Drought Response Report

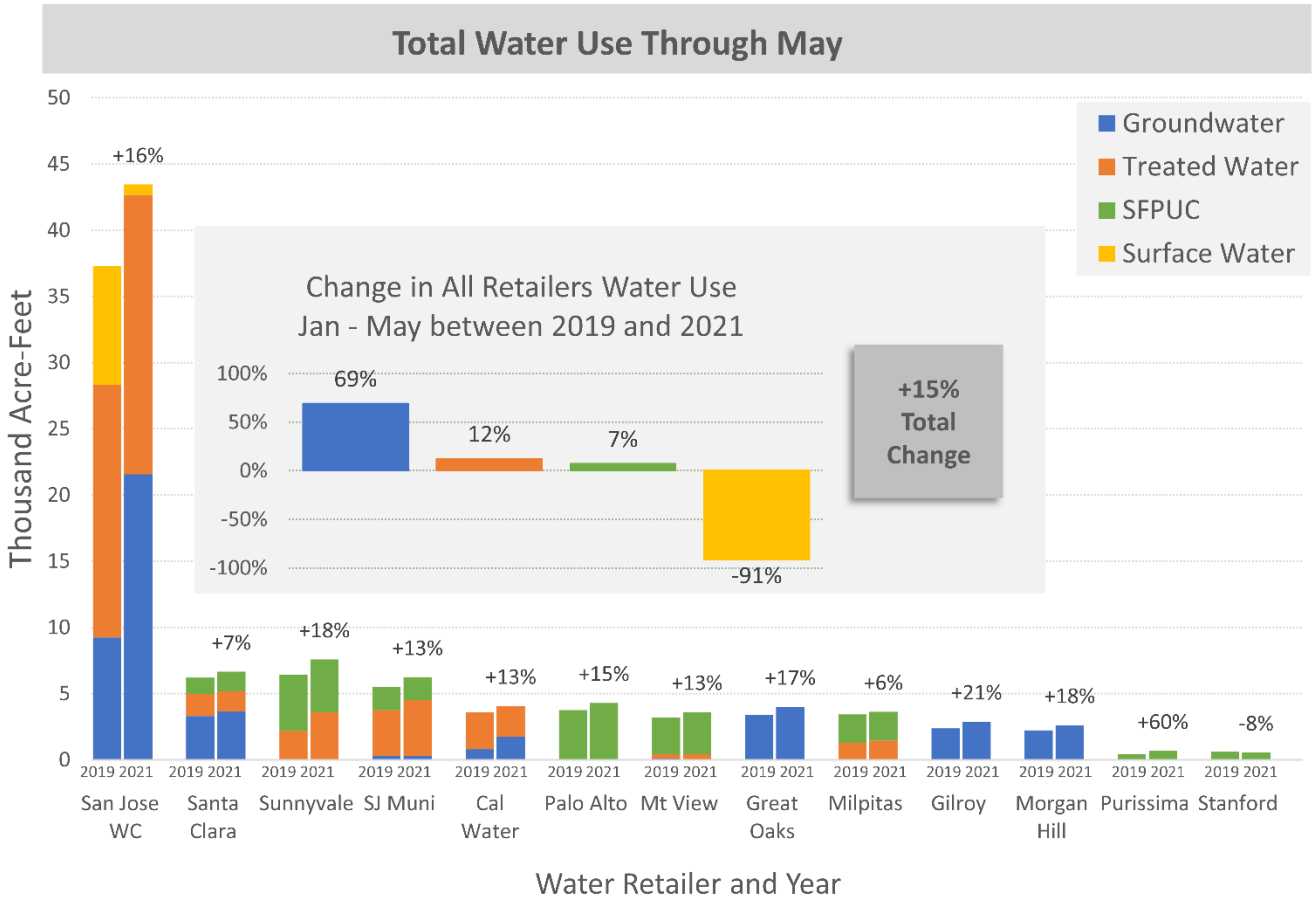
June 2021

Resolution 21-68 Implementation

On June 9, 2021, the Board adopted Valley Water Resolution 21-68 to declare a water shortage emergency condition pursuant to California Water Code §350, called for water use restrictions of 15% compared to 2019, and urged the County of Santa Clara (County) to proclaim a local emergency.

