



# ACWA MEMBERS ACHIEVING DROUGHT RESILIENCE

ACWA member agencies throughout California continue stepping up to address the challenges of the immediate drought while preparing for long-term climate resilience by urging conservation, utilizing lessons learned from previous droughts, investing in water supply resilience and educating customers about using water wisely. Below are a few examples of how member agencies continue responding and preparing for these climatic extremes.

## Metropolitan Increases Call For Conservation With \$10.5 Million Investment

With California in a third year of severe drought, Metropolitan expanded its call for residents and businesses to use water as efficiently as possible to help ensure the region has the water it needs. Metropolitan's Board of Directors in March approved entering a \$10.5 million agreement to expand advertising and outreach efforts to increase public awareness of the drought and the need for conservation. The multilingual campaign will bring the conservation message to radio, digital, social media and outdoor advertising platforms through a three-year agreement for media placement services with a minority-owned, small business advertising agency based in Los Angeles.



## El Dorado Water Agency Receives Grant to Support Water Supply Forecasting

El Dorado Water Agency (EDWA) was awarded a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects. EDWA's proposed project, "An Intelligent Hydroclimatic Information System for Water and Power Management in the American River Basin," will provide critical real-time data and support water supply forecasting needed to help the region better prepare for, identify, and respond to drought. EDWA estimates that the improved data reporting will increase the forecast reliability and availability of up to 18,000 acre-feet of runoff in a typical water year from the American River Basin.



## Soquel Creek Water District Breaks Ground on Advanced Water Purification System

Soquel Creek Water District's Pure Water Soquel (PWS) is a groundwater replenishment and seawater intrusion prevention project that will play a critical component in creating regional drought and climate resilience. Purified water produced at this new facility will be sent to seawater intrusion prevention/recharge wells to replenish the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin, which is the sole source of water supply for district customers and other residents in the mid-county. The state has designated this basin as critically over-drafted, resulting in a shortage of drinking water and verified seawater contamination of the aquifer at several locations. Recharging the basin with purified, clean, safe water, will create and maintain a barrier against further seawater contamination, and provide a high-quality, reliable, and sustainable water supply for generations to come in the Santa Cruz mid-county region. PWS construction began in December 2021 and it is expected to be completed and operational by 2023.



## Rancho Water Continues CropSWAP Conversion Program

Rancho California Water District's agricultural crop conversion program, CropSWAP (Sustainable Water for Agricultural Production), plays a significant role in lessening the demand on imported water - an important mission given the ongoing long-term drought conditions in California. The program mitigates imported water demand from both the Bay-Delta and the Colorado River to reduce overall water demand from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The program also improves the region's economic viability of local agriculture through conversion to lower water use crops. Twenty-nine crop conversion projects have been fully completed and operational for more than one year. These projects represent 156 acres of converted crops, have increased on-farm irrigation efficiency by over 20% on average, and have resulted in actual water savings of 558 acre feet in their first year of operation. Over a 10-year period, it is expected that water savings will be in excess of 5,000 acre feet for these participants. More conversion projects are currently underway with water savings that will be realized in the coming years.





# ACWA MEMBERS ACHIEVING DROUGHT RESILIENCE

ACWA member agencies throughout California continue stepping up to address the challenges of the immediate drought while preparing for long-term climate resilience by urging conservation, utilizing lessons learned from previous droughts, investing in water supply resilience and educating customers about using water wisely. Below are a few examples of how member agencies continue responding and preparing for these climatic extremes.

## Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Revamps Lawn Replacement Program

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency's (SCV Water) revamped Lawn Replacement Program (LRP) gives homeowners, businesses, HOAs, and large landscape customers more opportunities to save water and money. With the new and improved LRP, customers will receive \$3 per square foot of grass removed and replaced with water-efficient landscaping and have more incentives and rebates to help complete their projects. Additionally, customers have more flexibility to mix, match and stack incentives and additional rebates, and now smaller projects and more project areas are eligible so that more people can participate. This new program will not only help SCV water customers save water and money, but also helps make a positive difference in the sustainability of its community.



