



January 24, 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. For tips and resources for conserving water, please visit 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. 23, the state's [voluntary household dry well reporting system](#) received reports of 9 dry wells in the past 30 days, a decrease of 44 percent from the previous 30 days.
- 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

Storms allow modest increase in State Water Project allocations (Jan. 20) -- Based on a conservative analysis of December's storms, DWR has notified State Water Project (SWP) contractors that it expects to deliver 15 percent of requested supplies in 2022. DWR on Dec. 1 announced an initial allocation of zero supplies that would cover only critical health and safety needs of the 29 water agencies that contract to receive SWP supplies. Further updates to forecasted deliveries may follow if water supply conditions improve or change. The final allocation is typically in May or June, depending upon when the rainy season ends.

Delta Conservancy launches pilot drought program (Jan. 19) – With \$10 million from DWR and in partnership with the Water Board's Delta Watermaster, the Delta Conservancy launched a program to pay Delta water users to use less water through action such as foregoing planting irrigated crops. The pilot program aims to reduce drought stress in the Delta watershed, protect Delta water quality, and improve mutual understanding of agricultural practices and water conservation opportunities in different parts of the Delta. Results will be closely monitored to inform future drought response efforts in the Delta. Applicants can learn more [here](#).

Levi's Stadium GM details water-saving measures in partnership with DWR / Save Our Water (Jan.5):

As the San Francisco 49ers advance toward a berth in the 2022 Super Bowl, Levi's Stadium General Manager Jim Mercurio discussed [water-saving measures at the stadium with the Weather Channel](#) as part of the team's partnership with Save Our Water. The interview builds on a recent [public service announcement](#) from 49ers wide receiver Deebo Samuel.



Ban on wasteful water practices takes effect (Jan. 18): Emergency regulations took effect last week 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 and require Californians to turn off decorative water fountains; turn off or pause your irrigation system when it's raining and for two days after rain; use an automatic shutoff nozzle on your water hose; use a broom, not water, to clean sidewalks and driveways; and give trees just what they need. 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.

Curtailments adjusted (ongoing): The 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. 28. 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.

Storms improve migratory bird habitat (ongoing): Central Valley conditions for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds are better than had been feared last fall, thanks to October and December storms and CDFW and DWR efforts to provide water to refuges and incentivize rice growers to create habitat. Poor conditions continue in far northeastern California, including Modoc County and the Klamath Basin. Most wildlife areas and refuges in the Sacramento Valley are fully flooded and Grasslands Wildlife Management Area – the largest remaining bloc of wetlands in the Central Valley – is roughly 85 percent flooded. The California Rice Commission enrolled 42,000 acres of rice and 9,000 acres of wetlands in an emergency drought program funded by DWR. As of mid-December, CDFW was reporting no obvious signs of avian cholera but tests continue.

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

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.

Water conservation rates for December: At its meeting on **Feb. 1**, the Water Board will release water use data from urban water suppliers that show how much water Californians used in December 2021 compared to December 2020.

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
- 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/>