

January 18, 2022

*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](http://www.drought.ca.gov). For tips and resources for conserving water, please visit [www.saveourwater.com](http://www.saveourwater.com).*

## 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.
- After two dry years, reservoir storage is below 2019 levels, underscoring the need for ongoing water conservation.
- 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 Jan. 18, the state's [voluntary household dry well reporting system](#) received reports of 8 dry wells in the past 30 days, a decrease of 53 percent from the previous 30 days. Dry wells were reported primarily in Glenn and San Luis Obispo 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.

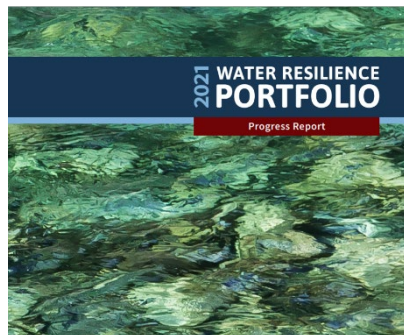
## Recent Events and State Actions

**Ban on wasteful water practices takes effect (Jan. 18):** Emergency regulations are now in effect to ban certain wasteful water practices. The State Water Board adopted these [emergency regulations](#) Jan. 4, and they were approved Jan. 18 by the Office of Administrative Law. The wasteful practices include a prohibition against runoff from landscape sprinklers and the washing of vehicles without an automatic shutoff nozzle on the hose. An online tool developed by the State Water Board at <http://savewater.ca.gov> allows Californians to easily report water waste from a phone, tablet or computer by selecting the type of water waste, typing in the address and clicking send.



**Stakeholders briefed on water resilience and drought relief investments in proposed budget (Jan. 11):** Leaders of the Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Food and Agriculture together held a briefing for stakeholders on the Governor's proposed \$750

million budget investments in drought response and water resilience. A recording of the webinar is available here: <https://resources.ca.gov/connectwithus>.



**Report details progress implementing Water Resilience Portfolio (Jan. 11):** CNRA, CalEPA and CDFA released [a progress report](#) summarizing their progress over the last 18 months implementing the 142 separate actions in the Water Resilience Portfolio, the Newsom Administration’s water policy blueprint. The report charts significant action on key priorities including safe drinking water for all Californians and support for local agencies bringing overdrawn groundwater basins into sustainable conditions.

**Curtailments adjusted (ongoing):** The State Water Board lifted curtailments in most watersheds following December’s storms, but dry conditions so far in January have led to re-imposition of curtailments in some areas. Curtailments remain suspended in the Russian River and Shasta River watersheds, and in the Scott River through Jan. 21. Curtailments have been reinstated in a few sub-watersheds of the Delta watershed. It is likely that additional curtailments will be reinstated in the Delta watershed next week if conditions remain dry. Water Board staff will continue to adjust curtailment orders as conditions change.

**Save Our Water serves up conservation tips on TikTok (ongoing):** Save Our Water has curated an arsenal of videos packed with insightful tips on saving water, including original content and trend spin-offs like lip syncs, music videos, challenges, and life hacks. Follow [@SaveOurWaterCA](#) and use #SaveOurWater in your own water wise TikToks.

## 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.
- **Water suppliers:** The following public water suppliers have imposed mandatory water use reductions on customers, according to information voluntarily provided to the Association of California Water Agencies and / or recent announcements. The list likely is not comprehensive:
  - Alameda County Water District – mandatory water use restrictions aimed at reducing water use by 15 percent.
  - Brooktrails Community Services District – usage cap of 9,000 gallons per month, all customers
  - Indian Wells Valley Water District – 20 percent
  - Marin Municipal Water District – 40 percent
  - Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Conservation Improvement District – 40 percent
  - Modesto Irrigation District – irrigation allocation capped at 36 inches per acre
  - Montague Water Conservation District – 95 percent
  - Nevada Irrigation District – 20 percent

- Reclamation District 1500 – 25 percent
- Richvale Irrigation District – 50 percent
- City of Santa Rosa – 20 percent
- Westlands Water District – no outdoor water use by municipal and industrial customers

The following private water companies have imposed a 15 percent mandatory water use reduction:

- San Jose Water Company, with drought surcharges for excessive water use
- Great Oaks Water Company, with drought surcharges for excessive water use
- California-American Water Company (in the Larkfield and Geyersville districts of Sonoma County), with fines for non-essential water use
- Cold Springs Water Company in Tuolumne County
- North Gualala Water Company in Sonoma County

## Upcoming Decisions / Milestones

**Update from federal and state water project operators:** At the State Water Board meeting on **Jan. 19**, representatives of DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will provide updates on their December 1, 2021 temporary urgency change petition to modify Delta flow and water quality requirements from February through April 2022.

**Season's second snow survey:** DWR is tentatively planning the second snow survey of the winter on **Feb. 1**, including a media availability at Echo Summit in the Sierra Nevada.

## 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](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](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/conservation_reporting.html)
- Latest groundwater conditions and information: <https://sgmatest.water.ca.gov/CalGWLIVE/>
- Information on state drought actions and assistance: <https://www.drought.ca.gov>
- Conservation tips and resources for consumers: <https://saveourwater.com/>