



# Fact Sheet

## December 2016 Statewide Conservation Data

### December Conservation Summary

December 2016 marks the 19<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 production information from urban water suppliers for 31 consecutive months, following the historic [July 2014](#) board action to first adopt emergency water conservation regulations.

On May 18, 2016, following the Governor's May 9 [Executive Order](#), the Board again revised its statewide drought emergency water conservation approach in response to changed drought conditions and calls from urban water suppliers for greater recognition of the broad diversity in water supply reliability conditions throughout the state, replacing the Board's prior percentage reduction-based water conservation standard with a localized "stress test" approach. The "Stress test" approach mandated urban water suppliers ensure, and show, at least a three-year supply of water to their customers under drought conditions. For more information on the extended, Board regulations, visit the fact sheet [here](#).

This fact sheet summarizes the water conservation results for December 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 December 2016 the monthly water savings were 20.6 percent compared to December 2013 potable water production. In December 2015 the savings were 18.2 percent. December 2016 water savings are 11 percent higher than December 2015 savings. Since June 2015, Californians have saved nearly 793.2 billion gallons (2,434,323 acre-feet), which equates to a 19-month cumulative savings of 22.5 percent. Based on the estimate that the average person uses 0.2 acre-feet of water per year, this savings is enough to supply 12.2 million Californians with water for one-year; approximately the combined population of San Diego, Orange, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, and Alameda counties, or nearly one-third of the state's population.

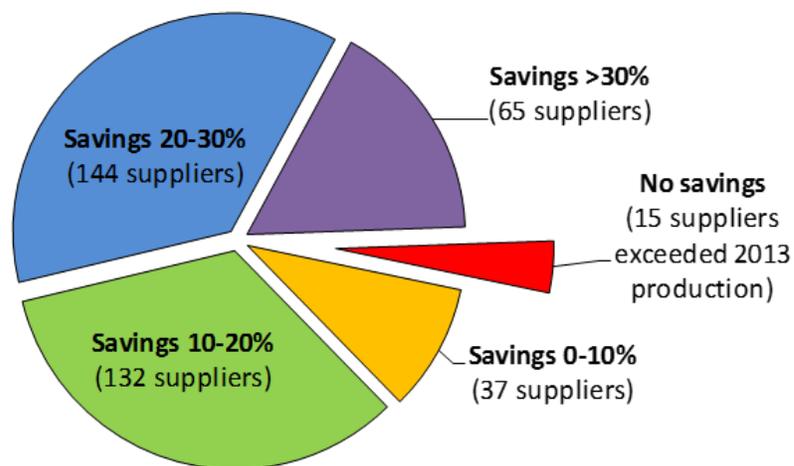
The data from December 2016 continue to show a significant picture of performance by agencies across the state, with most continuing to conserve, while some show a more sizable decline in conservation. Even with increased rainfall, average percent water savings in four out of ten hydrologic regions increased over conservation levels in November 2016, and conservation levels in three hydrologic regions – Central Coast, South Coast, and Colorado River, were greater than in December 2015. The increase over the water savings achieved in December 2015 could be due to conservation messaging taking hold, or could be due to extremely wet conditions in December 2016, and turning off outdoor irrigation, which is both



appropriate and required by the regulation. Where conservation levels dropped compared to last year, the decline may be due to one or more of multiple factors, including lower precipitation, a reduction in conservation messaging, less restrictive irrigation rules, or additional irrigation to establish new landscapes. In most cases, regardless of increased or decreased conservation levels, suppliers were in compliance with their conservation standard set by the regulation based on either their localized supply conditions or their residential per-person water use and the public overall has continued to conserve significantly without a top down assigned target.

## Breakdown of Water Savings

The chart below shows the number of suppliers achieving various levels of water savings in December 2016 compared to December 2013 water production. Thirty four percent of suppliers reporting in December 2016 achieved water savings between 10 and 20 percent compared to the same month in 2013; these suppliers serve more than 16.1 million people. Fifty three percent of suppliers, serving more than 17 million Californians, reported water savings of 20 percent or more. Fifteen suppliers reported water production exceeding the December 2013 volume. In looking at this graph, it is important to recall that the obligations imposed by the regulation on individual suppliers are dramatically different now than under the prior iterations of the regulation, when conditions were more dire, and these levels of savings are in many cases significantly higher than what the suppliers have been required to achieve.



