# Research Partnership on Rebate Program Incentives

Second Progress Report January 20, 2016









### **Outline**

- Project status
- Summary of work completed since December
- Presentation of new results
- Discussion



# **Project Status**

### Deliverables (December 2015):

Impact of alternative pricing structures on water demand

### **Deliverables (January 2016):**

- Identification of role of agency, household-level, community factors
- Impact of conservation programs on household water bills & agency revenue and costs

### <u>Upcoming Activities</u>

- January February: complete focus groups
- February March: conduct in depth interviews
- March May: survey development and pre-testing



# Summary of new work completed

- Three related analyses
  - Analysis 1: factors affecting program participation
    - What makes customers more or less likely to participate in conservation programs?
  - Analysis 2: estimates of program interactions
    - Does participation in program A affect the likelihood of participation in program B?
  - Analysis 3: estimates of conservation effects
    - How much water is conserved when a customer participates in each program?
    - What are the financial implications for MNWD?



# Data used in our study

- 16,277 residential single-family accounts
- Continuous records from July 2011 through March 2015 (45 months)
  - Budget rates implemented in July 2011
- From MNWD:
  - Pricing, usage, household size, irrigated area, recent ET, conservation program participation
- > From other sources:
  - Demographics (income, education)



# Data: program statistics

Number and Percentage of Households Participating in Selected Water Conservation Programs (Sample Size=16275)

			Weather Based	High Efficiency	
	Turf	Turf to	Irrigation	Clothes	High Efficiency
	Removal	Synthetic	Controller	Washer	Toilet
Turf Removal	149 (.92%)				
Turf to Synthetic	26 (.16%)	202 (1.2%)			
Controllers	3 (.02%)	5 (.03%)	142 (.87%)		
Clothes Washers	27 (.17%)	30 (.18%)	26 (.16%)	2053 (12.6%)	
Toilets	32 (.20%)	39 (.24%)	31 (.19%)	363 (2.2%)	1688 (10.4%)



### **Estimates of conservation effects**

- How do programs affect customer demand and agency finances?
- Focusing on four programs plus toilets:
  - Weather-based irrigation controllers
  - High-efficiency clothes washers
  - Turf removal
  - Turf to synthetic
  - High-efficiency toilets



# **Estimation strategy**

- Identify customers who participated in just one new program over a 3 year period.
- Identify neighbors who did not participate in any new programs over the same period.
- 3. Measure changes in consumption from year 1 to year 3 for participants and nonparticipants.
- 4. Calculate the difference in these changes.



### Results: irrigation controllers

- > Sample size: 142
- > Participants: 66
- > Estimated effect:
  - -4.1% per controller
  - 0.94 billing units/month (703 gallons/month)



### Results: clothes washers

> Sample size: 2053

> Participants: 1158

- > Estimated effect:
  - -4.5% per washer
  - 0.76 billing units/month (568 gallons/month)



### Results: turf removal

- Sample size: 149
- Participants: 2-20
- > Estimated effect:
  - After 1 year:
    - All participants: -7.5% per project (1.5" per month)
    - Large projects: -29.7% per project (4.6" per month)
  - After 2 years:
    - All participants: -25.2% per project (6.2" per month)
    - Large projects: -35.4% per project (6.0" per month)



# Results: turf to synthetic

- Sample size: 202
- > Participants: 45
- Estimated effect:
  - After 1 year:
    - All participants: -1.25% (0.3" per month)
    - > Large projects: insufficient data
  - After 2 years:
    - > All participants: insufficient data
    - Large projects: insufficient data



### **Results: toilets**

- Sample size: 1688
- > Participants: 895
- > Estimated effect:
  - -4.4% per toilet
  - 0.65 billing units/month (486 gallons/month)
- Also, customers who have participated in HET tend to participate in other programs 30-80% sooner than non-HET customers.

# Results: financial implications

How long does it take to recover rebate costs and what is the implied cost of water saved?

Program	Monthly savings (%)	Monthly savings (billing units)*	Monthly savings (\$)	MNWD rebate (\$)	Time to break- even (years)	Implied water cost (\$/AF)
Controllers	4.1	0.94	2.24	75	2.8	193.09
Washers	4.5	0.76	1.81	200	9.2	636.84
Turf	25.2	4.40	10.47	1698	13.6	933.90
Large Turf	35.4	8.59	20.44	3434	14.0	967.44
Toilets	4.4	0.65	1.55	150	8.1	558.46

<sup>\*</sup> Assumes water is purchased at Met's Tier 1 rate. Assumes 15 year lifespan for technologies 1 billing unit = 748 gallons.



### **Key take-aways**

- Data challenges: low participation rates
- > Program interactions: complementarities
  - Prior HET increases participation
- Conservation effects
  - Savings ~4-5% for indoor appliances
  - Savings ~25-35% for turf replacement



