



M E M O R A N D U M

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To: Code 2A, All Staff

Date: December 3, 2021

From: Cora Young, Emergency & Safety Coordinator

Subject: Extreme Drought Conditions

As we enter the holiday season, please remember that we are in a state of emergency due to extreme drought conditions.

All 58 counties in California are now under a drought emergency proclamation. The State's call to conserve water consumption by 15% earlier this summer was met by a meager 3.4% average reduction in consumption statewide.

According to the [Contra Costa Water District](#) (CCWD), during this time of year, the average household uses about 150 gallons per day. Add in some house guests or family visiting for the holiday's and that consumption rate will rapidly climb. Here are a few tips from CCWD to conserve water during the holidays:

- **Turn off the tap:** Stop the flow of water if doing dishes by hand. Instead, scrape waste off your plates and fill the sink with soapy water to use.
- **Fixate on fixtures:** Upgrade common fixtures like faucet aerators and showerheads. These items are free at CCWD's main office and can add up to big savings on your water bill!
- **Run full loads:** Whether doing the dishes or washing your clothes, reduce the number of cycles by only running full loads.
- **Slow thaw:** Thawing foods in the sink takes a lot of hot water. Instead, let your frozen foods thaw overnight in the fridge. You'll save water and energy!
- **Keep it cool:** Your guests may prefer cold drinking water. Keep a pitcher of water in the fridge to avoid running the tap until the water is cool.
- **Time out:** Don't forget to adjust your outdoor water use for winter. Be sure your irrigation system is turned off and only water manually if needed.