

**City of Garden Grove**  
**WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO**  
**December 15, 2022**

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council      FROM: Maria Stipe, Assistant City Manager  
Members

**I. ITEMS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, OUTSIDE AGENCIES,  
BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS**

- A.** Memorandum from Mr. Larry Dick and Mr. Bob McVicker of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) outlining monthly water usage data figures, an estimate of Tier 2 volume for MWDOC, and selected water supply information.

• **OTHER ITEMS**

- SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES  
Copies of the week's social media posts and local newspaper articles are attached for your information.
- MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS  
Items of interest are included.



Maria Stipe  
Assistant City Manager



## Memorandum

**DATE:** December 13, 2022  
**TO:** Member Agencies – MWD OC Divisions Two & Three  
**FROM:** Larry Dick, Director – Division Two  
Bob McVicker, Director – Division Three  
**SUBJECT:** Monthly Water Usage Data, Tier 2 Projection & Water Supply Information

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The attached figures show the recent trend of water consumption in Orange County (OC), an estimate of Imported Water Sales for MWD OC, and selected water supply information.

- OC Water Usage, Monthly by Supply ***OCWD Groundwater was the main supply in October.***
- Estimated OC Water Usage, Monthly, Comparison to Previous Years Water usage in October ***2022 was well below average compared to the last 5 years.*** We are projecting a decrease in overall water usage compared to FY 2021-22. On July 8<sup>th</sup> 2021, state officials have ask California residents to voluntary reduce their water usage by 15% compared to 2020 levels.
- Historical OC Water Consumption Orange County M & I water consumption is ***projected to be 528,000 AF in FY 2022-23 (this includes ~11 TAF of agricultural usage and non-retail water agency usage).*** This is about ***18,000 AF less than FY 2021-22*** and is about ***32,000 AF less than FY 2020-21.*** Water usage per person is projected to be slightly lower in ***FY 2021-22 for Orange County at 149 gallons per day*** (This includes recycled water usage). Although OC population has increased 20% over the past two decades, water usage has not increased, on average. A long-term decrease in per-capita water usage is attributed mostly to Water Use Efficiency (water conservation) efforts. ***O.C. Water Usage has declined significantly since the FY 2013-14. Since FY 2013-14 average O.C. Annual Water usage is 535,000 AF, a decline of 86,500 AF since FY 2013-14.***

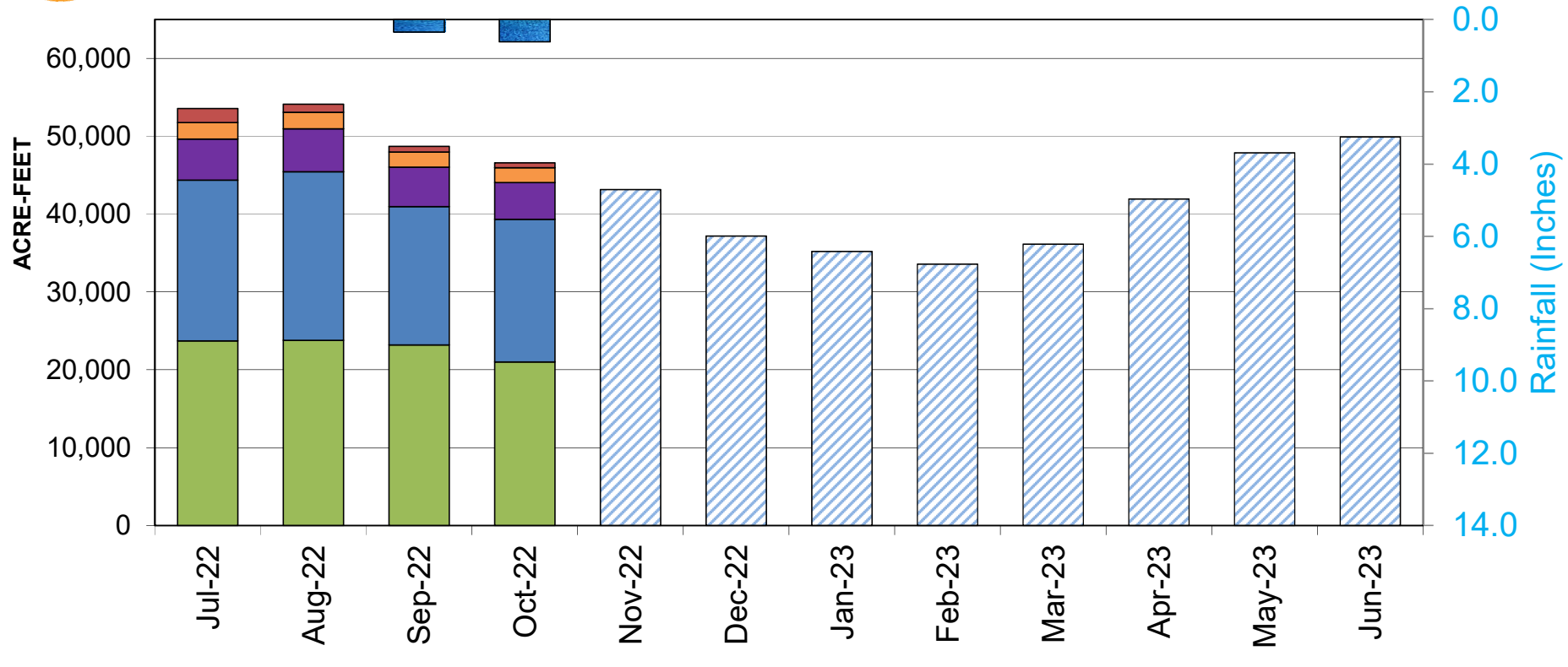
Water Supply Information Includes data on Rainfall in OC; the OCWD Basin overdraft; Northern California and Colorado River Basin hydrologic data; the State Water Project (SWP) Allocation, and regional storage volumes. The data have implications for the magnitude of supplies from the three watersheds that are the principal sources of water for OC. Note that a hydrologic year is Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> through Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.

- Orange County's accumulated precipitation through **early December was above average** for this period. Water year to date rainfall in Orange County is **2.94 inches**, which is **141% of normal**.
- Northern California accumulated precipitation through **early December was 81% of normal for this period**. Water Year 2021 was 48% of normal while water year 2020 was 63% of normal. The **Northern California snowpack was 107% as December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022. As of late December, 99.48%** of California is experiencing **moderate to severe drought conditions. 40.92%** of California is experiencing **extreme to exceptional drought conditions**. The Initial State Water Project Contractors Table A Allocation was 5% as of December for WY 2023.
- Colorado River Basin accumulated precipitation through **early December was 92% of normal** for this period. The **Upper Colorado Basin snowpack was 94% of normal** as of December 6<sup>th</sup> 2022. **Lake Mead and Lake Powell** combined have about **37.0% of their average storage volume** for this time of year and are at **25.7% of their total capacity**. For the first time on the Colorado River, Lake Mead's **levels have fallen below the "trigger" limit of 1,075 ft. at the end of a calendar year**. The US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) has declared a shortage at Lake Mead, impacting Colorado River water deliveries to the Lower Basin states. Lake Mead as of early December was **31.81' BELOW the "trigger" limit**. The USBR has declared a **shortage on the Colorado River starting January 1<sup>st</sup> 2022. There is a 100% chance of shortage continuing in 2023, 93% in 2024, 100% in 2025 and 93% in 2026.** Lake Mead as of late December was **1.81' BELOW the State of California "trigger" limit. There is a 0% chance of shortage for California in 2023, 77% in 2024 (-282 TAF), 71% in 2025 (-302 TAF) and 67% in 2026 (-293 TAF).**



**Fig. 1 OC Water Usage, Monthly by Supply with projection to end of fiscal year**

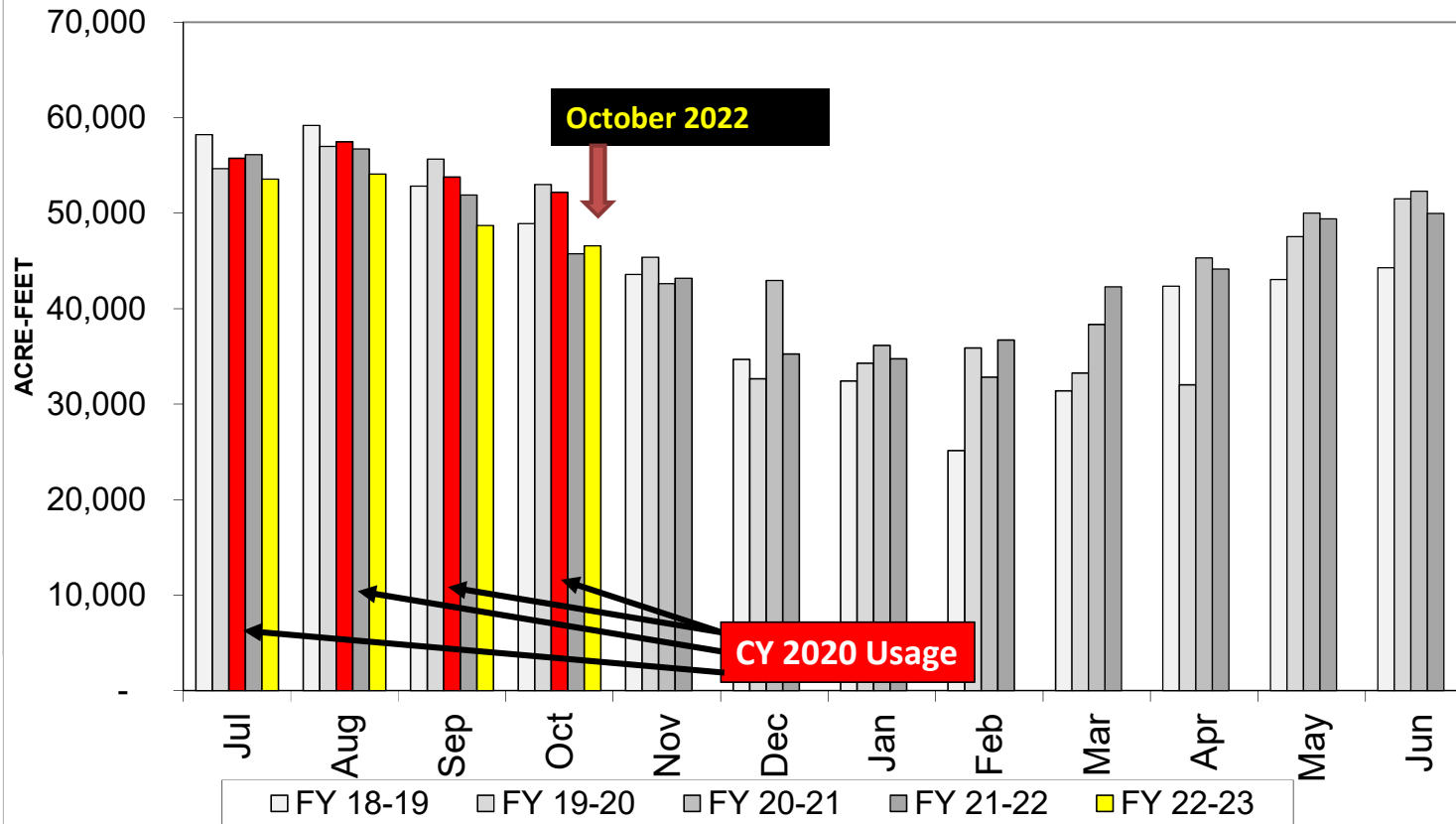
- Surface Water
- Recycled (Non Potable)
- Non-OCWD Groundwater
- Import [1]
- projected [3]
- OCWD Basin [2]
- Rainfall



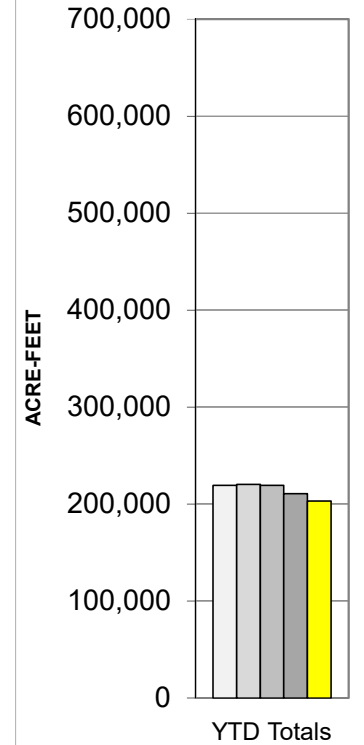
- [1] Imported water for consumptive use. Includes "In-Lieu" deliveries and CUP water extraction. Excludes "Direct Replenishment" deliveries of spreading water and deliveries into Irvine Lake.
- [2] GW for consumptive use only. Excludes In-Lieu water deliveries and CUP water extraction that are counted with Import. BPP in FY '22-23 is 77%.
- [3] MWDOC's estimate of monthly demand is based on the projected 5 Year historical retail water demand and historical monthly demand patterns.
- [4] Total water usage includes IRWD groundwater agricultural use and usage by non-retail water agencies.



