

La Cumbre Mutual Water Company

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March 2020

Drought Status 2020

Dear La Cumbre Water Customer,

The La Cumbre Mutual Water Company would like to inform you of our current water supply conditions. La Cumbre is still feeling the effects of the historic seven-year drought. Current winter conditions have not provided much-needed precipitation locally. The needed rainfall is crucial to recharging the groundwater basin. The cumulative effect of groundwater extraction with a lack of recharge has left the basin in a vulnerable state and is estimated that it may take 10 years for it to recover to pre-drought levels. Our water supplies come from local groundwater and imported water from the State Water Project. With a dismal snow survey, La Cumbre is expected to receive 15% of its allocation. We can't meet our water demands at a 15% State Water allocation.

La Cumbre Water Company Management is executing a water exchange contract with a State Water participant to shore up our 2020/2021 supplies. This exchange is necessary to meet our water demand and requires some water to be returned in 10 years. In parallel, management is in the process of securing a one-time purchase from the City of Santa Barbara and possible agreements with other local water agencies. These water exchange agreements are costly and by no means meant to be long term.

La Cumbre is in the planning stages to replace a well that is in the Foothill Basin. This well has been pumping sand and the output rate had to be lowered substantially to reduce the sanding problem. Well 17, which pumps out of the Goleta Basin, is going through rehabilitation to bring it back online. Well 17 is located on Puente Drive where the groundwater levels are higher due to the site being out of service since 2010. Progress is also rapidly being made on rehabilitating Well 10A off Modoc Road that will help with redundancy in our Goleta Basin.

Your continued conservation efforts are greatly appreciated. Usage in 2019 was down 40% compared to the base year of 2013. We are the first in the area to change out all our meters to Smart Meters. We review the data daily and to date have helped identify and report 1900 customer leaks. Over 50% of our customers have logged into the service to help manage their use and to receive early notification of leaks. If you would like information on how to sign up for the free service you can visit our web page www.lacumbrewater.com and click on the Beacon Smart Meter tab or send us an email to office@lacumbrewater.com.

As always, we appreciate your support. Please feel free to call or email with any questions you may have.

Thank You,

Mike Alvarado
General Manager