# Orange County Drought Performance & Water Supply Report

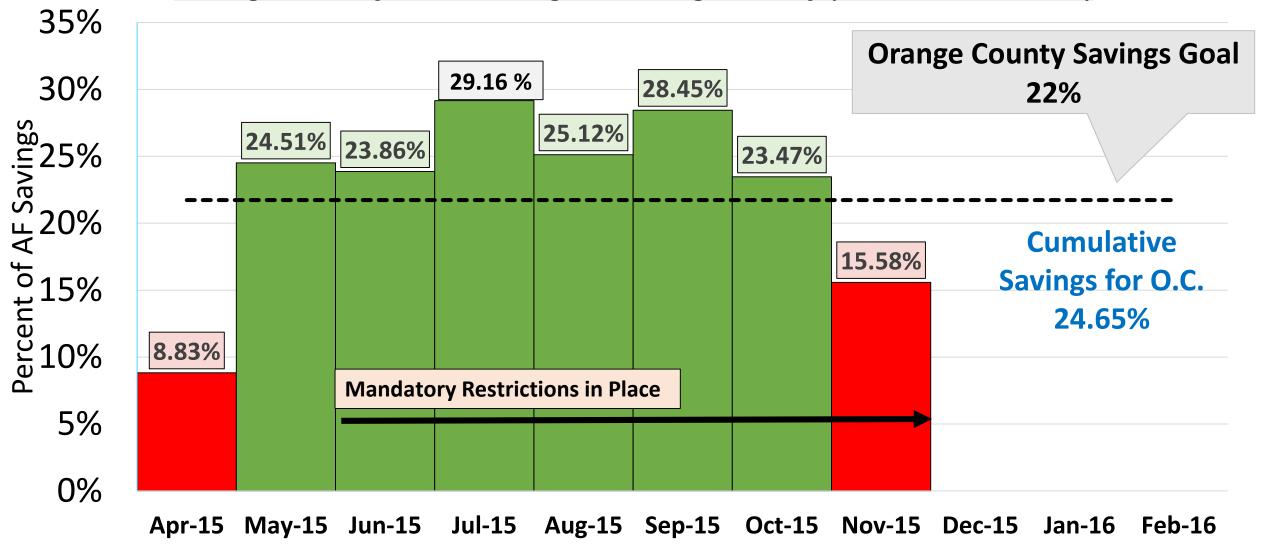
January 20, 2016

Municipal Water District of Orange County

### O.C. Water Savings Reported to SWRCB

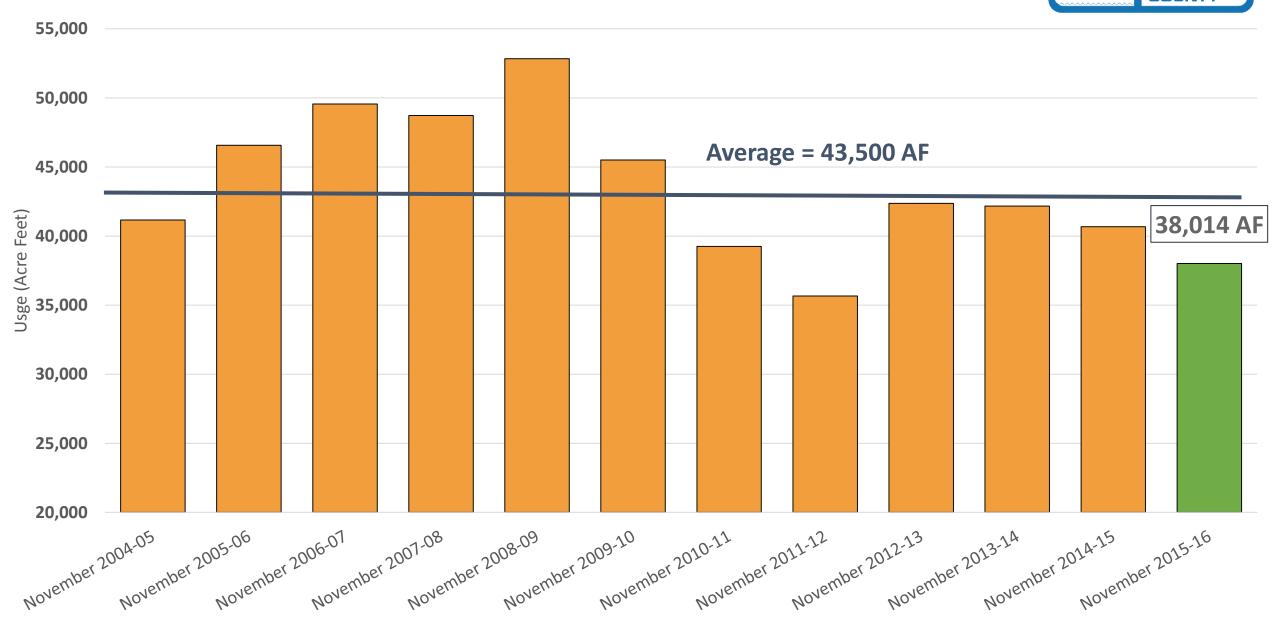


### **Average Monthly Water Savings for Orange County (2014-15 Vs CY 2013)**



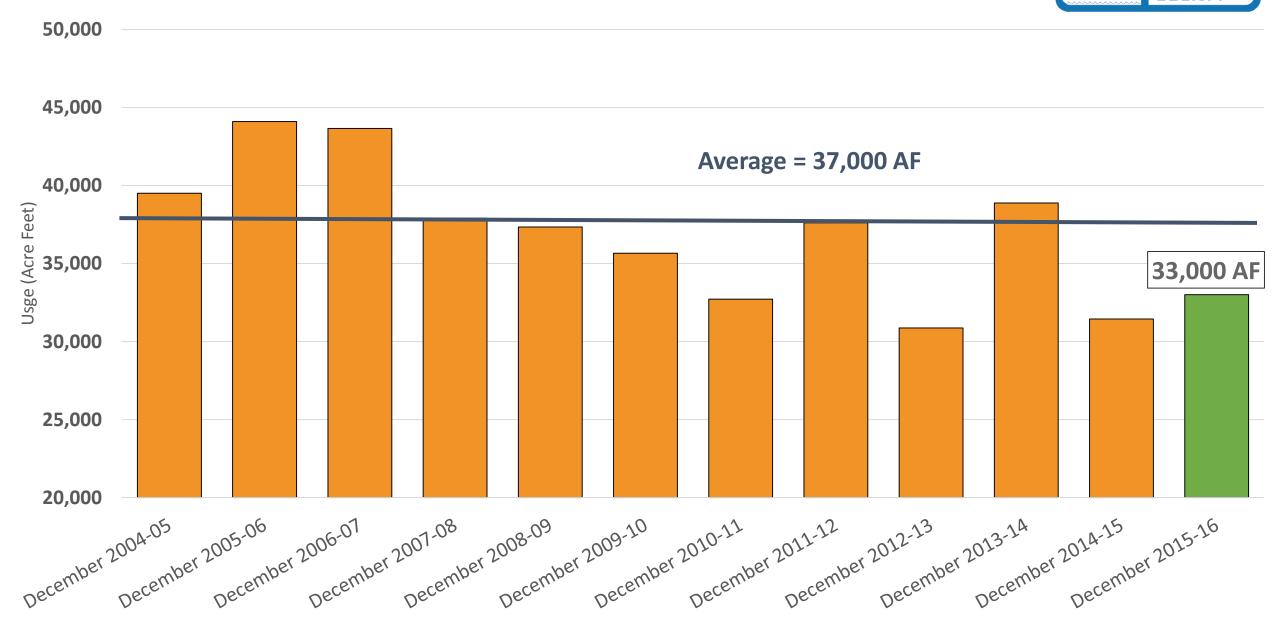
