

# DROUGHT & PALA

## FOOD GROWS WHERE THE WATER FLOWS

### DROUGHT:

A prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall resulting in water deficits and low soil moisture.

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**CLIMATE** projections suggest the Southwest may transition to a more arid climate on a permanent basis over the next century and beyond.

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## PALA'S HIGH-RISK HEALTH IMPACTS

Below are health impacts considered high or medium risk for residents of Pala.

- Drinking water supply interruption
- Short or long-term relocation
- Respiratory illness and Valley Fever
- Lost work, school, or business days
- Declines of culturally important plants and animals
- Illness and death caused West Nile Virus and Zika

Drought is known to trigger secondary exposures such as worsened air quality, water insecurity, and vector changes.

Prolonged low average annual rainfall rates are expected to exacerbate water shortages on the Reservation resulting from growing water demand in the region.

## TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE DURING DROUGHT

- Follow directions from local officials regarding water conservation advisories
- Conserve water indoors and outdoors
- Get your turf grass replacement rebate
- Set up a family Evacuation Plan
- Follow Pala Environmental Department on Facebook for climate updates and information.
- Sign up for San Diego County's Alert System

## WHAT IS PALA DOING TO ADAPT AND PREPARE?

Pala completed an Adaptation Plan with a full list of strategies to help safeguard the health and wellbeing of the Pala community. Below are a few examples of ways we plan to address drought threats.

- **Increase water storage capacity**
- **Develop or promote water conservation or efficiency policies or programs** to help households, businesses and agricultural operations replace irrigation systems and install drought resistant landscaping and water recycling systems.
- **Install automated irrigation systems on agricultural lands** that utilize soil moisture monitors that can track when crops need water.

Although the 2017 and 2018 rain seasons were somewhat wet in Southern CA, drought in San Diego is projected to persist.