- Forty seven out of 65 suppliers that reported water savings greater than 30 percent in December 2016, also increased water savings over what they saved in December 2015. Among suppliers that saved more than 30 percent in December 2016, and increased water savings by 10 percent or more over the conservation in 2015 are: Ventura County Waterworks District No 1, Camrosa Water District, Rubidoux Community Service District, San Juan Water District, Escondido, Rincon Del Diablo Municipal Water District, Thousand Oaks, Rio Vista, Santa Barbara, California Water Service Company Palos Verdes, and Paso Robles.
- Several suppliers among the 52 that reported conservation below 10 percent or no savings in December 2016 also have R-GPCD greater than 100. Among water suppliers with relatively high R-GPCD and conserving less than 10 percent this year

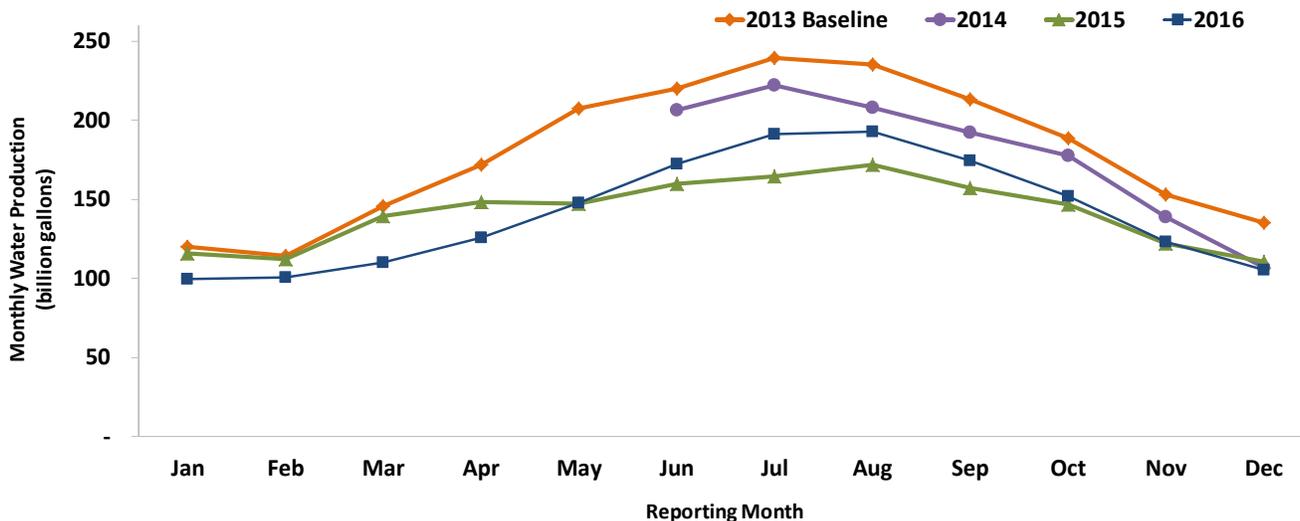
were Palmdale Water District, Folsom, Fairfield, North Marin Water District, and Fruitridge Vista Water Company.

- 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 is easier to save water, particularly on outdoor ornamental landscapes. Despite less than 10 percent water savings in December 2016, examples of communities with R-GPCD below 55, and already significant conservation and efficiency achievements include San Bernardino County Service Area 70J, Arcata, Hayward, El Monte, Golden State Water Company Florence Graham, McKinleyville Community Service District, Compton, and Daly City.

## Statewide Water Production Trends

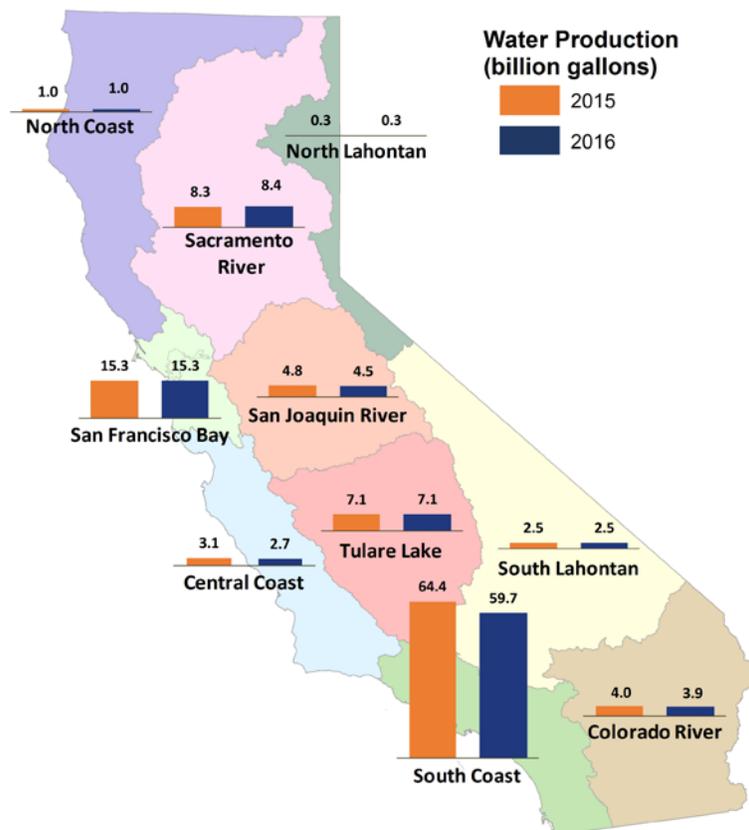
The graph below shows the statewide urban potable water production from June 2014 through December 2016.