# OC Historical November Water Usage





# OC Historical *December* Water Usage





# FY Annual Precipitation (Santa Ana)



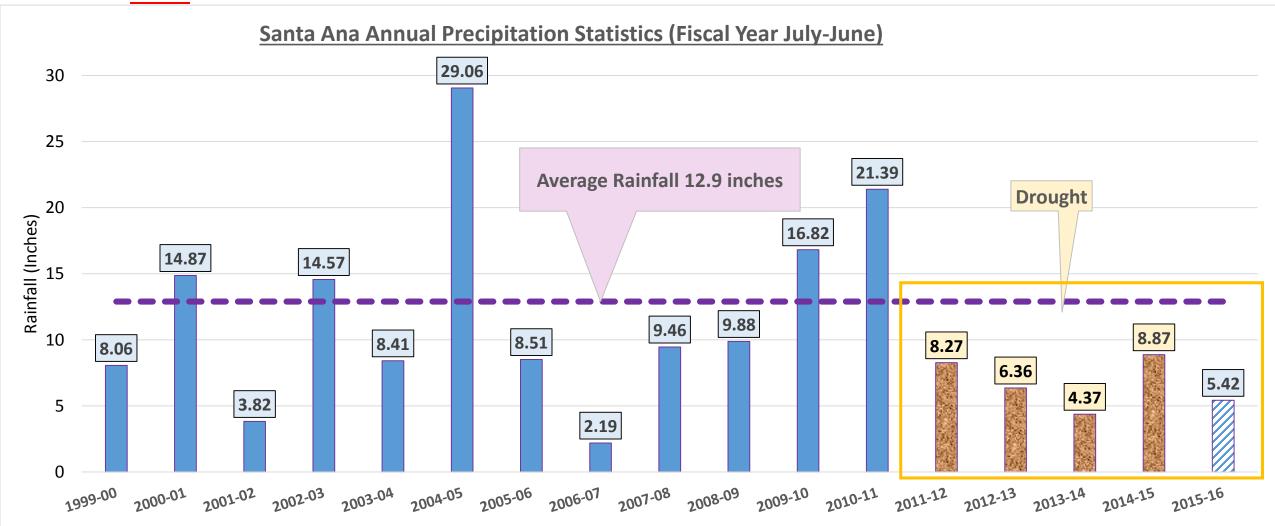
Cumulative Year-to-Date

Average Annual Rainfall: 12.9"

Average: 5.61"

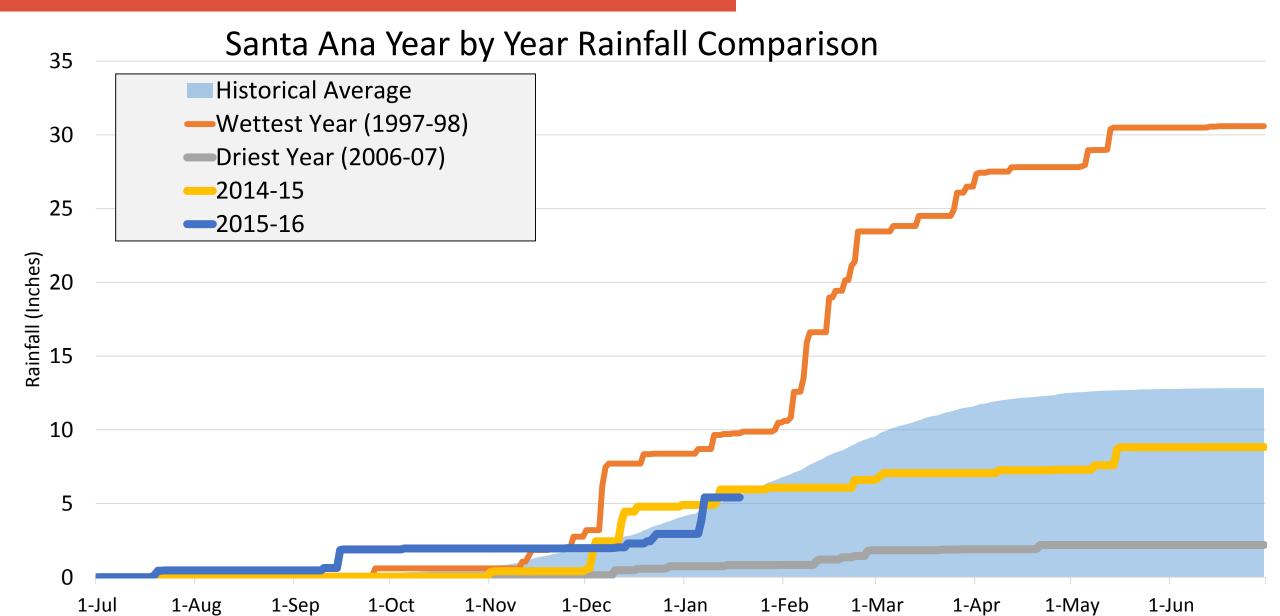
4-Year Deficit: 23.9" (2011-12 to Present)

