



# Fact Sheet

## September 2016 Statewide Conservation Data

### September Conservation Summary

September 2016 marks the 16<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 28 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 September 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 September 2016 the cumulative savings were 18.3 percent compared to September of 2013. In September of 2015 the savings were 26.2 percent. Since June 2015, Californians have saved 699 billion gallons (2,145,241 acre-feet), which equates to a 16-month cumulative savings of 23 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 10.7 million Californians with water for one-year; approximately the combined population of San Diego, Orange, Riverside, and Santa Clara counties, or 27.6 percent of the state's population.

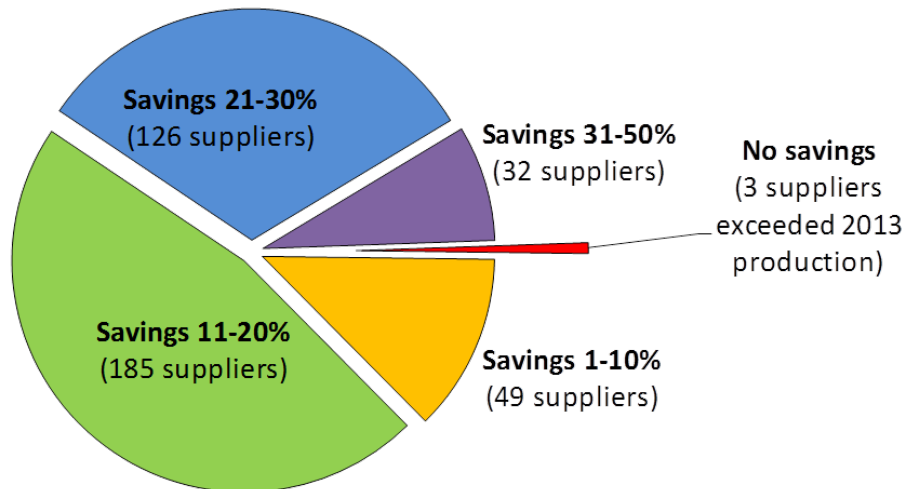
The data from September 2016 show a mixed picture of performance by agencies across the state, with many continuing to conserve significantly and others appreciably dropping their level of conservation accomplishment. In some cases, the drop may be because of high precipitation locally. For others, the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

### Breakdown of Water Savings

The chart on the next page shows the number of suppliers achieving various levels of water savings in September 2016 compared to September 2013 water production. Forty seven percent of suppliers reporting in September 2016 achieved water savings between 10 and 20 percent compared to the same month in 2013; these suppliers serve more than 22 million people. Forty percent of suppliers, serving more than 10.7 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. Three suppliers reported water production exceeding the September 2013 volume.



