Drought Update

Climate Action Subcommittee Meeting

August 10, 2022

Peter Martin – Deputy Director Water Resources

Current Drought - Summary

- The region is experiencing a third consecutive dry year
- 2019-20 & 2020-21 were two of the driest years for the region in 128 years of record keeping
- Since July 2021, Santa Rosa has instituted stage 3 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan
  - 20% community-wide reduction in water use
  - Corresponding restrictions on water use
- Sonoma Water has 3-4 years of storage for their contractors in Lake Sonoma
  - Santa Rosa Water has received allocations from Sonoma Water in 2021 & 2022

Regional Drought Response Timeline 2021-22

April 21 - Governor declares drought emergency in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties

May 18 - Santa Rosa City Council adopts resolution requesting 20% voluntary water use reduction

June 29 - Santa Rosa City Council adopts resolution declaring emergency, requiring 20% community-wide water use reduction

Sonoma Water institutes allocations for contractors

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Winter 2020-2021	Spring 2021	Summer 2021	Fall 2021	Winter 2021-2022	Spring 2022	Summer 2022

Upper Russian River challenges and Dry Winter Campaign begins

Sonoma Water Files TUCP

June – SWRCB Order allowing reduced flows and mandating reduced diversions (Jul-Dec)

October 2021 Atmospheric River

2nd driest Jan and Feb on record in N. CA

Sonoma Water files TUCP

June – SWRCB Order allowing reduced flows and mandating reduced diversions (Jul-Dec)

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Emergency Conservation Regulations adopted May 24th

- Effective June 16th, commercial, industrial and institutional (CII) “non-functional turf” is no longer allowed to be irrigated.
  - Some limited exceptions
  - Enforcement authority resides with SWRCB
  - Direct outreach to CII by Santa Rosa Water ongoing
- Urban water suppliers to implement all conservation actions in their locally adopted plans meant to address at least a water shortage level of 10 to 20 percent (Level 2) by June 16, 2022.

