

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT UPDATE

MAY 2, 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.
- Statewide precipitation for the water year to date is 74 percent of average. Sierra-Cascades snowpack for the water year to date is 29 percent of average, down from 35 percent last week. Statewide reservoir storage is 71 percent of average for this time of 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 May 2, the state's voluntary household dry well reporting system received reports of 45 dry wells in the past 30 days. Fourteen dry wells were reported in Fresno County alone. Dry wells were also reported in Butte, Kings, Lake, Madera, Plumas, San Joaquin, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sonoma, Tehama and Tulare counties.

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

\$22 million to support small community drought-relief projects (April 28): DWR announced its seventh round of grant awards for local assistance through the Small Community Drought Relief program. In coordination with the State Water Board, DWR has selected 17 projects located in Plumas, Napa, Butte, Glenn, Tulare, Humboldt, Fresno, Kern, Marin, Mendocino, and Yolo counties for a total of \$22 million in grants. Fourteen of the 17 projects will directly support disadvantaged communities, including three tribes, and will replace aging infrastructure, increase water storage, and improve drinking water quality and supply. Since DWR launched the drought grant program in August, it has awarded more than \$160 million to 85 projects.

Sacramento River salmon relocated to cooler waters (ongoing): State and federal biologists are moving endangered adult winter-run Chinook salmon to the upper reaches of Battle Creek and threatened spring-run Chinook salmon to Clear Creek, where colder water temperatures will better support spawning and help their eggs survive the continuing drought. The relocation by teams from CDFW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will return about 300 winter-run Chinook to native habitat above Eagle Canyon Dam on the North Fork of Battle Creek for the first time in more than 110 years. Cooperation with Pacific Gas and Electric made the move possible. It is one of a series of urgent actions to help the native fish survive another year of the historic drought and high temperatures that killed most of their eggs in the last two years in the Sacramento River below Shasta and Keswick dams.

New Save Our Water content (ongoing): The Save Our Water campaign continues to roll out new content across various multimedia platforms including social, digital and streaming platforms, out-of-home, and radio. The multilingual ads communicate the urgent need to save water and provide actionable steps Californians can take. 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.

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 remain in effect in the Delta watershed, two sub-watersheds of the Delta and in the Shasta River watershed. Based on current conditions and available forecasts, curtailments in the Russian River watershed are temporarily suspended through the end of May and curtailments in the Scott River watershed are temporarily suspended through May 5. 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.

Upcoming Decisions / Milestones

Water conservation rates for March: At its **May 10** meeting, the State Water Board will discuss water usage reported by urban water suppliers in March 2022 compared to March 2020.

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/>