



January 31, 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 under a drought emergency proclamation.
- After two dry years, reservoir storage is below 2019 levels, underscoring the need for ongoing water conservation.
- Following substantial rain and snowfall in December, January 2022 has been extremely dry. With very little precipitation on the horizon, the statewide Sierra snowpack has gone from 160 percent of average at the beginning of January to just below average at the close of the month. December, January and February are typically California's three wettest months.
- 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. 31, the state's [voluntary household dry well reporting system](#) received reports of 9 dry wells in the past 30 days, a decrease of 18 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

**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 have been suspended in the Russian River and Shasta River watersheds through the end of February, and in the Scott River through Feb. 11. 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 ramping up for next phase (ongoing):** After a dry January, and with no storms on the horizon, Save Our Water is preparing new messages and content that focus on engaging Californians with compelling reasons to save water, particularly outdoors, while taking care of trees. The next phase of the statewide conservation campaign will be informed by polling and will target digital advertising to zip codes where Californians lag behind the Governor’s voluntary 15 percent conservation target. Save Our Water also recently launched a monthly newsletter with tips and news. Subscribe [here](#).

## 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
  - Zone 7 – 15 percent

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, as well as the Los Angeles and San Diego districts of the respective counties, 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 will conduct 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.

**Drinking water needs assessment:** The Water Board will hold a public workshop on **Feb. 2** on the second annual SAFER Drinking Water Needs Assessment. Staff will propose changes to indicators used in the Risk and Affordability Assessment for public water systems, expand the list of water systems included in the Risk Assessment, introduce a new combined methodology for the Risk Assessment for State Small Water Systems and Domestic Wells, and provide an overview of a cost estimate for Senate Bill 552 requirements.

## 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/>