

February 14, 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 was 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 73 percent in mid-February. 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 Feb. 14, the state's [voluntary household dry well reporting system](#) received reports of 11 dry wells in the past 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

**Pilot project set to test collection of young fish above Shasta Dam (Feb. 10):** With partners, the Department of Fish and Wildlife [announced a step](#) toward potentially restoring winter-run chinook

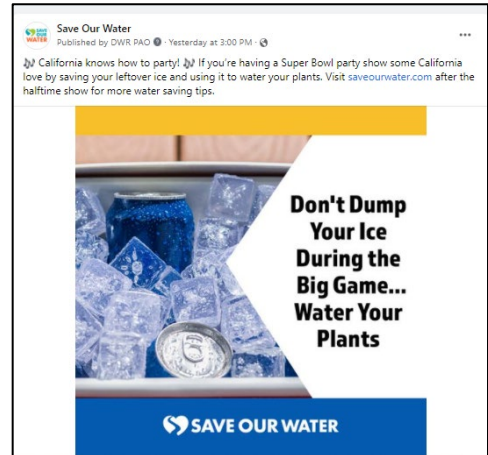


salmon above Shasta Lake. CDFW announced that it would fund the Department of Water Resources \$1.5 million to test a collection system for young fish in the McCloud arm of Shasta Lake. Collecting young salmon before they swim into the reservoir would be integral to reintroducing winter-run to historical habitat. Since the 1940s, Shasta Dam has blocked winter run from reaching colder spawning habitat, leaving them vulnerable to lethally warm temperatures in

the upper Sacramento River. CDFW, DWR, and NOAA Fisheries will test the collection system but not release salmon until the collector operates successfully.

**Hearing on Water Loss Performance Standard Regulation (Feb. 10):** The Water Board held a public hearing on a proposed regulation on water loss performance standards. The Water Board provided a detailed overview of the proposed regulation, overall framework, timeline, and proposed requirements and answered questions from the public. The intent of the proposed regulation is to require urban retail water suppliers to reduce leakage to the level of a specific volumetric standard that is based on its own unique characteristics and is cost-effective, while providing each supplier the flexibility to choose an effective, suitable approach.

**Save Our Water serves up conservation message for Super Bowl weekend (Feb. 12-13):** Save Our Water jumped into the Super Bowl fun with “geofenced” social media around NFL and Super Bowl events over the weekend to keep saving water on the minds of LA fans. Save Our Water also offered [six tips for water-saving plays](#) to conserve water inside and outside the home. Save Our Water is a statewide water conservation program that reaches millions of Californians each year through partnerships with local water agencies and other community-based organizations, social marketing efforts, paid and earned media and event sponsorships.



**Curtailments adjusted (ongoing):** The Water Board lifted curtailments in most watersheds following December’s storms, but dry conditions in January and February 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. Curtailments on the Scott River have been extended on a day-by-day basis as flows are hovering near the regulatory threshold set by the emergency regulation. 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.

## 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

**Preparing State Water Project for climate extremes:** At its **Feb. 16** meeting, the California Water Commission will hear from DWR on preparations for climate extremes, forecasting improvements, climate change planning for the State Water Project, and drought planning for 2022.

## 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/>