



## LONG BEACH WATER DEPARTMENT

The Standard in Water Conservation &  
Environmental Stewardship

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Bad News for State's Water Supply Future** Dry March/April leaves snowpack well below normal for the year; State snowpack announcement expected tomorrow

LONG BEACH, CA - The Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners are again calling for more aggressive action from southern California on the eve of the California Department of Water Resources May 1st Sierra snowpack survey announcement. Tomorrow, it will be announced that Sierra snowpack is now roughly **67 percent of normal** for the year, following a dry March and April.

Just two months ago, statewide snowpack was 116 percent of normal. Additionally, Lake Oroville, the primary reservoir for the State Water Project, is lower today than any April 30th since 1991. In fact, the volume of water stored in our most critical supply reservoirs is, collectively, 2.4 million-acre-feet (28 percent) less today than at this time last year. Meanwhile, the State Water Project allocation (the amount of water State allots to the San Francisco Bay Area, the Central Valley and to southern California cities) remains at a meager 35 percent, meaning southern California is, today, expected to receive only 35 percent of normal imported water deliveries from the California Bay Delta. The State Water Project allocation has not been this low since 1991, at the end of the 1987-1991 drought. Last year, State Water Project deliveries were around 60 percent.

"Once again, we call on the Metropolitan Water District and the southern California water supply community to join Long Beach and take a more aggressive, long-term, public stance on the need to immediately implement extraordinary conservation measures," stated [Bill Townsend](#), President of the Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners. "We continue to deplete our State's water reserves at an alarming rate," said [Kevin Wattier](#), General Manager of the Long Beach Water Department. "Bold action is needed now by water agencies throughout southern California to reduce demands on our rapidly depleting water resources."

In March, during a joint Senate Committee hearing held in Sacramento, Roger Patterson, Assistant General Manager with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), read a prepared statement into public record, stating that his agency "**is rapidly depleting its existing water supply reserves with no relief in sight.**" The MWD wholesales imported water supplies to communities throughout southern California, who are dependent on imported supplies. Fifty percent of Long Beach's water supply is purchased from the MWD.

In June of 2007, the Long Beach Board of Water Commissioners implemented extraordinary conservation measures, including enforcement of new citywide restrictions on certain outdoor water uses. These efforts have achieved an additional 7 percent reduction in water use citywide through March of this year.

The [Long Beach Water Department](#) is an urban, southern California retail water supply agency and the standard in water conservation and environmental stewardship.

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