

La Cumbre Mutual Water Company

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6/1/22

Important Water Supply-Conservation Update

Without further conservation, La Cumbre Mutual Water Company may be required to declare a water supply emergency and restrict your water use.

We had one of the driest and warmest winters in Santa Barbara and throughout California this year. To be consistent with Governor Newsom's plea to reduce outdoor water use and the California State Water Resources Control Board's emergency water conservation regulations, all customers must significantly reduce the use of water. Our local groundwater supplies are declining and imported water supplies are about 10% of their normal amount. To help with conservation efforts, we have worked with the La Cumbre Country Club to replace some of the water used on the golf course with recycled water. Water Company staff have obtained other short-term supplies that will help us have a reliable supply to meet our necessary water needs.

Last year, we requested that you (our customers and shareholders) voluntarily reduce water use in response to the lack of rain the last few years. Your conservation efforts **reduced water** use in 2021 by approximately 4% when compared to 2020 use, but water use has **increased about 22%** of normal use through the first 5 months of this year. With the summer months here, customers must severely cut back their outdoor water usage. If our customers do not continue to comply with meeting our conservation goal of at least a 15% reduction, we may be forced to impose more stringent water conservation measures, consistent with our Water Conservation Plan. Should your conservation efforts fall short of our goals and our ability to access our imported water supplies be impaired, mandatory conservation may be required later this summer.

We may be forced to declare a water shortage emergency. If that is required, the Water Company intends to use existing California law (Water Code section 350 et seq.). Existing law allows the Water Company to adopt regulations and restrictions on delivery and consumption of water for purposes of conserving water and meeting human consumption, sanitation and fire protection needs, as our priorities. Before mandatory conservation measures are needed, the Water Company staff will develop draft regulations and restrictions for consideration by the Water Company Board prior to implementation and enforcement. If necessary, some restrictions may be different than the current water distribution practices. Regulations and restrictions would also be implemented consistent with the existing Water Conservation Plan.

Alex Rodriguez



Board President