




San Francisco Water Power Sewer

Services of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Handout 4.8-B
04/27/2021

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TO: SFPUC Wholesale Customers 

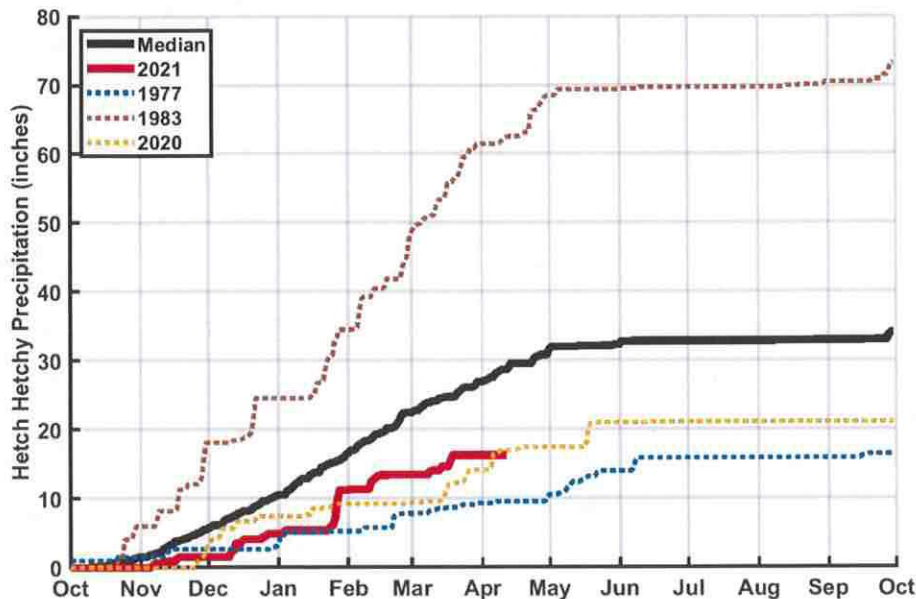
FROM: Steven R. Ritchie, Assistant General Manager, Water

DATE: April 15, 2021

RE: Water Supply Availability Estimate

This memo provides the water supply availability estimate for this year and the current hydrologic conditions.

The plots below provide precipitation at Hetch Hetchy and snowpack in the watershed through April 13, 2021. As the plots show, the Hetch Hetchy watershed has experienced quite dry conditions to date, similar in precipitation to last year. The April 1 snow course index is about 60% of median April 1st snowpack, surprisingly this is 10% higher than last year's percent of median April 1st snowpack. However, the snowmelt has already begun in contrast to this time last year where a late season storm boosted snowpack before the snowmelt began.



