



FAQs: California's Drought

Q: Are we still in a drought?

A: No, Orange County is no longer in a drought. Approximately 8 percent of California is experiencing moderate drought conditions, according to [U.S. Drought Monitor](#). Another one-quarter of the state is classified in abnormally dry conditions.

Q: What impact did the 2023 winter storms have on our water supply?

A: From 2020 to 2022, California experienced one of the driest periods in recent history. Winter storms have restored depleted reservoirs, boosted snowpack in the Sierra Nevada and allowed the state to increase available water supplies to Southern California.

Q: What is California's long-term water situation?

A: Conditions in California have improved substantially. However, our state faces major long-term water supply uncertainties. Even with an above average rain year, the Colorado River Basin continues to face long-term water limitations. The state also is suffering from drought whiplash -- oscillating between severe drought and flood conditions.

Q: Does Moulton Niguel still have drought restrictions in place?

A: No. On April 13, 2023, the Moulton Niguel Board of Directors unanimously rescinded state-mandated drought restrictions. We strongly encourage all customers to use water wisely and keep your bill low by staying within your monthly water budget.

Q: Does the State still have drought restrictions in place?

A: Yes. The State is continuing to ban wasteful water uses, including watering ornamental grass on commercial properties with drinking water. This does not apply to commercial properties watering ornamental grass with recycled water.

Q: Where does Moulton Niguel get its water?

A: Moulton Niguel imports 100% of its drinking water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Our water comes



from the Colorado River and Northern California.

Q: How can I use water wisely?

A: Here are a few ways that you can help use water wisely:

- Sign up for the Customer Portal at mnwd.com to view your water usage and receive leak alerts;
- Stay within your water budget;
- Only run the dishes when your dish washer is full;
- Water in the early morning or late evening, when the sun is not out;
- Replace high water need vegetation, like turfgrass with California Native and climate appropriate plants;
- Get up to \$4 cashback for every square foot of turf you replace;
- Sign up for a personalized in-person or virtual Home Savings Survey from one of our experts. These surveys take just 60 minutes to complete and can help you find ways to reduce outdoor water waste; and,
- Visit mnwd.com/watersavingtips to learn more about indoor and outdoor water savings tips.

Q: What year-round state water use guidelines remain in effect?

A: Moulton Niguel continues to abide by year-round state water use guidelines. Under these year-round guidelines, customers should:

- Always use an automatic shutoff nozzle when washing cars.
- DO NOT water landscaping between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- DO NOT water landscaping within 48 hours of measurable rainfall.
- DO NOT allow excessive runoff water onto the driveway or street.
- DO NOT use a hose to wash down hard surfaces unless for health and safety reasons.

Q: What is Moulton Niguel doing to enhance local water supplies?

Moulton Niguel is expanding the use of recycled water to offset use of drinking water. Currently, more than 20 percent of our total water demands are met with locally produced recycled water.

Recycled water goes to dedicated irrigation accounts, such as homeowner associations, golf courses, street medians, commercial shopping centers, schools, and parks.