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



## Water Savings by Hydrologic Region June 2015 to December 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	Nov 16	Dec 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%	25.2%	24.9%	26.8%	29.1%	29.1%
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%	7.2%	11.1%	20.6%	11.7%
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%	21.8%	24.0%	19.2%
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%	16.6%	18.7%
Sacramento River	36.3%	37.4%	34.5%	28.0%	25.5%	31.3%	24.6%	13.4%	20.6%	36.6%	30.4%	35.4%	23.4%	23.6%	18.6%	15.3%	30.6%	35.5%	23.4%
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%	26.0%	27.4%	22.8%
San Joaquin River	33.4%	34.7%	30.0%	26.7%	26.7%	31.2%	20.2%	15.4%	17.1%	35.2%	32.7%	34.3%	24.7%	24.3%	19.7%	19.2%	26.2%	29.3%	19.9%
South Coast	22.9%	28.2%	23.7%	26.7%	20.6%	14.1%	15.9%	18.0%	6.9%	20.9%	22.8%	24.2%	20.0%	17.0%	15.3%	19.5%	15.7%	12.3%	20.5%
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%	15.2%	2.8%
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%	18.3%	19.1%
<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>24.4%</b>	<b>26.1%</b>	<b>28.1%</b>	<b>21.7%</b>	<b>20.1%</b>	<b>17.5%</b>	<b>18.2%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>18.9%</b>	<b>20.6%</b>



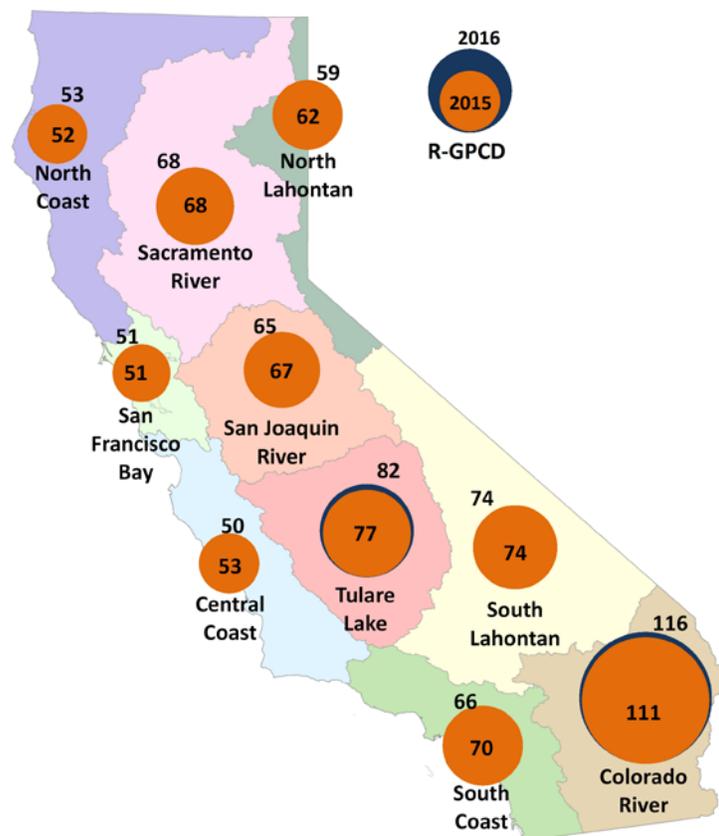
Water production by hydrologic region (in billions of gallons) for December 2016\* (blue bars) compared to December 2015 (orange bars).

\*Preliminary water production for December 2016, as 16 suppliers have not reported by January 19, 2017 when data were downloaded for analysis.

December 2016 savings by hydrologic region ranged from 2.8 percent to 29.1 percent. In December 2016, four hydrologic regions reported higher percentage of water saved than in November 2016. Three hydrologic regions reported greater monthly savings in December 2016 than December 2015.

