



WATER SUPPLY 2021

1. Why is PWD implementing Stage 1 of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan?

With two consecutive dry winters in California, it is important that everyone starts using water efficiently. PWD has implemented Stage 1 of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) to prepare for the possibility of a dry year in 2022.

2. Does PWD have enough water for its customers this year?

PWD is using all of its resources to ensure that there will be enough water for customers this year. The current water demand estimates indicate that there will be a sufficient supply from both surface water and groundwater for 2021. Since supply figures can fluctuate, customers are always encouraged to conserve. Even if there is enough, any ounce of water saved this year will add to the supply for next year.

3. Where does PWD's water come from and where is the shortage occurring?

PWD receives its water from three sources – State Water Project (SWP), Littlerock Reservoir and local groundwater wells. We are currently experiencing a shortage in the water we receive from SWP and the reservoir. Water from SWP comes from the Sierra Nevada snowpack, and this year's numbers have been extremely low. This year PWD is only receiving 5% of its annual allocation. During wet years, allocations have been as high as 85%. Also adding to the deficit is the lower supply of water at Littlerock Reservoir. There has been little rainfall and snow locally, so runoff from the San Gabriel Mountains into the reservoir has been limited.

4. How has PWD prepared for a drought?

To prepare for a possible drought, PWD has engaged in programs that saved previous year's SWP water for use in dry years like 2021. PWD has also activated its Drought Management Task Force. The team's objectives are to ensure that there will be enough water for customers, encourage increased conservation, share drought messages and adapt to state-mandated actions. Also, by enacting Stage 1 of the WSCP, we are taking a proactive approach. We are asking our customers to be critical partners in saving water today so that less drastic measures are needed tomorrow.



Frequently Asked Questions

5. Is our water supply similar to what it was during the last drought in 2014-16?

Fortunately, our water supply is in better shape than it was during the last drought. Littlerock Reservoir has more water than it did at the time Stage 1 was declared in 2014. PWD also has struck water supply contracts and secured water through water exchange programs that are helping us meet demand.

6. How can my family and I be more efficient with our water use?

Everyone can be more efficient at using water by always being aware of how much water you are letting run out of the tap. As a family, make sure your dishwasher and washing machine are full before running them. Much water can be saved by turning off the faucet when you are brushing your teeth, shaving and soaping the dishes. Taking shorter showers is always an excellent way to reduce water use. For outdoors, check to make sure you are not overwatering your lawn and plants. Using a weather-based irrigation controller is a great way not to overwater. Finally, fixing leaks indoors and outdoors will help conserve water.

7. What programs are offered by PWD to help customers use water efficiently?

PWD has numerous rebate programs to help customers save water and save money. We currently offer rebates for high-efficiency/dual flush toilets, high-efficiency clothes washers, weather-based irrigation controllers and rotating sprinkler nozzles. There also is the Water-wise Landscape Conversion Program that offers rebates of up to \$2,000. If you need assistance with checking your home's water efficiency, PWD offers a free Residential Water Survey. For more information on these programs, visit palmdalewater.org or call the Water-use Efficiency team at 661-947-4111 ext. 5943.

8. Does PWD have long-term plans to combat water shortages?

Planning for water shortages and future water demands is a responsibility PWD takes on during its day-to-day operations regardless of current water situations. We cannot control the weather, so we have planned for dry years by securing water through exchange agreements with other water districts. Infrastructure is important for water reliability, and PWD constantly maintains our well sites to ensure the accessibility of groundwater. In addition, we will continue removing sediment from Littlerock Reservoir to increase capacity and are investing in groundwater recharge projects. Part of our long-term plan includes educating, encouraging and joining our customers in conserving water each and every day.