Collaboration with the County, Retailers, Cities

- The County Director of Emergency Services signed the County's drought emergency proclamation on June 15, 2021 and it was ratified by the Board of Supervisors on June 22, 2021.
- On June 29, 2021, a letter from Chair Estremera was sent to all Mayors and City Councils in Santa Clara County informing them of the County's Proclamation of Local Emergency.
- A meeting with Valley Water staff was offered to all 15 municipalities to help review and support local water waste reduction measures. As part of the ongoing drought response outreach, staff is continuing to engage and follow up with local government officials to agendize drought response actions on Council calendars, including encouraging municipalities to implement water shortage contingency plans.
- Retailers, including those that are cities, have begun implementing water use restrictions in response to the call for water use reduction, or have added additional restrictions to existing ones. Links to retailers' restrictions are posted online (https://www.valleywater.org/your-water/find-your-water-retailer).
- The investor-owned retailers Great Oaks Water Company and California Water Service are implementing surcharges for water use in excess of allocations, which were requested to become effective July 13th and July 14th, respectively.
- Valley Water staff have been communicating with retailers at Water Conservation Retailer Subcommittee meetings as well as the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) to enable consistent public messaging regarding water conservation and restrictions.
- Letters were sent to retailers to inform them of treated water contract changes as a result of the call for water use reduction. Meetings were conducted with retailers to discuss the changes.
- The graphs below show year-to-date retailer water use compared with water use from the same months in 2019. This data reflects water use prior to Valley Water's June 9, 2021 resolution calling for water use reduction.



	Total Water Use Through May 2019 (AF)					Total Water Use Through May 2021 (AF)				
Water Retailer	Ground Water	Treated Water	SFPUC	Surface Water	Total	Ground Water	Treated Water	SFPUC	Surface Water	Total
San Jose Water Company	9,231	19,094	-	8,972	37,298	21,560	21,096	-	794	43,450
Santa Clara, City	3,308	1,663	1,239	-	6,210	3,643	1,542	1,464	-	6,650
Sunnyvale	39	2,150	4,219	-	6,408	39	3,550	3,990	-	7,579
San Jose Municipal Water	314	3,448	1,750	-	5,512	279	4,238	1,728	-	6,245
California Water Service	795	2,814	-	-	3,609	1,765	2,302	-	-	4,067
Palo Alto	-	-	3,751	-	3,751	-	-	4,297	-	4,297
Mountain View	98	317	2,784	-	3,199	55	355	3,200	-	3,610
Great Oaks	3,410	-	-	-	3,410	4,004	-	-	-	4,004
Milpitas	-	1,291	2,135	-	3,426	-	1,454	2,178	-	3,631
Gilroy	2,381	-	-	-	2,381	2,885	-	-	-	2,885
Morgan Hill	2,223	-	-	-	2,223	2,625	-	-	-	2,625
Purissima Hills Water	-	-	419	-	419	-	-	671	-	671
Stanford	-	-	603	-	603	-	-	554	-	554
Total	**21,800**	**30,776**	**16,900**	**8,972**	**78,448**	**36,854**	**34,537**	**18,083**	**794**	**90,268**

Water Conservation Programs

The Landscape Rebate Program provides rebates for converting high-water use landscape to low-water use landscape, as well as retrofitting existing irrigation equipment with approved high-efficiency irrigation equipment. The Shopping Cart Program offers free water conservation devices to homes and businesses. The Water Waste Program enables callers to confidentially report water waste and leaks, which are addressed through educational assistance. The table below shows the latest monthly participation data available.

Program	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun*	**Total**
Landscape Rebate Program Applications	47	62	86	251	221	165	832
Conservation Device Orders**	2	7	9	372	750	445	**1,585**
Water Waste Reports	5	4	28	42	53	169	**301**

*June 1- 29, 2021

**The Shopping Cart Program, launched in April, led to an increase in conservation device orders.

Drought and Water Conservation Outreach

Valley Water's multilingual water conservation campaign promotes water conservation as a way of life, being drought-ready, and Valley Water's many conservation programs. The campaign includes ads on TV, radio, online, social media and print.

- Staff launched an interactive "BeHeard" webpage on June 17 to describe drought conditions and Valley Water's water conservation efforts and programs.
- Since the spring campaign launch on April 1, 2021, there have been 18.6 million impressions and 150,000 visits to Watersavings.org.

