

Urban Water Supplier Drought Response Survey: Results and Observations

Max Gomberg, Rafael Maestu,
Eric Oppenheimer

Office of Research, Planning, and Performance

July 17, 2014





Background

- April 25, 2014 Executive Order
 - June 15 update from urban water suppliers
 - Adopt emergency regulations if necessary
- May 23, 2014 Drought Survey





Survey Response

- 270 survey responses received out of 443 surveys delivered (61 percent response rate)
- Survey responses represented 25 million retail customers
- Some surveys did not reach water suppliers





Survey Response – Water Production Data

- Total monthly potable water production
- Complete data provided by 216 suppliers
- 42 respondents representing over 4 million customers did not provide complete use data
 - Suppliers disagree with staff’s choice of 2011-2013 water production data as a baseline



Survey Design and Response

- 17 questions
 - Implementation of drought plans
 - Drought response actions
 - Water production data
- 688 written comments

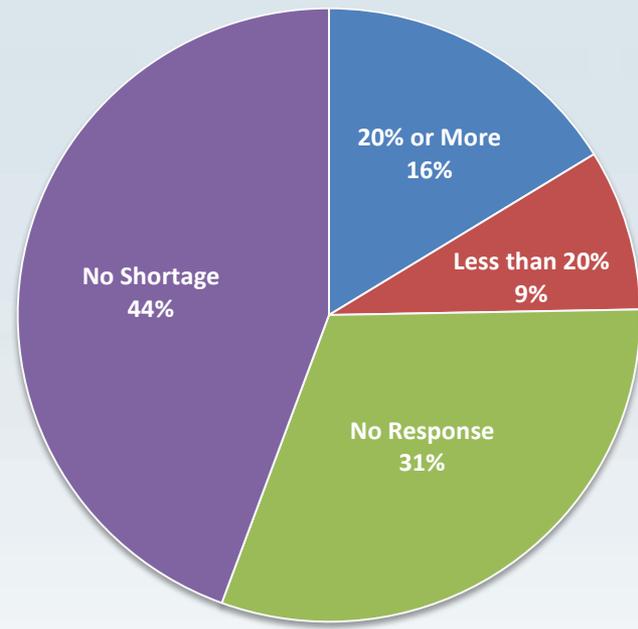


Survey Results – Water Shortage Plans

- 94 percent have a drought or water shortage plan
- 53 percent have formally invoked their drought or water shortage plan
 - 38 invoked their plan prior to 2012

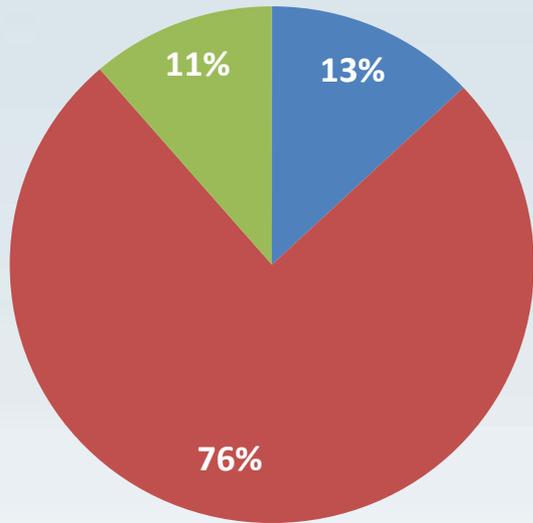


Survey Results – Shortage Status

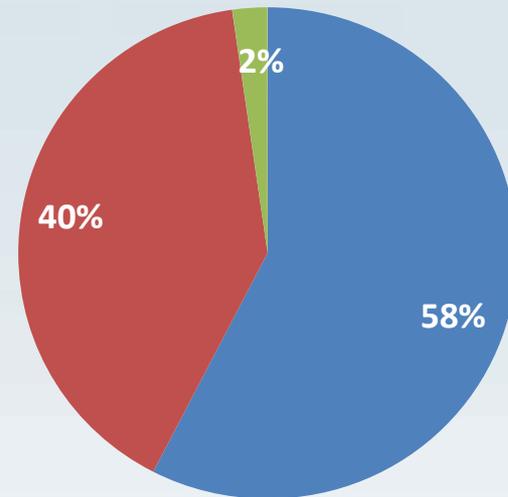


Survey Results – Water Shortage Plans with Voluntary and Mandatory Measures

Contingency Plans Not Invoked



Contingency Plans Invoked



- Implementing Mandatory Measures
- Implementing Voluntary Measures
- No Response



