

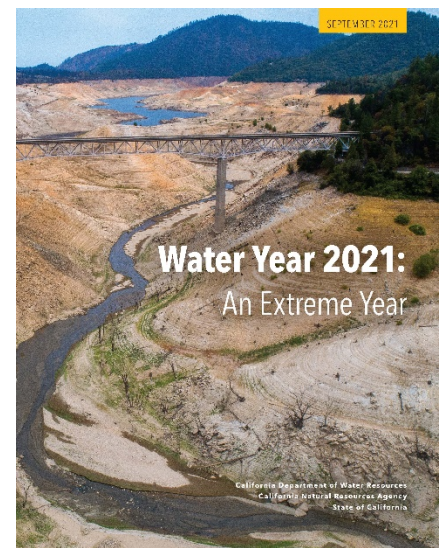


October 4, 2021

The California Drought Update is a weekly roundup of conditions, state actions and upcoming developments. It is produced by an interagency team that includes the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Public Health. For the latest on drought, please visit www.drought.ca.gov.

Current Conditions

- California and the West are in severe drought, with impacts accelerated by climate change.
- The water year that ended Sept. 30 was the second driest on record.
- Storage in some key reservoirs will reach historic lows this fall.
- Fifty of California's 58 counties are under a drought emergency proclamation.
- Californians are being asked to reduce their water use by 15 percent over 2020 levels to protect water reserves and help maintain critical flows for fish and wildlife wherever possible.
- In the last 30 days, 168 wells were reported dry through the state's [voluntary household dry well reporting system](#). Eight or more dry wells were reported in the last 30 days in Lake, Mendocino, Butte, Fresno, Madera, Merced and Tehama and Tulare counties.
- The state is providing hauled or bottled water to eight separate small water providers experiencing supply outages in Monterey, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Tulare, Shasta, and El Dorado counties. The providers together serve a population of a little under 3,000 people.
- The State Water Resources Control Board is monitoring 14 water systems that could experience water supply outages later this year.
- Fish and wildlife managers have relocated some native fish and amphibian species and increased hatchery production to compensate for losses. Some stream sections have been closed to fishing.



A new DWR publication summarizes the 2021 water year that concluded Sept. 30

Recent State Actions

Report Summarizes 2020-21 Water Year (Oct. 1) – DWR posted a [factual review](#) of the hydrology of Water Year 2020-21 to assist reporters and the public. With abundant graphics, the new document describes the year's hydrology and major state actions.

State Agencies Mark End of Water Year, Highlight Investments in Final State Budget (Sept. 30) –

On the last day of Water Year 2020-21, leaders from multiple state agencies convened a briefing to update reporters on drought conditions, describe planning efforts for a potential third consecutive dry winter and highlight investments in drought and water resilience in the final state budget. Nearly 100 reporters and stakeholders attended. A [recording of the briefing](#) is available.

Save Our Water campaign airing (ongoing) – The statewide [Save Our Water](#) program managed by DWR has launched a general market campaign to bring water conservation messaging to Californians. Radio and social media ads are running in key markets, with additional assets coming online and launching in other languages soon. The campaign, developed in partnership with local water agencies, emphasizes the need for Californians to take steps now to reduce water use, including taking care to water trees even as they cut back on landscape irrigation.



Draft guidelines for drought relief funding (Sept. 23) – DWR released [draft guidelines](#) for public review on disbursement of a total of \$200 million in drought relief funds, including \$100 million for urban water districts and \$100 million for multiple-benefit projects. The public has until Oct. 8 to comment on the proposed guidelines. The 2021-22 budget also included \$200 million in drought relief funding for small communities. DWR, in consultation with the Water Board, already has directed \$53 million of that funding to 25 small communities, including \$29,300 for an emergency intertie to assist the Rolling Hills Mutual Water Company in Santa Barbara County, \$170,000 to the Kashaya Utility District in Sonoma County to haul water, and \$500,000 for an emergency well and filter for the Lower Lake County Waterworks District No. 1.

Current Water Right Curtailments

The following watersheds have water right curtailments in place. Also shown are the current number of curtailed rights or right holders (counts will change as hydrology changes) as of Oct. 1:

- **Russian River (Upper):** Approximately 1,500 rights curtailed.
 - **Russian River (Lower):** Approximately 300 rights curtailed. Some curtailments lifted in September due to decreased demand as growing season ends. Curtailments updated monthly.
 - **Delta:** Approximately 10,300 rights curtailed in August. Approximately 4,500 curtailments lifted in September in the Sacramento watershed due to decreased demand and rice field drainage making additional water available. An update to curtailments applicable in October was provided on October 1. Currently, approximately 5,600 rights are curtailed as of the beginning of October. Monitoring of expected and actual precipitation and runoff conditions will continue weekly, or more often if there is precipitation, with updates on the curtailment status of rights to be provided. Staff will hold a workshop on Oct. 20 to solicit information and feedback on wet season issues related to curtailments.
 - **Scott and Shasta:** Curtailments issued Sept. 9/10, with approximately 2,650 curtailments estimated between both watersheds. A compliance assistance webinar was held Sept. 23. Approximately 500 information orders will be issued to parcels on Julian, Willow and Yreka creeks (tributaries to the Shasta) during the week of October 4.
- Mill and Deer:** An emergency regulation was adopted by the Water Board on Sept. 22 and submitted to the Office of Administrative Law on Sept. 24. If approved by OAL, curtailment

orders will be issued between October 5-8, with flow requirements starting on October 15. The regulations could affect approximately 65 water rights.

Tribal / Local Actions

- **Tribal governments:** Tribal emergency drought proclamations as reported by Cal OES to date: Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, Karuk Tribe, Resighini Rancheria, Tule River Indian Tribe, Yurok Tribe, Wiyot Tribe.
- **Local government:** Local emergency drought proclamations as reported by Cal OES to date: Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo.

Upcoming Decisions / Milestones

Presentation on disaster relief: The California State Board of Food and Agriculture will hear a presentation on state and federal disaster relief for drought and wildfire at its **Oct. 5** meeting. Details can be found on the [agenda](#).

Health and safety needs for 2022: DWR is gathering projections of health and safety needs of State Water Project customers in event of zero allocation next year and planning for contingency.

Removal of salinity barrier: Removal of the salinity-repelling rock barrier at West False River in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta should be complete by **Nov. 30**.

Initial State Water Project allocation for next year: Lake Oroville is entering Water Year 2022 with record-low storage, and San Luis Reservoir is expected to be at its second-lowest level of record. Low storage means that the SWP's initial allocation to project contractors on **December 1** will be very low, and the subsequent low probability of getting an exceptionally wet winter means that the project's final allocation is also likely to be low.

Fishery closures: CDFW is preparing an emergency regulation request to the Fish and Game Commission to extend the current low-flow closure criteria dates through April 30 in the Eel River, Mad River, Mattole River, Redwood Creek, Smith River and Van Duzen River and Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin county coastal streams. CDFW has developed a core team for this effort and is coordinating with Commission staff on presenting at the **December** meeting.

Key Data Points and Resources

- Daily Hydrological & Climate Information summary: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/reportapp/javareports?name=DLYHYDRO>
- Statewide water conditions: http://cdec.water.ca.gov/water_cond.html
- Daily Reservoir Storage Summary: <https://cdec.water.ca.gov/reservoir.html>
- Water Year Forecast and Monthly Distribution: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/reportapp/javareports?name=B120DIST>

- Monthly water supplier reports on water production and conservation: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/conservation_reporting.html
- Information on state drought actions and assistance: <https://www.drought.ca.gov>
- Conservation tips and resources for consumers: <https://saveourwater.com/>