Water Shortage Contingency Plan

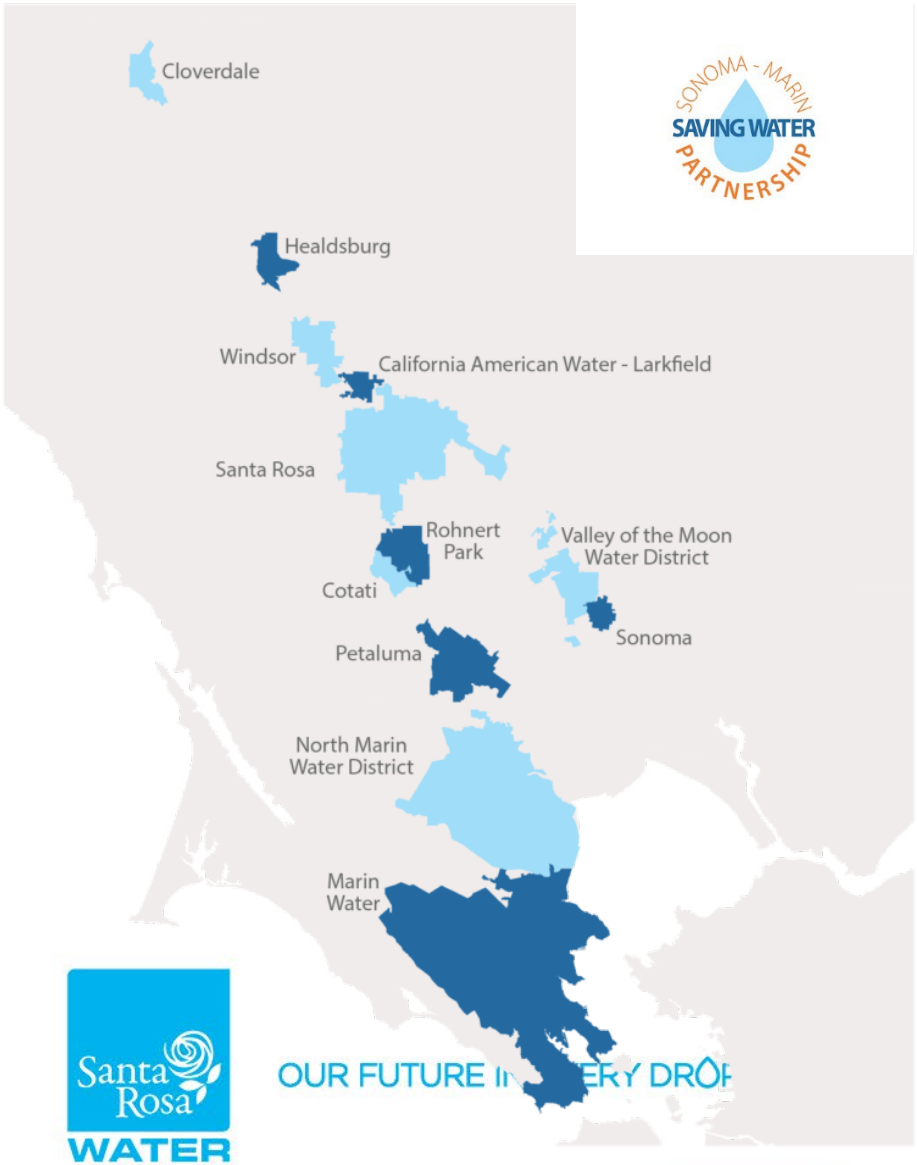
Water shortages & emergencies

- Required by law for urban water suppliers
- Defines shortage levels corresponding stages of action
- Identifies corresponding stages of action

Planned response actions to reduce demand

- Outreach & education
- Customer service & assistance
- Prohibitions & restrictions
- Compliance & enforcement
- Monitoring and reporting

Drought Response: Outreach and Education



STILL

DROUGHT IS HERE

SAVE WATER

Since 2021, the Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership has coordinated on a "co-branded" campaign

- 13 utilities = consistent messaging
- Outreach tool-kits
- Advertisements
- Radio, social media
- Events
- Workshops

Drought Response: Events and Workshops

- Santa Rosa Water has participated in more than 30 events
- Hosted 3 drought “drop-by” events (COVID restrictions)
- Hosted 15 workshops in partnership with Daily Acts and UC Master Gardeners