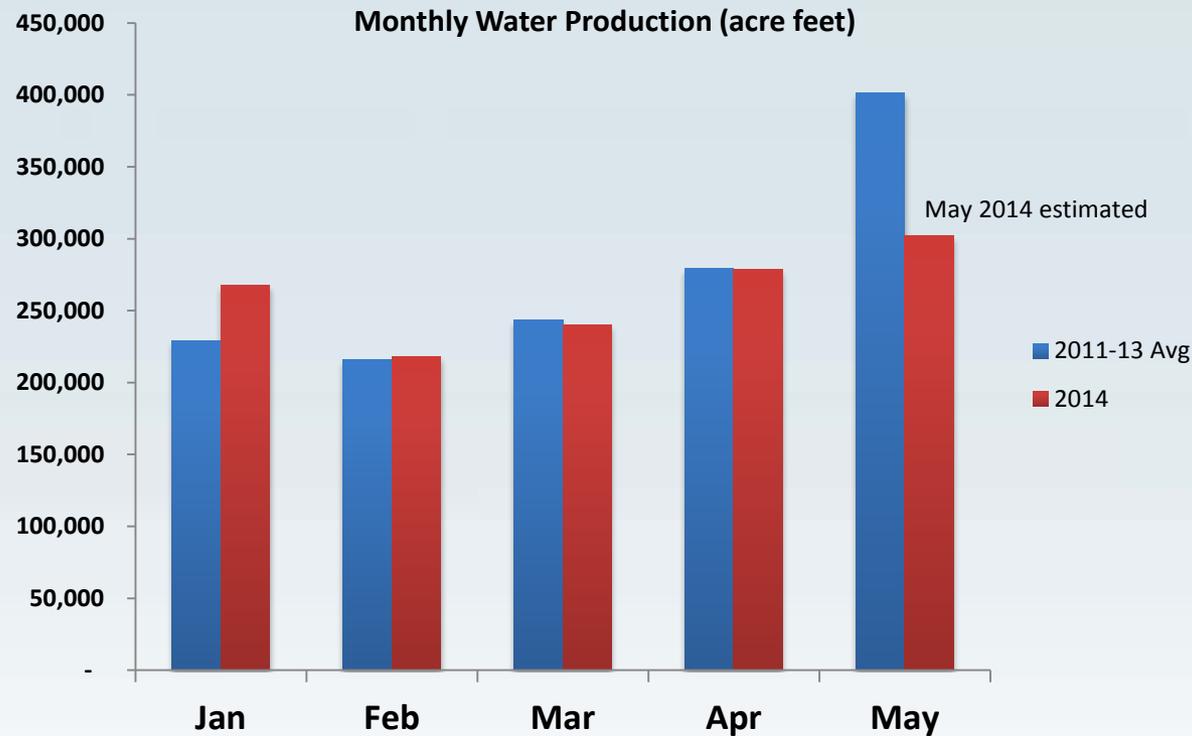


Survey Results – Drought Response Actions

- 97 percent have increased conservation messaging and outreach
- 65 percent are requesting 20 percent conservation
- 40 percent have increased enforcement and monitoring
- 7 percent have instituted short-term drought pricing



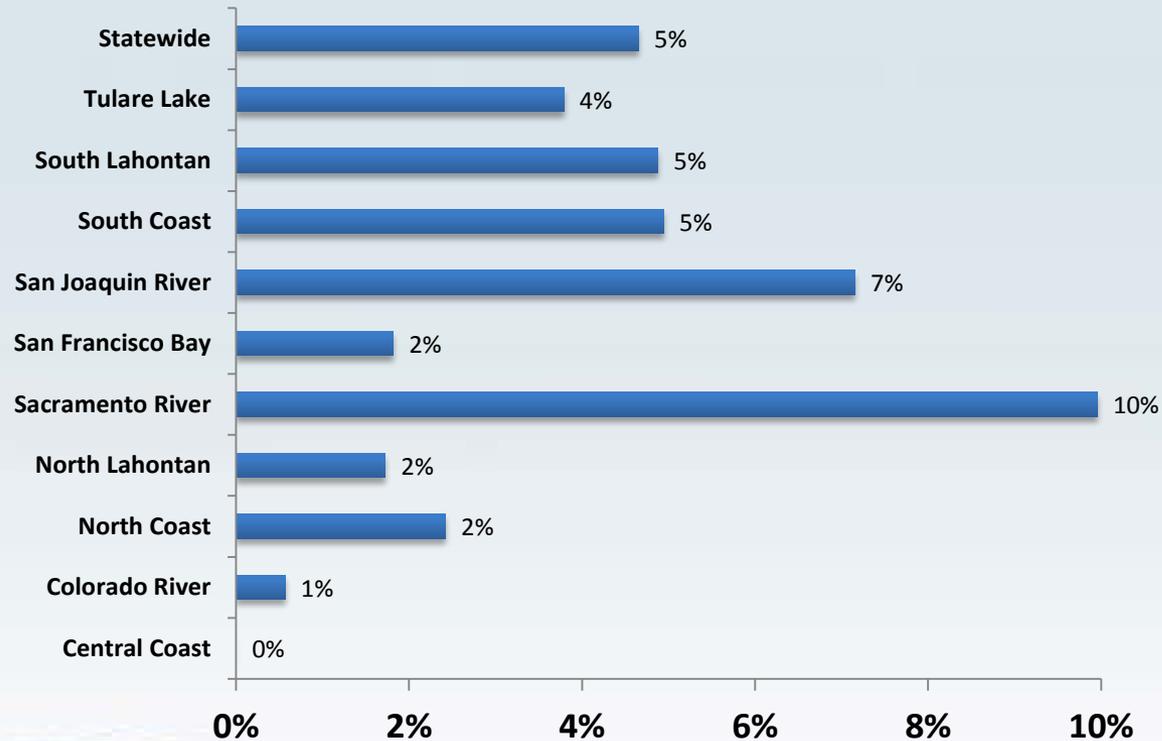
Survey Results – Water Production



Survey results show almost a 25% reduction in water production comparing May 2011-13 to May 2014.

Survey Results – Water Production

Percent Reduction in Urban Water Use Jan-May 2014 Compared to 2011-13 Jan-May Average





Survey Results – Written Comments

- Some retailers follow the lead of their wholesaler
 - “the District will change drought stages if/when the San Diego County Water Authority does.”
- Southern CA supplies are above levels that would trigger additional restrictions





Survey Results – Written Comments

- Innovative responses are being utilized
 - Customized drought reports sent to residential customers
 - “50% reduction in use at City parks and facilities from the same time period in 2013/2014.”

