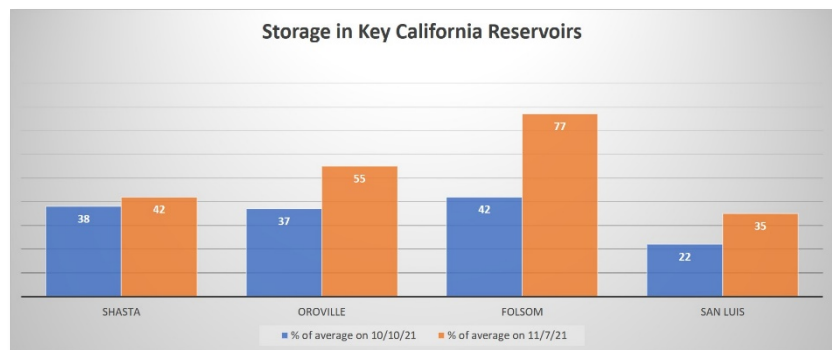


November 8, 2021

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

- The water year that ended Sept. 30 was the second driest on record. All of California's 58 counties are now under a drought emergency proclamation.
- Recent storms provided a boost for some low reservoirs, but hydrologists say it will take 140 percent of average precipitation this winter to produce anything close to average runoff into rivers and streams due to the deficit in soil moisture.
- 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.
- As of Nov. 7, the state's [voluntary household dry well reporting system](#) received reports of 107 dry wells in the past 30 days. Most of the dry wells were reported in Fresno, Madera, 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, El Dorado and Los Angeles counties. The providers together serve a population of a little under 3,000 people.



Recent Events and State Actions

North Coast rivers re-open to anglers (Nov. 1): Rivers rose in Humboldt, Trinity, and Del Norte counties after recent rains. CDFW lifted low-flow angler closures on the Eel, Mad, Mattole, Van Duzen, and Smith rivers, and Redwood Creek, as well as coastal streams in Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin counties.

Caltrans enlists electronic signs to urge Californians to conserve water (Nov. 5): Starting Friday, Nov. 5, Caltrans electronic message signs across the state are displaying water conservation messages to help raise awareness of the need for Californians to save water during the statewide drought. Messages will

appear on approximately 700 signs through Friday, November 12. Caltrans' move follows last month's proclamation from Governor Gavin Newsom expanding the drought emergency to all California counties, including San Francisco and Los Angeles, and urging Californians to double down on water conservation efforts.



Increased salmon spawning at American River hatchery (Nov. 2): CDFW and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

announced a joint effort at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery in Sacramento County to increase production of fall-run chinook salmon by 500,000 smolts to help combat effects of the drought. Spawning of returning fall-run salmon begins this week. Production goals have been increased to 4.5 million salmon smolts, up from the typical 4 million smolts. Most of the additional salmon smolts will be trucked and released at sites in the San Pablo and San Francisco bays to improve survival and further evaluate several new release points used last spring when American River conditions were too poor to release the juvenile fish. One quarter of the additional hatchery fish will have their adipose fins clipped and coded-wire tags installed to provide scientists with data about their life journey. At CDFW's Feather River Hatchery in Butte County, fall-run chinook salmon production will be increased by 1.8 million smolts this fall.

Save Our Water partnership with 49ers kicks off (ongoing): A new partnership with the 49ers is

bringing conservation messaging and tips to fans in Northern California. In-stadium ads and signage are in place, and PSAs will begin running soon. [Save Our Water](#) also can be found on social media, electronic billboards, radio and local TV programming around the state. Save Our Water, developed in partnership with local water agencies, emphasizes the need for Californians to take steps now to reduce water use.

Healthy Soils Program Solicitation (Nov. 1): With \$75 million in funding available, CDFA began

accepting applications for Healthy Soils Program grants. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the funds are committed or until Feb. 25, 2022. The program stems from the California Healthy Soils Initiative, a collaboration of state agencies and departments to promote the development of healthy soils on California's farmlands and ranchlands. CDFA plans to help potential applicants understand the application process with workshops on Nov. 18, Dec. 16, and Jan. 20, 2022.

Farm water efficiency grants (ongoing): CDFA has opened the request for proposals (RFP) for the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) for four months on a first-come, first-serve basis or until funds are liquidated. The 2021-22 budget includes \$50 million for SWEEP grants to implement irrigation systems that reduce greenhouse gases and save water on California agricultural operations. Eligible system components include (among others) soil moisture monitoring, drip systems, switching to low pressure irrigation systems, pump retrofits, variable frequency drives and installation of renewable energy.

Curtailments adjusted (ongoing): All curtailments imposed in the Russian, Sacramento-San Joaquin, and Scott watersheds are lifted. Curtailments in the Shasta River watershed are still in place for rights with a priority date of 1923 and younger. Curtailment orders are still in place on Mill and Deer creeks, but regulations there are adaptive, and diverters can divert now when flows are above minimum flow thresholds. Curtailment orders may be reimposed as hydrology changes.

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

Initial State Water Project allocation for next year: Lake Oroville entered 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 **Dec. 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.

Forecasting and drought monitor work: Following the major errors in the spring 2021 runoff forecasts, DWR is taking steps to transition to improved forecasting methodologies and to publish forecast guidance products.

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/>