



# CALIFORNIA DROUGHT UPDATE

## DECEMBER 5, 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.
- Despite some rain and mountain snowfall in early November and early December, long-range forecasting suggests warmer and drier-than-average conditions will persist.
- Right now, California's snowpack is 171 percent of normal for this date (Dec. 7). But, for every day it does not snow, that number will tick down. As we saw last winter, we had a great December and ended 2021 with 157 percent of average snow for that time of year. But it disappeared following the driest January, February and March on record.
- To replace and replenish the water that thirstier soils, vegetation, and the atmosphere will consume under hotter and drier conditions, Governor Newsom in August released "[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 December 5, the state's voluntary [household dry well reporting system](#) received reports of 44 dry wells in the past 30 days.

*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](http://www.saveourwater.com).*

**October 2022 water use change relative to October 2020, per hydrologic region**

Hydrologic Region	Water Use Change (%)
North Lahontan	-3.4%
Sierran Nevada	-8.2%
San Francisco Bay	-13.7%
San Joaquin River	-8.5%
Yuba Lake	-2.9%
Central Coast	-10.1%
San Diego	-14.4%
South Lahontan	-4.5%
Colorado River	-4.5%

**Water use change for October 2022**  
 Population: 38.7 million  
 No change relative to 2020: -12.9%

## Recent Events and State Actions

**Curtailment adjustments (ongoing):** The State Water Board continues to monitor six critical watersheds where conditions may threaten water supplies. Due to precipitation in late November and early December, nearly all curtailments have been lifted in the [Delta watershed](#) and [Shasta River watershed](#). All curtailments have been lifted in the [Russian River watershed](#) through December 31. Curtailments remain in effect in the [Scott 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.

## Upcoming Decisions / Milestones

**Readoption of prohibitions on wasteful water use practices:** On **Dec. 7**, the State Water Board will consider readopting the 2022 emergency regulations that prohibit certain wasteful water use practices and encourage Californians to monitor their use more closely. The regulation addresses the need for immediate action to ensure suppliers and customers are taking sufficient actions to conserve and preserve the state's supply. Wasteful practices include irrigating ornamental landscapes when it's raining, using potable water to clean hard surfaces or driveways, and displaying ornamental fountains. The regulation will expire automatically on Jan. 18, 2023 if not readopted.

**State and local officials encourage residential lawn replacement program:** On **Dec. 8**, Save Our Water will join leaders in Fresno to highlight available local resources to encourage Central Valley residents to transform their yards with water-wise landscaping. California State Water Resources Control Board Member DeeDee D'Adamo, City of Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer and others will gather at a local residence to spotlight how one family took advantage of the City of Fresno's Lawn to Garden rebate program to cut their water use in half since 2017. The goal is to encourage other Californians to take similar water-savings actions to help mitigate extreme and highlight local initiatives and resources.

## 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](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](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/>