



## **Water Shortage Emergency**

### **Mandatory Water Use Reduction Program**

### **Defer Implementation of Emergency Water Rates**

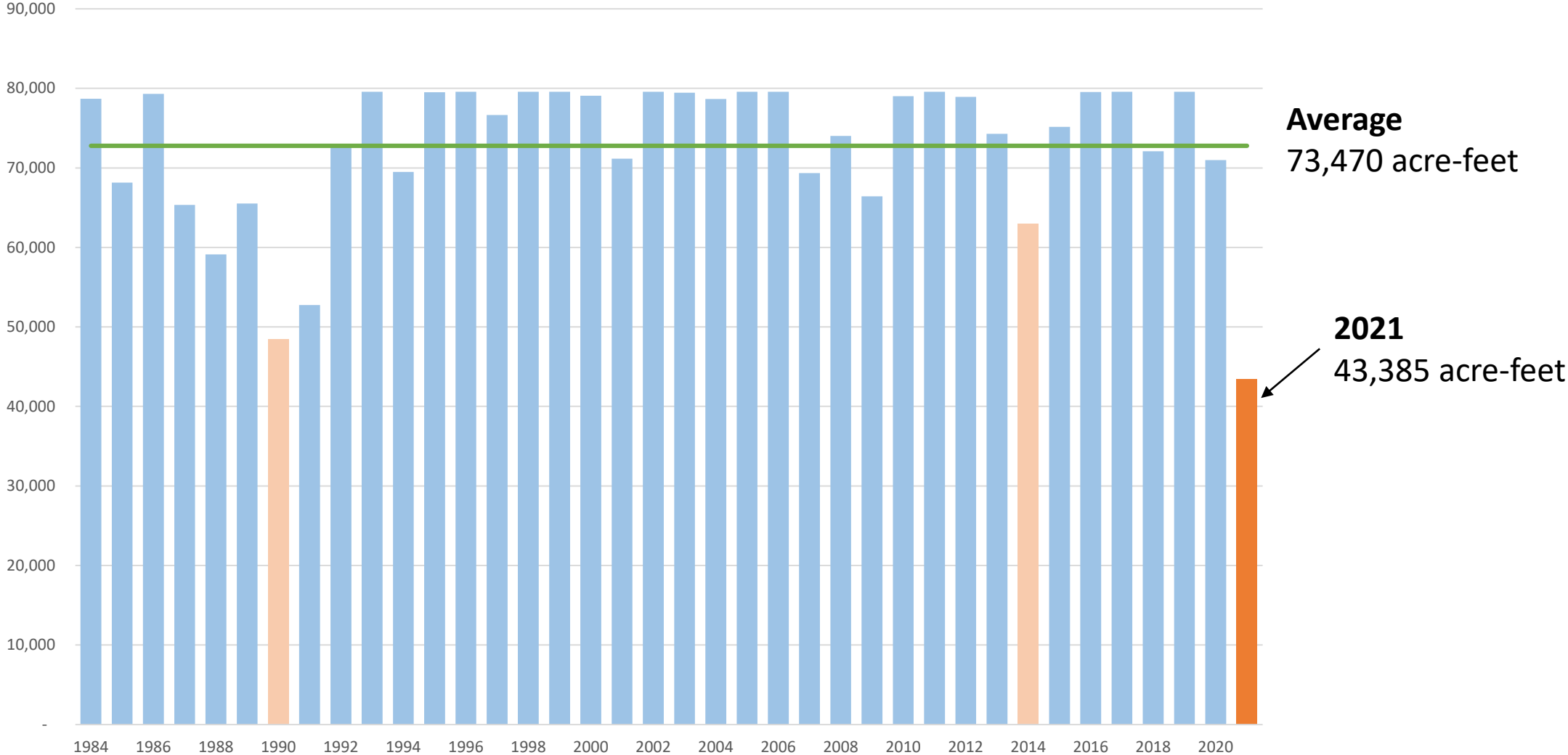
April 20, 2021



# Overview

- Operations Committee Meeting – April 16th
  - Review Presentation & Comments Received
- Resolution Declaring Water Shortage Emergency
- Resolution Deferring Implementation of Emergency Water Rates
- Consider adoption of Mandatory Restrictions

