

**SAVE OUR
WATER**



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**California and San Bernardino Leaders Highlight Collaborative Water Conservation Efforts,
Urge Residents to Do Their Part**

State and local leaders gathered to discuss community-wide water savings amid extreme drought

San Bernardino, CA – Convening in an area particularly vulnerable to extreme drought, state and local leaders gathered on Monday at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) to highlight community conservation efforts and encourage residents to double down on water saving actions to help stretch the state’s water supply. While the region was one of many in California to receive some rainfall over the past few days, leaders participating in the event stressed the continued need to make conservation a way of life as the state braces for a possible fourth dry year.

Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh praised the regional water agencies working together with the community to address the impacts of extreme drought and strengthen water conservation in San Bernardino.

“Water is an essential source for life that we must not take for granted. Our local water agencies have all been tireless champions ensuring our region has the proper water infrastructure to serve our communities while stimulating the local economy, creating jobs and protecting our environment,” said Senator Ochoa Bogh. “I look forward to working collaboratively locally and statewide to ensure residential and commercial customers across the Inland Empire have enough water to meet their demand now and in the near future.”

California State Water Resources Control Board Vice Chair Dorene D’Adamo joined Senator Ochoa Bogh in thanking San Bernardino leaders for conserving, while highlighting state actions underway to prepare for a more water resilient future for all.

"With California potentially moving into a fourth year of drought, and the state entering a new era of aridification, it is encouraging to see that San Bernardino, like the rest of the state, is trending in the right direction with water conservation, though there is still much work to do," said Vice Chair D'Adamo. "Today, I had very productive conversations with local water systems where I had the opportunity to learn more about their management of groundwater supplies and innovative, large-scale groundwater basin recharge efforts. These are encouraging efforts being made over the long term to boost water supply and align with Governor Newsom's Water Supply Strategy."

On August 11, Governor Newsom released "[California's Water Supply Strategy, Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future](#)," a plan outlining actions needed now to invest in new water sources and transform water management statewide. In the San Bernardino Valley alone, the state has already invested \$187 million for projects that will enhance the region's ability to build drought resilience.

CSUSB President Tomás D. Morales also emphasized the university's commitment to serve as a leader in the community, setting an example for other residents on water conservation.

"Now is the time for the people of California to adapt to a new approach to water use," said President Morales. "CSUSB is fully committed to doing our part not only to reduce water usage on our San Bernardino and Palm Desert campuses, but also to partner with the region and the state to come up with solutions to ensure our state's resilience in the years to come."

CSUSB has been a partner among the San Bernardino community in researching ways to build drought resilience. CSUSB is an active member of the [Headwaters Resilience Partnership](#), a collaborative team led by the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District aimed at identifying solutions to confront the worsening challenges with water supply. The university also hosts a [Water Resources Institute](#) with a vision of sustaining water resources through sound research, analysis and public policy collaboration.

Local water agencies have been instrumental in providing resources to residents to help drive conservation. Regional water leaders highlighted existing partnerships and resources aimed at helping San Bernardino residents reduce their water use.

"As a regional water provider, the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District works to manage supplies both locally and statewide in order to ensure long term water resiliency for the communities we serve," commented Heather Dyer, CEO/General Manager of SBVMWD. "We need investments in local projects and water use efficiency, while also developing a statewide water supply vision for the future. We're committed to doing our part to move all three components forward."

"The California drought touches everyone in the state. In the city of San Bernardino, residents have worked hard to mitigate the drier climate by reducing water use 20% in recent years," said Miguel Guerrero, General Manager, San Bernardino Municipal Water Department. "The challenge for everyone moving forward calls for continued regional collaboration. Local water agencies in this basin have been working together to enhance water resiliency by securing water supplies in other ways including recycling and efficient groundwater management."

Save Our Water encourages Californians to check with their local water agency to learn more about rebates and resources to help residents make water-smart updates inside and outside their home, including updating outdoor spaces with water-wise landscaping. For more water saving tips and resources, including drought tolerant landscaping ideas, visit [SaveOurWater.com](#).

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- **The State Water Resources Control Board** works to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.
- **Save Our Water** is California's statewide water conservation program. Started in 2009 by the California Department of Water Resources, Save Our Water's goal is to make water conservation a daily habit among Californians. The program reaches millions of Californians each year through partnerships with local water agencies and other community-based organizations, social marketing efforts, paid and earned media and event sponsorships. Please visit SaveOurWater.com and follow @saveourwater on Twitter and Instagram and @SaveOurWaterCA on Facebook.