

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-12-5**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY\*, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, RECOGNIZING THE STATE AND REGIONAL DROUGHT EMERGENCY AND ACTIVATING THE AGENCY'S WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN AT LEVEL 2: WATER SHORTAGE WARNING**

**WHEREAS**, the Inland Empire Utilities Agency\* (Agency) is a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan); and

**WHEREAS**, Metropolitan's two main sources of imported water, the Colorado River and Northern California via the State Water Project (SWP), both face continuing and heightened drought conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, warm temperatures and extremely dry soils have reduced the expected annual runoff water from the Upper Colorado River Basin snowpack and northern Sierra snowpack into reservoirs; and

**WHEREAS**, Metropolitan's State Water Project Supplies have been and are being curtailed, with an anticipated initial 2022 Table A allocation of zero percent, and current projections indicate that the final allocation will likely only reach 25 percent under a normal-weather scenario; and

**WHEREAS**, reducing demands in SWP dependent areas by 15 percent affords Metropolitan the level of conservation necessary to manage reserves through a low initial SWP allocation and allows for the 2022 water year hydrology to fully develop prior to the implementation of mandatory conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, due to water quality constraints, the Agency is only able to deliver SWP imported water from Metropolitan to its retail water agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency's retail water agencies use the Agency's supply of SWP imported water to meet up to 30 percent of their total normal year demands, with the balance of the retail water agencies' demands being met by local groundwater and surface water, water recycling, and water use efficiency; and

**WHEREAS**, since January 2021, Metropolitan has implemented numerous drought actions to adjust its distribution system operations to minimize SWP use and draw more heavily on the Colorado River and stored supplies; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 21, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a State of Drought Emergency for the two counties within the Russian River watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 10, 2021, a second proclamation expanded the drought emergency to an additional 39 counties; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 8, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-10-21, which called for all Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15 percent compared to 2020 levels and the Governor extended the Proclamation of a State of Emergency and added nine additional counties; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 15, 2021, the Agency adopted Resolution No. 2021-9-7, in Support of Metropolitan's Declaration of a Condition 2 – Water Supply Alert; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 19, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom, by Proclamation, expanded the drought emergency statewide to include all 58 counties due to worsening drought conditions, including the County of San Bernardino, and urged Californians to redouble their water conservation efforts to achieve a 15 percent reduction in water use; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's Proclamation also called on local and regional water agencies to implement their Water Shortage Contingency Plans (WSCPs) to achieve needed conservation and at a level appropriate for local conditions taking into account the possibility of a third consecutive dry year; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 9, 2021, Metropolitan declared that specified drought emergency conditions exist within its service area and called on all member agencies to immediately implement conservation to reduce the use of SWP supplies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency and its retail water agencies, in partnership with the Chino Basin Desalter Authority, Chino Basin Water Conservation District, Chino Basin Watermaster, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Water Facilities Authority, and Metropolitan, have achieved significant and enduring water supply resiliency and decreased reliance on imported water through local water supply development and increased water use efficiency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency and its retail water agencies have increased public messaging to create a heightened awareness of the region's near-term water supply challenges due to severe limitations on SWP supplies and the need for extraordinary conservation efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021 the Agency and the retail water agencies within the Agency's service area adopted Urban Water Management Plans and Water Shortage Contingency Plans to prudently plan for dry conditions and shortages within their respective service areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency recognizes the diversity of its retail water agencies' water resource mix and their independent authority to implement appropriate levels of their water shortage contingency plans consistent with overall goal of achieving a 15% demand reduction from year 2020 through voluntary and / or mandatory measures; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency\* as follows:

1. Call upon the retail agencies receiving water from the Agency to implement appropriate measures to achieve a 15 percent reduction in demands from 2020 to extend SWP storage reserves in order to provide the best possible chance to avoid future mandatory emergency measures to manage health and safety demands in its service area.

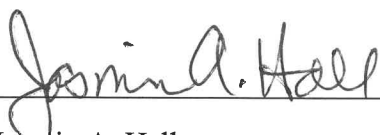
2. Activate the Agency's Water Shortage Contingency Plan at Level 2 (Water Shortage Warning) and direct staff to take appropriate actions as outlined the adopted Plan, with a focus on reducing the use of SWP supplies; and

3. Authorize the General Manager to enter into or extend agreements to promote water-use efficiency within the parameters of the Agency's existing budget for the duration of the drought emergency.

4. Work with Metropolitan and retail water agencies to identify and implement measures to ensure the Agency's service area attains a high level of reliability against multi-year, severe droughts and resulting reductions in the availability of SWP supplies through system improvements, local water supply development, new water storage opportunities, and water efficiency gains, and to seek state funding and other resources for the Agency's service area to accelerate the development of local water supplies.


5. Should drought conditions persist or worsen in the coming months, the Agency may consider declaring a water shortage emergency condition and imposing appropriate regulations, restrictions and penalties pursuant to California Water section 350 et. seq. to implement mandatory actions to further preserve water supplies necessary to meet health and safety water demands.

**ADOPTED** this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021.



Jasmin A. Hall  
President of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency\* and of the Board of Directors thereof

ATTEST:

  
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Steven J. Elie  
Secretary/ Treasurer of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency\* and of the Board of Directors thereof

