



CALIFORNIA DROUGHT UPDATE

NOVEMBER 7, 2022

Current Conditions

- The state's new water year began October 1, and with it came fresh concerns about a fourth year of extreme drought. The three-year period from 2020 to 2022 is now the driest on record going back to 1896.
- To replace and replenish the water that thirstier soils, vegetation, and the atmosphere will consume under hotter and drier conditions, Governor Newsom announced "[California's Water Supply Strategy, Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future](#)" with actions to recycle, de-salt and conserve more water and expand water storage capacity.
- 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 November 7, the state's [voluntary household dry well reporting system](#) received reports of 86 dry wells in the past 30 days. Most are in Fresno, Madera, and Shasta 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 <https://drought.ca.gov>. For tips and resources for conserving water, please visit www.saveourwater.com.

Recent Events and State Actions

Delta harmful algal blooms workshop (Nov. 8-9): The Delta Science Program's [Delta Harmful Algal Blooms Workshop](#) focused on points of nexus where harmful algal bloom monitoring and data collection can be optimized to create a strategy for the Delta



LinkedIn live “Watch Party” for Soquel Creek project (Nov. 8): State Water Board Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel spoke at a watch party for the Soquel Creek Project, the district's groundwater replenishment and seawater intrusion prevention plan that has received \$103.5 million in funding (grants and loans) from the board's Division of Financial Assistance. The project will purify highly treated wastewater through an advanced process that consists of microfiltration, reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide. The high-quality water will replenish the groundwater basin — the Santa Cruz region's sole source of drinking water— to prevent further saltwater contamination and provide a reliable, sustainable and drought-proof water supply

DWR State Climatologist forecasts rain and snow (Nov. 4): A second storm with significantly more precipitation was forecasted statewide for the week, except for the desert regions in the southeast corner of the State. Two atmospheric rivers crossed California and with the amount of precipitation, it was expected that river levels would rise. However, no rivers were forecasted to exceed the monitor stage where flood impacts were to be seen.

UC Merced drought study reveals \$3 billion in agriculture losses in last two years (Nov. 2): [Researchers](#) at UC Merced estimated direct agricultural losses due to drought totals \$3 billion over the last two years -- \$1.7 billion this year and \$1.3 billion in 2021. As many as 752,000 acres of farmland could be fallowed this year because of water shortages, which could amount to a total of 2.6 million acre-feet. The [research project](#) - funded by CDFA - reports that California is in the midst of one of the hottest, driest three-year periods on record, and it also shows extensive losses in the food processing sector, with estimates reaching nearly \$6 billion in 2021 and 2022, and more than 12,000 lost jobs.



DWR grants funding for emergency water purchase (Nov. 2): DWR announced the award of \$1.2 million to the City of Coalinga for an emergency water transfer to supply the community through the winter months. The City of Coalinga, located in Fresno County, had previously notified the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation that it could run out of water by December without additional supplies. In coordination with Reclamation, which supplies water to the city via the Central Valley Project, Coalinga was able to purchase 600 acre-feet of water for approximately \$1.1 million from the Patterson Irrigation District. To support the city, DWR is providing \$1.2 million to cover the cost of the water purchase plus additional expenses through its [Urban Community Drought Relief grant program](#). This funding will eliminate the financial strain on the city and provide water for the community through February 2023, when further allocations from Reclamation will be available.



Recent Events and State Actions

Drought preparedness and response workshop in San Diego (Nov. 2 and Nov. 22): California Rural Water Association in partnership with the DWR held [a no-cost workshop](#) on drought preparation for water operators and system managers of private, public, and tribal water systems. A second workshop will be held Nov. 22.

New CalEPA report shows rapidly accelerating effects of climate change (Nov. 1): California state scientists released CalEPA's [Indicators of Climate Change in California Report](#) which showed how the impacts of climate change are rapidly accelerating in California. Key findings illustrate an exponential increase in wildfires and point to a hotter, drier environment driven by megadrought. Although a naturally occurring feature of California's climate, drought conditions have become more frequent and more intense.

State Water Board outreach to at-risk or failing water systems (ongoing): The State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water staff will reach out directly to public water systems listed as at-risk or failing on the [SAFER Dashboard](#) and highlight available tools and resources to address their issues. Notices recently were distributed to help struggling systems understand their classification and provide them an opportunity to request updated data to ensure the information is accurate.

Curtailments adjustments (ongoing): 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](#), the [Scott River](#) and [Shasta River](#) watersheds, [Mill Creek](#) and [Deer Creek](#) watersheds (sub-watersheds of the Delta). As of **Nov. 5**, curtailments have been lifted in the [Russian River watershed](#). Board staff will continue to adjust curtailment orders as conditions change. Water rights holders should closely monitor their email and the [watershed drought webpages](#) for curtailment updates.



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, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, 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://sgma.water.ca.gov/CalGWLIVE/>
- Information on state drought actions and assistance: <https://drought.ca.gov/>
- Conservation tips and resources for consumers: <https://saveourwater.com/>