srcity.org/popups

Srcity.org/workshops

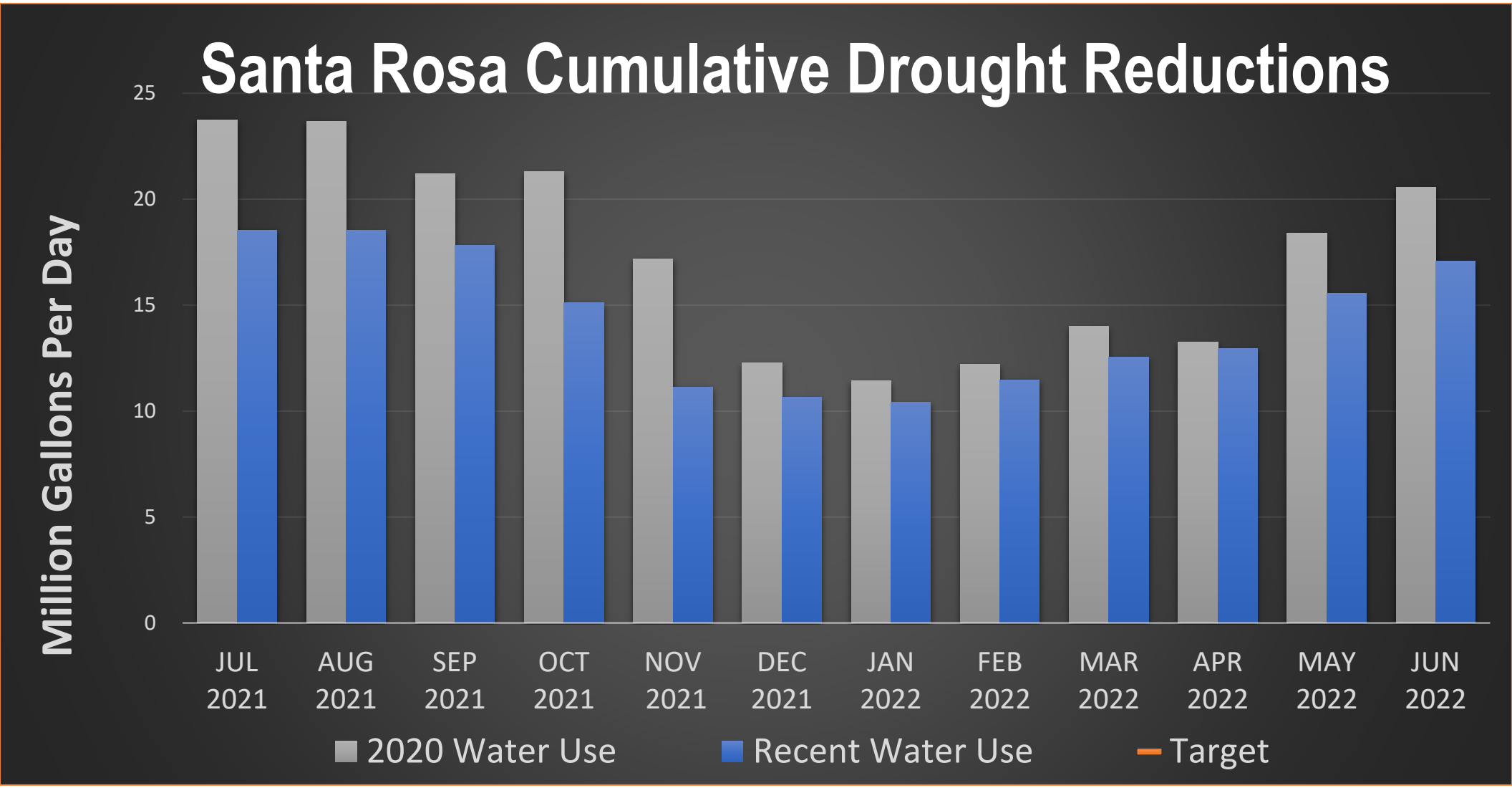
Drought Response: Customer Service and assistance

- Increased the “Cash for Grass” rebate
  - $1.50 per square foot
- Added pool cover and pool removal rebates
- Offering in-person home and business audits
- DIY audit kits – virtual follow up
- Calls and e-mails up 800% compared to 2019

Drought Response: Compliance and Enforcement

- Advanced Metering Infrastructure has allowed staff to follow up on continuous use cases
- Water Waste Patrols continue in the summer months
- Educate customers about their water use and leaks

Drought Response: Monitoring and Reporting



- In June, Santa Rosa residents reduced water use by 17% compared to June 2020
- From July 2021 - June 2022, water use has been reduced by 17% compared to 2020

Drought Response: WUE Program Metrics

Water Use Efficiency Measures	2019	2020	2021	2022 (so far)
Water Waste Reports	59	46	720	226
Devices distributed	N/A	331	18,400	4,385
Cash for Grass rebates issued	21	34	143	84
Cash for Grass rebates sq. ft. removed	9,359	26,027	154,414	108,707
WaterSmart Checkups	239	269	236	113
Graywater rebates issued	-	-	1	2
Recirculating hot water pump rebates issued	3	4	9	9
Clothes washer rebates issued	37	47	52	29
Rainwater harvesting capacity installed (gals)	1,730	12,413	8,366	2,570