**Fig. 2 OC Monthly Water Usage [1]: Comparison to Last 4 Fiscal Years**

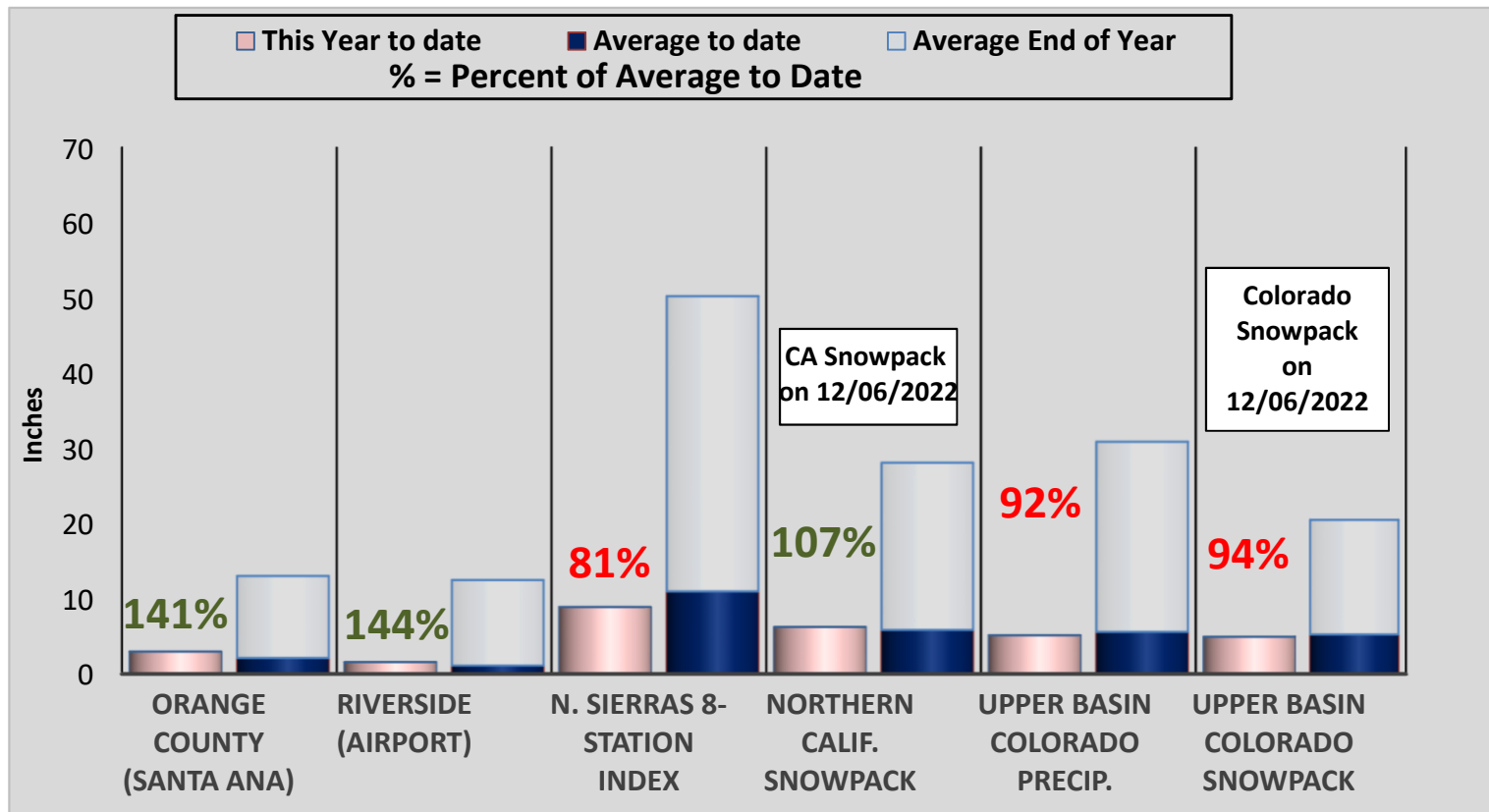


**Partial Year Subtotals**



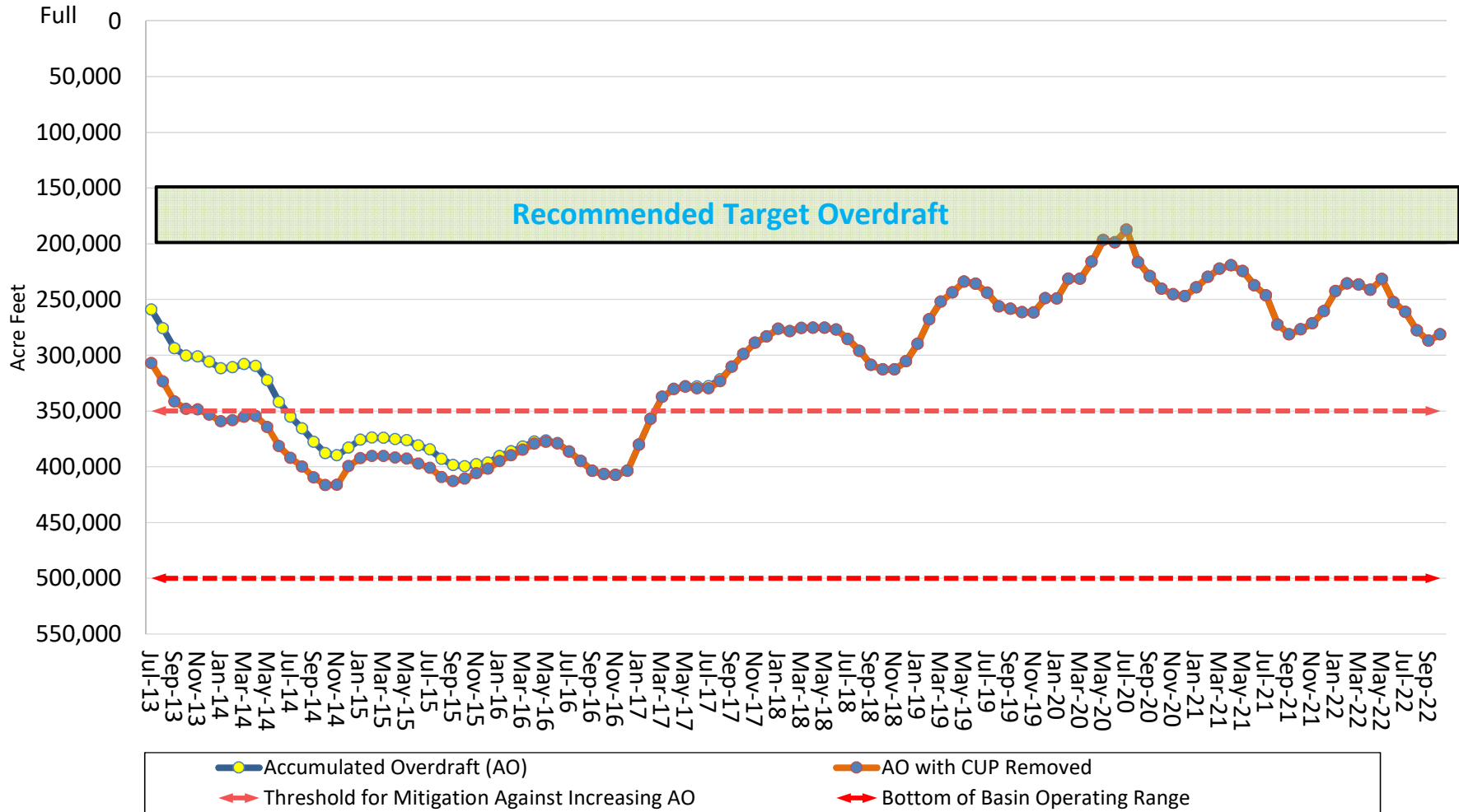
[1] Sum of Imported water for consumptive use (includes "In-Lieu" deliveries; excludes "Direct Replenishment" and "Barrier Replenishment") and Local water for consumptive use (includes recycled and non-potable water and excludes GWRS production) Recent months numbers include some estimation.

## Accumulated Precipitation for the Oct.-Sep. water year, early of December 2022



\* The date of maximum snowpack accumulation (April 1st in Northern Calif. , April 15th in the Upper Colorado Basin) is used for year to year comparison.

## Accumulated Overdraft of the OCWD Groundwater Basin as of October 2022

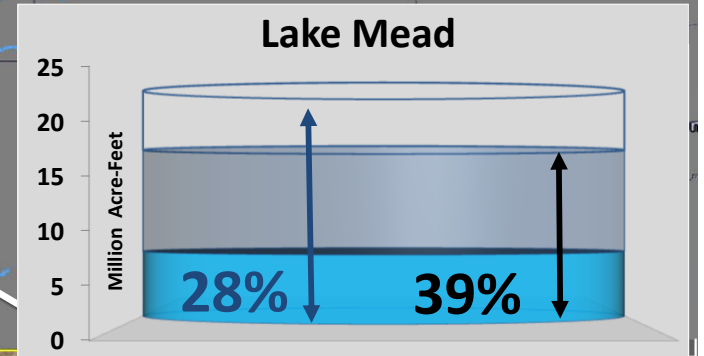
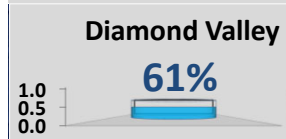
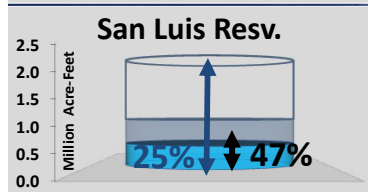
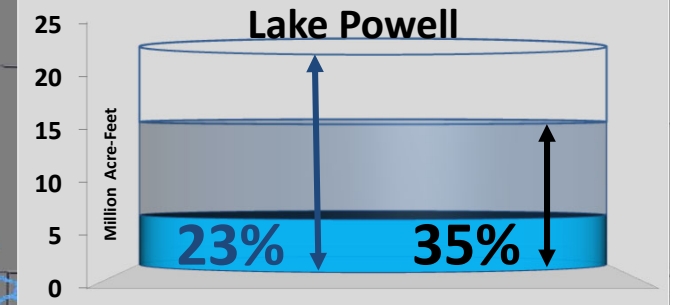
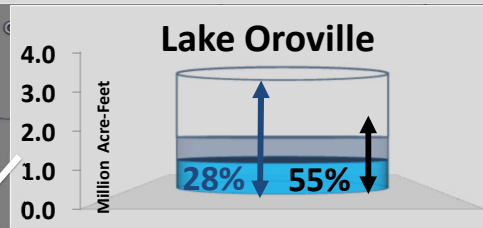
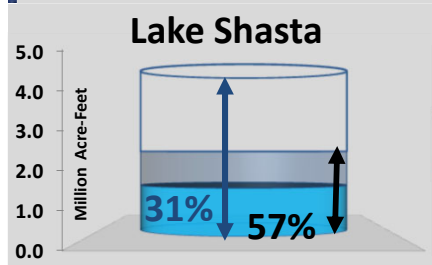


	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22
AO (AF)	246,350	272,443	281,354	276,909	271,455	260,387	242,511	235,744	236,708	241,450	231,699	252,348
AO w/CUP removed (AF)	246,350	272,442	281,354	276,909	271,455	260,387	242,510	235,744	236,708	241,450	231,699	252,348
	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23
AO (AF)	261,145	277,756	286,988	281,407								
AO w/CUP removed (AF)	261,145	277,756	286,986	281,407								

\* Source ~ OCWD Monthly Board of Directors Packet, Water Resources Summary



**State Water Project, Colorado River, and MWD Reservoir Storage**  
as of December 6, 2022



**Reservoir Storage** (Blue bar)  
**Historical Reservoir Storage** (Grey bar)

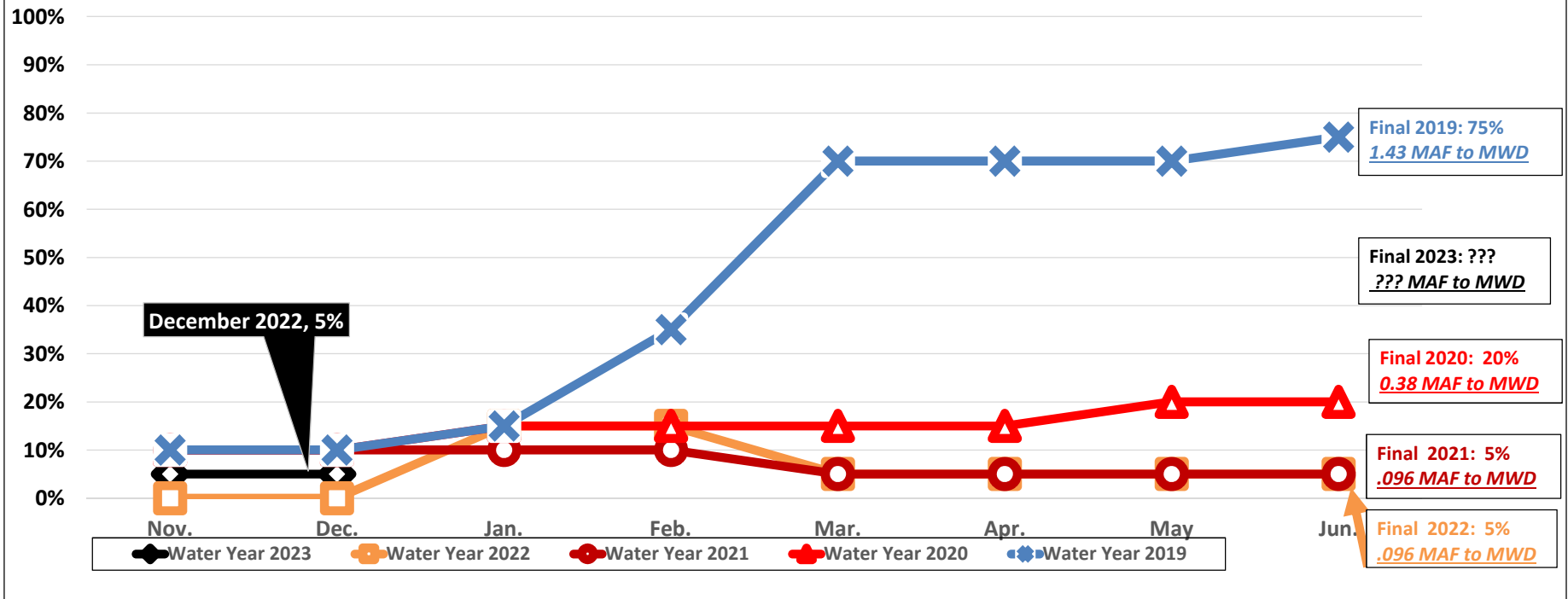
**SWP Take Capacity = 0.185 MAF**  
**CRA Take Capacity = 0.121 MAF**  
**In Region Take Capacity = 0.437 MAF**