# Historical Total Reservoir Storage (April 1<sup>st</sup>)



# Approach to Drought and Conservation Efforts

- Historic drought conditions
- Continue and enhance voluntary indoor water usage savings
- Water waste restrictions and outdoor irrigation
- Customer outreach, education, and support
- Preserve water supply due to unknown future rainfall



# MMWD Advancements Since the 1976-8 Drought

- ✓ Increased local storage volume by 51% or 27,000 AF
  - Built Soulajule reservoir (1979)
  - Enlarged Kent Lake (1983) – Doubled storage capacity to 32,900 AF
- ✓ Established and expanded Recycled Water Program (1981)
- ✓ Further development of conservation program with customers from all sectors – residential, commercial and industrial
  - Outreach
  - Education
  - Incentives
- ✓ Developed supplemental water supply with Sonoma Water in 1976

# Water Conservation Goals During Historic Drought

- Overall 40% reduction from all customers
- Residential **average** for indoor and outdoor use combined
  - 60 gallons per person per day
- December 1st: 30,000 acre-feet total reservoir storage
- Ongoing monitoring and reporting to the Board
  - Comparing progress to established conservation goals
  - Utilizing total water production data
  - Data from our limited installed automated meters and temporary data loggers

# Implementation Plan

- Customer Outreach and Education
- Drought support programs for customers
  - e.g. Turf Replacement Incentives
- Adaptive approach based on ongoing demand

**It's every-drop-counts time.**

**Drought is here. Save water.**

We're in a drought, Marin, and you know what that means. It's time for us to cut back on our water usage. So let's drive our cars dirty, fix every leak we find, and water landscaping by hand.

[MarinWater.org/Conserve](http://MarinWater.org/Conserve)



# Review of Approach Presented at Operations Committee – April 16<sup>th</sup>

Additional Mandatory Restrictions	Comments Received
Additional mandatory water waste prohibitions (e.g. washing cars in driveway)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Generally, seems to make sense</li><li>• Some concerns about not filling up pools</li></ul>
One day of irrigation per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Over watering will occur on the one allowable day</li><li>• Will not receive the anticipated reduction</li><li>• Restrictions should not apply to vegetable gardens</li><li>• Some limited concerns from commercial operations (e.g. golf courses, nurseries)</li></ul>
Prescribing specific day per week of irrigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Why does MMWD care which day I water</li><li>• The specified day may not work for my schedule</li></ul>



# Proposed Path Forward

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- Adopt Resolution Declaring Water Shortage Emergency
- Adopt Resolution Deferring Implementation of Emergency Water Rates
- Consider Adoption of Additional Water Waste Prohibitions
- Consider restrictions on outdoor irrigation

# Resolution Declaring Water Shortage Emergency

- Without additional measures, District reservoir storage is projected to be less than 30,000 acre-feet on December 1<sup>st</sup>
- District may restrict use of district water during drought emergency and prohibit wastage (District Code 13.02.015)
- Provides District authority to appropriately regulate water conservation to achieve the greatest public benefit
- Preserves water supply given uncertainty of upcoming wet season

# Resolution Deferring Implementation of Emergency Water Rates

- February 16, 2021, Board adopted Resolution No. 8624 calling for voluntary conservation by customers
- District Code 6.01.310, Emergency Water Rates to address the decrease in water revenue from dry year conservation measures
- Defers implementation of Emergency Water Rates
  - Monitor revenues and provide regular financial updates to the Board
  - Pursue cost savings measures where feasible
  - Utilize reserve funds as necessary
- Board reserves right to implement Emergency Water Rates in months ahead, if deemed necessary

# Mandatory Water Use Reduction Program

# Expanded Water Waste Prohibitions

- Washing of vehicles
- Refilling or adding make-up water for decorative fountains or recreational pools
- Golf course irrigation restricted to greens and tees
- Use of private fire taps, also known as fire service lines, shall solely provide water for fire protection and annual fire service line testing
- Power washing of buildings and homes
- Use of potable water for dust control, compaction, sewer flushing, street cleaning, or any other use that can be met with tertiary recycled water