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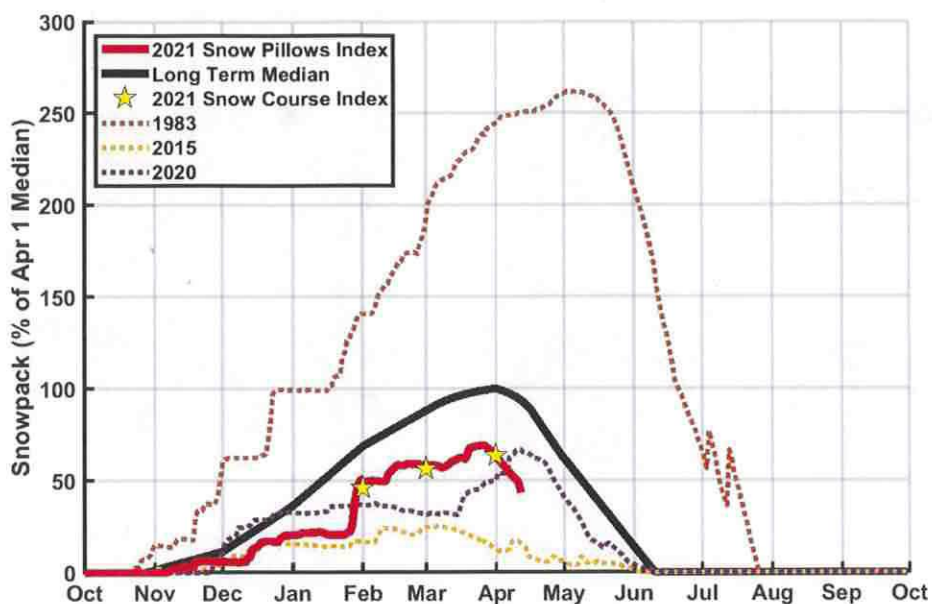
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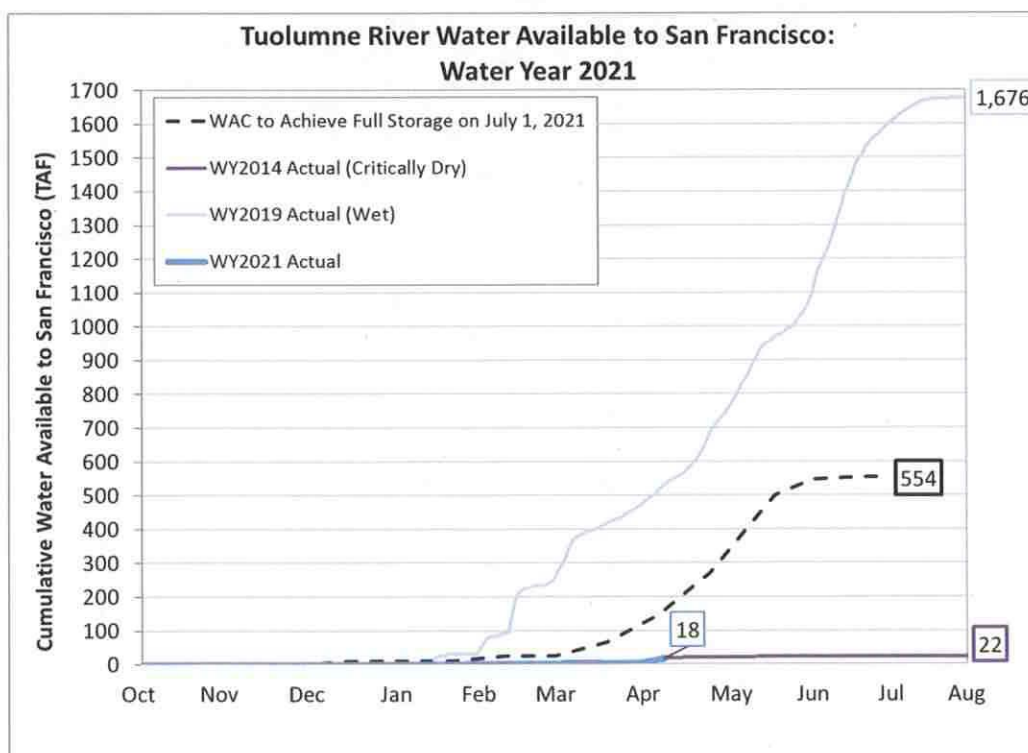
Michael Carlin
Acting
General Manager

OUR MISSION: To provide our customers with high-quality, efficient and reliable water, power and sewer services in a manner that values environmental and community interests and sustains the resources entrusted to our care.





Water available to San Francisco under the Raker Act has produced about 18,000 acre-feet so far. San Francisco needs about 554,000 acre-feet to fill the entire water system by July 1, 2021 as depicted in the chart below. Despite lower than normal snowpack for this time of year, the SFPUC snowmelt forecasts indicate Hetch Hetchy reservoir will fill this year. Water Bank is not expected to fill, however, which will put the system at risk for filling our Upcountry system next year.



With the shelter-at-home orders lifting and businesses, schools, offices and other establishments in the SFPUC service area beginning to reopen, water demands have begun to increase above the lower demands experienced during shelter-in-place. While San Francisco does not want to cause any limitations to economic recovery and the reopening of Bay Area businesses and activities, we ask that customers remain vigilant, particularly around outdoor irrigation. Our goal is to maintain summertime water use at no more than 2019, pre-Pandemic levels. To accomplish this, we will be asking our retail customers to voluntarily reduce irrigation use by 10 percent. Ways to accomplish this include routinely cutting irrigation time by 10% or reducing the frequency of irrigation days, and fixing leaks and irrigation problems like overspray . We ask our Wholesale Customers to implement similar approaches to control summertime peak use.

Our customers' commitments to water conservation ensure our ability to carryover water in our reservoirs from one year to the next. This commitment results in improved water supply reliability and reduces the risk of water shortages in the event that next year is also dry. All of the users of our water system benefit from the continuation of wise water use.

cc.: Nicole Sandkulla, CEO/General Manager, BAWSCA

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