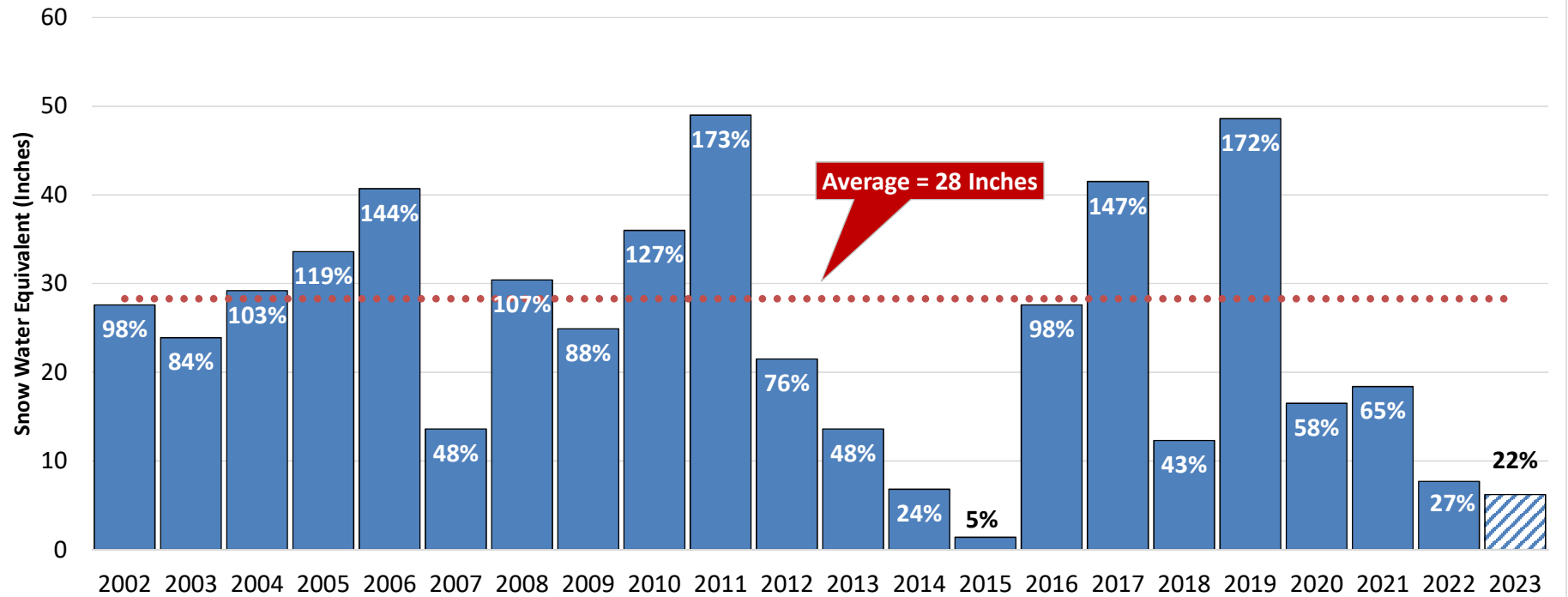


# SWP TABLE A ALLOCATION PERCENTAGE

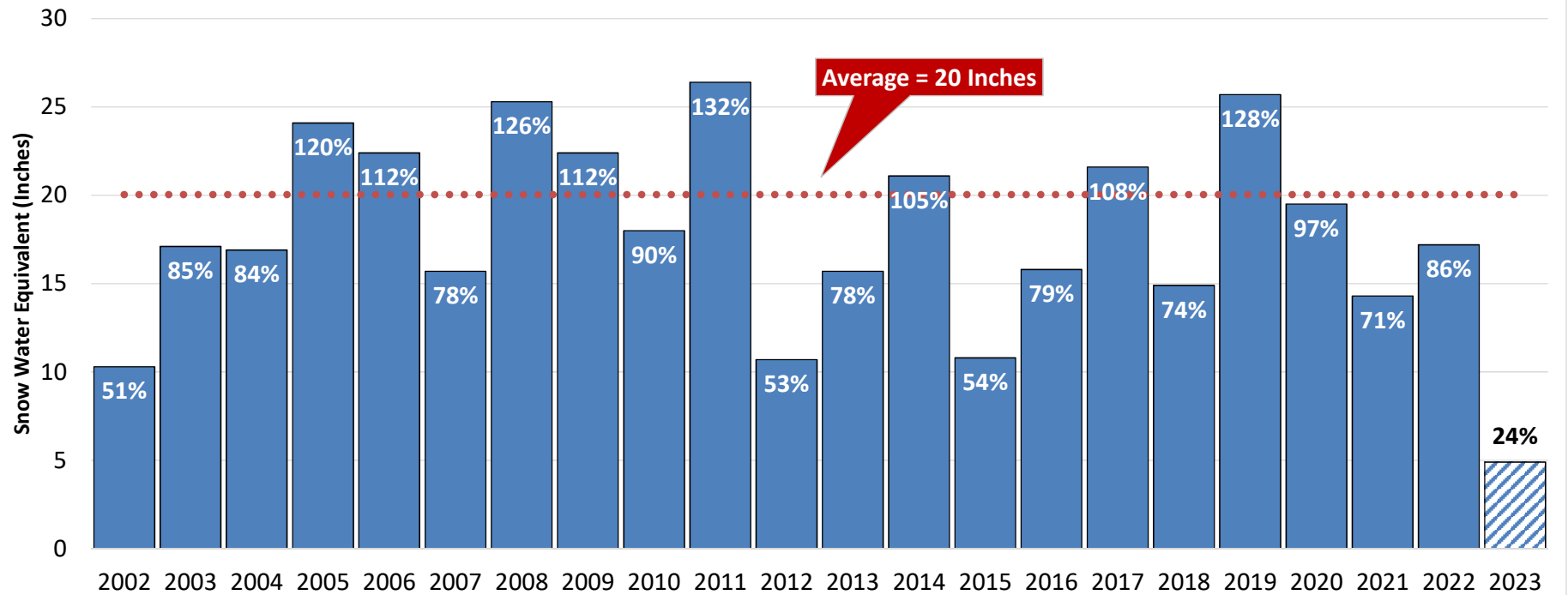
FOR STATE WATER PROJECT CONTRACTORS



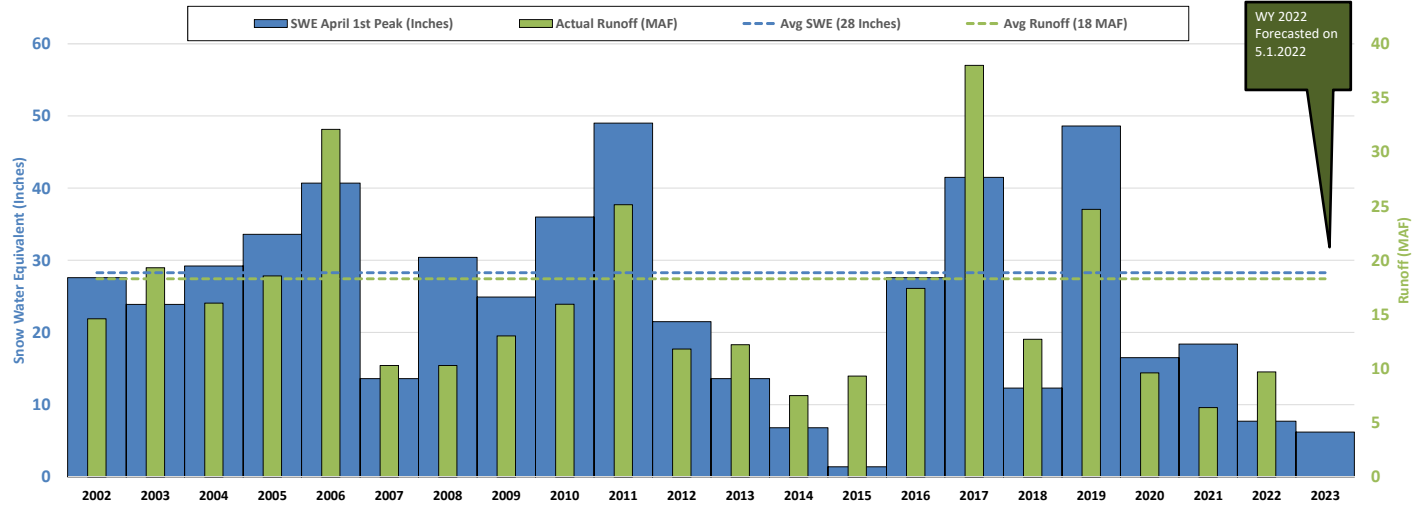
### Historical Northern California April 1st Peak Snow Water Equivalent



### Historical Colorado Basin April 15th Peak Snow Water Equivalent



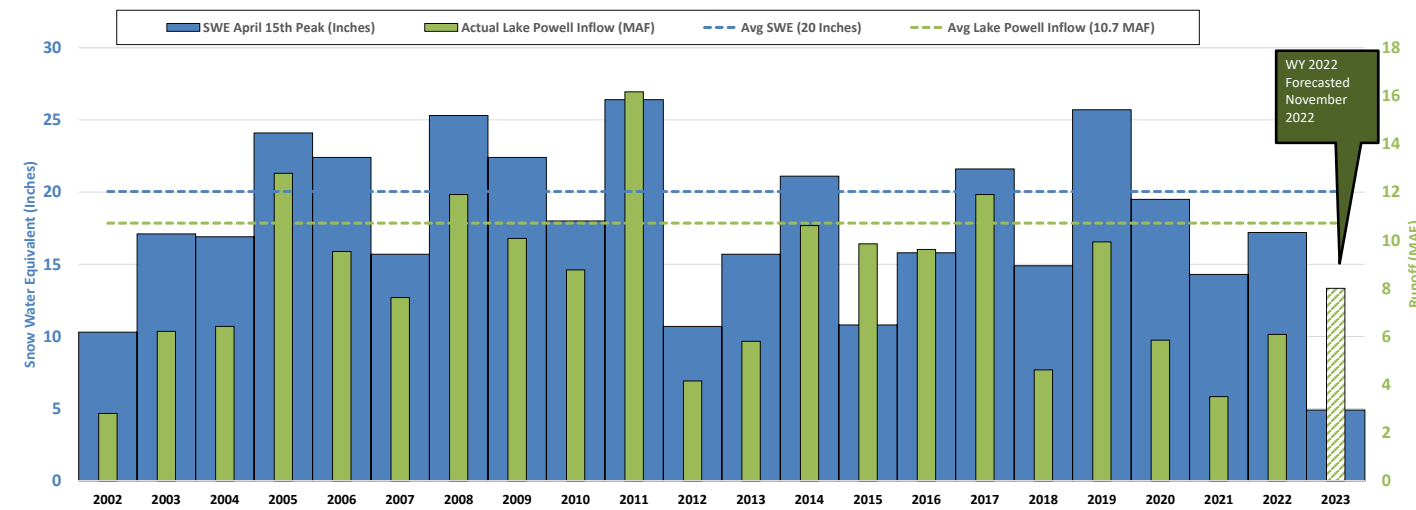
### Northern California Historical Snow Water Equivalent (Inches) Vs Runoff (Million AF)



