

Report: Valley water use drops

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A new report on daily water use throughout the state showed Central Valley communities conserving more than ever.

The report, released by the State Water Resources Control Board, revealed estimated daily water use by residential customers for nearly 400 urban water agencies alongside monthly conservation data.

In the City of Fresno, for instance, total water use went from 4.756 billion gallons in September 2013 to 4.105 billion gallons a year later, a 13.6 percent decrease. Daily use per capita dropped from 156.3 gallons to 134.9 gallons a year later.

Visalia's water use totaled 1.018 billion gallons in September, down 7.8 percent from 1.104 billion gallons in September 2013, while per capita use dropped from 191.6 gallons to 176.6 gallons.

Tulare saw a 15.9 percent drop over the year, with total water use going from 749.4 million gallons to 630 million gallons and per-capita water use going from 284 gallons to 238 gallons.

In Porterville, water use fell 19.5 percent to 419.3 million gallons, with per capita use dropping from 203.8 gallons to 164 gallons.

Clovis's water use dropped 15 percent year-over-year to 855 million gallons in September, while Selma saw a drop of 18.6 percent to 168.7 million gallons.

Dinuba had a decline of 11.6 percent to 183.2 million gallons, while Exeter saw a 16 percent drop to 70.8 million gallons. In Kerman, water use dropped 13 percent to 105.5 million gallons, Kingsburg came down 16.1 percent to 118.1 million gallons and Lemoore fell 10.7 percent to 227 million gallons.

According to the report, total urban water use in California fell 10.3 percent in September compared to the year before.

Approximately 18 billion gallons of water was saved in July, 27.6 billion gallons was saved in August, and 22 billion gallons was saved in September.

At the low end, the San Francisco Bay region averaged 85.2 gallons per person per day. On the high end, the Colorado River region averaged 251.9 gallons per person per day.

The report also found that in September, 87 percent of the water agencies reporting had instituted outdoor water use restrictions, a six percentage point increase from the August reporting period.

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