2015-16: **5.42**"



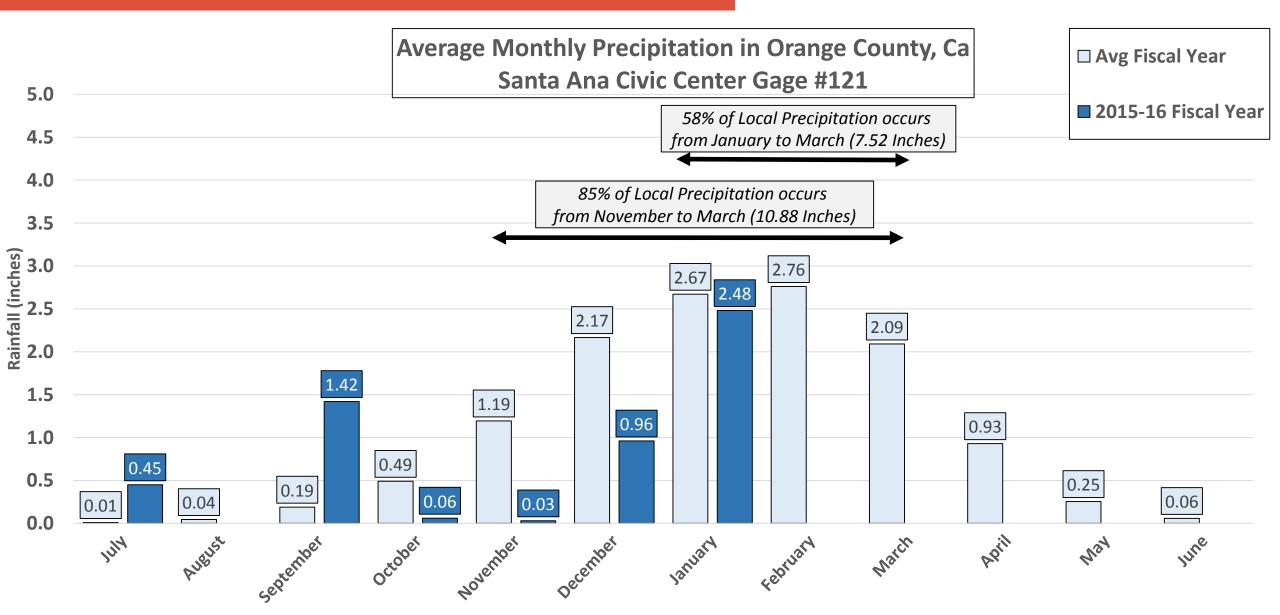
# FYD Rainfall Compared to Past





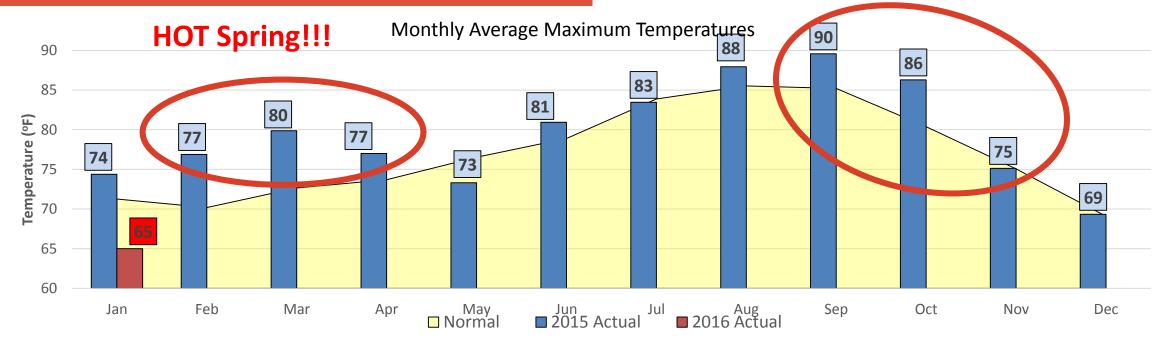
# 2015-16 FY Rainfall



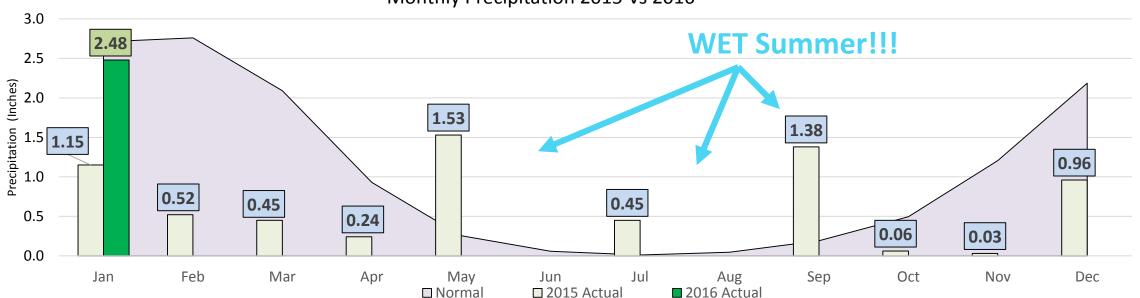


### 2015 vs. 2014 Weather

### **HOT Fall!!!**

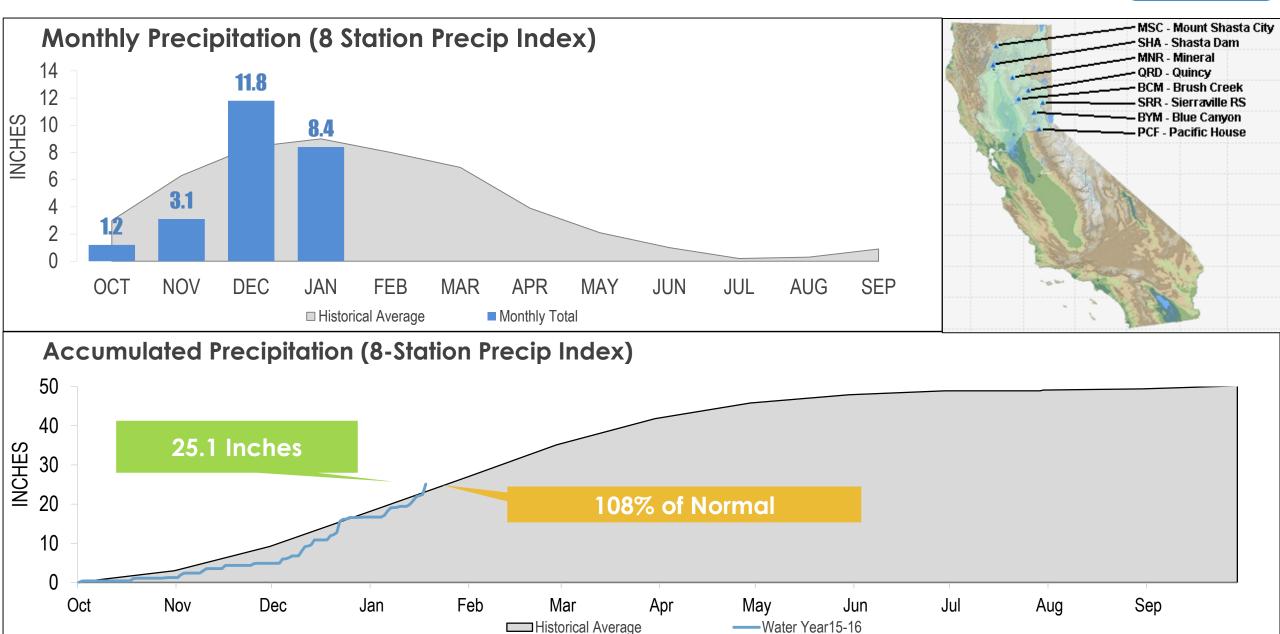


### Monthly Precipitation 2015 Vs 2016



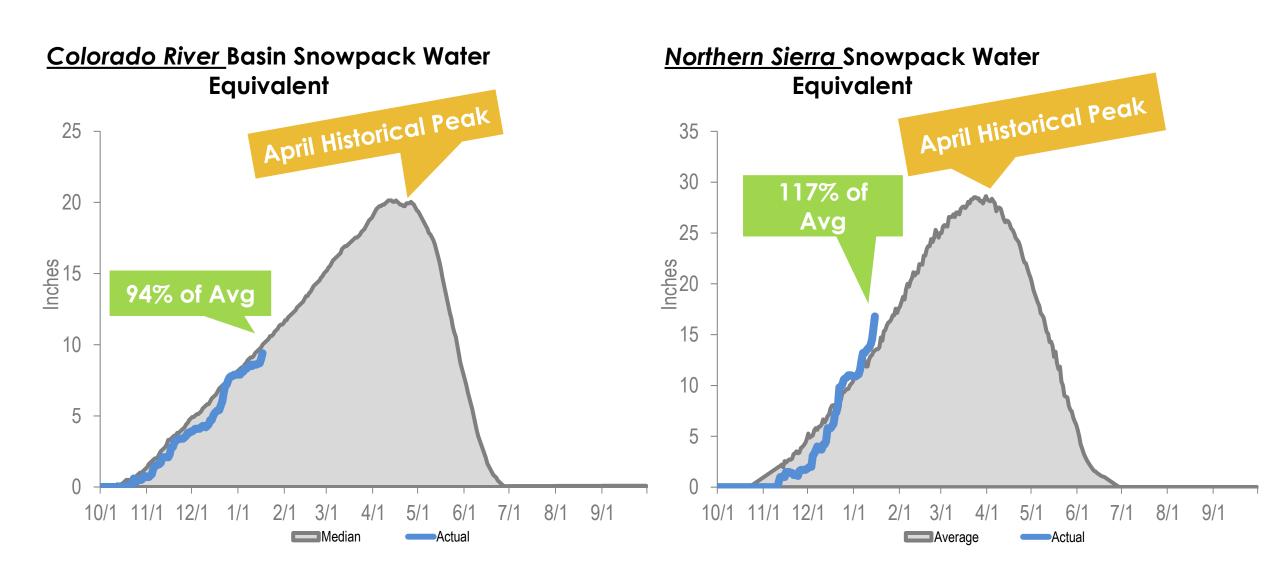
### Northern California Accumulated Precipitation



