

URBAN WATER INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER



Provide timely, compelling, and diverse discussion of water policy, economics and resource management.

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Drought Relief: Did You Know About Aloe?



The Aloe plant, originates from the Arabian Peninsula and is often used in outdoor landscaping.

It is well known for its ability to withstand drought conditions.

There are many varieties and people have cultivated the Aloe plant for agricultural and medicinal purposes.

This affordable and easy to grow plant is great for drought impacted regions.

Conservation: Water Management Planning

Don't Throw The Baby Out With The Bath Water

By **Malissa Hathaway McKeith**, Founder & President of Citizens United for Resources and the Environment, Inc., ("CURE")

With looming droughts and stricter mandates, agencies increasingly restrict irrigation without considering the vital role green spaces play in countering heat islands, air pollution, and climate.

California's water conservation goals frequently undermine efforts to keep communities "green".

In 2015, water restrictions killed old growth trees while residents were paid to plant trees as part of CARB-GHG programs. Such conflicting programs cost taxpayers millions and accomplish little. ... (see page two for more)



Surviving Drought

Drought Endurance At The Local Level

By Fernando Paludi, General Manager, Trabuco Canyon Water District

If you are a customer of Trabuco Canyon Water District (TCWD), or nearly any of the roughly 300 water agencies throughout Southern California that are ultimately plumbed to the Metropolitan Water District, you can be cautiously confident that the drought conditions now gripping most of our state and the southwest are not a cause for panic (at least not yet). That's due in large part to a lot of planning and investment in demand management and storage, not only by large regional agencies, but also at the local level where accountability is highest.

Take TCWD as an example. Located at the base of the Santa Ana Mountains in southeastern Orange County, TCWD is a relatively small provider of water, sewer and recycled water services to approximately 13,000 people, and yet is one of the only Orange County utilities that owns and operates treatment plants for drinking water, groundwater, and wastewater. ... (see page two for more)



Conservation: Water Management Planning *(continued)*

(from page one) ... Many cities have adopted sustainability plans addressing climate adaptation which should be integrated into water management planning. Water Code section #10630 now requires agencies account for climate impacts for the first time.

The legislature declares that: “(2) Long-term standards and urban water use objectives should advance the state’s goals to mitigate and adapt to climate change.” Agencies should not limit this analysis to demands of traditional customers but should include how mitigating climate will be a separate water demand. Water agencies also are now required to address impacts to environmental justice communities and should specify how water can be leveraged to help improve health and quality of life.

Riverside patterned its sustainability plan on the Governor’s so-called 30/30 Executive Order committing to “[m]aintain and conserve 30 percent of Riverside’s natural lands in green space . . . to protect and restore Riverside’s rich biodiversity and accelerate the natural removal of carbon, furthering our community’s climate resilience.” Incorporating those principles into an UWMP requires first calculating the current contribution trees and green spaces make to reducing pollution, heat and carbon and then monetizing these public benefits to determine how much water is needed and how best to fund it.

DWR and CARB need more coordination to develop tools that would assist water agencies and communities in determining how water can be used as a public benefit for climate adaption and to provide grant monies to those agencies willing to spearhead these critical tasks.

Malissa Hathaway McKeith is a longtime board member of UWI. For more information, please visit www.curegroup.org.



Planning In Action: CURE is proposing an urban forest and climate innovation program (three proposed project renderings seen above) for the Riverside Unified School District to train the next generation in water management and resilience.

Surviving Drought *(continued)*

(from page one) ... TCWD is proud of its efforts to reduce reliance on imported water. When available, seasonal groundwater is produced and filtered at the Trabuco Creek Wells Facility. The Robinson Ranch Wastewater Treatment Plant recycles 100% of the District’s sewage, producing on average 650,000 gallons of recycled water daily. This is blended with urban runoff that is recovered through a network of detention basins and lakes to help meet the irrigation needs of a major golf course and several large homeowners’ associations that would otherwise be supplied with imported water.

All told, the District meets on average a quarter of its total water demand through local sources. And beginning this fall, TCWD will enhance water use efficiency while improving customer service through the installation of over 4,000 residential smart meters that will provide near real-time consumption information and leak alerts to customers on their phone or tablet.

Through these reliability initiatives, Trabuco Canyon Water District is doing its part!

DOVE LAKE - A WORKING RESERVOIR



The District preserves the water quality in Dove Lake through a series of air diffusers located throughout the lake working like aquarium sandstones.

The air diffusers are powered by air compressors that aerate the lake water helping to mix and maintain the water’s dissolved oxygen levels to prevent the growth of algae and other waterborne nuisances.