



WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

November 2016

Supply Challenges

The City has just completed the driest consecutive five-year period on record. Cachuma and Gibraltar Reservoirs remain at critically low levels, and will likely not supply water to the City after December 2016 without significant rainfall this winter. The City's water supply portfolio for 2017 includes approximately 30% from imported State water and supplemental water purchases, 30% from groundwater, 30% from seawater desalination, and 10% from recycled water. Even with the seawater desalination plant coming online, it will not alleviate the need for continued water conservation. Should drought conditions continue, current water use levels will result in shortages in summer 2017. Additional extraordinary water conservation from the community will remain critical to meeting water demands.



Cachuma Reservoir and intake pipeline for water delivered to the South Coast. Courtesy of the County of Santa Barbara.

Additional Conservation Needed

Extraordinary water conservation remains a top priority for our community. Our customers have done a great job reducing water use by 35% compared to 2013, and the City has been recognized as a statewide leader in water conservation during California's historic drought. Throughout the worsening drought, conservation has allowed our community to stretch remaining water supplies over the last few years. However, if we do not receive sufficient rainfall this winter, we foresee a significant water shortage in summer 2017. Due to delivery constraints on our limited water supplies, we anticipate shortages during the peak summer water demand months caused by increased landscape watering.

We've done a lot to reduce water use in Santa Barbara, but our water supply situation is getting worse and we need to take action now to reduce water use even more. The City is prioritizing our remaining water supplies for human health and safety needs and the watering of established trees and shrubs. Reducing lawn watering is the single biggest step we can take now to ensure we have enough water next summer. In November and December of this year, City Council will consider a prohibition on lawn watering, with limited exceptions, along with a conservation target increase from 35% to 40% citywide. With the community's continued contributions to extraordinary water conservation, we will be on track to meet this target and able to meet next summer's demands.



City of Santa Barbara, Public Works
Water Resources Division

Stay Informed

Since the drought declaration in 2014, there have been monthly presentations (Drought Updates) to City Council and Water Commission to discuss water supplies, drought response, and community conservation. This fall, the Drought Updates will revisit proposed additional drought regulations for increased water conservation, specifically a lawn watering ban. We encourage everyone to stay informed and attend or view the upcoming Drought Update meetings. Past meetings are available online at SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Drought and live meetings may be viewed on City TV channel 18 or on our website. For more information on drought planning, visit our website or call 564-5460.