



November 22, 2021

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.

***Note: Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the next California Drought Update will publish Dec. 6.*

Current Conditions

- The water year that ended Sept. 30 was the second driest on record. All of California's 58 counties are now under a drought emergency proclamation.
- After two dry years, reservoir storage is markedly below 2019 levels, underscoring the need for ongoing water conservation.
- 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 Nov. 14, the state's [voluntary household dry well reporting system](#) received reports of 123 dry wells in the past 30 days. Most of the dry wells were reported in Fresno, Madera, Mariposa and Tulare 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

CDFW begins releasing 2 million juvenile salmon into the Klamath River (Nov. 19): CDFW has begun releasing juvenile fall-run Chinook salmon into the Klamath River now that river conditions have improved with cooler temperatures and increased flows that give the young salmon their best chance at survival and reaching the Pacific Ocean. More than 2 million baby Chinook salmon that were hatched in early 2021 at CDFW's Iron Gate Fish Hatchery in Siskiyou County were held over the summer at three different CDFW facilities, including 1 million fish trucked to the Trinity River Hatchery



through Redding in triple-digit heat. All three groups of fish did exceptionally well over the summer and thrived despite challenging circumstances.

DWR releases interactive groundwater data tool (Nov. 17): In tandem with publication of the latest version of [California's Groundwater \(Bulletin 118\)](#), DWR released a powerful new tool called [California's Groundwater Live](#) for users to view, interact, and analyze the latest groundwater information. California's Groundwater Live provides a series of interactive dashboards that allow users to view customized data for irrigation wells, domestic wells, public water system wells subsidence, and overall groundwater levels. Users can filter the data by address, county, groundwater basin, well depth and time period to see unique data summaries. The platform was designed for groundwater managers, governmental agencies, well owners, non-governmental organizations, water policy makers and members of the public.

State Water Board provides update on urban water conservation rates for September (Nov. 16): State Water Board staff reported on the preliminary rates at which urban Californians conserved water in September 2021 compared to September 2020. The statewide savings averaged 3.9 percent in September, down from the 5 percent reported in August. The South Coast region, home to 55 percent of the state's population, improved its conservation rate from 3.1 percent in August to 4.2 percent in September, compared to the same months in 2020. Water Board officials noted that cooler months limit the opportunities to conserve, but all Californians can take steps to avoid water waste. Tips and resources are available at www.saveourwater.com.

Save Our Water officially kicks off partnership with 49ers (Nov. 19): The San Francisco 49ers and the Save Our Water program [announced Friday](#) that they are teaming up to encourage all Californians to take actions now to save water for current and future water needs, following the second driest year on



record. The partnership aims to raise awareness about the importance of water conservation at a critical time in California and the Western U.S. "As the oldest professional sports team in the Bay Area, we have called the state of California home for 75 years. We recognize our responsibility to encourage the Faithful to use less water, especially during these crucial times," said 49ers Executive Vice President and Levi's® Stadium General Manager Jim Mercurio. "We are confident that partnering with [Save Our Water](#) will enhance our ability to help educate all Californians and provide additional tools and resources geared toward conserving water for the future of our communities and our families." To kick off the partnership, the 49ers created [water-conscious signage](#) around restrooms and water fountains and published a water conservation information [webpage](#). The team is also working on a public service announcement launching in December that will feature star wide receiver Deebo Samuel encouraging California residents to go the extra yard to conserve water.

Curtailments adjusted (Nov. 19): The State Water Board re-imposed curtailments in four Delta sub-watersheds: Putah Creek, Chowchilla Bypass, Fresno River, and the Upper San Joaquin. Continued dry weather may require adjustments over the next several weeks as dry conditions persist throughout the state. Curtailments in the Shasta River watershed are still in place for rights with a priority date of 1923 and younger. Curtailment orders are still in place on Mill and Deer creeks, but regulations there are adaptive, and diverters can divert now when flows are above minimum flow thresholds. Curtailment

orders may be re-imposed as hydrology changes. The Board also released an updated version of its water unavailability methodology on November 15.

Public comment sought on groundwater grant guidelines (through Nov. 29): DWR seeks public comment on [draft guidelines](#) for a \$150 million grant program for local groundwater agencies in critically overdrafted basins. The grants may be used for either planning or implementation, such as construction of recharge projects, to help comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Once the public comment period closes, DWR will release final guidelines and solicit proposals, with awards expected in early 2022.

Farm water efficiency grants (ongoing): CDFA has opened the request for proposals (RFP) for the the [State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program \(SWEET\)](#) for four months on a first-come, first-serve basis or until funds are liquidated. The 2021-22 budget includes \$50 million for SWEET grants to implement irrigation systems that reduce greenhouse gases and save water on California agricultural operations. Eligible system components include (among others) soil moisture monitoring, drip systems, switching to low pressure irrigation systems, pump retrofits, variable frequency drives and installation of renewable energy.

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

Grant solicitation for irrigation efficiency: During the week of **Nov. 22-26**, CDFA will release a grant solicitation for the Water Efficiency Technical Assistance program. This is a new program under the Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation Climate Smart Agriculture portfolio. The 2021-22 state budget allocated \$5 million to support technical assistance for water efficiency and nutrient management for California farmers and ranchers. This program will support state efforts to address drought impacts in California agriculture.

Initial State Water Project allocation for next year: Lake Oroville entered Water Year 2022 with record-low storage. Low storage means that the SWP's initial allocation to project contractors on **Dec. 1** will be very low, and the subsequent low probability of getting an exceptionally wet winter means that the project's final allocation is also likely to be low.

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/>