



March 15, 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.
- January and February 2022 were the driest consecutive January and February on record dating back over 100 years in the Sierra Nevada.
- Statewide precipitation for the water year to date is 77 percent of average, down from 83 percent of average last week. Sierra-Cascades snowpack for the water year to date is 61 percent of average, down from 62 percent last week. Statewide reservoir storage is 71 percent of average for this time of year, down from 72 percent last week.
- 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 March 14, the state's [voluntary household dry well reporting system](#) received reports of 15 dry wells in the past 30 days. Dry wells were reported primarily in Humboldt, Butte and Tehama 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

Californians urged to conserve water (March 10): With California squarely in a third year of drought, state and local officials called on Californians to ramp up their conservation efforts. At an event in Sacramento organized by the Save Our Water campaign in partnership with CalVolunteers and the City of Sacramento Department of Utilities, California Secretary for Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot urged Californians to reduce water use now and also take steps to use water more efficiently in the long term. Crowfoot was joined by Water Board Chair Joaquin Esquivel, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg and California Chief Service Officer Josh Fryday.



Annual water supply and demand workshop (March 7): DWR hosted a virtual public meeting on its draft guidance for preparing the annual water supply and demand assessment required by SB 606, part of the legislative package enacted in 2018 to “make conservation a way of life.” Urban water suppliers are required to conduct an annual water supply and demand assessment and submit an annual water shortage assessment report to DWR on or before July 1 of each year, starting in 2022.

New videos show easy ways to conserve water (March 6): The Save Our Water campaign is reaching Californians with helpful videos and tips for fixing leaks and reducing outdoor watering. Visit www.saveourwater.com for more.

DWR promotes Fix a Leak Week (March 14-20): DWR is promoting Fix a Leak Week through social media with content to educate the public on the importance of fixing household leaks to save water. A [30-second video](#) was also produced to share on social media.

Urban conservation rates for January: At its meeting on **March 15**,

the Water Board discussed urban water use in January 2022 compared to January 2020. (In July 2021, the Governor called on Californians to voluntarily conserve at least 15 percent compared to 2020 levels.) Urban conservation rates for January: At its meeting on March 15, the Water Board discussed urban water use in January 2022 compared to January 2020. In January 2022, urban water suppliers reported a statewide average increase in water consumption of 2.6 percent compared to January 2020, putting the cumulative statewide savings rate at 6.4 percent since the Governor’s July call for conservation.

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 reinstated in a few sub-watersheds of the Delta watershed. It is likely that additional curtailments will be reinstated as dry conditions persist, with the potential for additional curtailments in the Scott River and Delta watershed next week, and the Russian and Shasta Rivers around April 1. 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

Water Board workshop on Sacramento River temperature management: The Water Board will host a workshop **March 16** to discuss temperature management considerations that can inform planning for the 2022 season and future years. The discussion includes the status of Sacramento River chinook salmon, factors affecting mortality, assessment of temperature and temperature-dependent modeling, and policy considerations, including tribal issues and environmental justice.

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/>