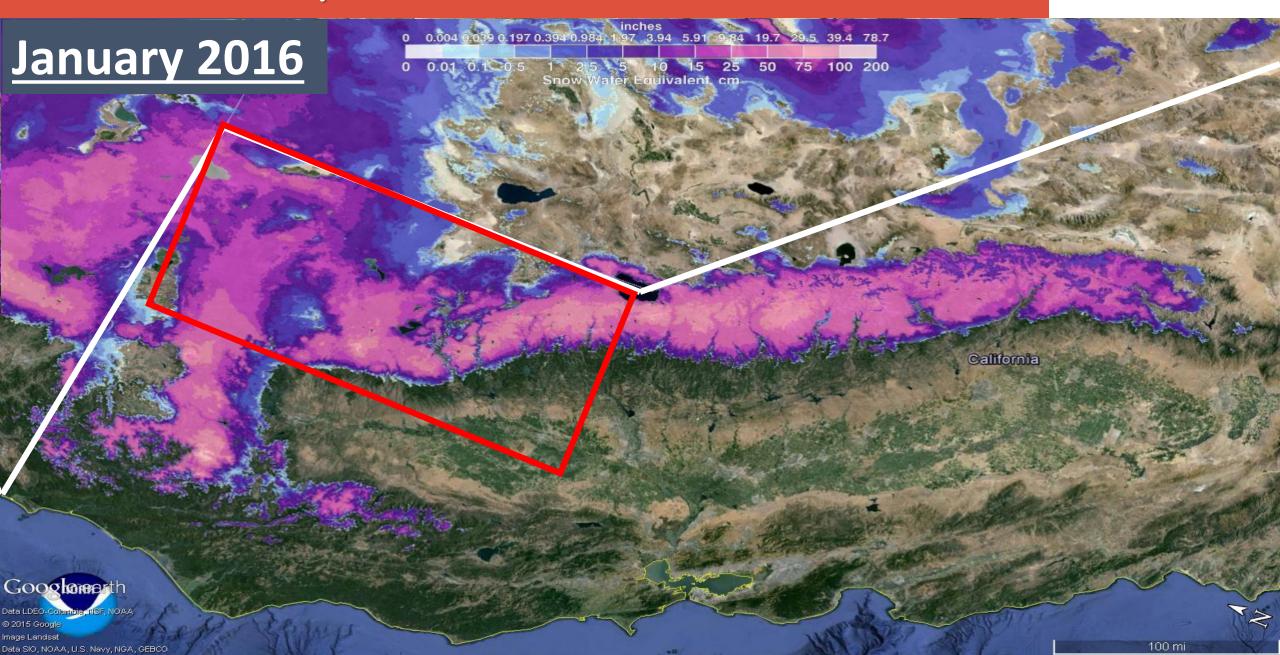


# Snowpack

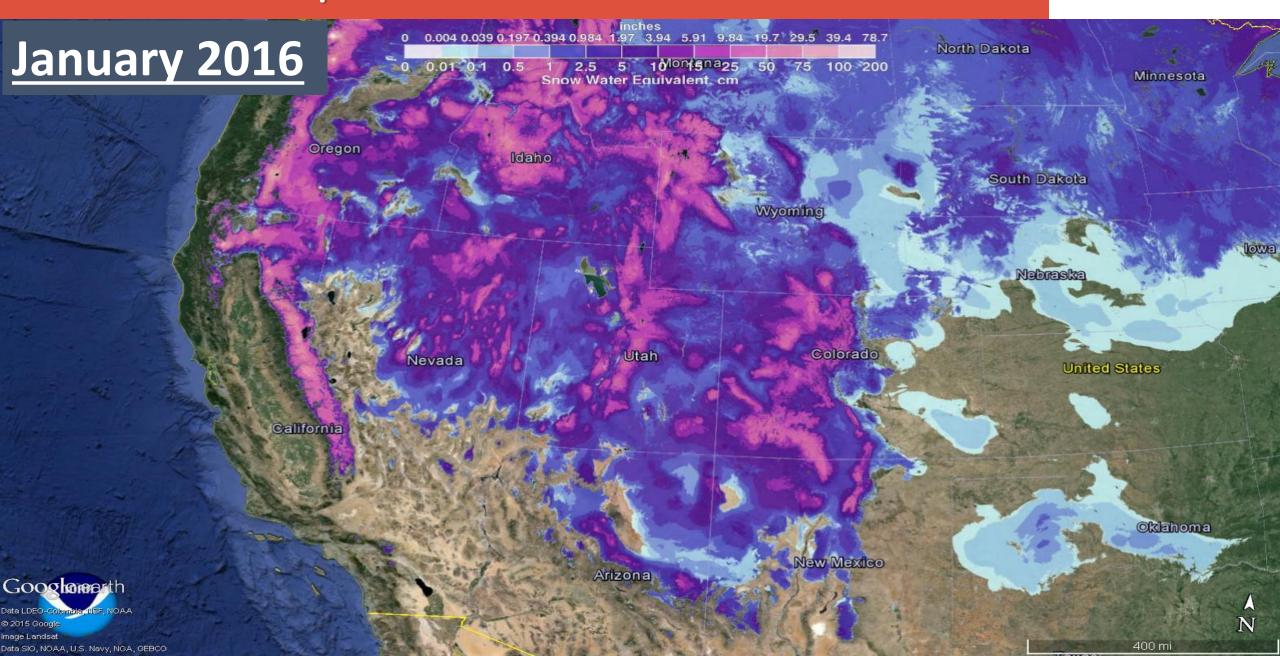


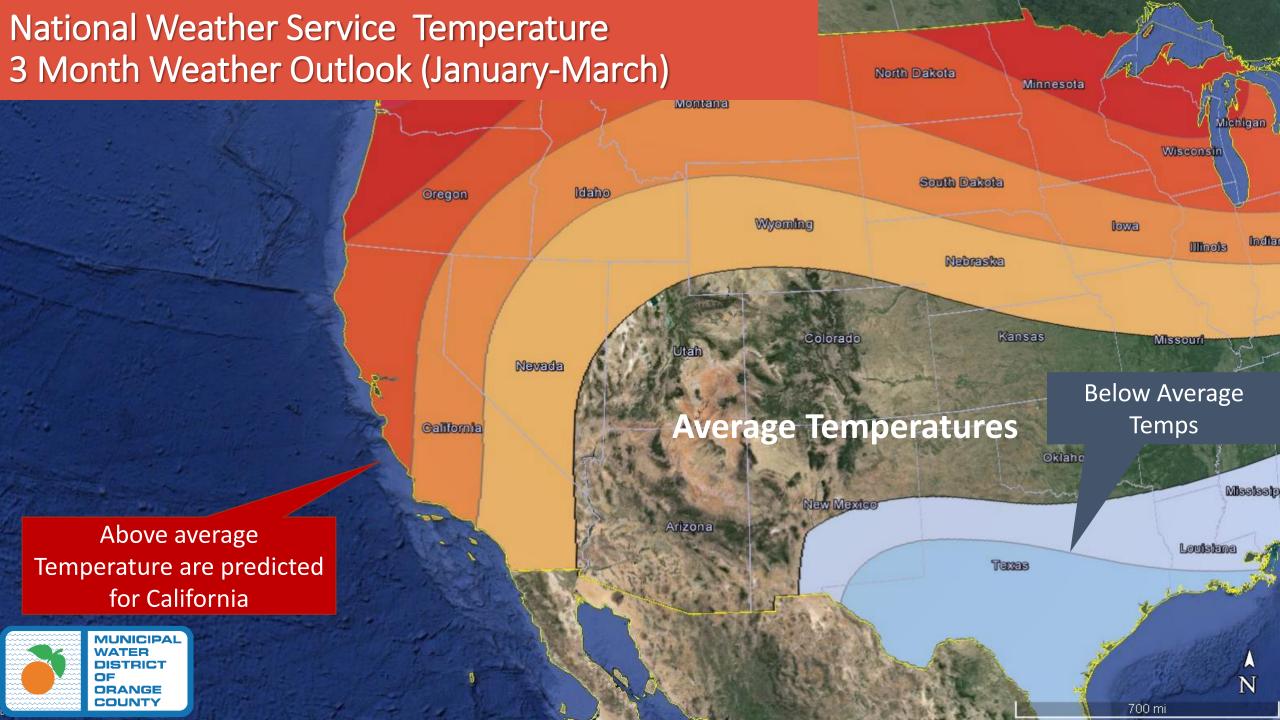


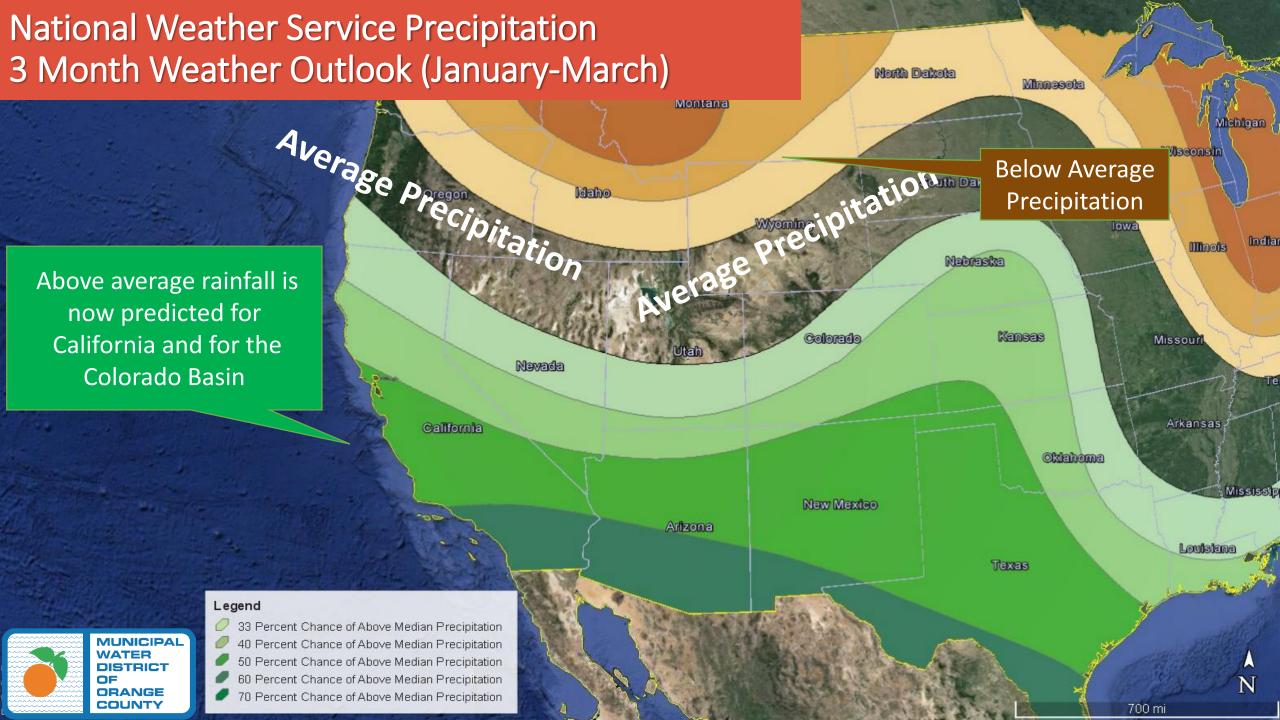
# Snow Water Equivalent Jan 2016 VS Jan 2015



