



EMPLOYMENT &  
HUMAN SERVICES

## MEMORANDUM

Kathy Gallagher, Director

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To: Code 2A, All Staff

Date: June 10, 2021

From: Cora Young, Emergency & Safety Coordinator

Subject: The Drought Is On

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This past winter our state experienced its second dry winter in a row. This is only five years from our most recent, historically notable drought event that spanned from 2012 to 2016. Last month, our Governor declared a State of Emergency and issued a drought declaration in 41 of California's 58 counties, including Contra Costa, and covering 30 percent of our state's population.

According to the United States Drought Monitor map, the entire San Francisco Bay Area is experiencing an "extreme drought." Being in this category while entering the month of June is alarming. This is a wake-up call reaffirming the heightened risk of a potentially catastrophic wildfire season.

At EHSD, you can do your part in conserving water in the workplace by:

- Using lower flow water pressure at the sink by only opening the faucet part-way
- Turning off the water faucet while scrubbing hands with soap and when washing dishes before turning water back on for rinsing
- Double-checking to make sure the faucet is not dripping after use
- Applying water reuse practices such as using leftover drinking water to irrigate indoor plants

To encourage California residents to conserve, the state launched the Save Our Water website (<https://saveourwater.com/en/>) with tips on embracing wise water usage as a daily practice.

Additionally, Contra Costa County has partnered with several regional water agencies and conservation organizations to launch the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge, which details actions that can be taken at home to conserve energy, water, and save money! You can sign up to join the challenge, find tips on being Water Wise at home, and how to save money doing it at <https://cleanercontracosta.org>.