



# RCWD News Release

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**DATE:** March 12, 2015

**RELEASE:** Immediate

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**SUBJECT:** *Rancho California Water District Adopts Updated Water Shortage Contingency Plan and Declares a Stage 3a Water Supply Warning*

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Temecula, CA March 12, 2015 –

Rancho California Water District (RCWD/District) adopted an updated Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Plan) and declared a Stage 3a Water Supply Warning at its Board of Directors (Board) meeting today, March 12, 2015. The Plan, which is required by law, provides how the District will respond to reduced water supply conditions for its customers.

The Board's declaration of Stage 3a of the Plan is appropriate considering current drought and water supply constraints along with meeting the State Water Resources Control Board Emergency Regulations.

Locally, RCWD has had three increasingly dry years which affects our groundwater basin. RCWD's imported water supply comes from Northern California and the Colorado River and is also greatly affected by the drought. Northern California experienced a brief period of wet weather in early February, but the Sierra Nevada snowpack remains near historic lows as the drought rolls into a fourth year amid record-warm temperatures. The

Sierra snowpack, which typically provides about 30% of the state's water when it melts in the spring, was at just 19% of average statewide for the date as of Feb. 24, 2015. According to the U.S. Drought monitor, 93% of California remained in "severe drought" as of Feb. 17, 2015.

Stage 3a does not propose decreased water budgets, however does have mandatory water use efficiency requirements. During Stage 3a no variances or adjustments will be approved for filling swimming pools, establishing or expanding landscape area, leaks not repaired within 48 hours, and existing outdoor water budgets. Fines for non-compliance are imposed. For a complete list of Stage 3a requirements please visit our website at [www.RanchoWater.com](http://www.RanchoWater.com)

The District is requesting all customers use water wisely and efficiently. The District can assist customers with this through no cost on site water use efficiency evaluations. The evaluation will help customers learn additional ways to be efficient at their service location and will also provide available rebate information to customers.

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***Formed in 1965, Rancho California Water District supplies an area consisting of approximately 150 square miles. The District serves the area known as Temecula/Rancho California, which includes the City of Temecula, parts of Murrieta, and other contiguous lands. The District is separated into two divisions: the Santa Rosa Division generally west of I-15 and Rancho Division generally east of I-15. The District currently provides sewer service to the Cal Oaks and Bear Creek areas.***

*"The mission of the Rancho California Water District is to deliver reliable, high-quality water, wastewater and reclamation services to its customers and communities in a prudent and sustainable manner."*