

Drought Update – October 3, 2014

October 1st marks the beginning of the 2014-2015 “hydrologic year” and the much anticipated rainy season. Last year – the period between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014 - was the driest since 1977 and the fourth driest on record in California. According to the National Weather Service’s Climate Prediction Center, drought conditions are expected to persist and possibly intensify over the remainder of the calendar year.

Earlier this year the State Water Resources Control Board adopted emergency regulations to ensure water agencies and residents throughout the state redouble efforts to conserve water. The State Water Resources Control Board has indicated it will impose additional water use restrictions, should the drought continue into 2015.

Groundwater elevations in the District’s municipal water supply wells have rebounded in response to reduced water demands and as of September 15 were several feet higher than the corresponding groundwater elevations in 2009 – the second year of a two-year drought that began in 2008 – and just five feet lower than historical averages. The strong recovery is encouraging and demonstrates the resilience of the District’s water supply. While conditions may not be ideal, the District’s water supply is in reasonably good shape and doing much better than most small community water supplies in the Sacramento – San Joaquin drainage.

