

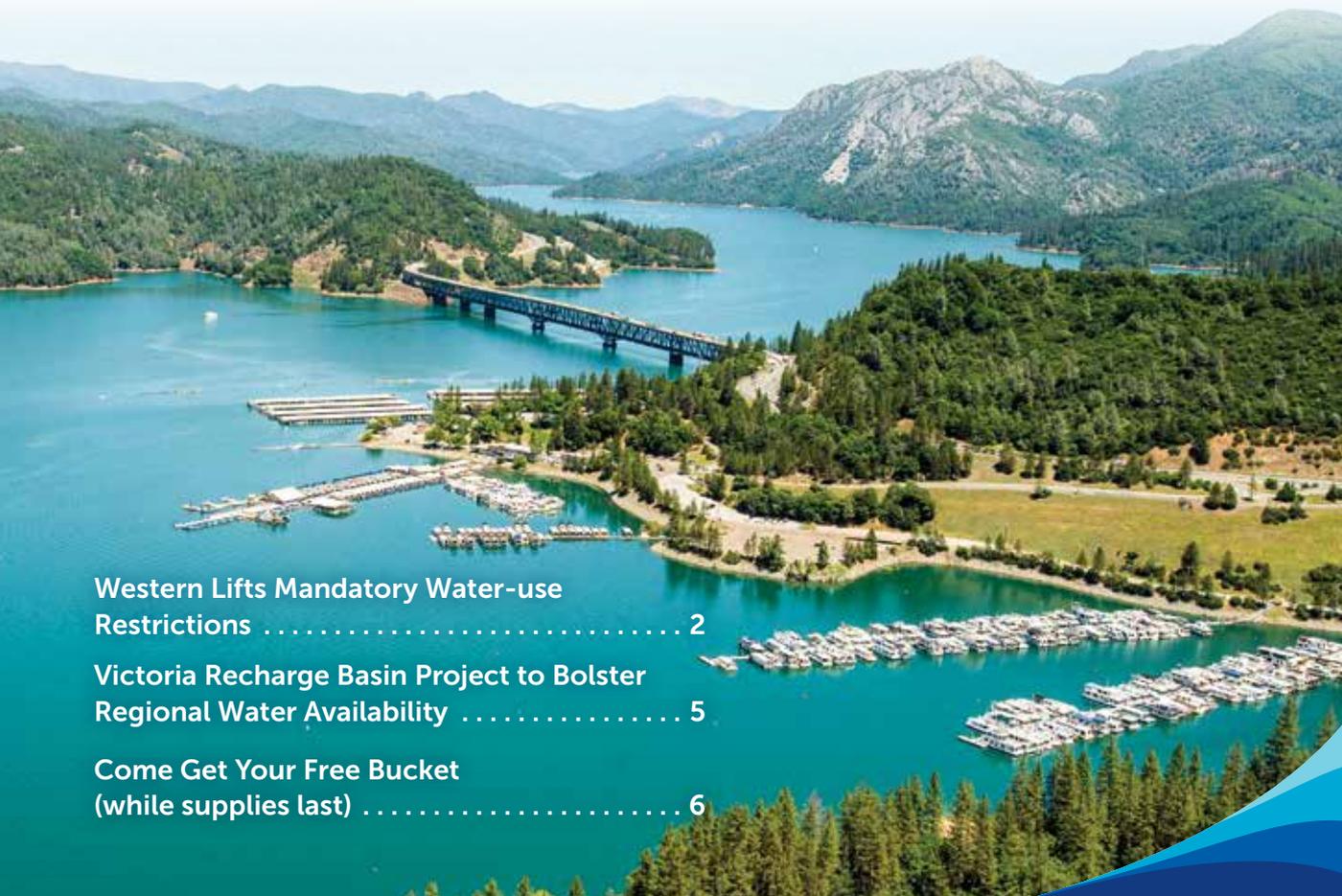
On Tap



Securing Your Water Supply

Western water news, info and tips  Summer 2016

Western's customer outdoor water use restored; customers still expected to *use water wisely*

An aerial photograph of a large, clear blue lake surrounded by green forested mountains. A long bridge spans across the lake, and a marina with many boats is visible in the foreground. The sky is clear and blue.

Western Lifts Mandatory Water-use Restrictions	2
Victoria Recharge Basin Project to Bolster Regional Water Availability	5
Come Get Your Free Bucket (while supplies last)	6

Western Lifts Mandatory Water-use Restrictions

On June 1, Western's Board of Director's adopted a resolution to implement Stage 3(b) of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan. This action follows the State Water Resources Control Board's decision in May to allow water suppliers to self-certify their ability to meet water demands. The adopted plan affects Western's retail customers.

As California nears the fifth year of a state-wide drought, several water agencies, including Western, have been working with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), to implement a program for self-certification, based on an individual agency's available water supply.

The state is still under a drought emergency as mandated by Gov. Brown; however, the SWRCB is changing the conservation requirements due to a wetter hydrology in Northern California. The revisions of the state water use restrictions, combined with the adoption of Western's resolution to change stages in the shortage contingency plan means some relief for Western customers.

