

# NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER  
**PAUL KORETZ**  
FIFTH DISTRICT



For Immediate Release

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## LA COUNCIL CONCERN GROWS OVER DROUGHT EMERGENCY

*Meanwhile, Int'l Community "Cops out" at Glasgow COP26*

November 10, 2021 -- LOS ANGELES, CA - Drought legislation by City Councilmember Paul Koretz (CD5) received a spotlight today as the General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District and the Head of the LADWP Water System both testified to the worsening "drought emergency" from the high Sierras to the Rockies and gave recommendations for conservation and available financial incentives to reduce water use.

"The international community is once again copping out at COP26," said Councilmember Paul Koretz, about inaction at the Glasgow COP26 Climate Summit. "While they go, in the words of Greta Thunberg, 'blah, blah, blah,' we must address our local drought and extreme heat emergencies. As we work to conserve water to protect against the drought, we must continue to water our trees to protect against the heat."

"Yesterday's declaration of a drought emergency by the Metropolitan Water District reinforces the need for all of us to take meaningful steps to curb our water use and increase conservation efforts," said Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, Chair of the Council's Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice and River Committee. "While Los Angeles is leading the entire state and nation in local water conservation efforts, we all must do more. Today's joint report from the LADWP and the MWD makes clear the devastating impact of climate change in California - low rainfall and high heat days - while focusing on steps that each one of us can take. The realities of climate change are real, and we all need to do our part."

"Since 2019, California has experienced two of the worst drought years in its history," said Councilmember Paul Krekorian. "Exacerbated by climate change, extended drought conditions pose an immediate, wide-ranging threat to the environment and infrastructure of our region. As we work to mitigate our effect on climate change - including through the LA100 plan to achieve 100% clean energy by 2035 - we must also take actions to conserve precious resources."

"We're reaching uncharted territory here and we need all Southern Californians to be part of the solution," Metropolitan General Manager Adel Hagekhalil said. "We need everyone to take action to reduce their water use immediately. This drought emergency declaration helps us all move in the same direction."

Anselmo Collins, Senior Assistant General Manager of LADWP's Water System said, if everyone cuts back on their water use now, that can add up to meaningful savings. "The drought that we are currently facing is serious. We urge everyone to take a closer look at how they are using water inside and outside their home because the water we save now is water in our reservoirs for next spring and summer when demand typically goes up. We are also closely monitoring supply conditions and may call for additional measures to step up conservation, should that become necessary."

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“Despite recent rains to the north, climate change has made drought permanent in Los Angeles, making our water efficiency programs and conservation incentives essential,” said **Conner Everts, Executive Director, Southern California Watershed Alliance**. “We can do more with less, as we always have in this remarkable city.”

“We must recognize that drought is, sadly, the new normal,” said **Bruce Reznik, Executive Director, Los Angeles Waterkeeper**. “We call on the City, County, MWD and all our water agencies to expedite and maximize efforts to **Reduce** water waste through aggressive conservation; **Reuse** treated urban and stormwater runoff through multi-benefit, nature-based projects; **Recycle** purified wastewater to augment our depleted aquifers; and **Restore** contaminated groundwater. This ‘4R’ approach will make the region more water secure & climate resilient.”

## LA DWP’s Water Conservation Ordinance:

Since 2009, LADWP has remained at Phase 2 of the city's [Water Conservation Ordinance](#), limiting outdoor watering with sprinklers to three days a week. People with odd-numbered street addresses may water on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; those with even-numbered addresses may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

## Additional ongoing, prohibited uses include:

- Sprinklers with non-conserving nozzles can only run for up to 8 minutes per station; conserving nozzles can run for 15 minutes per station.
- No watering during rain or within 48 hours following rain.
- No watering with sprinklers between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. regardless of the water day.
- No water runoff onto streets, driveways, and gutters.
- No washing of any hard surfaces such as sidewalks, walkways, driveways, or parking areas using water, except for health and safety needs.
- Hand watering with a self-closing shut-off nozzle on the hose is permitted any day of the week before 9:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m.
- All leaks must be repaired in a timely manner.
- Washing vehicles is permitted using a hose with a self-closing water shut-off nozzle.

## Conservation Rebates (not comprehensive but the more popular ones, see website link for comprehensive):

To help customers save water and reduce their water bills, LADWP continues to offer a wide array of rebates and incentive programs that encourage water use efficiency for residents and businesses. Through the various LADWP rebate and incentive programs, customers are able to continue saving water while lowering their utility bill. Incentives include a \$400 high-efficiency clothes washer rebate, a \$3-per-square-foot turf replacement rebate for residential and commercial customers, and technical assistance program incentive of up to \$2 million for commercial customers to perform customized water saving improvements at their facilities.

Visit [www.ladwp.com/save](http://www.ladwp.com/save) for more information.