

'First Look': Valadao addresses new state water restrictions



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Rep. David Valadao, R-Hanford, joins Scott Cox in studio on "First Look with Scott Cox."

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On Wednesday, California Governor Jerry Brown ordered the first statewide mandatory water restrictions, urging communities to cut back water usage by 25 percent.

Central Valley communities like Terra Bella, Avenal, and Coalinga are experiencing water shortage in real time.

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These smaller agriculture based towns are in a bad situation; wells are completely dry.

Republican Congressman David Valadao said water trucks are being hauled into the communities. Residents are forced to use communal showers.

For months now Valadao said he and other local leaders have tried to change water policies that are hindering locals.

An example is the significant number of water that goes out to the ocean everyday, water that should be captured and used in the state, he noted.

"If you're asking people to cut back on water, you'd think the government would serve as an example," Valadao said.

"The situation is bad but it was made worse by decisions made in Washington D.C., and Sacramento."

Valadao is on board with the governor's 25 percent reduction in larger cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco but doesn't feel that it should apply to the Central Valley.

"Here in the valley, we are in a bad situation," he said.

Co-host Michael Hopper asked Valadao what he thought of numerous desalination programs that were put on hold because of the astronomical cost.

Valadao said it was an expensive project but did not oppose the process.