

RESOLUTION NO. 07-21-1136

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
ACTIVATING SHORTAGE LEVEL 1 OF THE WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN**

WHEREAS, West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) is a wholesale water agency that provides imported drinking water to nearly one million residents living in 17 cities and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2019-2020, approximately 75% of the retail water demand in West Basin's service area was met with imported water supplies; and

WHEREAS, California is facing a second consecutive year of increasingly severe drought conditions throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, record high temperatures and below average snowpack levels have produced critically low levels of runoff in Northern California and the Colorado River Watershed, both of which serve as key imported water sources for Southern California; and

WHEREAS, on July 20, 2021, all of Los Angeles County was classified as being subject to "extreme" drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2021, Governor Newsom issued a proclamation that a state of emergency exists in a total of 41 out of 58 counties in California due to ongoing severe drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2021, Governor Newsom issued a subsequent proclamation of a state of emergency due to drought conditions in nine additional counties, increasing the total number of counties in California under existing drought emergencies to 50; and

WHEREAS, on July 8, 2021, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order calling on all Californians to voluntarily reduce water use by 15% from 2020 levels; and

WHEREAS, annual retail water demand in the West Basin service area has remained at significantly reduced levels compared to annual water demand levels observed during the previous statewide drought of 2014-2016; and

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2021, the West Basin Board of Directors approved a Water Shortage Contingency Plan to formally plan for and address future water shortages; and

WHEREAS, the Water Shortage Contingency Plan includes six standard water shortage levels, as defined by the state of California, corresponding to shortage conditions of up to and greater than 50%; and

WHEREAS, each shortage level aligns with defined shortage response actions that West Basin may implement to resolve any existing or expected supply-demand gaps created by a shortage condition; and

WHEREAS, the Water Shortage Contingency Plan also includes an adopted set of communication protocols that were developed to provide strategic outreach and communications activities that can be implemented in an adaptive and incremental manner, as needed; and

WHEREAS, based on the communication protocols provided in the Water Shortage Contingency Plan, West Basin has developed an updated Drought Communications Plan that will be utilized to support West Basin's efforts to achieve voluntary water use reductions in the service area; and

WHEREAS, in activating Shortage Level 1, West Basin intends to focus its short-term actions on voluntary measures only, reserving mandatory measures for a later time based on activation of higher levels of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan; and

WHEREAS, initiation of Shortage Level 1 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan will demonstrate that West Basin recognizes the serious nature of the current drought and supports the Governor's call for voluntary water use reductions; and

WHEREAS, initiation of Shortage Level 1 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan further emphasizes West Basin's continued commitment to ensure safe and reliable supplies to the communities it serves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the West Basin Municipal Water District that, on July 26, 2021 the District hereby activates Shortage Level 1 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District shall implement a district-wide Drought Communications Plan in order to support voluntary water use reductions in the West Basin service area, thereby improving regional water reliability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Directors of the West Basin Municipal Water District is hereby authorized to sign the resolution, thereby activating Shortage Level 1 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED on the 26th day, July 2021.


President

ATTEST

Secretary