

CALIFORNIA'S DROUGHT

California is facing the most significant water crisis in its history, now what?

California is facing the most significant water crisis in its history, according to the California Department of Water Resources. After experiencing two years of drought and the driest spring in recorded history, water reserves are extremely low. With the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem near collapse, court-ordered restrictions on water deliveries from the Delta have reduced supplies from the state's two largest water systems by up to thirty-five percent.

Drought conditions in the Colorado River Basin and a Sierra snowpack that is now dangerously unreliable due to global climate change, is leaving many communities throughout southern California facing mandatory restrictions on water use and rising water bills. If the drought continues into next year, the results could be catastrophic to our state-wide economy.

In June 2008, the Governor issued Executive Order S-06-08 declaring a statewide drought, which directed his state agencies and departments, including that of the California Department of Water Resources, to take immediate action to address the serious drought conditions and water delivery reductions that exist in California.

In September 2008, the Department of Water Resources established a 2009 Drought Water Bank, which will purchase water from willing sellers primarily north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Delta. This water will then be transferred to areas in southern California that are at risk of experiencing water shortages next summer.

The Yorba Linda Water District does not anticipate needing to purchase additional water in the coming months from the Water Bank due to our ability to draw water both from "groundwater" sources and "imported" sources in the Delta. However, depending upon dryness levels this winter and District customers' conservation attempts, the Yorba Linda Water District is prepared to continue to provide reliable and excellent service to meet our customers' needs, even at increased prices.

To further reduce the chance that the Yorba Linda Water District will face shortages, the District is emphasizing to all of its customers the importance of conservation. Conservation, especially in the area of landscaping, where nearly seventy-percent of all water is used, is the fastest and easiest way to cut water waste as well as overall water use. For tips on how to reduce outdoor water use, click on the "Conservation" tab on the District's homepage. Rebates for both indoor and outdoor use are also available.