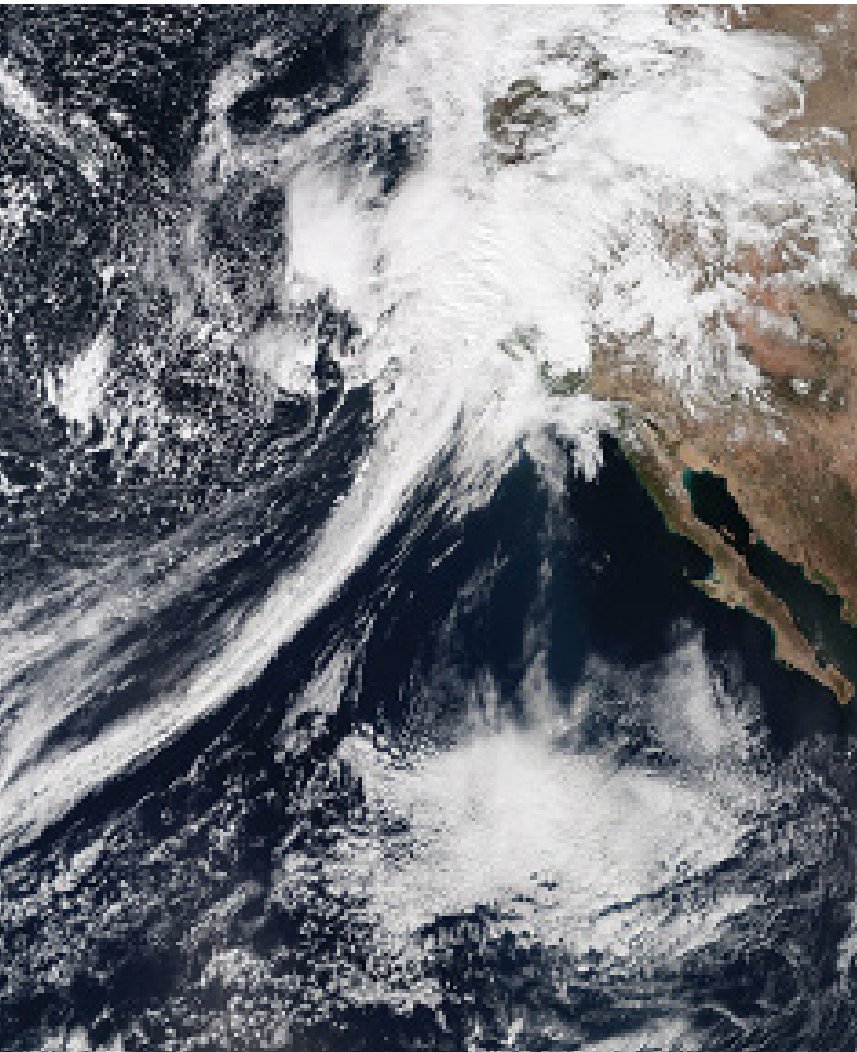
## Inland Empire Water Agencies Partner to Capture More Stormwater

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Western Municipal Water District, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District and Riverside Public Utilities have partnered on the first phase of new stormwater capture facilities downstream of Seven Oaks Dam in Mentone. These Inland Empire water agencies rely on local rainfall for roughly 75 percent of their water supply, and import the rest from the State Water Project and other sources. When completed, the new stormwater facilities will divert as much as 250,000 gallons of water every minute, up to 80,000 acre-feet of stormwater in a single year – enough for 80,000 families.

## Turlock Irrigation District to Pilot Water-Energy Nexus Project

Turlock Irrigation District's (TID) Project Nexus is the first project in the United States that will build solar panel canopies over a portion of existing canals to operate and research a truly innovative, multi-benefit, water-energy nexus project that can further California's push toward water and climate resiliency.

Project Nexus, a public-private-academic partnership among TID, the Department of Water Resources, Solar AquaGrid, and the University of California Merced, could contribute to a more water resilient future for California and position the state to meet its ambitious clean energy goals. The project will assess reduction of water evaporation resulting from mid-day shade and wind mitigation; improve water quality through reduced vegetative growth; reduce in-canal maintenance through reduced vegetative growth; and generate renewable electricity. Groundbreaking on Project Nexus is scheduled for this fall, with project completion expected in 2024 at multiple locations throughout the TID service territory in California's Central Valley.



## Benefits of FIRO at Lake Mendocino Confirmed

Sonoma Water collaborated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego on the Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) concept. FIRO is a reservoir-operations strategy that uses data from watershed monitoring and improved weather and hydrologic forecasting to help water managers selectively retain or release water from reservoirs in a manner that can adapt to weather extremes.

FIRO was demonstrated successfully during the course of two very different water years at Lake Mendocino—Water Year 2019 was a relatively wet year, while Water Year 2020 was the third driest year over a 127-year record. In both years, FIRO increased water supply benefits and managed flood risks. In Water Year 2020, FIRO enabled a 19% increase in water storage, totaling more than 11,000 acre-feet, by the end of winter. The benefits of FIRO using existing science and technology are significant. With further improvements in forecasting skill achieved through continued investment in research, the benefits of FIRO will continue to increase into the future.