"Western supports the governor and State Water Resources Control Board's new focus on locally appropriate actions and mandates, which highlights our long-term commitment to using water wisely in our region and strategic investment in local water supply projects," said Western's General Manager John Rossi.

Western's move to Stage 3(b) returns the outdoor water budgets to 100 percent. Western customers can now apply the amount of water that is necessary to maintain a healthy landscape, within their allotted water budget.

Common-sense water restrictions still remain in effect.



- No landscape water runoff or overspray is allowed
- No hosing down driveways or patios
- No watering during or within 48 hours after rain

Previously, in May 2015, Western's Board adopted Water Shortage Stage 4(b), which reduced all outdoor (landscape) water budgets by 30 percent.

Customers are reminded that California is still facing a drought - especially in Southern California - and that using water wisely is essential to ensuring that there is water in the future. Common-sense water restrictions still remain in effect.

"While customers will again be able to use 100 percent of their outdoor water budget, we are still asking for continued water-use efficiency in our service area. Western's customers have done an extraordinary job saving water during this drought emergency," shared Rossi. "As California continues to face a drought and wasteful water practices are prohibited, we thank our customers for continuing to conserve and remind them that wise water use is still required."

Western-sponsored Riverside Poly Takes First Place at 2016 Solar Cup Boat Race

Recently, Riverside Poly High School harnessed enough power from the sun to propel them to first place in Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's 14th annual Solar Cup Boat Race.

The Western-sponsored entry was part of the largest student-based solar race in the nation. The event allows students to apply their skills in math, physics, engineering and communication while learning about Southern California water resources and alternative energy development.

Riverside Poly won first place in the veteran's division of the three-day event, beating out 38 teams from Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura counties.

Preparations for the 2016 Solar Cup program began last fall. After gaining the sponsorship of local water districts, schools assembled teams of students that went to work to equip the crafts with solar panels, batteries, steering and related systems.



Metropolitan Water District's Solar Cup program began in 2002 with just eight high schools and about 100 students participating. In 2016 it has grown to feature 38 high schools and about 800 students enrolled.

The Western-sponsored entry was part of the largest student-based solar race in the nation.

Send Trash to Landfills – Not Sewer Treatment Plants

When it comes down to it, *trash cans don't make good toilets and toilets don't make good trash cans.*

Since the two are not interchangeable, it's always a good idea not to flush trash down the toilet. In addition to the gross waste of water this action presents, the typical transmission line between your home or business and the sewer treatment plant is only four inches, leading to clogs and costly sewer backups.

Protect the environment and avoid placing the following items in your toilet:

- **Cat Litter** – Sinks to bottom and causes sewer clogs
- **Cigarette Butts** – Non-biodegradable and contains toxic chemicals
- **Dental Floss** – Non-biodegradable and can snag equipment or debris in pipes
- **Diapers** – Even flushable can clog pipes
- **Dryer Sheets** – Contain toxic chemicals and will not break down in water
- **Feminine Hygiene Products** – Cotton contents don't break down and can clog pipes
- **Toilet Bowl Scrubber Pads** – Non-biodegradable and full of harsh chemicals
- **Wipes** – Baby or facial wipes – *even those labeled flushable* – often get clogged in pipes



...Go Here

Cat Litter
Cigarette Butts
Dental Floss
Diapers
Dryer Sheets
Feminine Hygiene Products
Toilet Bowl Scrubber Pads
Wipes...



...NOT Here!

Victoria Recharge Basin Provides Region with a Reliable, Local Water Supply

Western's Victoria Recharge Basin will come online next year to provide customers with an additional drought-proof source and increase water service reliability for the future.

The project, which when complete will generate enough water to meet the needs of 3,600 homes, will bolster our water supply by capturing stormwater and urban runoff and allowing it to percolate into the

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groundwater basin for extraction at the Arlington Desalter.

In addition to providing billions of gallons of extra water, the completed project on a 10-acre site at the intersection of Victoria Avenue and Jackson Street in Riverside, will also benefit the community with increased groundwater storage, improved groundwater quality, enhanced water management of the Arlington Basin and lower our demand on imported water from Northern California.

At \$3.4 million, the Victoria Recharge Basin Project is part of the larger \$10 million Arlington Recharge Project, which also includes the construction of a production well and transmission pipeline.

To date, Western has received grants totaling \$3 million from the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority and the Bureau of Reclamation.

Once complete by the end of 2017, the Victoria Recharge Basin will be another vital part to Western's water supply diversification strategy.

For more information about the project, visit wmwd.com.



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General Manager

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Make Your *Water Savings* More than a Drop in the Bucket

Whether it's to catch cold water from your shower in the morning, collect drops from a leak, control water use while irrigating plants or washing your car, buckets come in handy! Come get your free one for the summer.

Visit our Customer Service Department at 14205 Meridian Parkway in Riverside to request your free bucket today!



Come get your **free** one for the summer.

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Forward your comments and suggestions to the Community Affairs Office at the above address or via email to outreach@wmwd.com



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