



**Statement by Nicole Sandkulla, BAWSCA Chief Executive Officer, Before the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) About the Adoption of a Systemwide Water Use Reduction of 11%, in Alignment with State Requirements and SFPUC's Water Shortage Contingency Plan's Shortage Level 2**

**May 24, 2022**

Good afternoon, President Moran and Members of the Commission:

BAWSCA supports the proposed Commission action today to adopt a systemwide water use reduction of 11%, in alignment with State requirements and SFPUC's Water Shortage Contingency Plan's Shortage Level 2.

In accordance with the agreements for how water from the San Francisco Regional (Hetch Hetchy) Water System (System) is shared, your action today will result in the BAWSCA agencies and their customers needing to achieve water use reductions from 7 to 34%.

The Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) strongly supports Governor Newsom's urgent request yesterday for immediate and additional voluntary actions to make greater water-use reductions. Today, BAWSCA will suggest that its 26-member water agencies in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties ask their 1.8 million residents, over 40,000 businesses, and hundreds of communities to consider additional, reasonable reductions in their already very low water use; one of the lowest in California.

BAWSCA's FY 2022-23 Work Plan is focused on water conservation, which as well as water supply, is part of our strong and descriptive name, which the California legislature wisely gave us twenty years ago. Therefore, conservation is a fundamental part of our mandate and strategy. This is especially important for us now, as we embrace and support Governor Newsom's request that water use be reduced by at least 15 percent.

This is a very difficult target for our member agencies and their customers to meet, and they haven't met it yet, because they already and responsibly have one of the lowest residential per-capita water-use levels in California of 66 gallons per person per day. Yet all of us are striving vigorously to meet the Governor's target, and the associated request by the SFPUC for further water use reductions. BAWSCA and its member agencies will continue our efforts in working with our customers this summer to achieve these critical water savings.

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