

To the Campus Community:

Although we at UCLA have long recognized that water is a critical issue for our state, California is now experiencing a drought emergency.

In November, we announced UCLA's first [Grand Challenges project](#), which will make the Los Angeles region completely sustainable in water and energy without harming biodiversity by the year 2050. As I stated at that time, failure to take constructive action is not an option.

Anticipating California's water challenges, UCLA has already begun to [conserve and use water more efficiently](#), working toward the UC target to reduce potable water use per capita by 20 percent from 2000 levels. Through water recycling, high-efficiency fixtures, drought-tolerant landscaping and smart irrigation, we have reduced water use by more than 70 million gallons per year since 2000, and we will continue these efforts in accordance with UCLA's [2020 Water Action Plan](#).

In the years to come, we will install artificial turf on the Intramural Field, which will save 6.4 million gallons of water per year, and we will combine research and operations in projects like a [filtration system at the campus cogeneration plant](#) that will save the campus another 25.5 million gallons per year.

Given the severity of the drought, we have taken further steps to enhance our water conservation. We have reduced watering cycles and restricted watering of athletic fields and landscaping to before 9 a.m., and we will continue to reduce watering in select areas while taking care to minimize damage to our landscape. We also are working with the other UC campuses to identify additional immediate conservation measures.

Each of us must take action to address this statewide crisis. With 70,000 people at UCLA each day, our individual actions can make a tremendous collective difference. If you see water leaks, please [report them online](#) or by calling x59826. Please visit the [Be Water Wise website](#) for conservation tips, such as taking shorter showers (showers that are five minutes shorter can save 12 gallons of water), and turning off faucets while washing your hands (which can save a half-gallon per wash).

If everyone at UCLA reduced their water use by a gallon a day, we would save more than 25 million gallons a year. By changing our habits, we can address not only this year's drought but also the challenges that we know are coming.

Sincerely,  
Gene D. Block  
Chancellor