## R-GPCD by Hydrologic Region June 2015 to December 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	Nov 16	Dec 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	80.2	79.3	70.0	59.1	50.4
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	181.6	161.3	150.1	115.9
North Coast	78.7	73.5	75.7	73.3	70.7	53.4	52.5	50.1	52.4	52.0	55.3	62.4	85.8	82.8	81.6	82.3	68.8	51.6	52.5
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	54.5	59.2
Sacramento River	137.1	152.8	147.3	141.7	117.9	80.5	68.5	68.1	66.4	68.5	92.3	121.0	163.3	186.8	179.9	162.0	108.8	75.9	68.3
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	65.1	54.7	50.6
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	103.2	75.7	65.3
South Coast	91.4	88.6	94.8	89.3	83.6	78.5	70.4	62.3	71.6	68.1	76.9	81.6	94.4	101.4	103.3	96.3	87.3	79.1	66.3
South Lahontan	133.3	131.3	148.3	129.7	107.1	90.6	73.9	67.5	68.9	77.6	97.8	115.1	145.0	159.7	147.4	147.4	109.0	93.7	73.9
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	143.5	112.3	82.1
<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>61.0</b>	<b>67.1</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>77.0</b>	<b>86.9</b>	<b>105.0</b>	<b>113.4</b>	<b>113.8</b>	<b>106.4</b>	<b>89.9</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>64.9</b>



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

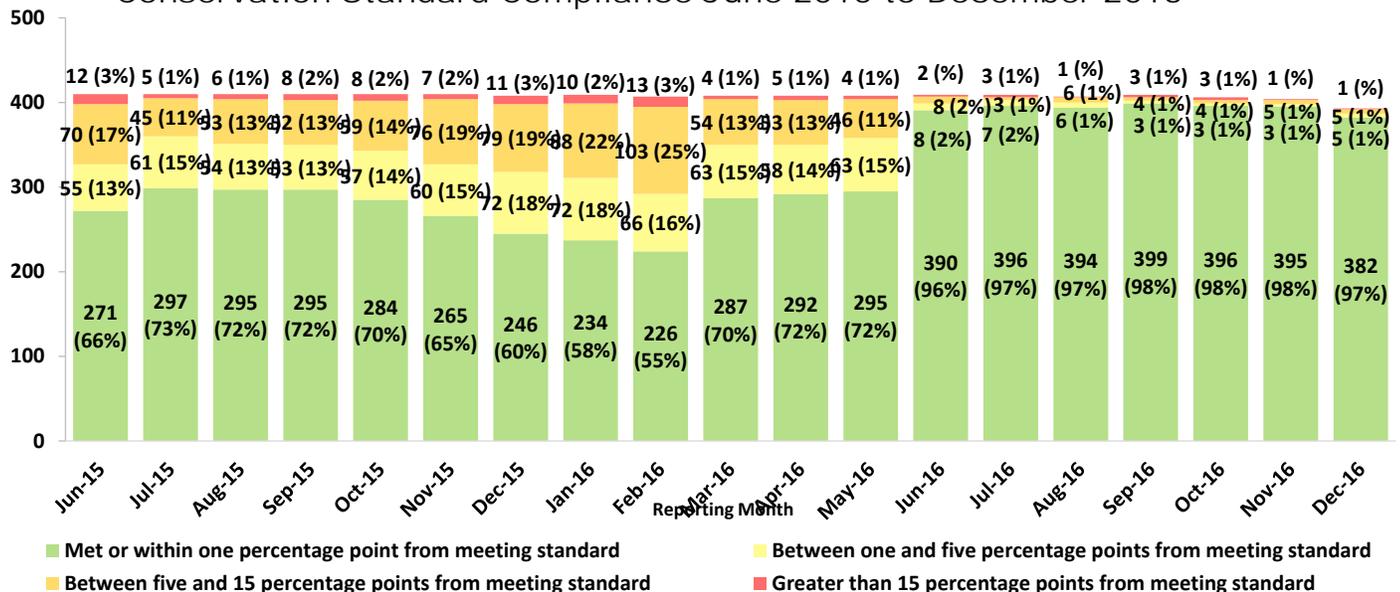
As stated above, the table provides the average monthly R-GPCD for June 2015 through December 2016, by hydrologic region. The average statewide R-GPCD for December 2016 was 64.9. Average hydrologic region R-GPCDs for December 2016 range from 50 to 116, with seven hydrologic regions reporting lower R-GPCDs in December 2016 than they did in December 2015. All ten hydrologic regions had the average R-GPCD in December 2016 lower than in December 2013.

## 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 at or below 2013 levels (the baseline year for the regulation). Information about the Board's compliance actions is located [here](#)

With 393 water supplier reports submitted for December, 382 suppliers (97 percent) met or were within one percentage point of their conservation standard; five suppliers (1 percent) were between one and five percentage points of meeting their conservation standard; five suppliers (1 percent) were between five and 15 percentage points of meeting their conservation standard, and one supplier was more than 15 percentage points from their conservation standard.

Conservation Standard Compliance June 2015 to December 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 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 Feb.8, 2016)*