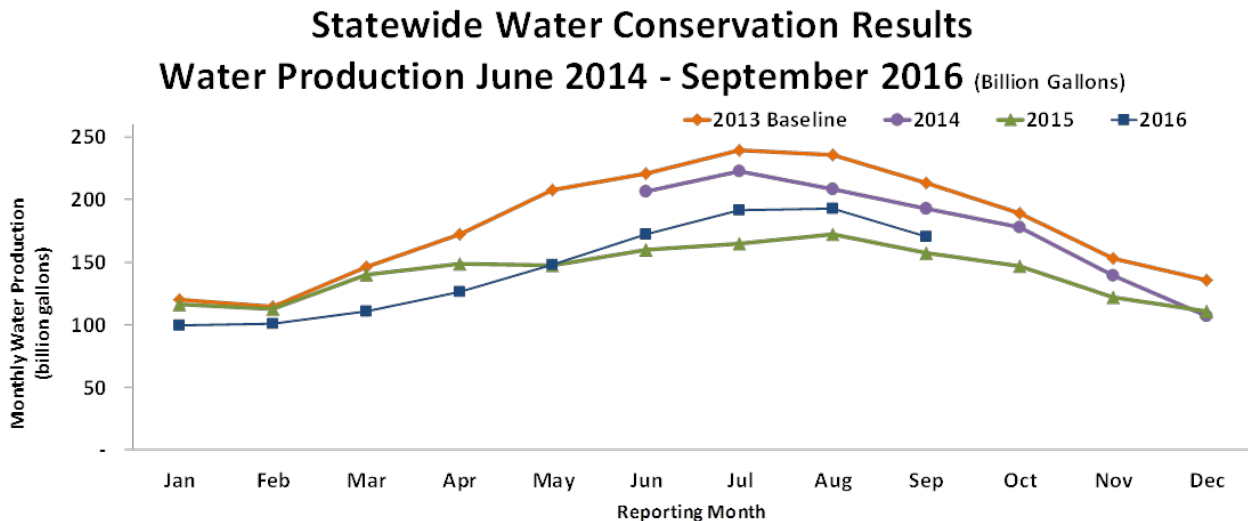
- Among the 32 suppliers that reported water savings greater than 30 percent in September 2016, 13 suppliers also increased water savings over what they saved in September 2015: Arroyo Grande, Bakman Water Company, Benicia, California Water Service Company King City, Casitas Municipal Water District, Goleta Water District, Groveland Community Services District, Santa Barbara, Montecito Water District, Nipomo Community Services District, Oildale Mutual Water Company, Wasco, and Westborough Water District.
- Multiple water agencies continued with strong conservation in September 2016. Despite slipping compared to last year's performance, some of the suppliers that reported high water savings in September 2016 include California Water Service Company Livermore, Chino Hills, Dublin San Ramon Services District, East Palo Alto, Golden State Water Company San Dimas, Golden State Water Company Simi Valley, Livermore, Menlo Park, Morgan Hill, Sunnyslope County Water District, City of Thousand Oaks, Tustin, and Vallecitos Water District. And there are additional examples of efforts that resulted in yet more savings this year compared to September 2015 savings, such as Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, El Segundo, Blythe, Coalinga, Hayward, and La Habra.
- Among those saving more than 20 percent in September 2016, 132 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 nine million people, and include Sacramento, California Water Service Company Bakersfield, Otay Water District, San Gabriel Valley Fontana Water Company, Cucamonga Valley Water District, Contra Costa Water District, Sweetwater Authority, Suburban Water Systems San Jose Hills, Garden Grove, Santa Margarita Water District, and Pomona. Examples of suppliers that self-certified a conservation standard above zero, and achieved water conservation above 20 percent in September 2016, are San Jose Water Company, Coalinga, Palmdale Water District, Monrovia, Modesto, Exeter, Glendora, and San Lorenzo Valley Water District.

- Among suppliers that did not self certify supply, and continued with strong conservation exceeding the mandatory standard in September 2016 are Santa Barbara, Marina Coast Water District, Cambria Community Services District, Soquel Creek Water District, East Palo Alto, San Buenaventura, Pinedale County Water District, San Luis Obispo, Mammoth Community Water District, Santa Cruz, Pico Rivera, Lompoc, and Compton.
- Several suppliers among the 49 that reported water savings between one and 10 percent in September 2016 had achieved water conservation above 20 percent in September 2015. Among formerly high water savers but conserving less than 10 percent this year were: Mountain House Community Services District, Folsom, Orchard Dale Water District, Los Angeles County Public Works Waterworks District 40 (Antelope Valley), Golden State Water Company Placentia, Perris, Fortuna, Redding, La Palma, Desert Water Agency, Bakersfield, and California Water Service Company Marysville. Some of these are in areas with obviously above average precipitation last winter; others are not.
- Bakersfield, Susanville, Los Angeles County Public Works Waterworks District 29 (Malibu), San Juan Water District, Vaughn Water Company, and Myoma Dunes Mutual Water Company are examples of suppliers with residential per-capita water use greater than 250 gallons per day, and saving 15 percent or less in September 2016.

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. More than 50 percent of urban water use is used outdoors on average.