# Snow Water Equivalent Jan 2016 VS Jan 2015

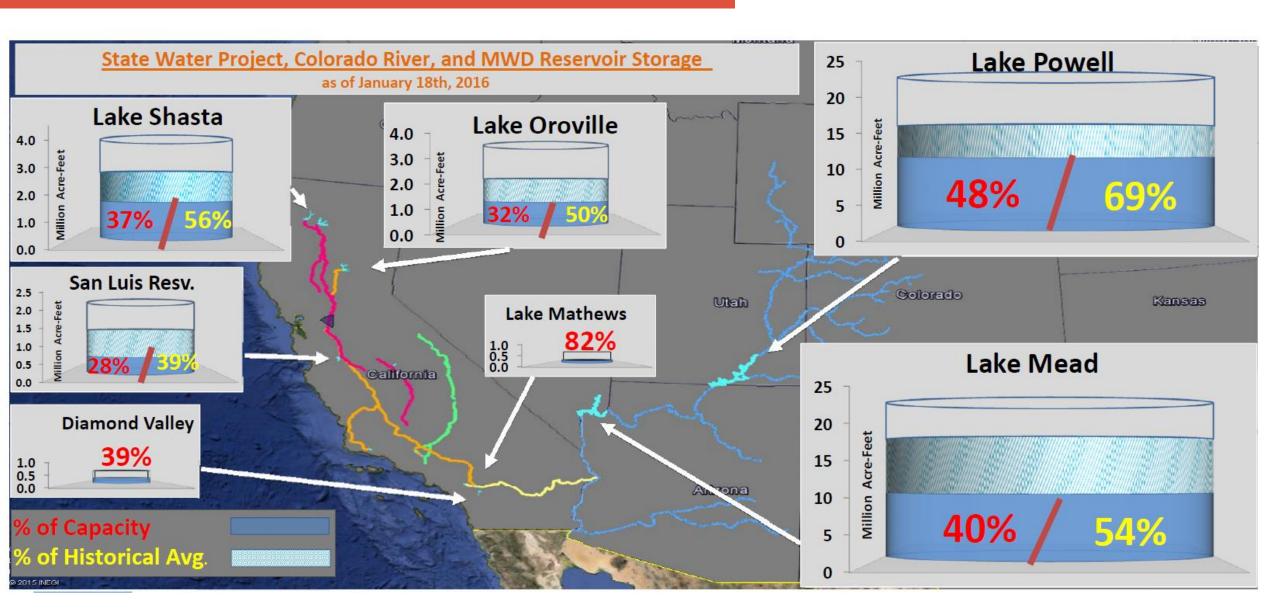






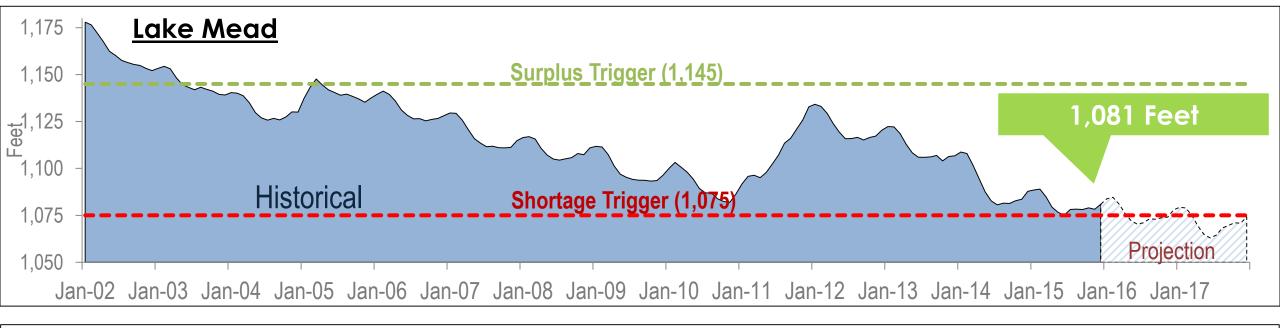
# Reservoir Storage

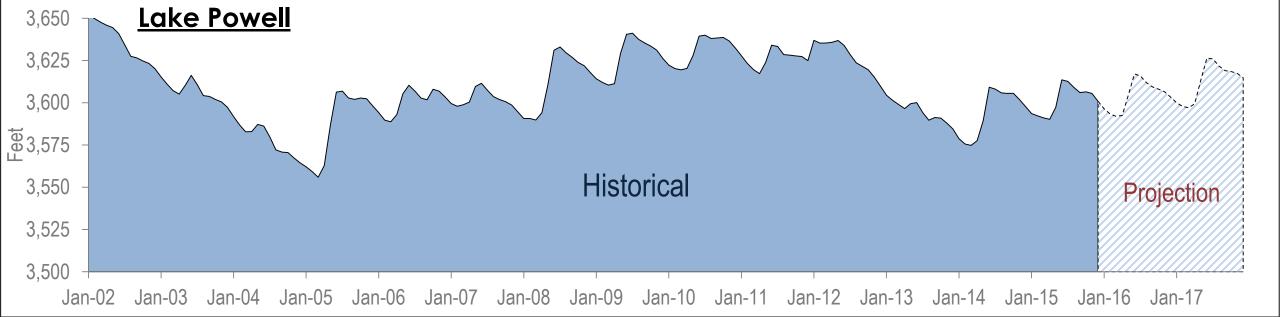




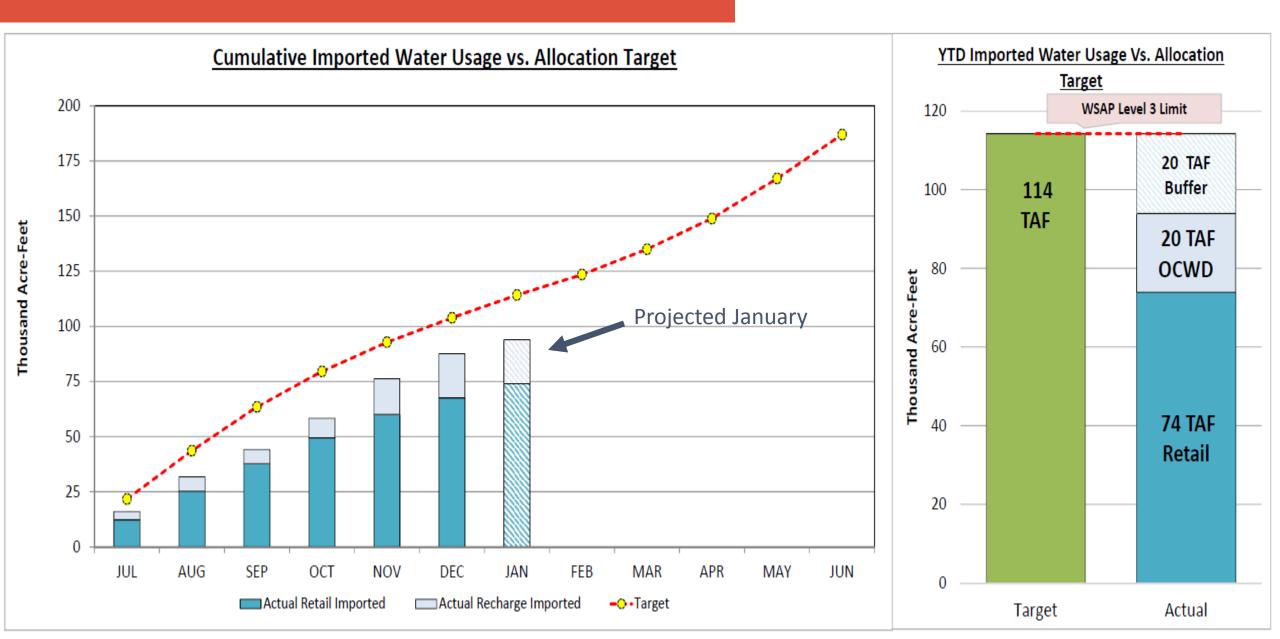
# **CRA Storage**

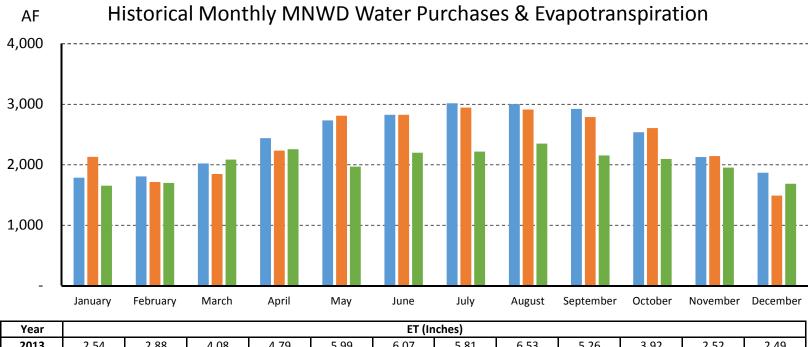




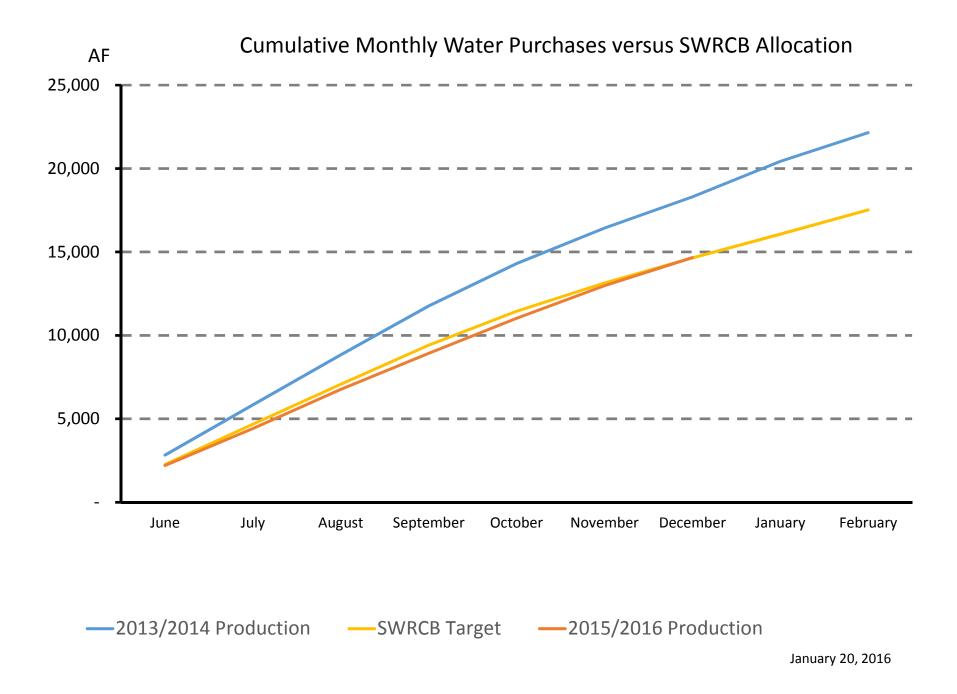


