



Monthly Drought Emergency Response and Water Supply Update

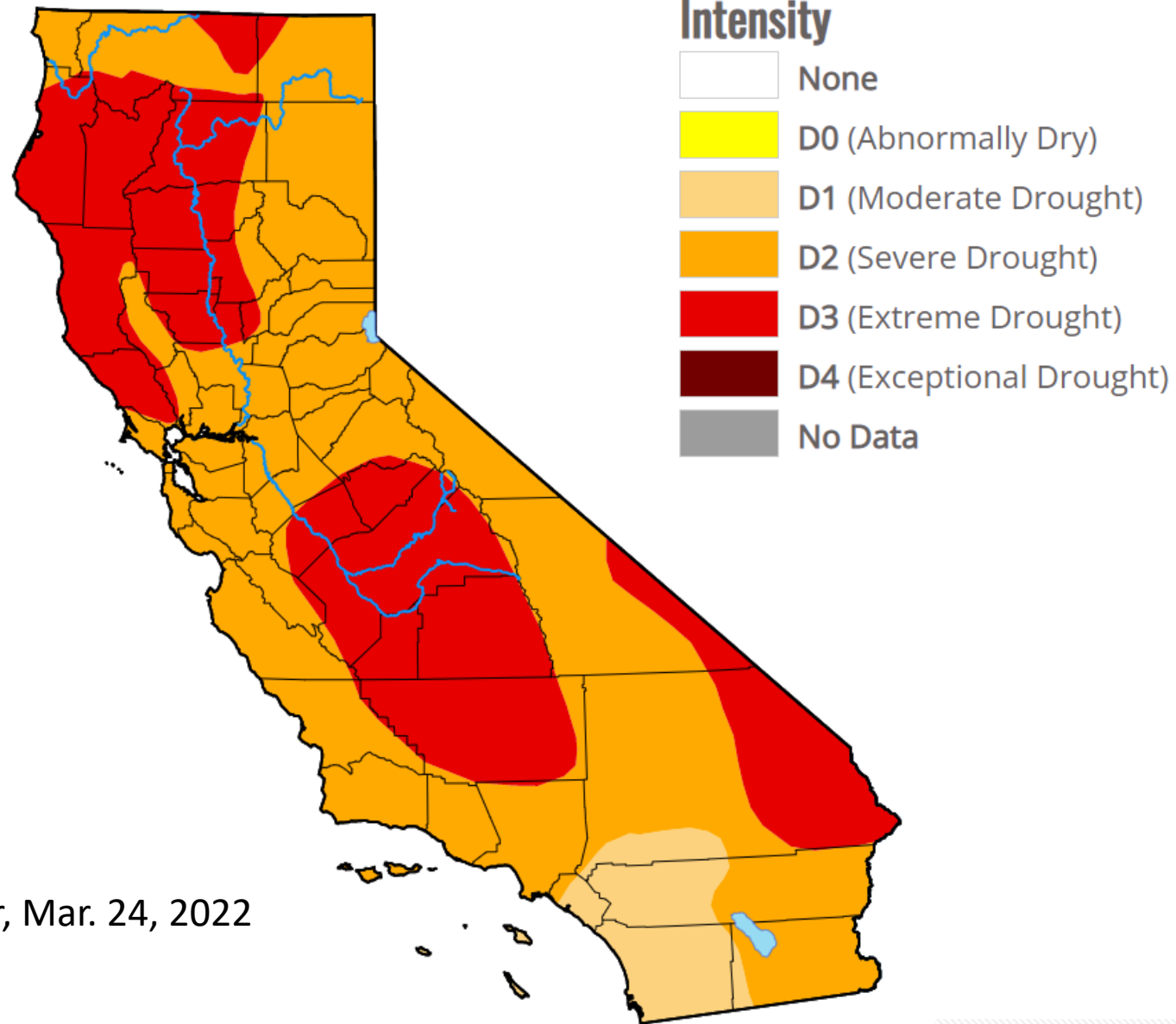
Valley Water Board Meeting
April 12, 2022

Drought Status

Driest first three months on record

Executive Order N-7-22 called on local water suppliers to move to Stage 2 of WSCPs

Data source: U.S. Drought Monitor, Mar. 24, 2022



Countywide Water Savings

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- June 2021 – February 2022 Cumulative Savings of 6%
- Rainfall
 - Feb 2019 = 5.5 in
 - Feb 2022 = 0 in (more irrigation due to no rain)
- Water Use significantly higher than February 2019 (+23%)
- Improvement compared to Feb 2020 (-2%)
- Winter savings expected to be low. Striving to reach 15% call on annual **cumulative** basis.