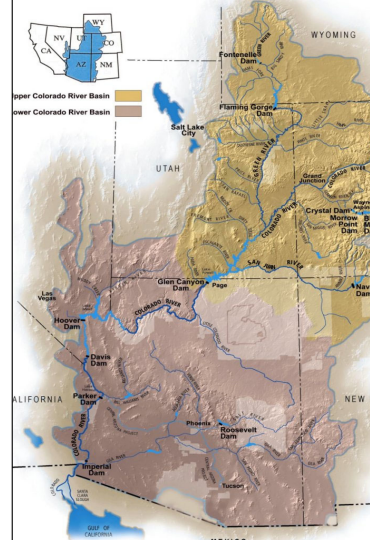
### Sacramento River Basin



### Upper Colorado Historical Snow Water Equivalent (Inches) Vs Runoff (Million AF)



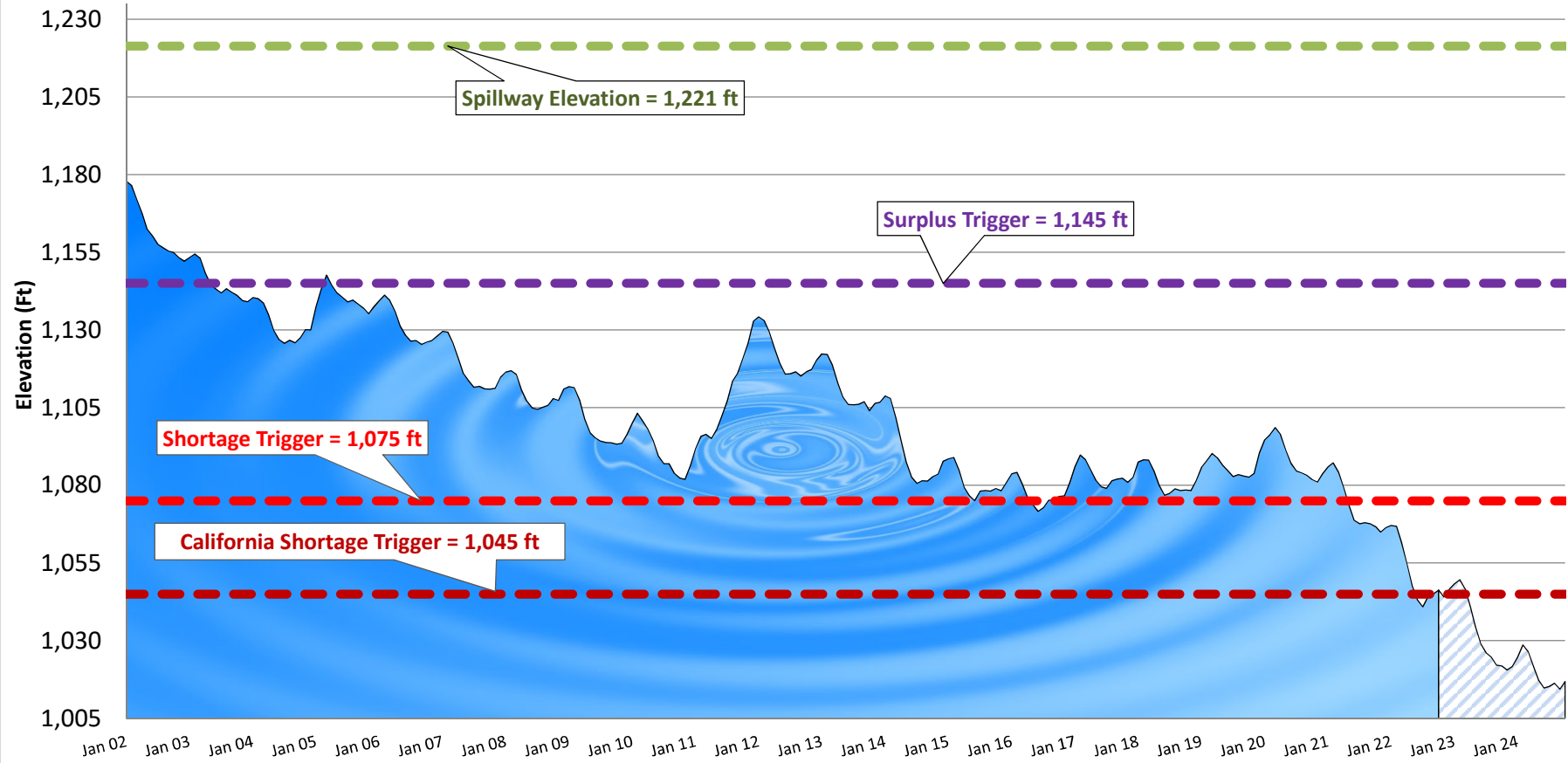
### Colorado River Basin



# Lake Mead Levels: Historical and Projected projection per USBR 24-Month Study

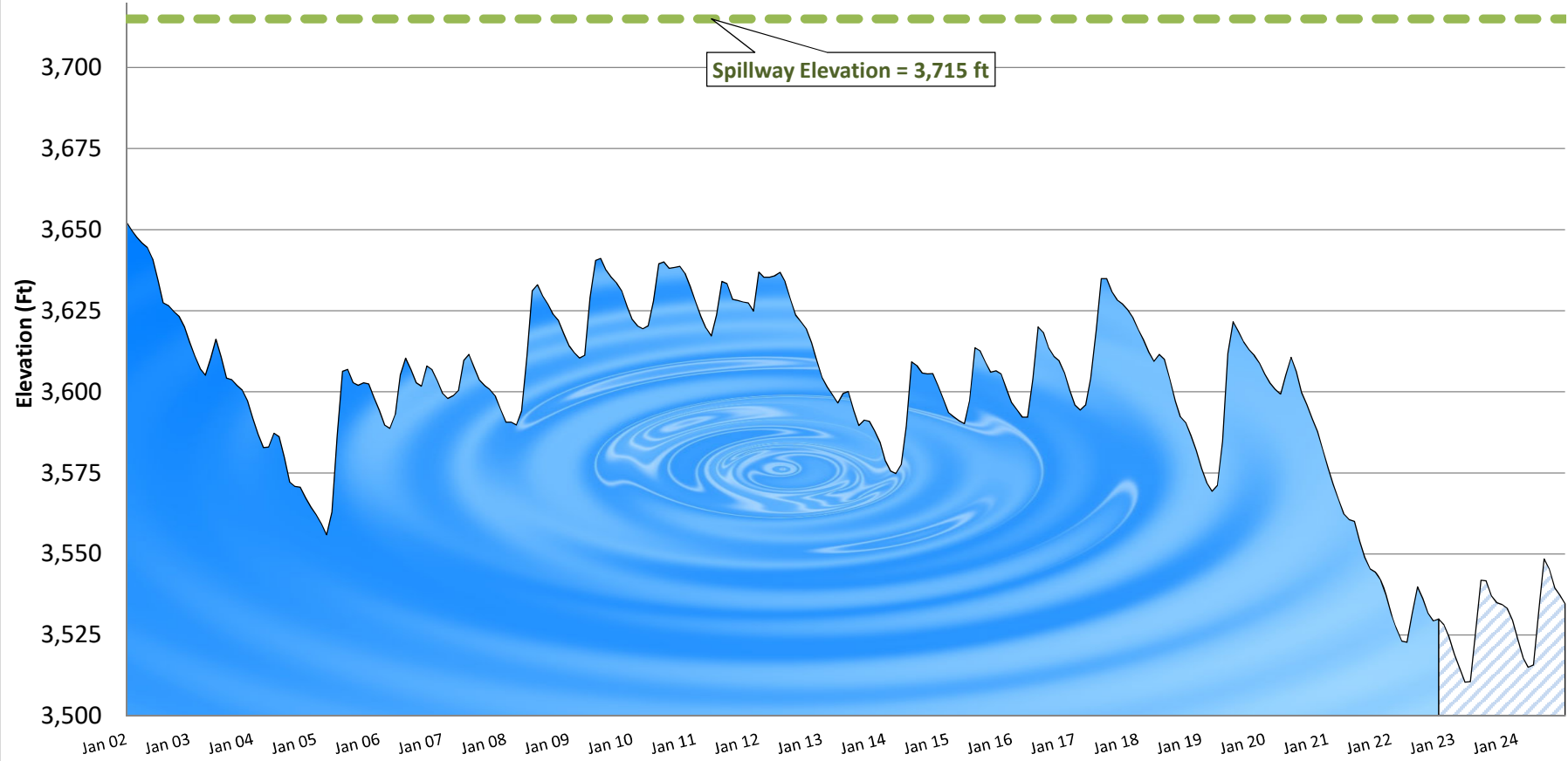


Projected  
Historical

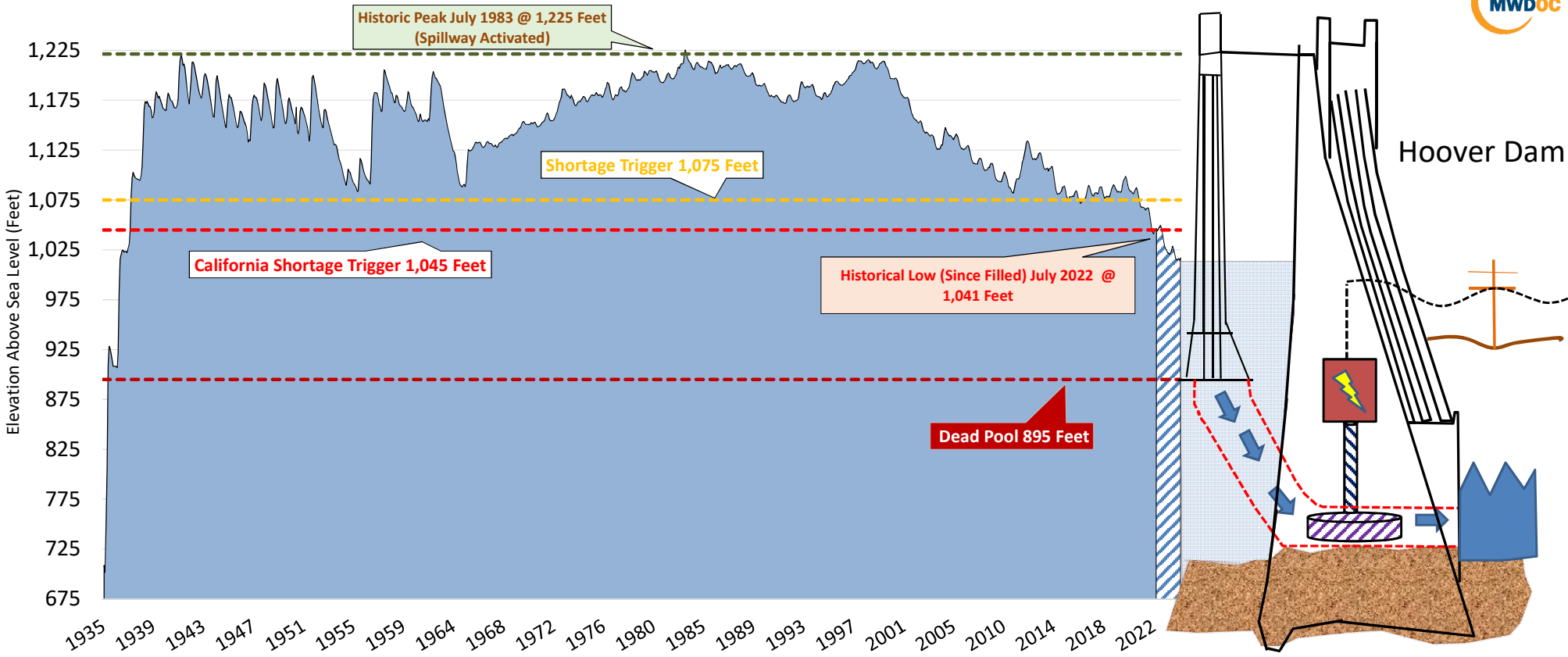


## Lake Powell Levels: Historical and Projected projection per USBR 24-Month Study

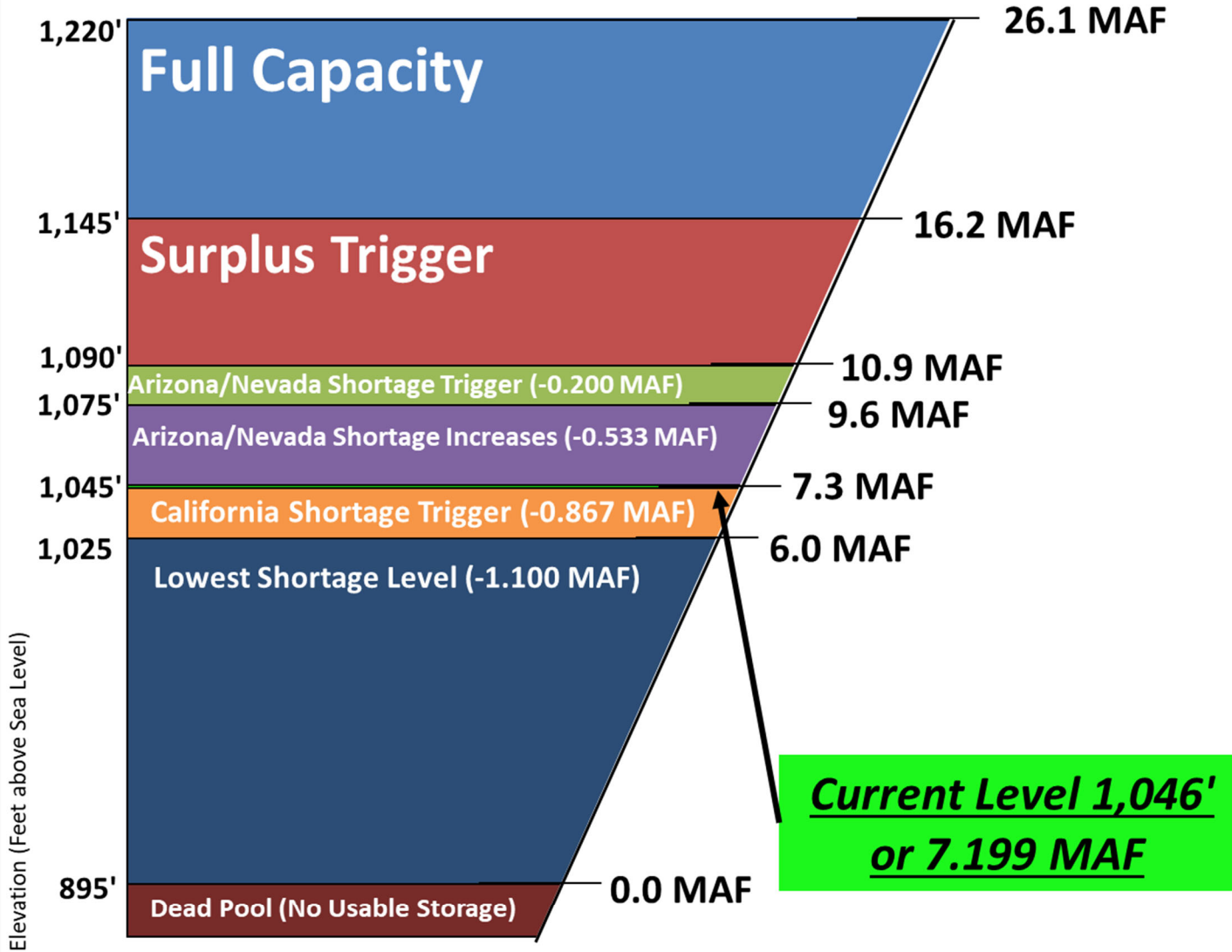
■ Historical □ Projected



# Lake Mead Historical Water Elevation Level



# Lake Mead Storage Level





**WEEKLY MEMO 12-15-2022**

# **SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**



## Post Performance

December 1, 2022 - December 7, 2022

Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.