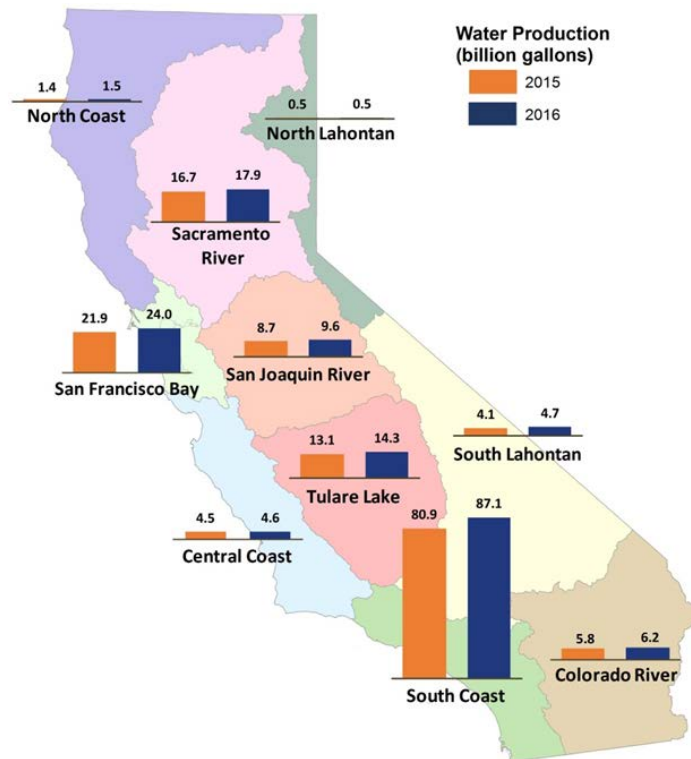
## Statewide Water Production Trends

The graph below shows the statewide trends in water production from June 2014 through September 2016, as well as the 2013 baseline water production.



## Water Savings by Hydrologic Region June 2015 to September 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
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%	24.8%
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%	8.1%
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%	23.4%	15.3%	11.6%
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%
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%
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%	22.5%	21.1%	17.7%
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%
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%
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%
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%	18.8%
<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>17.1%</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>17.5%</b>	<b>18.3%</b>



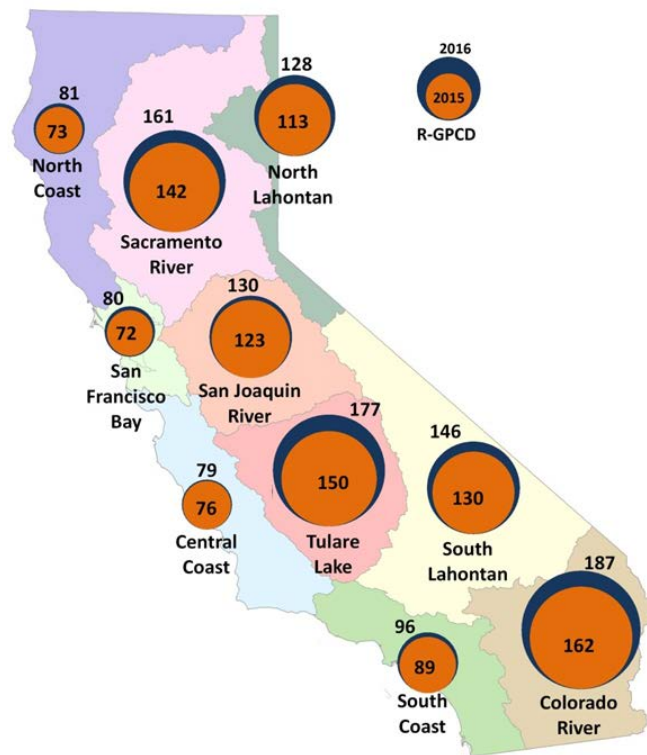
Water production by hydrologic region (in billions of gallons) for September 2016 (blue bars) compared to September 2015 (orange bars).

