



Water Shortage Contingency Plan Fact Sheet

1. What is a Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP)?

Mojave Water Agency (MWA) is a water wholesaler that uses strategic planning and sound science to ensure that the water basins in its 4,900 square-mile service area remain a reliable, healthy source of water. The WSCP is part of the Agency's Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) to respond to water shortages in the MWA service area as they may arise.

2. Why is the WSCP Stage 2 being put into effect?

According to the California Department of Water Resources, our state is in the 11th year of a historic drought cycle with no reprieve in sight. Implementing this plan is vital to ensuring that our region continues to have enough water to meet basic human needs like clean drinking water, irrigation to cultivate food, water to combat catastrophic wildfires, and more.

3. Is there enough water in the Mojave Water Agency's service area?

To put it simply, yes...but only if we continue the conservation habits that desert residents are accustomed to. Since the Agency was formed in 1960, our mission has been to: *Collaboratively manage groundwater basins sustainably, import water responsibly, and address risks proactively using sound science* for times precisely like these! This is a formal way of saying that Mojave Water Agency monitors our service area's water reserves and banks water in the ground for local use. When those reserves get low, we purchase and import water from Northern California through the State Water Project. Additionally, we support water retailers and non-profit partners in their conservation education efforts because we are all in this together.

4. This area has always been dry. Why is there a water shortage now?

Although our area is accustomed to having little rainfall, much of our groundwater and imported water comes from the storm runoff from local mountains and the Sierra Nevada snowpack melt. Unfortunately, these areas have experienced uncharacteristically low levels of rainfall, decimating the snowpack and reducing the amount of runoff that reaches our local aquifer.

5. Do we need to panic?

No, we need to continue conserve! Everyone should be mindful of how much water we are using. Be conscientious about every drop that leaves the tap by reducing outdoor watering, turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth, only running full loads of laundry or dishes, take short showers, and fixing any leaks.

6. What conservation resources are available?

MWA partners with a coalition of local agencies, called the Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation (AWAC), that is committed to achieving conservation goals through education, awareness events, drought tolerant landscape resources, and rebate programs or grants when funds are available. For more information on AWAC visit <https://www.mojavewater.org/conservation/drought-response-and-resiliency/>