**Included in this Report**

 @CityGardenGrove

 Garden Grove City Hall

 gardengrovecityhall



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Wed 12/7/2022 1:17 pm PST

❄️ The holiday spirit is all around us! Attend the free Christmas Concert at Mile Square Park, featuring our very own Bols...



Impressions	1,656
Reach	1,650
Engagements	66
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	4%



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Tue 12/6/2022 1:00 pm PST

🌱 It's time to veg out! Did you know #GardenGrove is home to several #vegan restaurants? Here's a few that were...



Impressions	2,396
Reach	2,313
Engagements	298
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	12.4%



**gardengrovecityhall**

Tue 12/6/2022 1:00 pm PST

🌱 It's time to veg out! Did you know #GardenGrove is home to several #vegan restaurants? Here's a few that were...



Impressions	2,747
Reach	1,977
Engagements	139
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	5.1%



**gardengrovecityhall**

Tue 12/6/2022 11:36 am PST

🛍️ 'Tis the season to shop local and win \$500 🇺🇸 🇩🇪



Impressions	<b>403</b>
Reach	<b>395</b>
Comments	<b>0</b>
Story Taps Back	<b>7</b>



**@CityGardenGrove**

Tue 12/6/2022 10:11 am PST

🛍️ 'Tis the season to shop local & win 🇺🇸 🇩🇪  
Shop local to have the opportunity to win \$500, 1-night stay at the Great Wolf Lod...



Impressions	<b>112</b>
Potential Reach	<b>4,597</b>
Engagements	<b>1</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>0.9%</b>



**gardengrovecityhall**

Tue 12/6/2022 10:06 am PST

🛍️ 'Tis the season to shop local and win \$500! 🇺🇸 🇩🇪 This holiday, shop local to have the opportunity to win \$500, \$250, a 1-...



Impressions	<b>617</b>
Reach	<b>564</b>
Engagements	<b>20</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>3.2%</b>



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Tue 12/6/2022 10:03 am PST

🛍️ 'Tis the season to shop local and win \$500! 💰 This holiday, shop local to have the opportunity to win \$500, \$250, a 1-...

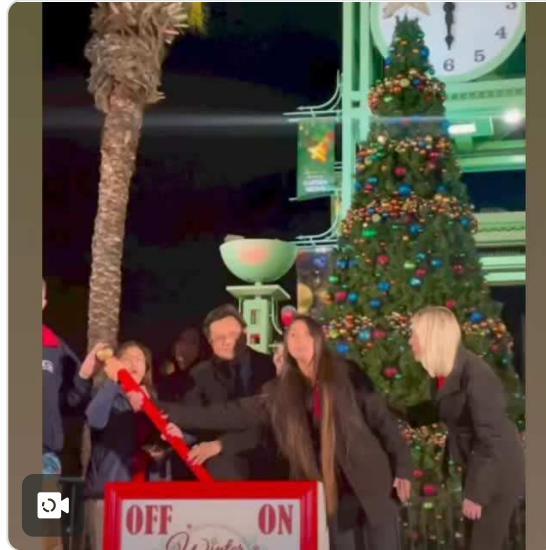


Impressions	<b>1,158</b>
Reach	<b>1,133</b>
Engagements	<b>49</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>4.2%</b>



**gardengrovecityhall**

Mon 12/5/2022 5:03 pm PST



Impressions	<b>900</b>
Reach	<b>858</b>
Comments	<b>0</b>
Story Taps Back	<b>21</b>



**@CityGardenGrove**

Mon 12/5/2022 3:52 pm PST

🏗️ @gootca & its contractor have begun construction on the Track Stabilization Project in south #OrangeCounty! This...



Impressions	<b>132</b>
Potential Reach	<b>4,597</b>
Engagements	<b>12</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>9.1%</b>



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Mon 12/5/2022 3:51 pm PST

🏗️ OCTA and its contractor have begun construction on the Track Stabilization Project in south #OrangeCounty! This...



Impressions	520
Reach	520
Engagements	13
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	2.5%



**gardengrovecityhall**

Mon 12/5/2022 12:02 pm PST

🎁 Are you looking for a place to donate holiday items to kids who need them the most? Participate in the #GardenGrove...



Impressions	1,420
Reach	1,328
Engagements	78
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	5.5%



**@CityGardenGrove**

Mon 12/5/2022 11:57 am PST

🎁 Are you looking for a place to donate holiday items to kids who need them the most? Participate in the #GardenGrove...



Impressions	112
Potential Reach	4,598
Engagements	3
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	2.7%



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Mon 12/5/2022 11:53 am PST

📺 Are you looking for a place to donate holiday items to kids who need them the most? Participate in the #GardenGrove...



Impressions	2,149
Reach	2,115
Engagements	103
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	4.8%



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Mon 12/5/2022 7:14 am PST

💰 Shop local and win \$500 or a 1-night stay at the Great Wolf Lodge! From #BlackFriday, November 25 through...



Impressions	318
Reach	316
Engagements	7
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	2.2%



**@CityGardenGrove**

Thu 12/1/2022 5:33 pm PST

🕒 Only two more days until the 5th annual Winter in the Grove community event on Sat. 12/3, from 3 PM to 7 PM in Village...



Impressions	276
Potential Reach	5,608
Engagements	14
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	5.1%





**Garden Grove City Hall**

Thu 12/1/2022 4:32 pm PST

🔔 Sleigh bells are ringing overhead and you know what that means... Join Breanna Greenup and Garden Grove TV 3 as they...



Video Views	<b>727</b>
Impressions	<b>1,612</b>
Reach	<b>1,597</b>
Engagements	<b>389</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>24.1%</b>



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Thu 12/1/2022 9:31 am PST



Impressions	<b>1,066</b>
Reach	<b>1,051</b>
Engagements	<b>70</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>6.6%</b>



## Post Performance

December 1, 2022 - December 7, 2022

Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.


**Included in this Report**


 Garden Grove Police Department

 **Garden Grove Police Depa...**  
 Fri 12/2/2022 1:00 pm PST





Impressions	<b>31</b>
Reach	<b>31</b>
Engagements	<b>92</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>296.8%</b>

 **Garden Grove Police Depa...**  
 Fri 12/2/2022 1:00 pm PST



Impressions	<b>33</b>
Reach	<b>32</b>
Engagements	<b>95</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>287.9%</b>

 **Garden Grove Police Depa...**  
 Fri 12/2/2022 1:00 pm PST



Impressions	<b>0</b>
Reach	<b>0</b>
Engagements	<b>0</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>0%</b>



**Garden Grove Police Depa...**

Thu 12/1/2022 6:01 pm PST

#DidYouKnow, #GardenGrovePD not only works with surrounding agencies through mutual aid, but we also collaborate with...



Video Views	<b>385</b>
Impressions	<b>932</b>
Reach	<b>928</b>
Engagements	<b>69</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>7.4%</b>



**Garden Grove Police Depa...**

Thu 12/1/2022 9:30 am PST

\*\*\*TRAINING ADVISORY\*\*\* Please be advise #GardenGrovePD is conducting a Threat Assessment / Active Shooter...



Impressions	<b>4,606</b>
Reach	<b>4,391</b>
Engagements	<b>347</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>7.5%</b>

**WEEKLY MEMO 12-15-2022**

# **NEWS ARTICLES**

# “New look” council is seated

BY OC TRIBUNE STAFF ON DECEMBER 13, 2022 • ( [LEAVE A COMMENT](#) )



STEVE JONES is back as Garden Grove’s mayor, but two new council members were seated on Tuesday night: Cindy Tran and Joe DoVinh (Orange County Tribune photos by Jim Tortolano).

**By Jim Tortolano/Orange County Tribune**

A “new look” Garden Grove City Council was seated Tuesday night as a pair of new members were sworn in.



CINDY TRAN (District 3).

Now on the city's decision-making body are Cindy Tran (District 3) and Joe DoVinh (District 4). Re-elected and also sworn in for another term were George Brietigam (District 1) and Mayor Steve Jones.

Saying their goodbyes were Councilmember Phat Bui (District 4) and Mayor Pro Tem Diedre Thu-Ha Nguyen (District 3).



JOE DOVINH (District 4).

Also making his parting appearance was Police Chief Tom DaRé, retiring from the GGPD after 32 years of service, the last three-and-half as head of the department.

“I want to thank all my supporters,” said Tran. “All of you who cast the votes for me to be here.” She added, “I am deeply honored and humbled to be on this awesome board.”

DoVinh congratulated Tran on winning her election in her first try. “This is my third race,” he said, and his first elective office.

He promised his constituents that “I will be here working for you.” In addition to thanking his family and supporters, he paid tribute to those to who didn't live to see his Nov. 8 victory, saying “I know they are looking down on us.”

DaRé's farewell described his tenure as chief this way: “It really is a dream come true.” As a man who was born and educated in Garden Grove, a graduate of Garden Grove High and with the GGPD since 1990, he was described as a “hometown hero.”



## Garden Grove couple captures holiday spirit with sprawling miniature village

The couple invites visitors to peruse the display featuring model railroads, an amusement park, a Boston corner and mini European towns



Bill and Lily Petro with their Christmas Village display at their home in Garden Grove on Tuesday, December 6, 2022. The Village includes over 450 pieces along with 350 feet of HO railroad track they have collected over the years. (Photo by Paul Rodriguez, Contributing Photographer)

By [YUSRA FARZAN](mailto:yfarzan@scng.com) | [yfarzan@scng.com](mailto:yfarzan@scng.com) |

PUBLISHED: December 8, 2022 at 9:54 a.m. | UPDATED: December 8, 2022 at 11:01 a.m.

An otherwise dark suburban street in [Garden Grove](#) is well-lit on a cold December evening by Christmas lights draped on rooftops and trees, Santa figurines greeting passersby and Rudolph's nose shining bright.

Except for one house, where the only outdoor decor is a solitary yard sign. But through distorted glass doors, twinkling blue lights beckon.

Bill and Lily Petro have opened up their home to visitors since 2009 to showcase their sprawling [holiday](#) village and model railroad display. One year, after neighbors posted on social media, the couple hosted approximately 500 visitors who came by to revel in the decor.

"It all started with him," said Lily Petro, gesturing toward her husband. "The very first house was the Hershey Chocolate Factory."

Bought in 1979, that house kickstarted a collection of more than 450 pieces, including restaurants, toy stores and their latest addition, an observatory.

The village is broken into different sections: a philosopher's corner has William Shakespeare, George Washington and Charles Darwin statues; an ode to Paris is complete with a couture house and manicured gardens; the ski slopes have working gondolas; little gnomes surround a brewery in the slice of Germany; and an intricately carved cathedral and, of course, an opera house sits in a Viennese-themed area.

A man cave — with a barber shop, Lowe's, Home Depot and cobbler — rounds out the display.

"This is like my vision of what Christmas should be like," said Lily Petro. "It's not the 'Christmas Story' vision at all. It's more 'It's A Wonderful Life.'"

And this year's display has a first.

"We're trying to mimic Disneyland with the fireworks," said Bill Petro. Just like in the amusement park, Sleeping Beauty's castle takes center stage while carousels are within arm's reach for little visitors.

Lily Petro, a biology teacher, also set up a mini zoo. Originally, her husband placed the panda figurine alongside the polar bear in the ice zone — but that just would not do. She quickly changed that by shifting the white and black bear to a bamboo-enclosed space.

Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox, pays homage to Bill Petro's roots along with a figurine of Union Oyster House.