September 2016 savings by hydrologic region ranged from 7.6 percent to 24.8 percent, and were uniformly lower than water savings in September 2015. However, average water savings for South Coast and for Tulare Lake went up from August 2016. The biggest drop in conservation compared to September 2015 water savings was in Sacramento River, South Lahontan, and Colorado River hydrologic regions.



## R-GPCD by Hydrologic Region June 2015 to September 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
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	79.2
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	169.8	179.2	195.4	187.5
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	80.8	79.4	80.6
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
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	161.4
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	79.9
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	150.1	130.2
South Coast	91.4	88.6	94.8	89.3	83.5	78.5	70.4	62.4	71.6	68.1	77.0	81.6	94.3	101.5	103.5	96.0
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	146.4
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	176.6
<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>105.9</b>



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

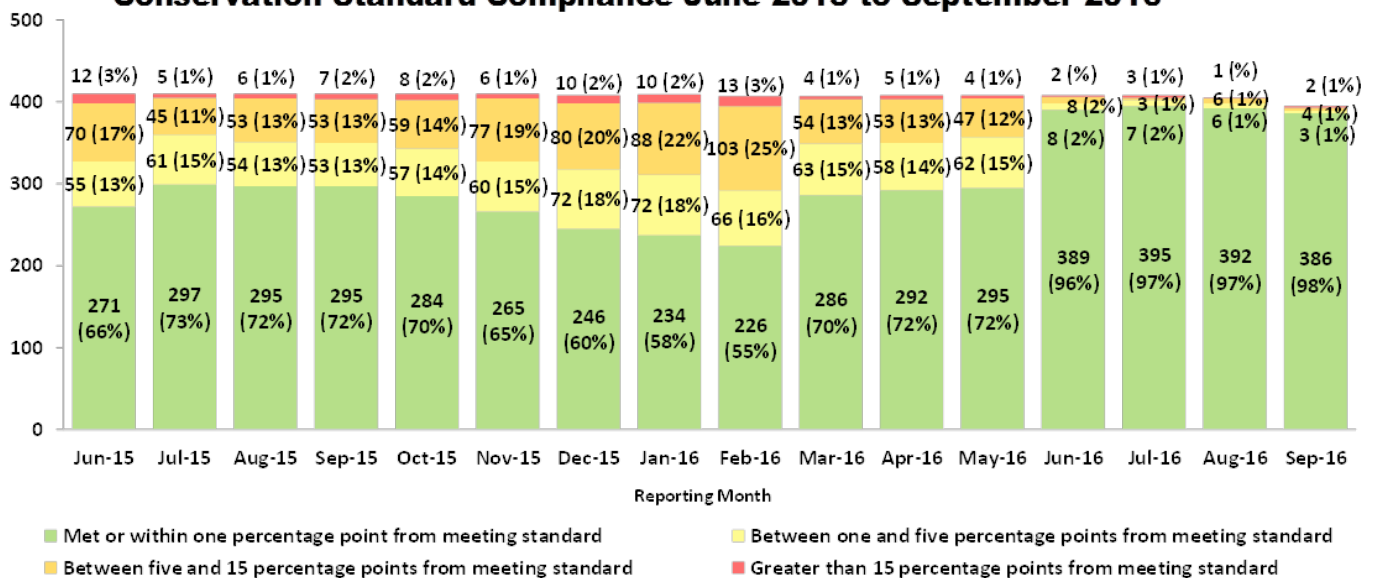
As stated above, the average statewide R-GPCD for September 2016 was 105.9. Average hydrologic region R-GPCDs for September 2016 range from 79.2 to 187.5, with all 10 hydrologic regions reporting higher R-GPCDs in September 2016 than they did in September 2015. However, all hydrologic regions had the average R-GPCD in September 2016 lower than in September 2013. Eight hydrologic regions reported lower R-GPCDs in September 2016 than in August 2016.

## 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 September, 386 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; four 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 September 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](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 Oct.31, 2016)*