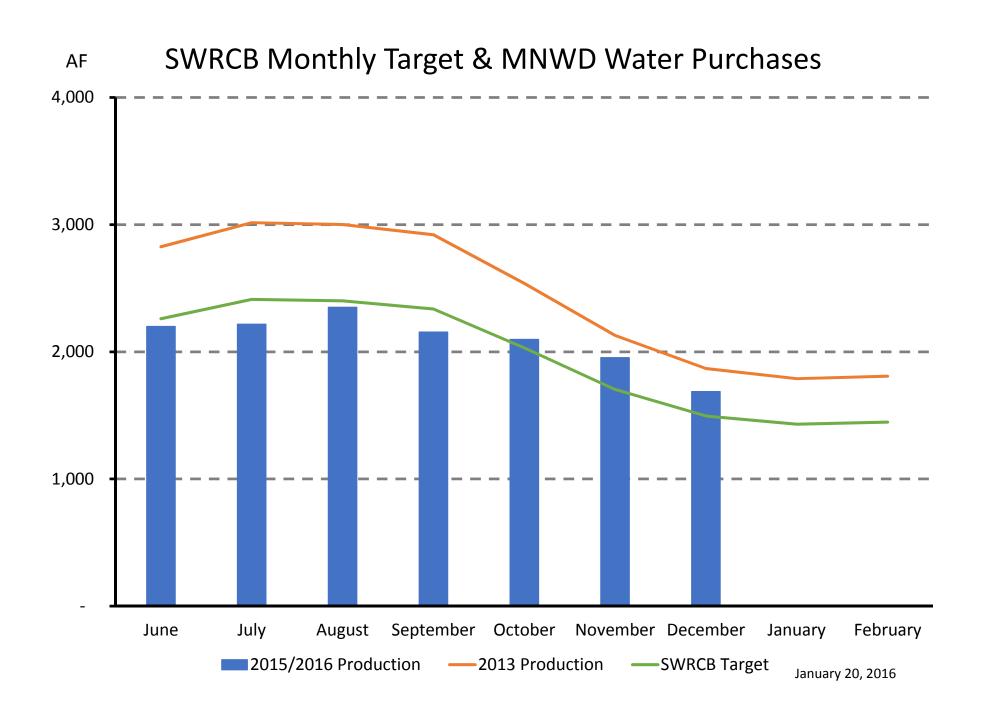
# MWDOC's Stage III Allocated Water



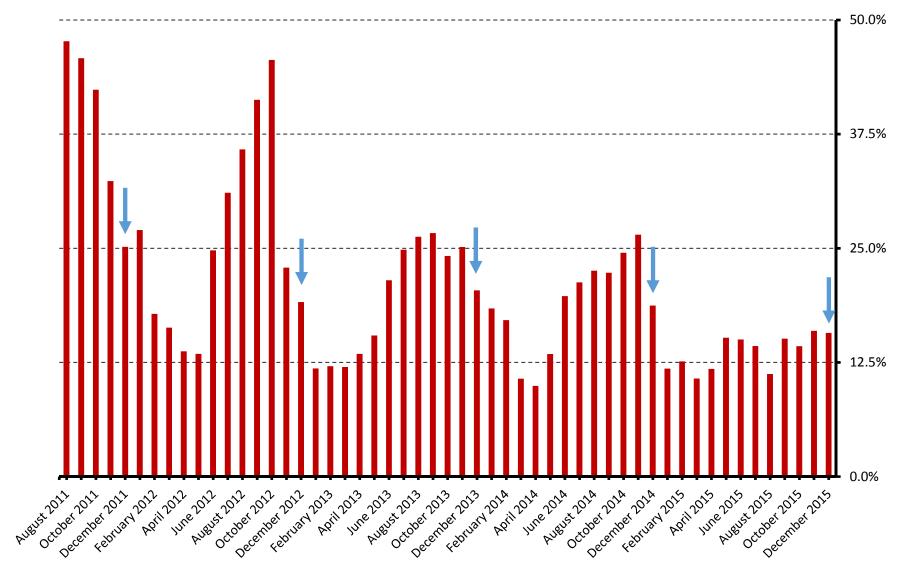


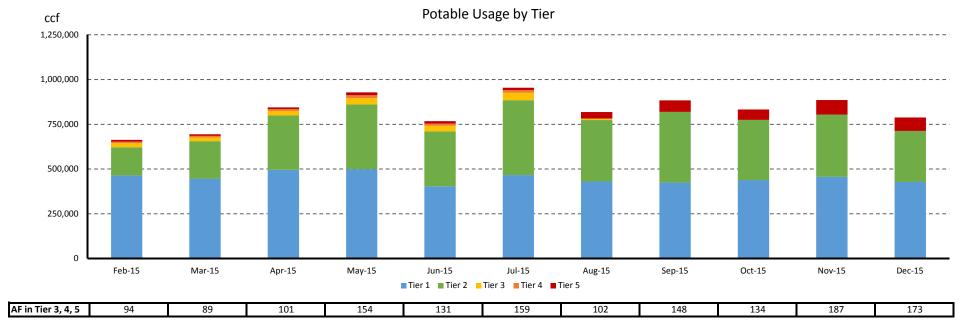
January 20, 2016

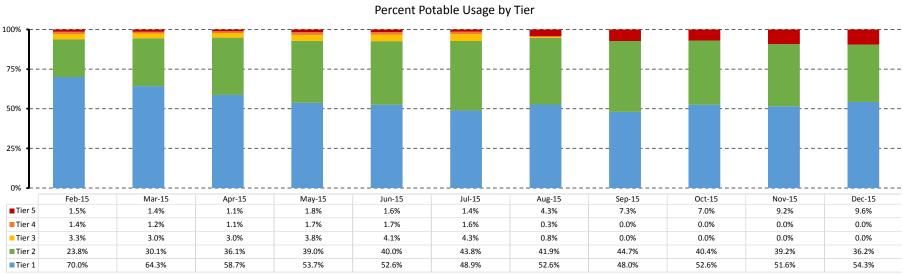




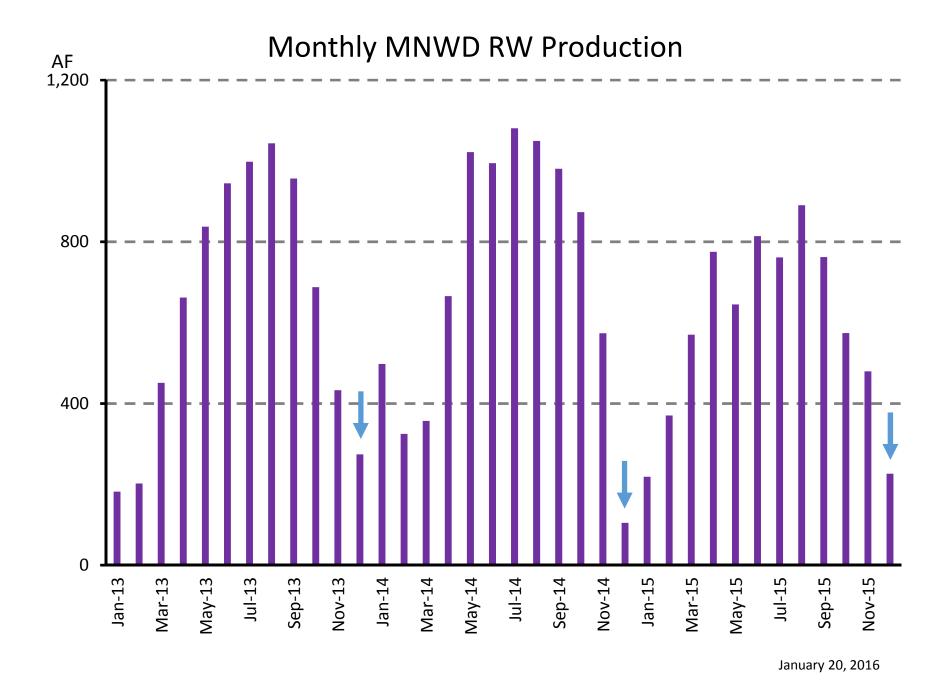
### Single Family Residential Accounts Above Tier 2

