| Level | Conditions | Significance | Objective | Target |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| 1 (Green) | Normal Conditions | There is sufficient water to meet human and ecosystem needs | Preparedness | Ongoing reductions in community water use |
| 2 (Yellow) | Dry Conditions | First indications of a potential water supply problem | Voluntary conservation | Minimum 10% reduction |
| 3 (Orange) | Very Dry Conditions | Potentially serious ecosystem or socio-economic impacts are possible | Voluntary conservation and restrictions | Minimum additional 20% reduction to a minimum of total of 30% |
| 4 (Red) | Extremely Dry Conditions | Water supply insufficient to meet socio-economic and ecosystem needs | Voluntary conservation, restrictions and regulatory response | Maximum reduction |
| Loss of Supply | | Potential loss of a community's potable or firefighting supply | Emergency response | Ensure health and safety |