

California Department of Water Resources



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DWR PROGRAM ENCOURAGES VOLUNTARY WATER PURCHASES

SACRAMENTO---During 2001, significant areas of California are experiencing water deficiencies. While most regions will have sufficient supplies, some areas may experience very significant shortages.

To reduce the possibility of adverse economic impacts and hardship associated with water shortages, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is taking preventive measures, in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau), by facilitating the purchase of additional supplies by water agencies in short supply for their use this year. These measures include creation of a water purchase program for 2001.

Currently, federal Central Valley Project allocations for some water users are at 15 percent and most State Water Project allocations are at 25 percent of the amounts requested. This is creating a demand for more water in some areas.

"DWR will work with the Northern California Water Association, its member agencies and other local leaders to assure that local interests are served and that local water needs are met before regions are asked to provide supplies for others," said Thomas M. Hannigan, DWR Director.

Prospective sellers should send proposals to Dave Marty at the State Water Project Analysis Office, P.O. Box 942836, Sacramento, CA 94236-0001. They must indicate how much water they have available, the source, and

the price per acre-foot, their address and phone number.

The following principles have been developed for this year to assure cooperation among DWR, the Bureau and local agencies in regions able to make dry-year supplies available:

1. **Local Leadership.** DWR recognizes the importance of local leadership in making decisions to better manage the State's water resources. Accordingly, we will work cooperatively with local water associations, their member agencies, and other leaders in the Sacramento Valley and other regions to assure that local interests have the opportunity to manage their resources in a manner that fully meets local objectives.
2. **Assuring Adequate Local Supplies.** Before regions are asked to make supplies available for others, there must be assurance that local water needs are being met. Accordingly, DWR will work with local water associations and other local interests in the Sacramento Valley and other regions to assure that supplies are available to meet local needs in those regions.
3. **Locally Developed Programs.** Strategies for making supplies available must be locally driven and developed in cooperation with local public leaders. DWR, water sellers and water purchasers will respect the right of individual local water districts to determine the best way in which local districts can make water available for local, regional, and statewide use. Such local programs shall be in full compliance with all applicable laws, including local ordinances. California law recognizes transfers as a beneficial use of water and protects the underlying water rights involved in a transfer.
4. **Third Party Impacts.** Water management strategies developed as part of this program must be designed to avoid third party impacts. Such strategies shall consider geographically diverse and balanced programs. The program will establish effective mechanisms to assure that any net third party impacts are identified and addressed. Administration of these mechanisms shall be at the local level and under local control.
5. **Environmental Protection.** Actions to develop additional supplies for water users will be implemented in a manner that will not interfere with ongoing environmental protection and restoration programs including for example the CALFED Environmental Water Account, Ecosystem Restoration Program as well as any local actions to protect environmental resources.
6. **Statewide Perspective.** In fulfilling its obligations, DWR recognizes that it must represent the interests of all parts of the State, both those areas needing additional supplies and those that can make supplies available.

The SWP provides supplemental water to 29 California public agencies, meeting at least the partial needs of 23 million Californians and helping irrigate 1 million acres of farmland.

An acre-foot of water contains 325,900 gallons and is considered enough to meet the needs of five people for a year.

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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