Outreach Type	**Jun 2021***
Social Media	
Impressions	1,219,321
Engagements	31,431
Link Clicks	8,294
Website Visits	
Watersavings.org	57,329
BeHeard.ValleyWater.org	205
Media	
Media Mentions**	1,889

* June 1-29, 2021

**Includes TV, radio, social media, online and print

- Staff also provided letters to surface water users to inform them of the call for water use reduction and encourage participation in Valley Water's conservation programs. Letters to the agricultural community for the same purpose are in development.

Drought and Water Conservation Education

Valley Water's education program fully incorporated a drought and water conservation curriculum in all their programming to youth and educators beginning in May 2021. The following table shows the latest monthly data available on numbers of individuals and groups taught about drought and conservation.

Program	May 2021	June 2021
Educators/Teachers	52	19
Classes/Groups	58	18
Students	1,483	415

Committee Updates

Drought-related updates were scheduled for Agricultural Water Advisory Committee and Water Commission meetings, and will be provided to these committees regularly. Monthly meetings of the Water Conservation and Demand Management Committee were scheduled to guide staff.

Water Supply Operations and Outlook

Imported Water

The following water transfers were approved in June 2021.

- 7,850 acre-feet (AF) from City of Sacramento and Carmichael Water District (June 18)
- 8,000 AF from South Feather Water And Power Agency (June 10)
- 3,500 AF from Thermalito Water and Sewer District (June 8)
- 5,000 AF from Contra Costa Water District (June 8)

To date in 2021, staff has secured agreements for 59,000 AF of transfer supplies, before taking into account conveyance losses across the Delta. It is likely that the City of Sacramento and Carmichael Water District will be curtailed by the State Water Board, which could reduce the transfer amount.

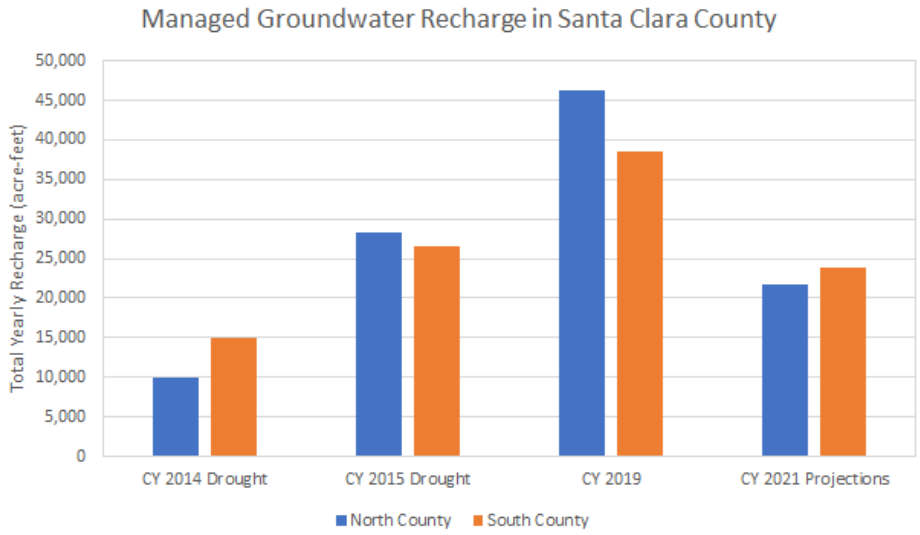
Treated Water

- There were no reports of taste or odor issues for treated water in June 2021.

Groundwater Recharge

- Starting in May 2021, the managed groundwater recharge program was scaled back due to the reduction in imported water allocations.
- The current operations plan for calendar year (CY) 2021, which is subject to change, is to provide a total of about 46,000 acre-feet of managed groundwater recharge in Santa Clara County. The

