

News Release 2016 â?? State Plan Seeks to Make Water Conservation a Way of Life

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State Plan Seeks To Make Water Conservation A Way of Life

For Immediate Release
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SACRAMENTO — Working to make water conservation a way of life, State agencies today released a [draft plan](#) for achieving long-term efficient water use and meeting drought preparedness goals that reflect California's diverse climate, landscape, and demographic conditions.

Californians rose to the challenge during this historic drought and recognized that conservation is critical in the face of an uncertain future. This plan is about harnessing the creativity and innovation that Californians have shown during the driest years in state history and making water conservation a way of life in the years ahead," said California Department of Water Resources Director Mark W. Cowin. "This plan will help make permanent changes to water use so California is better prepared for whatever the future brings."

The new plan's fundamental premise is that efficient water use helps all of California better prepare for longer and more severe droughts caused by climate change.

California recently suffered the driest four years in state history, with only average rainfall last year, and [75 percent of the state remains in severe drought conditions](#). Meanwhile, a [new report from UCLA](#) projects that the Sierra Nevada snowpack — one of California's largest sources of water supply — is likely to drop 50 percent by the end of the century due to climate change. Recognizing these risks and many others, today's plan seeks permanent changes to water use that boost efficiency and prepare for more limited water supplies. These practices will help achieve a top priority in Governor Brown's [California Water Action Plan](#) to "Make Conservation a California Way of Life."

Today's plan builds on the success of mandatory water restrictions during California's severe drought and develops long-term water conservation measures that will ensure all communities have sufficient water supplies. This will involve activities such as ensuring farmers plan and prepare for severe drought and permanently banning wasteful practices like hosing off sidewalks and driveways.

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