"We can actually see where George Washington sat, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams," he said about one of the oldest restaurants in the U.S.

The display is complete with five operating HO railroads (referring to a popular scale of model railroads for hobbyists) on over 350 feet of track on two levels.

Bill Petro, a CFO by profession, has also engineered the tunnels with lighting. And sometimes, the trains are in sync, coming and going through the tunnels simultaneously, Lily Petro said.

Bill Petro begins work on the display in September, wiring the different model houses with thousands of lights to create a seamless working village. It's not only lights that twinkle — bells peal, carousels turn and ice skaters glide.

And it's all connected to one switch, Lily Petro noted. None of the wirings are visible either; they are all tucked away into footbridges built by Bill Petro.

The decor and design are Lily Petro's forte. And last year, even though she was recovering from a battle with tongue cancer, she still set up the display.

After Christmas, each section is painstakingly broken down. The houses are stored on specially designed shelves while other parts are put away in the attic for next year.

Visitors can check out the display between 6-9 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays at the Petros' home at 12842 Alonzo Cook St. in Garden Grove. There is no entry cost.

# Dec. 31 deadline for SF money

BY OC TRIBUNE STAFF ON DECEMBER 8, 2022 • ( [LEAVE A COMMENT](#) )



THE 2022 Garden Grove Strawberry Festival was a big success and the Association is ready to award grants to worthwhile non-profit groups (Orange County Tribune photo).

Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association, producers of the venerable free Garden Grove Strawberry Festival held annually every Memorial Day Weekend, are accepting applications for 2023 grants/donations from non-profit organizations, which serve the citizens of Garden Grove. Requests must be received no later than Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022 to be considered.

“Each year it is our goal to give back to the community by donating to non-profit organizations which provide services for children, seniors, youth, community and the arts,” says Patrick Catlin, donations chair and immediate past president of GGSFA. “We strive to do so in a fair and equitable manner to all eligible organizations. Priority is typically given to Garden Grove-based organizations, however, consideration will be given to eligible organizations which serve residents of Garden Grove.”

Coming off of a record year, the Association will donate \$200,000 raised from this year’s 2022 Festival to non-profit organizations which serve Garden Grove citizens who apply for 2023 grants/donations, as opposed to \$100,000 in years prior. This amount is in addition to the work they do regarding:

- Scholarships to local school students

- Treating over 2,000 special needs kids to a day of free rides and food
- Subsidizing local school bands to help them participate in the Saturday parade
- Raising more than \$7 million for local charities since its inception in 1958

Application Letters must be submitted on the non-profit organization's letterhead and include the non-profit identification number, amount of the request and the purpose for funding. Requests may be emailed to [Donations@strawberryfestival.org](mailto:Donations@strawberryfestival.org), or mailed to: Garden Grove Strawberry Festival, Attention: Donations Committee, P.O. Box 2287, Garden Grove, CA 92842.

GGSFDA Donations are limited to improvements, new equipment, repairs or maintenance of existing capital assets. Funds are not given to organizations which award charitable cash grants. Donations to approved organizations will be reimbursed the amount rewarded when paid invoices are submitted after completion of purchases or capital improvements.

Other selection criteria considered include organizations which:

- Use the majority of their time and finances for the betterment of the community.
- Have a sound track record of fiscal responsibility, or for new groups, which plan to achieve financial soundness.
- Demonstrate stability and consistency in attaining goals and fulfilling a purpose.
- Demonstrate a specific need.
- Provide services regardless of race, creed, gender or age.

The 63rd Annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival, to be held Friday through Monday, May 26 – 29 on the Village Green at Euclid Street and Main streets.

# “Winter” comes to the Green

BY OC TRIBUNE STAFF ON DECEMBER 3, 2022 • ( [LEAVE A COMMENT](#) )



EVERYBODY WANTS to be an elf (Tribune photos).

The Village Green in downtown Garden Grove turned into a kind of winter wonderland on Saturday afternoon and evening as throngs of “kids” of all ages showed up to help kick off the Christmas season here.



SNOWFALL at the Village Green in Garden Grove at Saturday’s “Winter in the Grove” event.

“Winter in the Grove,” organized by the City of Garden Grove, featured the “Snowtopia” snow slides, a kiddie train, a variety of food items, booths and a chance to sit down with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

A highlight of the event was the lighting of the big Christmas tree at the northern edge of the park at Euclid and Main streets, as well as entertainment provided by local schools and arts organizations.

It will stay illuminated throughout the holiday season.



CONTACT:  
Ana Vergara-Neal  
Public Works Department  
(714) 741-5554/[anan@ggcity.org](mailto:anan@ggcity.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media



Tuesday, December 13, 2022

## **FREE KITCHEN PAILS FOR ORGANICS RECYCLING AVAILABLE AT REPUBLIC SERVICES**

Garden Grove residents can now pick up a free kitchen pail for organics recycling, from Republic Services, located at 1131 N. Blue Gum Street, in Anaheim. The free kitchen pails will be available during regular business hours, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Proof of residency is required. Limited to one per household, until quantities run out. The pails are not available at Garden Grove City Hall or the Garden Grove Municipal Service Center.

The free kitchen pail distribution is part of the City's and Republic Services' state-mandated Organics Recycling program, enabling single-family residents to place all food waste, food-soiled paper, and yard waste in their brown organics cart.

Residents can recycle the following food items: fruits, vegetables, bread, pasta rice, grains, cooked meat, fish, poultry, and bones; and food-soiled paper, such as pizza boxes, coffee filters, teabags, wet paper towels, and soiled napkins.

Organic material should be placed loosely in the brown cart, along with yard waste, such as grass, leaves, and branches. Plastic bags, compostable or biodegradable bags should not be placed in the brown cart.

-more-

2-2-2

The new Organics Recycling program is mandated by California Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383), a statewide effort to divert organic waste from landfills, reducing emissions of short-lived climate pollutants.

For more information, visit [ggcity.org/organics-recycling](http://ggcity.org/organics-recycling) or call (714) 741-5344.

###





CONTACT: Teresa Pomeroy  
City Clerk  
(714) 741-5035 / [teresap@ggcity.org](mailto:teresap@ggcity.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Tuesday, December 13, 2022



## **CITY NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR CITY COMMISSIONS**

The City of Garden Grove is now accepting applications for candidates to serve as non-compensated commissioners. Applicants must be Garden Grove residents and registered voters, be able to serve a two-year term of office, and be available to attend regularly scheduled meetings. Commissioners serve as advisors to the Garden Grove City Council, providing recommendations that become part of the City's decision-making process.

Applications must be submitted by Thursday, January 12, 2023, by 5:30 p.m., and may be submitted online at [ggcity.org/commissions/applications](http://ggcity.org/commissions/applications) or mailed to Garden Grove City Hall, City Clerk's Office, at 11222 Acacia Parkway 92840. For paper applications, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (714) 741-5040. Commissioner appointments are expected to be scheduled at the Tuesday, January 24, 2023 regular City Council meeting.

The following briefly describes each of the City's commissions:

Administrative Board of Appeals (5 members) – Conducts hearings, on an on-call basis, on the suitability of building and construction materials; interprets building codes and ordinances; and reviews water billing disputes.

-more-

CITY NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR CITY COMMISSIONS  
2-2-2

Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission (7 members) –

Recommends programs to improve and preserve neighborhoods through zoning enforcement, housing rehabilitation, street improvement, Community Development Block Grant, and other programs.

Downtown Commission (7 members) – Oversees Historic Main Street Garden Grove.

Parks, Recreation and Arts Commission (7 members) – Reviews and makes recommendations on the status of City parks and recreation programs, capital improvement plans, proposes amendments to the General Plan Parks and Recreation Element, and existing and potential City arts programs.

Planning Commission (7 members) – Studies proposed development projects that may impact community's growth and environment.

Traffic Commission (7 members) – Reviews requests for traffic safety devices, investigates unsafe and/or malfunctioning traffic conditions, conducts public hearings, and assists in transportation planning.

Measure O Citizens' Oversight Committee (7 members) - Provides citizen oversight of Measure O funds to ensure all funds are properly spent; reviews the City's annual general fund budget, mid-year budget, and year end audited financial information in regards to the receipt and expenditure of the fiscal year's one-cent transactions and use (sales) tax revenue.

For more information, visit [ggcity.org/commissions](http://ggcity.org/commissions) or call the City Clerk's Office at (714) 741-5040.

###



# CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

CONTACT: Ana Pulido  
PIO, Office of Community Relations  
(714) 741-5280 / anap@ggcity.org

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Monday, December 12, 2022



### **MEDIA ALERT**

**WHAT:** Swearing-in for Garden Grove Mayor Steve Jones and City Council members George Brietigam (District 1), Cindy Ngoc Tran (District 3), and Joe DoVinh (District 4), and farewell recognition for Mayor Pro Tem Diedre Thu-Ha Nguyen and City Council member Patrick Phat Bui.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Garden Grove Community Meeting Center  
11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92840

**PHOTO**

**OPPORTUNITIES:** Garden Grove Mayor Steve Jones and City Council members. The A Room will be available for media interviews at 5:30 p.m.

**FOR MORE**

**INFORMATION:** City Clerk's Office (714) 741-5040

###



Contact: Timothy Throne  
Community and Economic Development  
(714) 741-5144/[timothyt@ggcity.org](mailto:timothyt@ggcity.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Monday, December 12, 2022



## **APPLICATION PERIOD OPENING FOR HOME REPAIR GRANTS**

Starting Monday, December 19, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., qualified low-income Garden Grove residents can apply for the City of Garden Grove's Home Repair Program, which offers grant funding of up to \$5,000 for home improvements. The grant does not need to be repaid. The application deadline is Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. To apply, visit [apply.ggcity.org](http://apply.ggcity.org).

Acceptable exterior and interior home repairs include, but are not limited to, window replacement, electrical repairs, pest control, interior and exterior painting, plumbing repairs, heater replacement (HVAC), handicap accessibility modifications, and repairs to address building or safety code violations in the home.

Eligible residents must meet all program income and application requirements. The homeowner must contribute a minimum of \$500 towards the project. Home repairs that exceed \$5,000 will not be considered.

Funding will be awarded to approximately 10 eligible applicants who are selected through a blind raffle.

The City also offers qualifying residents up to \$20,000 of assistance to replace or repair a home roof through the Re-Roof Loan Program. Learn more at [ggcity.org/re-roof-loan-program](http://ggcity.org/re-roof-loan-program).

For more information about the Home Repair Program, visit [ggcity.org/home-repair-program](http://ggcity.org/home-repair-program), call (714) 741-5144, or email [timothyt@ggcity.org](mailto:timothyt@ggcity.org).



# CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

CONTACT: Ana Pulido, PIO  
Office of Community Relations/GGTV3  
(714) 741-5280/[anap@ggcity.org](mailto:anap@ggcity.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media



Tuesday, December 6, 2022

## FINAL WEEK FOR "BiGG" WINNINGS

Next week is the last opportunity to turn in receipts for the City of Garden Grove's end-of-year Buy in Garden Grove (BiGG) campaign, Black Friday Goes BiGG, offering Garden Grove shoppers the opportunity to win \$500, \$250, a 1-night stay at the Great Wolf Lodge Southern California, and more. The deadline to turn in receipts to the Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce, at 12866 Main Street, is Thursday, December 15, at 1:00 p.m.

For every \$50 in total register receipts from any Garden Grove business, including gas stations, grocery stores, and retail establishments, participants will receive one raffle ticket towards the cash and prize drawings. If purchases were made from a participating BiGG, Foods of Garden Grove, or Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce business, participants will receive an additional raffle ticket. Visit [ggcity.org/biggg](http://ggcity.org/biggg) for a list of businesses.

Raffle tickets will not be available at business establishments.

To receive raffle tickets, receipts dated November 25 through December 15 must be brought to the Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce, before 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 15.

Five winners will be announced on Monday, December 19, on the City and Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce's websites and social platforms.

For more information, visit [ggcity.org/biggg](http://ggcity.org/biggg) or call (714) 741-5280.

11222 Acacia Parkway • P.O.Box 3070 • Garden Grove, CA 92842

[ggcity.org](http://ggcity.org)



CONTACT: Gabi O'Cadiz-Hernandez  
Community Services Department  
(714) 741-5769/[gabrielao@ggcity.org](mailto:gabrielao@ggcity.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Monday, December 5, 2022



**DEADLINE APPROACHING TO PARTICIPATE IN  
GARDEN GROVE'S HOLIDAY DRIVE**

This is the last week to participate in the City's 2022 Garden Grove Holiday Drive, which aims to give new toys, board games, and gift cards to local children in need. Donations can be dropped off at the recreation counter, located in Garden Grove City Hall, at 11222 Acacia Parkway; Buena Clinton Youth and Family Center, located at 12661 Sunswep Avenue; and Magnolia Park Family Resource Center, located at 11402 Magnolia Street, by Friday, December 9, 2022.

Gifts can be purchased online through the Amazon holiday registry, and shipped directly to Garden Grove City Hall, at <https://amzn.to/3Seipar>.

The community is also encouraged to participate in the Holiday Drive Raffle to win a \$200 Disney gift card. Through Friday, December 9, raffle tickets can be purchased at the Buena Clinton Youth and Family Center and Magnolia Park Family Resource Center. Raffle tickets will also be sold at the Jingle Jam holiday event, this Friday, December 9, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at Eastgate Park, located at 12001 St. Mark Street. Tickets are \$3 each; 2 for \$5; or receive about two arm's-length of tickets for \$20.