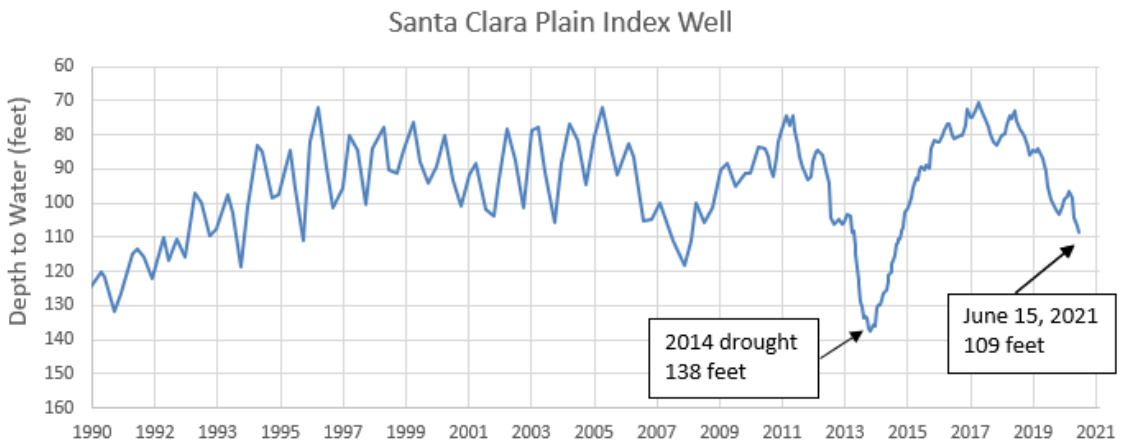
graph below shows a comparison of projected managed recharge in CY 2021 vs. 2019 (non-drought year) and 2014 & 2015 (drought years).



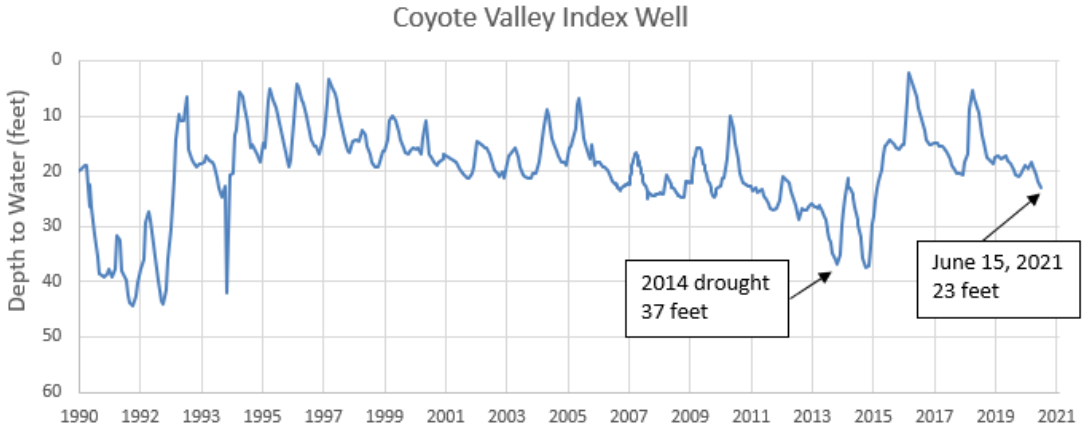
- Imported water is not being released into Santa Clara County streams except for up to 9 cfs into Coyote Creek. These minimal releases are being made due to Anderson Reservoir being drawn down to "deadpool" (or 3% of total storage capacity) per the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's order.
- Minimal local water releases are being made from Valley Water reservoirs due to low storage conditions resulting from the exceptionally dry winter. Releases into streams do provide some benefit for groundwater recharge, as well as aquatic and riparian habitats.

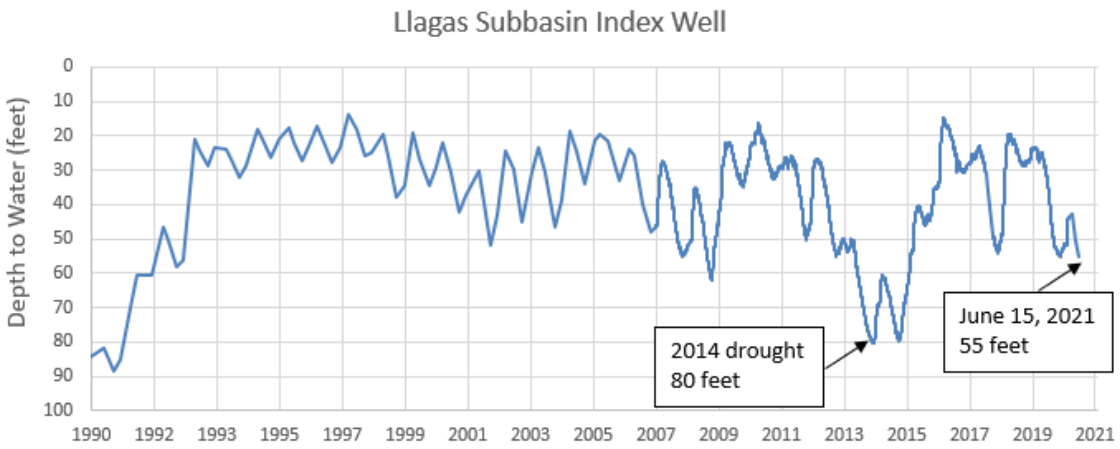
Groundwater Conditions:

