



February 22, 2022

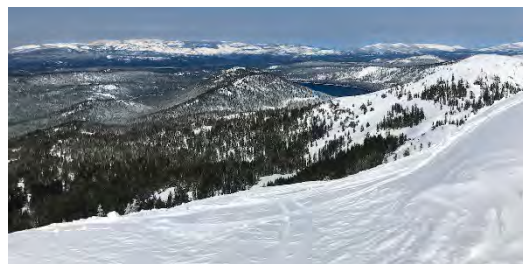
The California Drought Update is a weekly roundup of conditions, state actions and upcoming developments. It is produced by an interagency team that includes the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the California 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 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. 22, the state's [voluntary household dry well reporting system](#) received reports of nine 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.

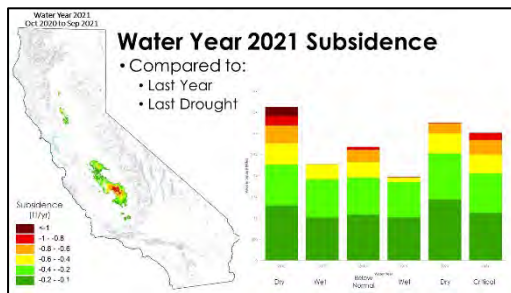
Recent Events and State Actions

Reporters, TV meteorologists briefed on drought conditions, forecasting tools (Feb. 17): DWR experts briefed television meteorologists and reporters via Zoom on current conditions, new technology to improve forecasts of precipitation and runoff, and a new online tool called [California Water Watch](#). The state drought monitor tool pulls together a variety of data sets to give users a snapshot of water conditions, including groundwater levels, precipitation, temperature, reservoir storage, soil moisture, and streamflow.



Workshop looks at Voluntary Drought Initiative (Feb. 16): Staff from CDFW Region 3, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the National Marine Fisheries Service held a Zoom workshop in partnership with the Sonoma County Farm Bureau to explain the Voluntary Drought initiative. The initiative provides a framework for water users to enter into individual agreements with CDFW and NMFS to maintain enough water for fish spawning and survival, and implement other collaborative actions like fish rescue, relocation, monitoring, and habitat restoration.

New data show that California land continues to sink (Feb. 16): DWR released new satellite-based data showing that subsidence due to excessive groundwater pumping continues. The areas experiencing the



most subsidence from October 2020 through September 2021 are in the San Joaquin Valley, with a maximum of 1.1 feet of subsidence observed in the region, and the Sacramento Valley, with a maximum of 0.7 feet in the region. Data show that in that time period, subsidence of greater than 0.5 feet per year expanded to more areas than observed the previous year. However, fewer areas experienced higher rates of subsidence than at the end of the last drought in 2016. Continued subsidence makes it

more difficult for local agencies to bring basins into sustainable conditions by 2040, as state law requires. DWR has intensified statewide subsidence monitoring to help identify impacts and address them collaboratively with local groundwater agencies, counties and landowners.

Water Board acts on petitions for reconsideration related to 2021 TUCP and TMP (Feb. 15): The Water Board approved an order taking action on petitions for reconsideration of the Executive Director’s June 1, 2021, order conditionally approving the temporary urgency change petition (TUCP) requested by the state and federal projects to modify specified Delta flow and water quality requirements included in Decision 1641, and the Executive Director’s June 10, 2021, Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan (TMP) conditional approval pursuant to Order 90-5. The order denies in part and grants in part the petitions for reconsideration and determines that the conditional approvals of the TUCP Order and the Sacramento River TMP were appropriate, based on the information available at the time, but that additional measures are needed to improve future planning for drought conditions in the Delta and Sacramento River watersheds. The order for reconsideration includes conditions to address actions needed for 2022 to address drought.

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 through Feb. 23. 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

Next snow survey: DWR will hold its monthly snow survey press event **on or around March 1** at Echo Summit off Highway 50.

Urban conservation rates for January: At its meeting on **March 1**, the Water Board will discuss urban water use in January 2022 compared to January 2020. In December 2021, urban water suppliers reported a statewide average savings of 16.2 percent compared to December 2020, putting the cumulative statewide savings rate at 7.4 percent since July, when the Governor called on Californians to voluntarily conserve at least 15 percent.

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/>