

Calif. water cutbacks likely to be extended

By Dale Kasler and Phillip Reese, Sacramento Bee

Despite forecasts of a wet winter, Californians can expect another year of water conservation in 2016 under an executive order issued Friday by Gov. Jerry Brown.

Californians are currently under orders to reduce consumption by an average of 25 percent, as compared with 2013. Brown's order would extend the cutbacks through next Oct. 31 "if drought conditions persist through January 2016."

Many experts and state officials said it's almost a certainty the conservation order will continue through next fall. While El Niño is expected to drench the state this winter, many forecasters believe it won't create enough precipitation to repair water supply problems created by four years of drought.

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