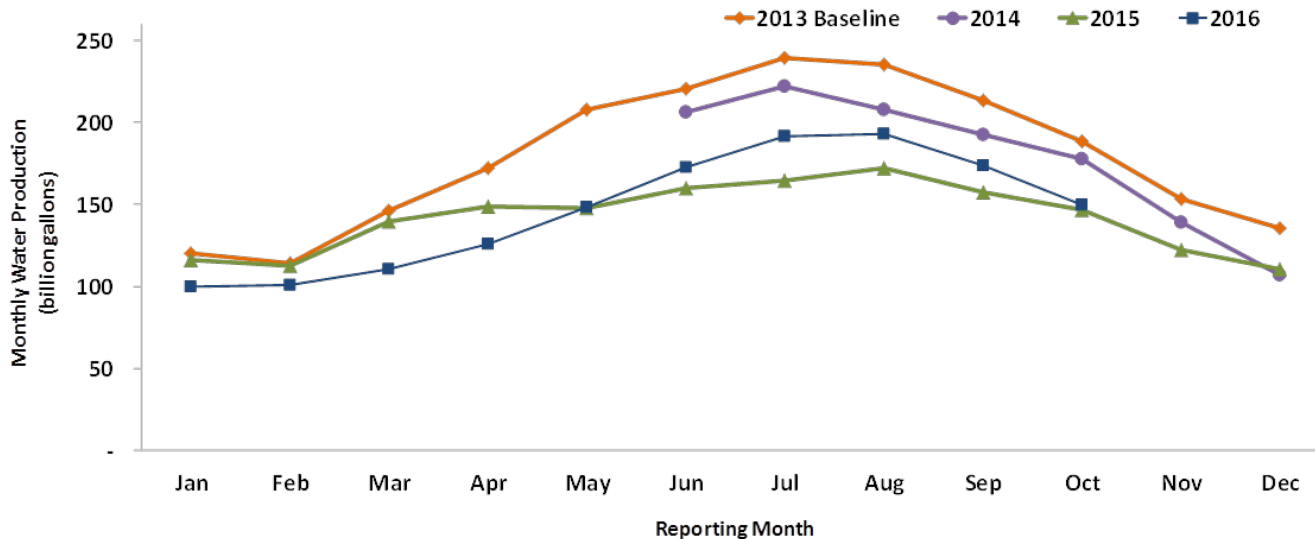
Residential Gallons per Capita per day (R-GPCD) for October 2016 (blue circles) compared to October 2015 (orange circles).

As stated above, the average statewide R GPCD for October 2016 was 89.5. Average hydrologic region R GPCDs for October 2016 range from 65 to 165.7, with five hydrologic regions reporting lower R-GPCDs in October 2016 than they did in October 2015. All ten hydrologic regions had the average R-GPCD in October 2016 lower than in 2013. All ten hydrologic regions had lower R-GPCDs in October 2016 than in September 2016.

## Statewide Water Production Trends

The graph below shows the statewide trends in water production from June 2014 through October 2016.

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

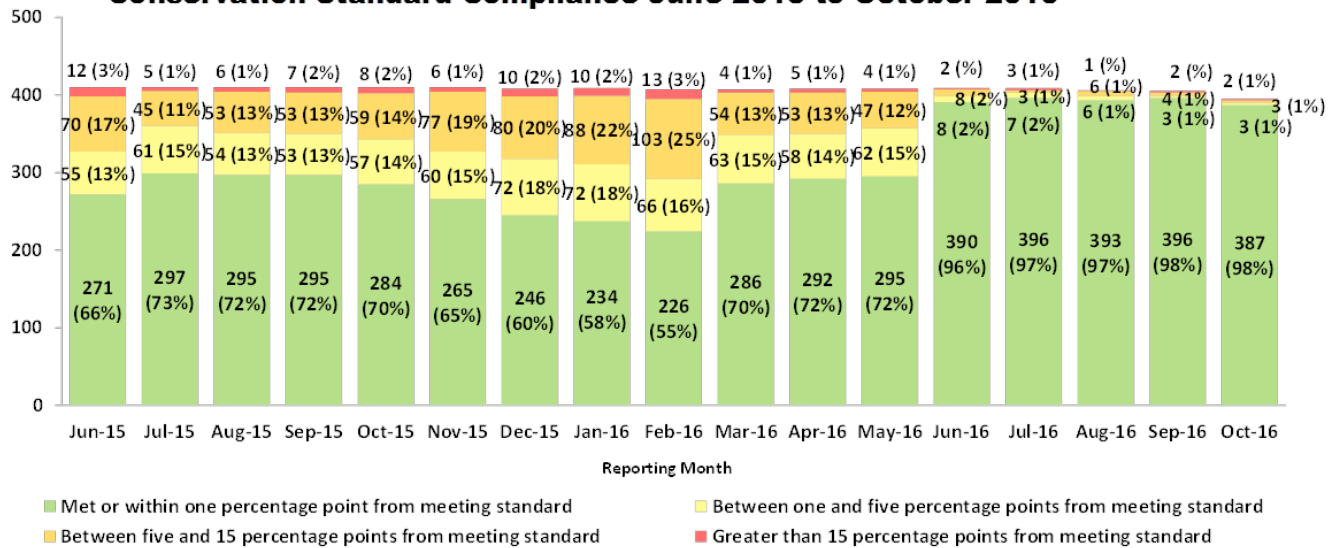


## Compliance

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). Information about the Board’s compliance actions is located [here](#)

With 395 water supplier reports submitted for October, 387 suppliers (98 percent) met or were within one percentage point of their conservation standard; three suppliers (1 percent) were between one and five percentage points of meeting their conservation standard; three suppliers (1 percent) were between five and 15 percentage points of meeting their conservation standard, and two suppliers were more than 15 percentage points from their conservation standard.

## Conservation Standard Compliance June 2015 to October 2016\*



\* Includes suppliers under alternative compliance orders. Alternate compliance orders do not substitute for individual conservation standards, however, suppliers meeting the terms of their alternate compliance orders are not priorities for enforcement.

## 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](http://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 Dec. 6, 2016)*