Drought and Conservation Public Outreach

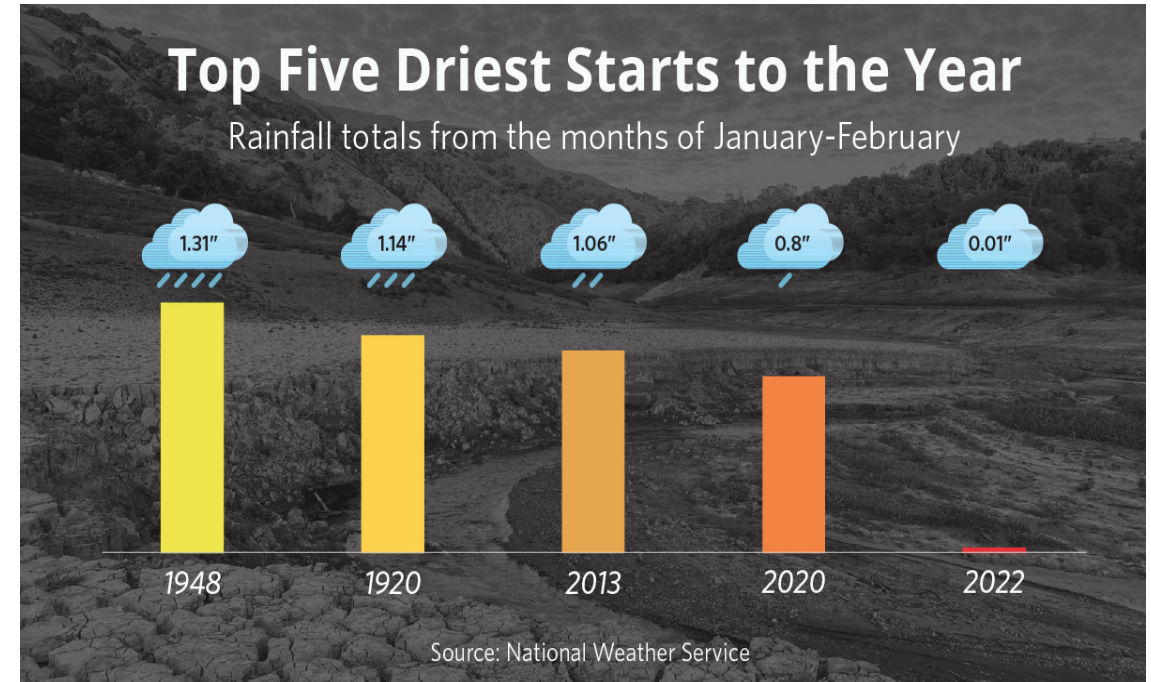
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Drought severity graphic

Social media messaging

Retailer Partnerships

Conservation campaign



valleywater.org

2022 Imported Water Supplies

- Drastically reduced allocations

State Water Project – 5%

Central Valley Project – Public Health and Safety only, 0% for Ag

- Semitropic water bank withdrawal - 31.5 TAF
- Emergency transfers – under negotiations

Groundwater

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- Decreased imported water releases for recharge by over half
- Improvement due to fall rains, but continued risk of subsidence and dry wells

Recommendation: Amended Resolution

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Restrict irrigation of lawns and ornamental landscapes with potable water to **no more than two days a week**;

Rationale:

- Expanded public messaging to result in water savings
- Countywide consistent messaging
- Valley Water will urge jurisdictions without 2-day limits to adopt them
- General retailer support for 2-day watering
- Reserves additional tools if additional conservation is needed

Additional Recommendations

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- Restrict irrigation in a manner that does not cause **runoff**
- Prohibit **midday watering** to avoid evaporative loss
- Call for **uniform watering days and times** amongst retailers without existing restrictions
- **Prioritize tree irrigation** over lawns and ornamental landscapes

Additional Recommendation

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Declare that Valley Water **aggressively continues Stage 3** actions of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan, including

- close coordination with retailers, jurisdictions to implement water use restrictions
- urge significant behavioral change of water users through **aggressive, significantly expanded**
 - consistent communication efforts
 - conservation program participation
 - water waste reporting

Expand Public Communication Efforts

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- Multi-language messaging on social media, radio, TV, print
- Countywide mailer
- Text messaging
- Coordinated communication with retailers
 - Direct emails
 - Bill inserts
- Speakers Bureau Program
- Online webinars
- Promote conservation programs and water-saving behaviors

Grow participation in conservation programs

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Continue to expand programs that promote efficient irrigation and reduce runoff:

- Landscape Rebate Program
- Outdoor Surveys
- Graywater Rebate Program
- eCart Program
- Fixture Replacement Program
- Large Landscape Program
- Commercial and Facility programs

Expand Water Waste Reporting – vendor and increased outreach

Developing Plan for Additional Action

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Working with retailers, cities and stakeholders to determine feasibility for possible next actions, including:

- Further consistency in irrigation schedules
- Enforcement
- Prohibitions related to new or existing lawns
- Further water use restrictions
- Additional permanent water use restrictions

Recommendation

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Adopt the RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 21-68 RESCINDING RESOLUTION 17-43, DECLARING A WATER SHORTAGE EMERGENCY CONDITION CALLING FOR WATER USE RESTRICTIONS, AND URGING THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA TO PROCLAIM A LOCAL EMERGENCY which includes restricting outdoor watering of lawns and ornamental landscape with potable water to no more than two days

QUESTIONS

