

**Governor Schwarzenegger Proclaims  
State of Emergency  
to Address California's Water Shortage**

Governor Schwarzenegger proclaimed a state of emergency on February 27, 2009 ([see Press Release](#)) to combat California's third consecutive year of drought. The Governor's order directs various state departments to engage in activity to provide assistance to people and communities impacted by the drought.

Partial impacts of the proclamation:

- Requests that all urban water users immediately increase their water conservation activities in an effort to reduce their individual water use by 20 percent
- Directs the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to join with other appropriate agencies to launch a statewide water conservation campaign calling for all Californians to immediately decrease their water use
- Directs state agencies to immediately implement a water use reduction plan and take immediate water conservation actions and requests that federal and local agencies also implement water use reduction plans for facilities within their control
- Directs DWR by March 30, 2009 to provide an updated report on the state's drought conditions and water availability.

If emergency conditions have not been sufficiently mitigated, the Governor will consider additional steps which could include:

- Mandatory water rationing;
- Mandatory reductions in water use;
- Reoperation of major reservoirs in the state;
- Additional regulatory relief or permit streamlining as allowed under the Emergency Services Act;
- And other actions necessary to prevent, remedy or mitigate the effects of the extreme drought conditions.

**To read the Press Release and Proclamation by the Governor click [here](#).**

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