One raffle ticket will be chosen and the winner will be announced online, at [ggcity.org/holiday-drive](http://ggcity.org/holiday-drive), on Monday, December 12. All proceeds benefit the 2022 Garden Grove Holiday Drive.

Deadline Approaching to Participate in Garden Grove's Holiday Drive  
2-2-2

For over 20 years, the City's family resource centers, comprised of the Buena Clinton Youth and Family Center and Magnolia Park Family Resource Center, has worked to bring holiday cheer to local disadvantaged families. In 2021, with assistance from the community, 337 local families, and 856 children, received gifts.

The Buena Clinton Youth and Family Center and Magnolia Park Family Resource Center provide residents with low or no-cost programs focused on youth enrichment, personal empowerment, counseling, family support services, and parenting education.

For more information, visit [ggcity.org/holiday-drive](http://ggcity.org/holiday-drive) or call (714) 741-5776.

###



# Post Performance

December 8, 2022 - December 14, 2022

Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.



**Included in this Report**

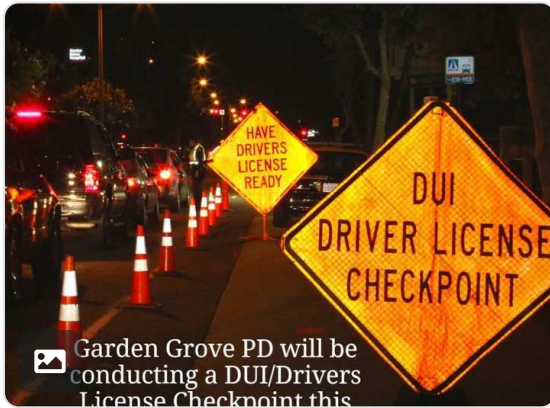
 Garden Grove Police Department



**Garden Grove Police Depa...**

Wed 12/14/2022 12:00 pm PST

\*\*\*DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint Notification\*\*\* #GardenGrovePD will be conducting a #DUICheckpoint this...



Impressions	<b>41,528</b>
Reach	<b>41,458</b>
Engagements	<b>2,821</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>6.8%</b>



**Garden Grove Police Depa...**

Fri 12/9/2022 3:00 pm PST

"Bank jugging" is when thieves case banks, watching for customers carrying bank envelopes, money bags, and/or coi...



Impressions	<b>3,482</b>
Reach	<b>3,365</b>
Engagements	<b>337</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>9.7%</b>



**Garden Grove Police Depa...**

Thu 12/8/2022 3:00 pm PST

It's the time of the year to reflect and count our blessings... ....we are #thankful for our #volunteers, young and old(er),...



Impressions	<b>3,210</b>
Reach	<b>3,131</b>
Engagements	<b>229</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>7.1%</b>



# Post Performance

December 8, 2022 - December 14, 2022

Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.

**Included in this Report**

 @CityGardenGrove

 Garden Grove City Hall

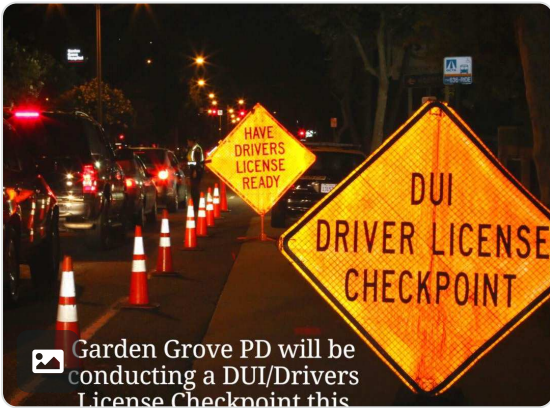
 gardengrovecityhall



**gardengrovecityhall**

Wed 12/14/2022 4:45 pm PST

\*\*\*DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint Notification\*\*\* The Garden Grove Police Department will be conducting a...



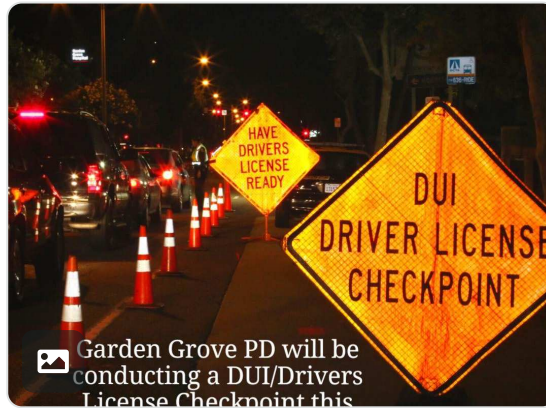
Impressions	<b>3,093</b>
Reach	<b>2,741</b>
Engagements	<b>145</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>4.7%</b>



**@CityGardenGrove**

Wed 12/14/2022 4:43 pm PST

\*\*\*DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint Notification\*\*\* **@gardengrovepd** will be conducting a **#DUICheckpoint** this...



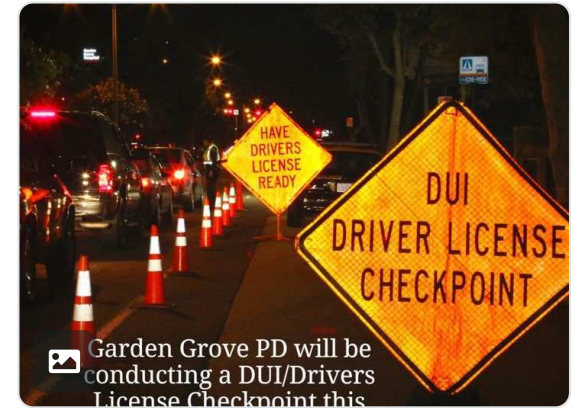
Impressions	<b>140</b>
Potential Reach	<b>5,605</b>
Engagements	<b>13</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>9.3%</b>



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Wed 12/14/2022 3:56 pm PST

\*\*\*DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint Notification\*\*\* The Garden Grove Police Department will be conducting a...



Impressions	<b>5,415</b>
Reach	<b>5,415</b>
Engagements	<b>507</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>9.4%</b>



**gardengrovecityhall**

Wed 12/14/2022 1:28 pm PST

!! BiGG Deadline Reminder T-minus 24 hours to turn in your receipts for the Black Friday Goes BiGG campaign, offering...



Impressions	<b>1,758</b>
Reach	<b>1,578</b>
Engagements	<b>53</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>3%</b>



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Wed 12/14/2022 1:18 pm PST

!! BiGG Deadline Reminder T-minus 24 hours to turn in your receipts for the Black Friday Goes BiGG campaign, offering...



Impressions	<b>990</b>
Reach	<b>974</b>
Engagements	<b>30</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>3%</b>



**gardengrovecityhall**

Tue 12/13/2022 4:11 pm PST

Comment if you see someone you know 🙄



Impressions	<b>695</b>
Reach	<b>689</b>
Comments	<b>0</b>
Story Taps Back	<b>11</b>



**gardengrovecityhall**

Tue 12/13/2022 3:46 pm PST

⚖️ Do you live in #GardenGrove and want to volunteer your time serving the #community? Apply to be a commission...



Impressions	<b>1,809</b>
Reach	<b>1,679</b>
Engagements	<b>59</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>3.3%</b>



**@CityGardenGrove**

Tue 12/13/2022 3:43 pm PST

⚖️ Do you live in #GardenGrove and want to volunteer your time serving the #community? Apply to be a...



Impressions	<b>160</b>
Potential Reach	<b>4,598</b>
Engagements	<b>6</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>3.8%</b>



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Tue 12/13/2022 3:39 pm PST

⚖️ Do you live in #GardenGrove and want to volunteer your time serving the #community? Apply to be a commission...



Impressions	<b>383</b>
Reach	<b>383</b>
Engagements	<b>15</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>3.9%</b>



@CityGardenGrove

Tue 12/13/2022 8:18 am PST

#GardenGrove residents can now pick up a free kitchen pail for #organicsrecycling! 📍 Republic...



Impressions	223
Potential Reach	5,604
Engagements	17
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	7.6%



gardengrovecityhall

Tue 12/13/2022 8:11 am PST

🍏 The secret ingredient is kitchen scraps. #GardenGrove residents can now pick up a free kitchen pail for #organicsrecyclin...



Impressions	1,686
Reach	1,621
Engagements	54
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	3.2%



Garden Grove City Hall

Tue 12/13/2022 8:04 am PST

🍏 The secret ingredient is kitchen scraps. #GardenGrove residents can now pick up a free kitchen pail for #organicsrecyclin...



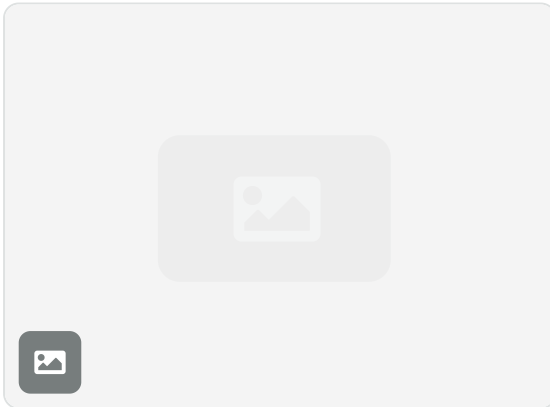
Impressions	2,263
Reach	2,204
Engagements	269
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	11.9%





**Garden Grove City Hall**  
Tue 12/13/2022 8:02 am PST

🍏 The secret ingredient is kitchen scraps. #GardenGrove residents can now pick up a free kitchen pail for #organicsrecyclin...



Impressions —  
Reach —  
Engagements —  
Engagement Rate (per Impression) —



**@CityGardenGrove**  
Mon 12/12/2022 2:02 pm PST

Ring in the new year with home improvements! 🛠️ #GardenGrove's Home Repair Program is re-opening on...



Impressions **128**  
Potential Reach **4,597**  
Engagements **12**  
Engagement Rate (per Impression) **9.4%**



**gardengrovecityhall**  
Mon 12/12/2022 2:02 pm PST

Ring in the new year with home improvements! 🛠️ #GardenGrove's Home Repair Program is re-opening on Monday...



Impressions **741**  
Reach **672**  
Engagements **9**  
Engagement Rate (per Impression) **1.2%**



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Mon 12/12/2022 2:02 pm PST

Ring in the new year with home improvements! 🛠️ #GardenGrove's Home Repair Program is re-opening on Monday...



Impressions	<b>1,044</b>
Reach	<b>1,029</b>
Engagements	<b>34</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>3.3%</b>



**@CityGardenGrove**

Fri 12/9/2022 4:34 pm PST

! Don't miss out on the chance to win #BiGG prizes! Learn how you can win \$500, \$250, a 1-night stay at the Great...



Impressions	<b>157</b>
Potential Reach	<b>4,599</b>
Engagements	<b>6</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>3.8%</b>



**gardengrovecityhall**

Fri 12/9/2022 4:22 pm PST

! Don't miss out on the chance to win #BiGG prizes! Through next Thursday, December 15, Garden Grove shoppers w...



Impressions	<b>1,023</b>
Reach	<b>900</b>
Engagements	<b>25</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>2.4%</b>



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Fri 12/9/2022 4:21 pm PST

! Don't miss out on the chance to win #BiGG prizes! Through next Thursday, December 15, Garden Grove shoppers w...



Impressions	<b>1,480</b>
Reach	<b>1,428</b>
Engagements	<b>67</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>4.5%</b>



**@CityGardenGrove**

Fri 12/9/2022 1:55 pm PST

Reservations are required. Attendees must check in at the information desk located on the 1st floor of City Hall. For more information and to sign up, visit [ggcity.org/events/garden-...](https://ggcity.org/events/garden-...) #GG1956 #fairhousing #workshop #education #rent #community



Post Link Clicks	<b>7</b>
Impressions	<b>125</b>
Potential Reach	<b>4,599</b>
Engagements	<b>11</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>8.8%</b>



**@CityGardenGrove**

Fri 12/9/2022 1:55 pm PST

Save the date, #GardenGrove! The community is invited to attend the free Garden Grove Fair Housing Workshop,...



Impressions	<b>250</b>
Potential Reach	<b>4,599</b>
Engagements	<b>15</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>6%</b>



**gardengrovecityhall**

Fri 12/9/2022 1:10 pm PST

📅 Save the date, #GardenGrove! The community is invited to attend the free Garden Grove Fair Housing Workshop,...



Impressions	<b>2,217</b>
Reach	<b>2,009</b>
Engagements	<b>74</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>3.3%</b>



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Fri 12/9/2022 1:10 pm PST

📅 Save the date, #GardenGrove! The community is invited to attend the free Garden Grove Fair Housing Workshop,...



Impressions	<b>1,042</b>
Reach	<b>1,006</b>
Engagements	<b>18</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>1.7%</b>



**gardengrovecityhall**

Thu 12/8/2022 2:30 pm PST

👁️ Check out the Winter 2022/Spring 2023 #Connections



Impressions	<b>599</b>
Reach	<b>599</b>
Comments	<b>0</b>
Story Taps Back	<b>9</b>



**@CityGardenGrove**

Thu 12/8/2022 2:26 pm PST

Check out the Winter/Spring  
**#Connections** to learn how **#GG** is  
 focusing efforts on ensuring the...



