

A monthly assessment of trends in water supply and use for Santa Clara County, California

Outlook as of October 1, 2021

The U.S. Drought Monitor classifies Santa Clara County as being in an extreme to exceptional drought. After two consecutive dry years and due to low imported water allocations, end of 2021 groundwater storage is projected to be in Stage 2 (Alert) of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan without additional water use reduction. Valley Water has secured emergency water supplies and ramped up water conservation programs and outreach. Valley Water will rely more on imported water and water conservation in the next 10 years while Anderson Reservoir storage is unavailable due to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) order to drain the reservoir. The Board of Directors adopted a resolution on June 9, 2021, declaring a water shortage emergency condition and calling for water use restrictions of 15% relative to 2019. Many cities and retailers have enacted water use prohibitions to encourage every property in Santa Clara County to become drought ready.

Weather

- Rainfall in San José:
 - » Month of September, City of San José = 0.00 inches
- Month of September, San José average daily high temperature = 82.4 degrees Fahrenheit

Local Reservoirs

- Total October 1 storage = 19,187 acre-feet
 - » 26% of 20-year average for that date
 - » 11.5% of total unrestricted capacity
 - » 31% of restricted capacity (166,140 acre-feet total storage capacity limited by seismic restrictions to 62,362 acre-feet)
- Approximately 240 acre-feet of imported water delivered into Calero Reservoir during September 2021
- Approximately 20 acre-feet of water released from Anderson Reservoir during September 2021. Since the FERC order to drawdown Anderson Reservoir was issued on February 20, 2020, cumulative release from Anderson is approximately 30,680 acre-feet. Majority of released water was for water supply
- Total estimated releases to streams (local and imported water) during September was 2,590 acre-feet (based on preliminary hydrologic data)

Groundwater

- Groundwater levels and storage continue to decline due to the extreme drought conditions. Total storage at the end of 2021 is projected to be in Stage 2 (Alert) of Valley Water's Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

	Santa Clara Subbasin		Llagas Subbasin
	Santa Clara Plain	Coyote Valley	
September 2021 managed recharge estimate	3,000	1,100	1,400
YTD managed recharge estimate	21,800	9,100	12,000
YTD managed recharge as % of 5-year average	46%	69%	75%
August 2021 pumping estimate	8,500	1,600	5,100
January to August pumping estimate	56,300	8,700	27,400
January to August pumping as % of 5-year average	132%	120%	103%
Current index well groundwater levels compared to September 2020	14 Feet Lower	8 Feet Lower	17 Feet Lower

All volumes are in acre-feet; All data is for 2021 except where noted; YTD = Year-to-date

Imported Water

- 2021 State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) allocations:
 - » 2021 SWP allocation of 5%, which provides 5,000 acre-feet to Valley Water
 - » Valley Water received conditional approval for a 2021 CVP allocation of 71,500 acre-feet, based on Valley Water's public health and safety needs. However, the availability of the allocation is subject to hydrological and other system limitations
- Statewide reservoir storage information, as of October 3, 2021:
 - » Shasta Reservoir at 23% of capacity (39% of average for this date)
 - » Oroville Reservoir at 22% of capacity (36% of average for this date)
 - » San Luis Reservoir at 12% of capacity (25% of average for this date)
- Valley Water's Semitropic groundwater bank reserves are at 91% of capacity, or 318,954 acre-feet, as of August 31, 2021
- Estimated SFPUC deliveries to Santa Clara County:
 - » Month of August = 4,771 acre-feet
 - » 2021 Total to Date: 32,513 acre-feet
 - » Five-year annual average = 48,700 acre-feet
- Board Governance Policy No. EL-5.3.3 includes keeping the Board informed of imported water management activities on an ongoing basis. No imported water agreements have been executed under EL-5.3.3 since the last Water Tracker update

Treated Water

- Below average demands of 9,301 acre-feet delivered in September
- This total is 80% of the five-year average for the month of September
- Year-to-date deliveries are 74,882 acre-feet or 95% of the five-year average

Conserved Water

- Saved 74,198 acre-feet in FY20 through Valley Water's long-term conservation program (baseline year is 1992)
- Long-term program goal is to save nearly 100,000 acre-feet by 2030 and 110,000 acre-feet by 2040
- On June 9, 2021, the Board called for a 15% reduction in water use compared to 2019, for the public to limit irrigation of ornamental landscapes with potable water to a maximum of three days per week, and for retailers, cities and the County to implement local water restrictions
- The community has continued to increase its drought-related conservation from June 2021, with August 2021 water use approximately 9% less than August 2019 water use

Recycled Water

- Estimated September 2021 production = 1,750 acre-feet
- Estimated year-to-date through September = 13,530 acre-feet or 97% of the five-year average
- Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center produced an estimated 1.6 billion gallons (4,864 acre-feet) of purified water in 2020. Since the beginning of 2021, about 4,268 acre-feet of purified water has been produced. The purified water is blended with existing tertiary recycled water for South Bay Water Recycling Program customers

Alternative Sources

- As of December 10, 2019, Valley Water's wastewater contract right from Palo Alto/ Mountain View remains at 10,000 acre-feet/year

CONTACT US

To find out the latest information on Valley Water projects or to submit questions or comments, email info@valleywater.org or use our **Access Valley Water** customer request system at <https://deliver.com/2yukx>.



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