- Countywide groundwater levels and storage continue to decline due to the extreme drought and increased pumping. Without emergency imported water supplies and additional water use reduction by the community, groundwater levels and storage in 2022 are projected to drop well below what was observed in the 2012 to 2016 drought. This would greatly increase the risk of resumed subsidence in North County and wells going dry, particularly in South County. Current conditions in both areas are described below.
- North County Conditions
    - Groundwater conditions continue to worsen due to the drought and increased pumping, which is 138% of the five-year average.
    - As shown below, groundwater levels in the Santa Clara Plain index well continue to decline, with a similar pattern as the 2012-2016 drought. The current water level is about 30 feet above the minimum water level in 2014. The water level at this well has dropped about 15 feet within the last year.
    - Groundwater levels are 50 to 75 feet above thresholds established to minimize the risk of permanent subsidence.
    - No reports of dry wells have been received.



- South County Conditions
    - Groundwater pumping is 100% to 123% of the five-year average in the Coyote Valley and Llagas Subbasin, respectively.
    - Groundwater levels in the Coyote Valley and Llagas Subbasin index wells have dropped about 5 to 20 feet over the last year and continue to decline as shown below. The current water level in the Coyote Valley and Llagas Subbasin index wells is about 15 to 25 feet above the respective minimum water levels in 2014.
    - No reports of dry wells have been received.





4. State and Federal Coordination

- Since the Board's declaration of a water shortage emergency condition on June 9, Valley Water staff has briefed appropriate policy staff with all the members of state and federal legislative delegations for Santa Clara County.
- At the state level, staff has briefed two State Water Resources Control Board members, as well as senior staff of the Governor's Office, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the State Water Resources Control Board, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the California Department of Water Resources, and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- At the federal level, staff has briefed congressional staff and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to advocate for protecting Valley Water's municipal and industrial allocation, including to meet our county's public health and safety needs.
- In these briefings, staff have underscored the urgency of the water shortage emergency condition, advocated for the expansion of drought emergency declarations, and urged state and federal authorities to ensure Valley Water's imported water allocations, emergency water transfers, and critical water exchanges are protected amid worsening drought conditions across California.

5. Staffing and Resources

- Two part-time interns were hired in June. Two full-time limited term positions, two part-time temporary staff, and two more part-time interns are in recruitment to support the increased demand for conservation programs.
- A new drought charge code was developed to track drought expenditures. Staff began using this drought code in June. Expenditures will be presented in future drought reports.

6. Expanded Opportunities

Advanced Purified Water

- Valley Water continued to negotiate a lease and Reverse Osmosis (RO) concentrate management agreement with Palo Alto. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Purified Water Project Public Private Partnership (P3) was posted April 30, 2021, with responses due July 2021.

Model Water Efficient Ordinance for New Development

The Model Water Efficient New Development Ordinance (MWENDO) was developed by a task force consisting of Valley Water, Santa Clara County, cities, and other stakeholders to ensure new development meets strong water efficiency standards.

- Valley Water staff has been actively working to have the MWENDO adopted by the 15 cities and County within Valley Water's service area. However, the ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic fallout shifted various cities' priorities and staffing capacity. With the timing of the Title 24 triennial code adoption update beginning later this year and the current drought emergency, staff will again begin to engage with Cities to adopt the MWENDO.

Leak Assistance Program Pilot

- Valley Water in collaboration with BAWSCA developed a proposal to pilot a leak detection certification program for professionals. The pilot was approved in late June, with the selection of the California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP) as the contractor.

Agricultural Baseline Study

- Valley Water is currently conducting an Agricultural Water Use Baseline Study (Study), expected to be completed in 2022. The study aims to better understand current agricultural water use practices and identify opportunities to expand water conservation programs offered to the agricultural community. University of California, Merced was selected as the contractor for this study.