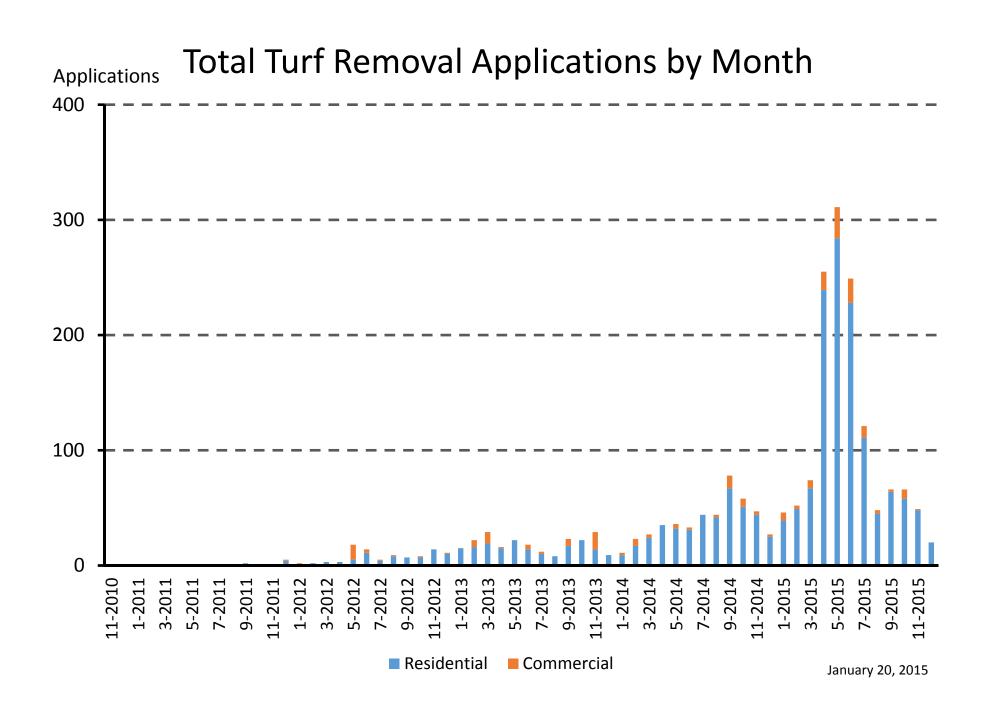


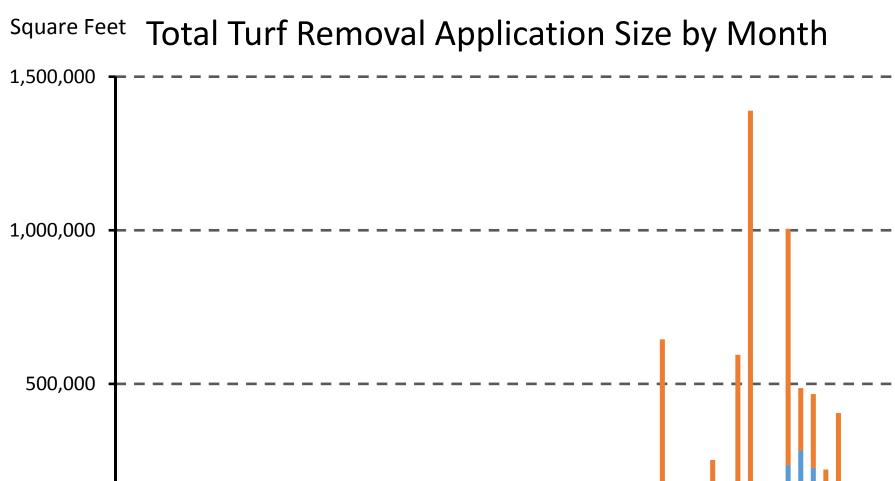


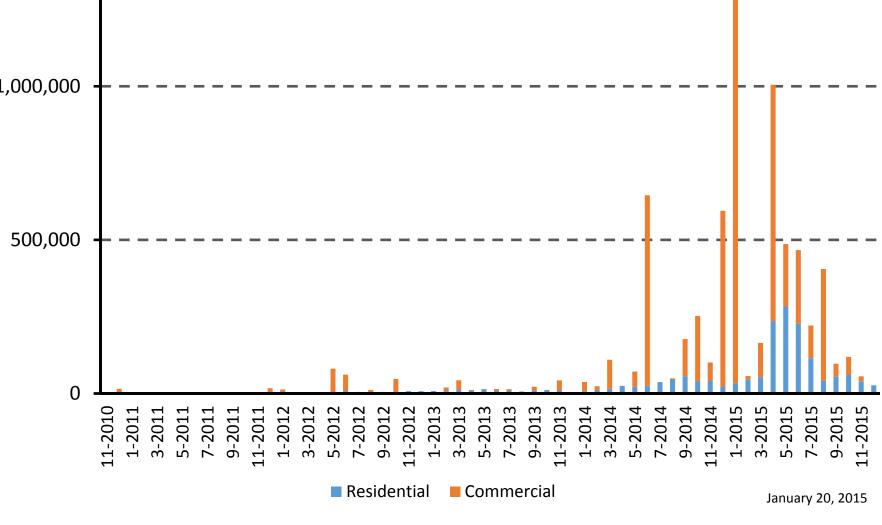


■Tier 1 ■Tier 2 ■Tier 3 ■Tier 4 ■Tier 5











# DROUGHT EMERGENCY REGULATIONS UPDATE

Finance and Information Technology Board Meeting

January 20, 2016

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- January 2014: Governor calls for voluntary conservation
- July 2014: SWRCB issues mandatory restrictions
  - MNWD Alternative Plan Approval
- April 2015: Executive Order
- May 2015: SWRCB statewide mandatory conservation tiers
- November 2015: Governor extends "Drought state of emergency" through October 2016
- Through October: 27 % cumulative conservation statewide
  - MNWD: 23 % Cumulative (20% to date)







### MNWD DROUGHT RESPONSE

- Budget Based Rate Structure
  - Strong pricing signal
  - Reduced budgets effective April 1, 2015
  - Stable financial position
- Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP)
  - Stage 1: June 1, 2015
  - Stage 2: July 1, 2015
  - Stage 2 Extended: November 1, 2015
- Increased Conservation programs

- Engineering/Operations Programs
  - Expand recycled water program
  - Leak detection program
  - Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) program
  - Bi-monthly to monthly billing conversion
- Customer Communications
  - Postcards
  - Bill Messages
  - Summer Newsletter
  - Press Releases
  - Newspaper Ads



### PROJECTED TIMELINE

- Jan. 21: Proposed SWRCB drought regulation extension released
  - SWRCB Extension of Conservation Tiers w/ the following adjustments
    - Climate
    - Growth
    - Sustainable Supplies

- Early February 2016: SWRCB approves regulation extension
- April/May 2016: modified based on state hydrology
- October 2016: proposed drought regulation extension expires



### RECOMMENDATION

- Continue Implementation of WSCP Stage 2 effective March 1, 2016
  - Customers pay penalty for exceeding budget

- Expires at the end of June 2016
  - Staff to actively monitor changing hydrology and future SWRCB adjustments.