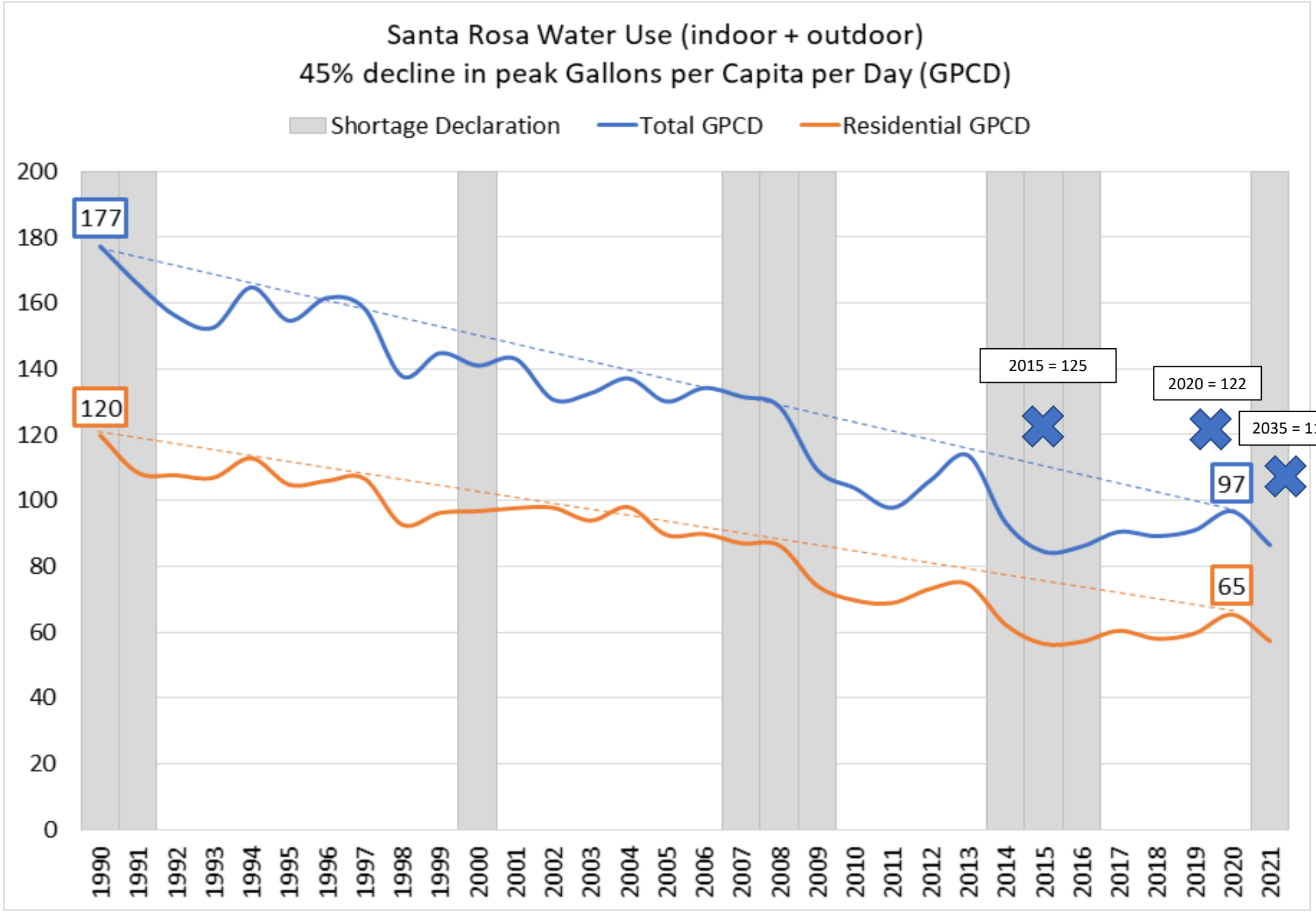
2012 Santa Rosa Climate Action Plan Review: Water Conservation

Santa Rosa WATER

OUR FUTURE IN EVERY DROP

2012 Climate Action Plan Implementation: Performance Targets

Implementation of Water Conservation Measures Performance Targets				
Measure #	**Description**	**2015**	**2020**	**2035**
7.1	Conserve water	X		
7.1.1	Require reduction in potable water for new development	X		
7.1.2	Expand water conservation efforts	X		
7.1.3	Use water meters which track real-time water use		X	
7.1.4	Utilize smart water meters to save water and costs			X
WUE TARGETS	Total gallons per capita per day (GPCD)	125	122	110
EMISSIONS REDUCTION	metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents ($MTCO_2e$)	-1,170	-1,700	-2,210



