

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-21-1143**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
ACTIVATING SHORTAGE LEVEL 3 OF THE WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) is a wholesale water agency that provides imported drinking water to nearly one million residents living in 17 cities and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County; and

**WHEREAS**, in Fiscal Year 2019-2020, approximately 75% of the retail water demand in West Basin's service area was met with imported water supplies; and

**WHEREAS**, California is facing a potential third consecutive year of historically dry conditions throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS**, record high temperatures, significantly dry soils, and below average snowpack levels have produced critically low levels of runoff in Northern California and the Colorado River Watershed, both of which serve as key imported water sources for Southern California; and

**WHEREAS**, during the 2021 water year, State Water Contractors, including the Metropolitan Water District, received a 5% Table A Allocation for State Water Project deliveries; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Department of Water Resources is expected to declare a 0% initial State Water Project Allocation in 2022 for State Water Contractors; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 9, 2021, according to the U.S. Drought monitor approximately 80% of California was in extreme drought, with 38% of the state in exceptional drought; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 8, 2021, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order calling on all Californians to voluntarily reduce water use by 15% from 2020 levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the cumulative statewide reduction in water use for July and August 2021 was approximately 3.5% compared to 2020 water use levels; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 19, 2021, Governor Newsom issued a proclamation declaring that a state of emergency exists in all 58 counties in California due to ongoing drought conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 17, 2021, the Metropolitan Water District declared a Water Supply Alert, calling for residents and businesses to voluntarily reduce their water use to help preserve the region's water storage reserves; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 9, 2021, the Metropolitan Water District declared a regional drought emergency for its service area, asking for increased conservation efforts, especially in those communities that are highly dependent on State Water Project supplies; and

**WHEREAS**, Metropolitan Water District's Board of Directors has approved a number of new measures meant to expand various rebate and water efficiency programs in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, due to ongoing investments made by West Basin and its retail water agencies to develop and implement effective water efficiency, outreach, and education programs, per capita water use in the West Basin service area has decreased by approximately 33% since 2000; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 28, 2021, the West Basin Board of Directors approved a Water Shortage Contingency Plan to formally plan for and address future water shortages; and

**WHEREAS**, the Water Shortage Contingency Plan includes six standard water shortage levels, as defined by the state of California, corresponding to shortage conditions of up to and greater than 50%; and

**WHEREAS**, each shortage level aligns with defined shortage response actions that West Basin may implement to resolve any existing or expected supply-demand gaps created by a shortage condition; and

**WHEREAS**, the Water Shortage Contingency Plan also includes an adopted set of communication protocols that were developed to provide strategic outreach and communications activities that can be implemented in an adaptive and incremental manner, as needed; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the communication protocols provided in the Water Shortage Contingency Plan, West Basin has developed an updated Drought Communications Plan that will be utilized to support West Basin's efforts to achieve voluntary water use reductions in the service area; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 26, 2021, the West Basin Board of Directors activated Shortage Level 1 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan in order to raise awareness of the drought and to support the Governor's calls for voluntary water use reductions; and

**WHEREAS**, in activating Shortage Level 1, West Basin has focused its efforts on voluntary measures, including expanded drought outreach and new water efficiency programs, including the District's "Grass Replacement +" rebate program; and

**WHEREAS**, West Basin has worked in partnership with Metropolitan Water District to take additional deliveries of Colorado river water, rather than water from the State Water Project that West Basin would normally receive; and

**WHEREAS**, cumulative water use in the West Basin service area for July and August 2021 is approximately 3% less compared to July and August 2020, indicating that additional shortage response measures are needed to help the region meet the Governor's voluntary 15% conservation target; and

**WHEREAS**, moving from Shortage Level 1 to an escalated shortage level of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan will demonstrate that West Basin recognizes the serious nature of Metropolitan Water District's recent drought emergency declaration and supports proactive efforts to reduce water use and preserve regional water storage; and

**WHEREAS**, advancing to a higher shortage level of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan further emphasizes West Basin's continued commitment to ensure safe and reliable supplies to the communities it serves, and demonstrates support for those Metropolitan member agencies that are highly reliant on State Water Project imported water supplies.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Directors of the West Basin Municipal Water District that, on November 22, 2021 the District hereby activates Shortage Level 3 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the District will coordinate with its retail agencies, local cities, partner water agencies, the business community, and other stakeholders to continue raising awareness of the drought and to continue communicating the increasing need to use less water in order to maintain regional water reliability; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the District will continue to develop and implement new and expanded water efficiency programs that support long-term water use reductions in the residential, municipal, and commercial sectors; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the President of the Board of Directors of the West Basin Municipal Water District is hereby authorized to sign the resolution, thereby activating Shortage Level 3 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED on the 22nd day, November 2021.

  
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President

ATTEST

  
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Secretary