Impressions	<b>150</b>
Potential Reach	<b>4,599</b>
Engagements	<b>6</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>4%</b>



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Thu 12/8/2022 2:19 pm PST

👁️ Check out the Winter 2022/Spring 2023  
**#Connections** to learn how **#GardenGrove**  
 is focusing efforts on ensuring the...



Impressions	<b>1,309</b>
Reach	<b>1,309</b>
Engagements	<b>63</b>
Engagement Rate (per Impression)	<b>4.8%</b>

## **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

**December 15, 2022**

1. Calendar of Events
2. Notice of Cancellation of the December 22, 2022 Garden Grove Zoning Administrator Meeting.
3. League of California Cities, "CalCities," from December 9, 2022 to December 15, 2022.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 15, 2022 – January 27, 2023

Thursday	December 15	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
Friday	December 16		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Thursday	December 22		\$2 Casual Dress Day
		9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC <b>CANCELLED</b>
Friday	December 26- January 2		City Hall Closed – Holiday Closure
Tuesday	January 3	6:00 p.m.	Traffic Commission Meeting, CMC
Thursday	January 5	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
Tuesday	January 10	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CM
Thursday	January 12	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC  Downtown Commission Meeting, CMC
		6:00 p.m.	Parks, Recreation and Arts Commission, CMC
Friday	January 13		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Monday	January 16		City Hall Closed – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Thursday	January 19	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, CMC
Tuesday	January 26	9:00 a.m.  5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC  Closed Session, CMC Housing Authority, CMC Sanitary District Board, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
Friday	January 27		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure



**NOTICE OF CANCELLATION**  
**OF THE**  
**GARDEN GROVE**  
**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**DECEMBER 22, 2022**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Zoning Administrator scheduled for Thursday, December 22, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, is hereby cancelled.

DATED: December 15, 2022

DAVID DENT  
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR





# Cal Cities urges court to affirm dismissal of CEQA lawsuit challenging affordable housing project

Dec 14, 2022

The League of California Cities recently filed an [amicus brief](#) urging the First District Court of Appeal to uphold a trial court ruling rejecting a lawsuit challenging an affordable housing project. The brief is in support of the city of Livermore in *Save Livermore Downtown v. City of Livermore, et al.*

The case involves a 130-unit affordable housing development in the city's downtown core. After the city approved the project, the plaintiffs — a community group known as Save Livermore Downtown — filed a lawsuit alleging that the city's approval of the project violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as well as state planning and zoning laws. Specifically, the plaintiffs challenged the city's determination that the project was exempt from CEQA and consistent with the city's downtown-specific plan.

The city argued that its determinations were adequately supported by evidence and that the plaintiffs failed to prove the city's determinations were unreasonable. The trial court agreed with the city, stating on the record that it was “not a close case” and that the plaintiffs' CEQA arguments were “almost utterly without merit.”

Despite these statements by the trial court, the plaintiffs appealed the ruling.

The city initially asked the appellate court to dismiss the appeal. The city argued that the plaintiffs' real motive is to keep the development from moving forward: The delays and associated uncertainty have already cost the developer millions of dollars and threatened the viability of the project. The appellate court declined to dismiss the appeal, but they did agree to expedite it in light of the city's arguments.

Cal Cities' amicus brief urged the appellate court to rule in favor of the city. The brief pointed out that the claims in this lawsuit "exemplify a trend by special interest groups to weaponize CEQA lawsuits in an attempt to delay or deter housing development" and do not accomplish the stated purposes of environmental protection underlying CEQA.

"Upholding the city's well-considered and detailed CEQA findings will send a message that CEQA claims based on non-environmental concerns cannot be used to kill housing developments," Cal Cities stated.

The appellate court will hear oral arguments on December 14. If the case is submitted immediately after oral arguments — as cases typically are — then an opinion will be issued within 90 days.

Cal Cities will continue to provide updates on this case as it develops. In the meantime, cities with questions about the impact of this case should consult their city attorney.



# CARE Court implementation information to be released by the state

*Dec 14, 2022*

***Resources include an implementation webinar on Dec. 19 and a CARE Court listserv.***

The first cohort of counties responsible for implementing the first-of-its-kind Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court program [convened earlier this month](#), marking an important first step in the program's roll-out. Following the meeting, several government agencies began releasing related information and guidance to inform stakeholders of the implementation process. The League of California Cities adopted a support position for the CARE Court program legislation after securing [several critical amendments](#) to the bill, including a phased-in approach to implementation. The program will connect unsheltered Californians experiencing the most acute mental health challenges with comprehensive treatment and housing.

The phase-in provisions require the counties of Glenn, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and the City and County of San Francisco to implement the program by October 2023. The remaining 51 counties must implement the program by December 2024.

After the initial convening, the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS), the California Department of Health Care Services, and the Judicial Council of California announced a Dec. 19 webinar,

which will include an overview of the program, important updates on implementation activities, and a discussion of frequently asked questions. A recording of the webinar will be available on the [CalHHS website](#) and an email announcement will be sent to relevant stakeholders.

Additionally, CalHHS will establish a CARE Act Working Group in early 2023 with representatives from a wide variety of networks, including disability rights organizations, families, racial equity advocates, housing and homelessness stakeholders, behavioral health providers, associations, and others.

More information about the working group, implementation, and other stakeholder events will be shared via the CalHHS CARE listserv. To join the listserv, email [CAREAct@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:CAREAct@chhs.ca.gov).

For any other questions regarding the CARE Court program, please contact [Legislative Affairs Lobbyist Caroline Cirrincione](#).



## Brown Act changes are coming to cities in 2023. Here is what to expect

*Dec 14, 2022*

Several notable changes to public meetings are coming in 2023 thanks to new legislation that takes effect on Jan. 1 and the Governor's announcement that the COVID-19 State of Emergency will end on Feb. 28. Ending the state of emergency will restrain how cities can conduct remote meetings by limiting their ability to utilize [AB 361](#)

(Rivas, Robert), which is effective during a declared state of emergency.

Cities will now be left with pre-pandemic teleconferencing laws and this year's AB 2449 (Blanca). These pre-pandemic laws include several outdated provisions, such as requiring members of a Ralph M. Brown Act body to make their teleconference location accessible to the public. Meanwhile, AB 2449 is limited in its scope and governed by onerous requirements.

Two other laws — AB 2647 (Levine) and SB 1100 (Cortese) — will also take effect on Jan. 1, which govern public meetings more generally.

### **New remote public meetings option**

Asm. Rubio Blanca's AB 2449 allows local agencies to hold remote public meetings without identifying each teleconference location and without making each location accessible to the public. This alternative option can only be used under limited circumstances and will expire on Jan. 1, 2026.

Crucially, this measure may be used if “just cause” is met or if “emergency circumstances” exist. Just cause is defined as any one of the following:

- Child care or caregiving of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires a member to participate remotely.
- A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person.
- A need related to a physical or mental disability.
- Travel while on business of the legislative body or another state or local agency.

An emergency circumstance is a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member of a legislative body from attending in person.

Under AB 2449, a member must notify the legislative body at the earliest possible opportunity — including at the start of a meeting — of their need to participate remotely and provide a general description of the circumstances related to one of the four items above. The member must make a request of the legislative body, which must approve the request.

A member may only use the just cause provisions up to two meetings per calendar year. A member may not participate in remote meetings under this law for more than three consecutive months or 20% of the agency's regular meetings within a calendar year. If the legislative body regularly meets less than 10 times a year, a member may not participate remotely for more than two meetings.

The legislative body must request a general description of the circumstances relating to the member's need to appear remotely. This description does not have to be more than 20 words and does not need to include any personal medical information.

The following rules also apply when meeting under just cause or emergency circumstances:

- Members participating remotely must do so through audio and visual technology.
- The legislative body must provide a way for the public to remotely hear, visually observe, and remotely address the legislative body.
- The legislative body must provide notice of how the public can access the meeting and offer comment.
- The agenda must identify and include an opportunity for the public to attend and directly address the legislative body through a call-in option, an internet-based service option, and in-person at the meeting.
- The legislative body cannot require comments to be submitted before the start of the meeting. The public must be allowed to make "real time" public comment.
- If there is a disruption to the meeting broadcast or in the ability to take call-in or internet-based public comment, no further action can be taken on agenda items until the issue is resolved.
- The legislative body must implement a procedure for receiving and resolving requests for reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities and must give notice of these procedures.

Additionally, members participating remotely must publicly disclose at the meeting whether anyone else 18 years or older is present with the member and the general nature of the member's relationship with the individual.

## Supplementary materials and public meetings

Under the Brown Act, any documents that are distributed to a majority of a legislative body less than 72 hours before a meeting must be distributed to the public at the same time. To meet this requirement, some local governments posted these materials online. However, the Third District Court of Appeals recently held that this does not meet Brown Act's requirements.

As a result, local governments had to place copies of the document in a designated office open to the public. This meant that agencies had to keep offices open past normal business hours or withhold late-breaking information until the next business day. This increased costs or caused delays in decision-making, as materials often need multiple days for analysis.

The Cal Cities-sponsored [AB 2647 \(Levine\)](#) seeks to resolve the issues created by this decision. This measure clarifies that supplementary materials distributed less than 72 hours before a meeting can be posted online if physical copies are made available for public inspection at the beginning of the next regular business day at a public office. These documents can also be made available at a designated location if the documents are made physically available for at least 24 hours before that meeting.

## Disruptive conduct and public meetings

The last few years have seen a rise in disruptive and threatening behavior in public meetings. Lawmakers responded by passing [SB 1100 \(Cortese\)](#), a new process that allows a presiding member of a legislative body conducting a meeting, or their designee, to remove someone for disrupting the meeting.

SB 1100 prescribes the following process for removal:

- Warn the individual that their behavior is disrupting the meeting and their failure to cease their behavior may result in removal.
- Remove the individual if they do not "promptly" cease their disruptive behavior.

The bill defines disruptive behavior as that which disrupts, disturbs, impedes, or renders infeasible the orderly conduct of the meeting. This includes, but is not limited to:

- A failure to comply with reasonable and lawful regulations adopted by a legislative body pursuant to Section 54954.3 or any other law.
- Engaging in behavior that constitutes the use of force or a true threat of force. “True threat of force” means a threat that a reasonable observer would perceive to be an actual threat to use force by the person making the threat.

However, existing statutory and case law already specifies other avenues for addressing public meeting disruptions. Under existing law — and as interpreted by the courts — a city council may adopt rules governing the conduct of their public meetings, including the removal of a person who makes slanderous, profane, or threatening remarks or other disorderly conduct that disrupts the meeting.

Additionally, legislative bodies can adopt reasonable regulations to ensure that people can address a legislative body on any item of interest to the public. However, the legislative body may not prohibit public criticism of its policies, procedures, programs, or services. City officials and their attorneys may want to consider — should a situation call for it — whether they want to remove disruptive individuals pursuant to a rule adopted under existing statutory and case law or follow the new SB 1100 process.

## **Future Brown Act changes**

Cal Cities will continue to push for sensible Brown Act modernization that balances local flexibility, transparency, and public accessibility, such as this year’s [AB 1944 \(Lee\)](#). Although the measure ultimately failed, it would have given local governments the flexibility needed to operate effectively in a world that is increasingly dependent on the internet while also increasing access to public meetings.

For questions or to provide comment regarding potential Brown Act legislation, please contact [Legislative Affairs Lobbyist Johnnie Pina](#). For more Brown Act guidance please refer to the League of California Cities’ [Open & Public V: A Guide to the Ralph M. Brown Act](#), *Sierra Watch v. Placer County*, Government Code section 36813 *White v. City of Norwalk*, *Acosta v. City of Costa Mesa*, Penal Code section



403, Government Code section 54957.9, *Kindt v. Santa Monica Rent Control Board*, and Government Code section 54954.3(b)(1).



# Cal Cities calls for a permanent \$3 billion fund to help cities boost housing supply and prevent homelessness

*Dec 14, 2022*

The League of California Cities is calling on Gov. Gavin Newsom to allocate \$3 billion in his proposed 2023-24 state budget to ongoing funding to support cities' efforts to reduce homelessness and increase housing. Cal Cities outlined the organization's state budget priorities [in a letter sent to the Governor's Office today](#).

Solving the statewide affordable housing and homelessness challenge requires partnerships between all levels of government, as well as a state investment that matches the scale of the crisis. Although the state has made major investments aimed at solving these crises, these limited, one-time pots of funding prevent long-term planning efforts and stifle more ambitious goals.

An ongoing, sustainable \$3 billion investment from the state would spur much-needed housing construction, ensure that Californians experiencing homelessness get the support they need, and prevent thousands more from losing their homes.

Cal Cities is calling on the state to honor commitments made in the [2022 Budget Act](#) that support local governments' financial sustainability, including funding for organic waste recycling, disaster preparedness, homelessness, housing production, and broadband access. Cal Cities is also urging the state to pay down its growing unfunded mandate debt of \$1 billion to local governments so they can continue to deliver on a wide range of state-required programs. Any action in the proposed budget that would reduce or eliminate local revenue streams would jeopardize the delivery of critical resources to California residents. Cal Cities will be reviewing the Governor's proposed budget in January as well as its potential impact to cities.