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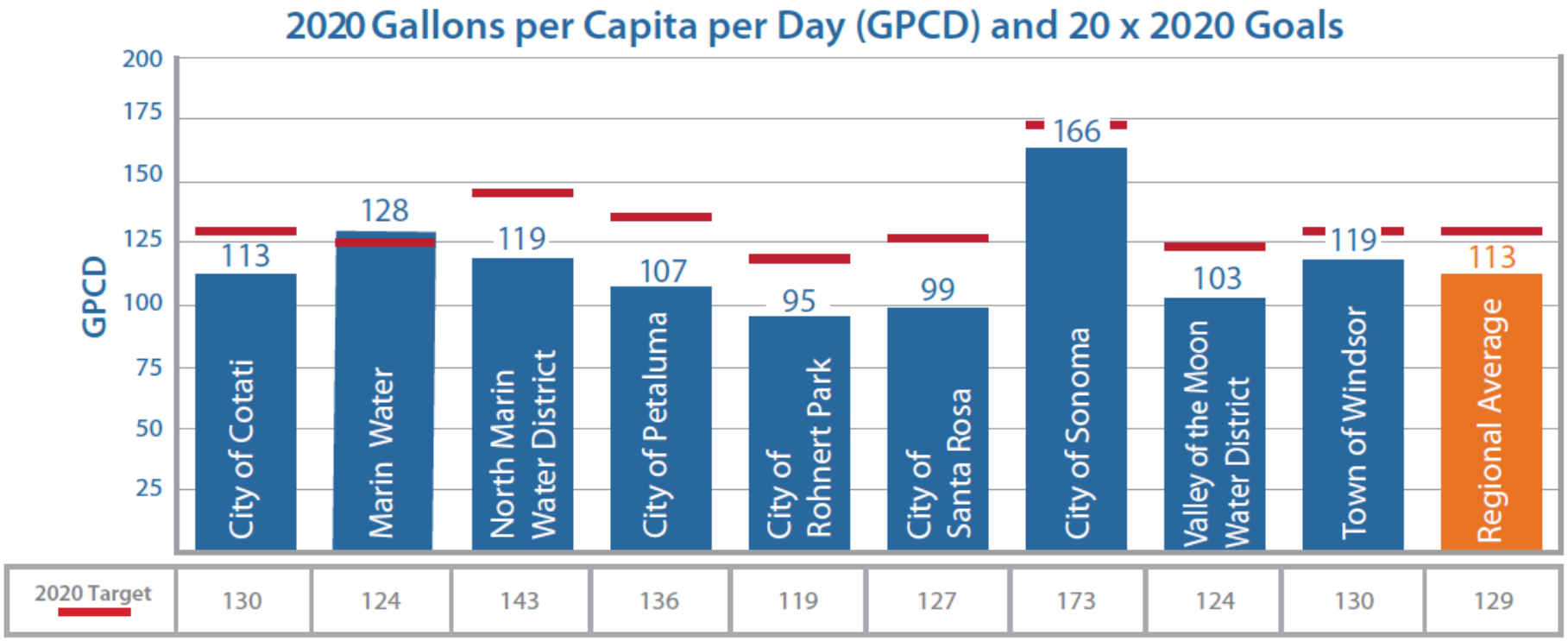
2020 SB 7x-7 Conservation Mandate – Regional Alliance



Water Supply Alternatives Plan

- **Purpose**: Enhance the City's long-term water supply resiliency and reliability, to adapt to climate change and reduce vulnerability to shortages in very dry periods.

- **Proposed Approach**: Conduct a study and develop a plan
  - Study the feasibility of a wide range of potential water supply sources.
  - Study the feasibility of achieving the City's initial water supply goals. Refine the goals as needed.
  - Develop and adopt a plan with portfolios of options to achieve the goals by 2045.

Likely Award Fall 2022, Completion 2023

Santa Rosa Water is here to help you save!

For WaterSmart Resources, visit:

srcity.org/WaterSmart

For the latest drought updates, visit:

srcity.org/SaveWater