Note: Normal year water waste prohibitions continue to be in effect  
(e.g. providing water at restaurants only upon request)

# Restrictions on Outdoor Irrigation

- In addition to normal year restrictions, e.g.
  - No gutter flooding
  - Prohibited hours of irrigation (9 AM – 7 PM)
- Currently in Draft Ordinance 449 (attachment to staff report)
  - “One day of irrigation per week”
- Consideration of options for outdoor irrigation
  - Two days of irrigation per week
  - Specifying (or not) allowable day(s) of week for irrigation
  - Continued request to reduce consumption, with soft target

# Mandatory Urgency Ordinance 449

Language includes:

- Water Waste Enforcement
- Variance and appeal process



# Recommendations

- Adopt Resolution Declaring Water Shortage Emergency
- Adopt Resolution Deferring Implementation of Emergency Water Rates
- Adopt Mandatory Urgency Ordinance:
  - Include additional water waste prohibitions
  - Include enforcement/variance/appeal language
  - Consideration of limitations of 1 or 2 days of irrigation per week
  - Consideration of specifying day(s) of allowable irrigation, or not



# Water Waste Enforcement

- Water Waste Notification: Written notification of water waste and warning that 2<sup>nd</sup> Notice will result in a fine
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Notice: A \$25 fine for the water waste violation and a warning that subsequent violations of same water waste will result in a \$250 fine
- Subsequent Violations: For each violation of the same water waste violation within 60 days, a \$250 fine will be imposed on customer bill.

Escalating enforcement procedures for repeat offenders

# Variations

- District may grant variations for:
  - Unnecessary and undue hardship on applicant or public adverse economic impacts
  - Emergency condition affecting health, sanitation, fire protection or safety of the applicant or public
  - District will consider alternative compliance proposals that provide comparable conservation savings
- Request must be submitted in writing to District providing sufficient detail and reasoning
- District provides written decision on variance request
- Appeals process

# Appeals Process

- Two-step appeals process
- Must be submitted in writing within 30 calendar days:
  - Enforcement action, or
  - Variance denial
- 2<sup>nd</sup> appeal from customer may be submitted within 15 calendar days of initial written response to appeal:
  - Hearing scheduled and District will mail notice of date of hearing to customer at least 10 calendar days before hearing
  - District will conduct hearing on the appeal and issue final decision

# Options for Mandatory Restrictions

	30% Reduction	Irrigate Two days/week	Irrigate One day/week	Irrigation Restricted Trees Only
<b>Water Savings % (May-Oct)</b>	20-30% 4,500 AF	~30% Up to 6,000 AF	~40% Up to 7,300 AF	55% 8,200 AF
<b>Restrictions</b>	Indoor/Outdoor 30% reduction	2 days per week irrigation	1 day per week irrigation	Irrigation limited to trees only, hand watering only
<b>Implementation</b>	Staff water waste patrols	Staff water waste patrols	Staff water waste patrols	Staff water waste patrols
<b>Advantages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ease customers into mandatory restrictions</li> <li>- Provide flexibility</li> <li>- Use recommendations to educate on future restrictions</li> </ul>	Clearly defined restrictions	Clearly defined restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maximum savings</li> <li>- Easy to see who is complying</li> </ul>
<b>Drawbacks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potential for inadequate water savings</li> <li>- Uncertainty in water savings</li> </ul>	Customers may increase length of watering times to comply with 2 days/week restrictions	Customers may increase length of watering times to comply with 1 days/week restrictions	Significant impact on landscapes

# Mandatory Urgency Ordinance

~~Prohibits irrigating more than 3 days per week~~



Prohibits irrigating more than 1 day per week as assigned by District

## Proposed Approach to Mandatory Irrigation Restrictions

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>No irrigation</b>	Ross	San Rafael	San Anselmo	Mill Valley	Greenbrae	<b>No irrigation</b>
	Tiburon		Corte Madera		Kentfield	
	Belvedere	Unincorp. Marin	Sausalito		Larkspur	
	San Geronimo		Fairfax			
	Forest Knolls		Woodacre			
	Lagunitas					

Irrigation prohibited between 9 AM and 7 PM

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