

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT UPDATE

JUNE 20, 2022

Current Conditions

- January, February, and March 2022 were the driest on record dating back over 100 years, with just six inches of precipitation observed across the Sierra Nevada.
- California will enter the dry summer months with below-average reservoir storage and with the state's largest reservoir, Shasta Lake, at critically low levels. The Sierra snowpack is essentially gone, and runoff into the state's streams and reservoirs has largely peaked for the year.
- All of California's 58 counties are under a drought emergency proclamation. 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 June 20, the state's voluntary household dry well reporting system received reports of 146 dry wells in the past 30 days. Twenty-six dry wells were reported in Fresno County and another 10 in Madera County.

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.

Recent Events and State Actions

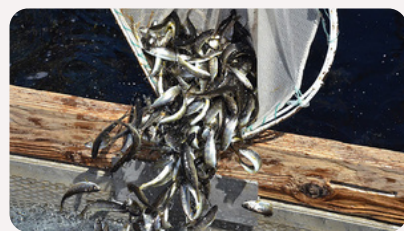
Scott and Shasta Emergency Curtailment Regulations (June 21): The State Water Board readopted an emergency regulation that provides curtailment authority in the Klamath River watershed and establishes minimum instream flow requirements and information order authority in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds. Next, the regulation will go to the Office of Administrative Law for final approval. The current emergency regulation expires in August 2022. More information is available at the Board's [Scott and Shasta Drought Website](#).

Dam retrofit project breaks ground (June 17): At a ceremony at San Luis Reservoir in Merced County, federal and state officials broke ground for a \$100 million seismic improvement of the reservoir's dam and also marked the 120th anniversary of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Congress created the agency in 1902 to bring water to western desert lands to foster small family farms and communities. San Luis Reservoir is jointly operated by Reclamation and DWR to store water from northern California rivers. The federal infrastructure funding bill provides \$100 million for the dam modification.



Senate hearing delves into dire conditions on Colorado River (June 14): With Lake Mead and Lake Powell at record low levels, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation commissioner told members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources that "the system is at a tipping point" and that Reclamation believes that significant and additional conservation actions are needed to protect infrastructure and the long-term stability of a river system that supplies 40 million people across seven states. Water managers in the seven states are discussing how to annually conserve at least 2 million acre-feet of water in the two reservoirs in order to avoid a situation where the reservoirs are too low for hydroelectric generation and safe release of water supplies. Parties are meeting weekly to put together by mid-August a plan for maintaining lake levels and conserving additional water supplies through end-of-calendar-year 2026.

Salmon smolts trucked around adverse river conditions (ongoing): CDFW is trucking millions of young salmon to San Pablo Bay and San Francisco Bay to avoid adverse migration conditions in Central Valley rivers. The releases began in March and are scheduled to conclude by June 23. One of the last releases occurred over the weekend at Brickyard Cove in Richmond on June 19.



Curtailments adjustments (ongoing): As drought conditions persist, the State Water Board continues to monitor six critical watersheds where worsening conditions may threaten water supplies. Curtailments were remain in effect in the [Delta watershed](#), two [sub-watersheds of the Delta](#) (Mill and Deer Creeks), and [Shasta River watershed](#). Based on current conditions and available forecasts, curtailments in the [Russian River watershed](#) are temporarily suspended through June 30 and curtailments in the [Scott River watershed](#) are temporarily suspended through June 24. Notices were sent to water right holders in the Russian River watershed around June 14 regarding a [new curtailment order](#). Board staff will continue to adjust curtailment orders as conditions change. As conditions continue to dry in the coming weeks, the chance of curtailments going back into effect increases. Water right holders should closely monitor the watershed webpages and their email for curtailment updates.

Recent Events and State Actions

Save Our Water and Save Our Trees partnership with the Sac Republic USL soccer team (ongoing): Save Our Water and Sacramento Republic FC partnered to raise awareness about the importance of saving water and proper tree care in the City of Trees. Launched at Saturday's Republic FC match, the team debuted its new City of Trees kit highlighting the significance of Sacramento's urban forest, which is one of the largest in the world.



Tracking urban water use (ongoing): The Water Board's conservation portal has new dashboards and graphics and allows people to get information about water consumption within specific water agencies.

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, Madera, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo.

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/>