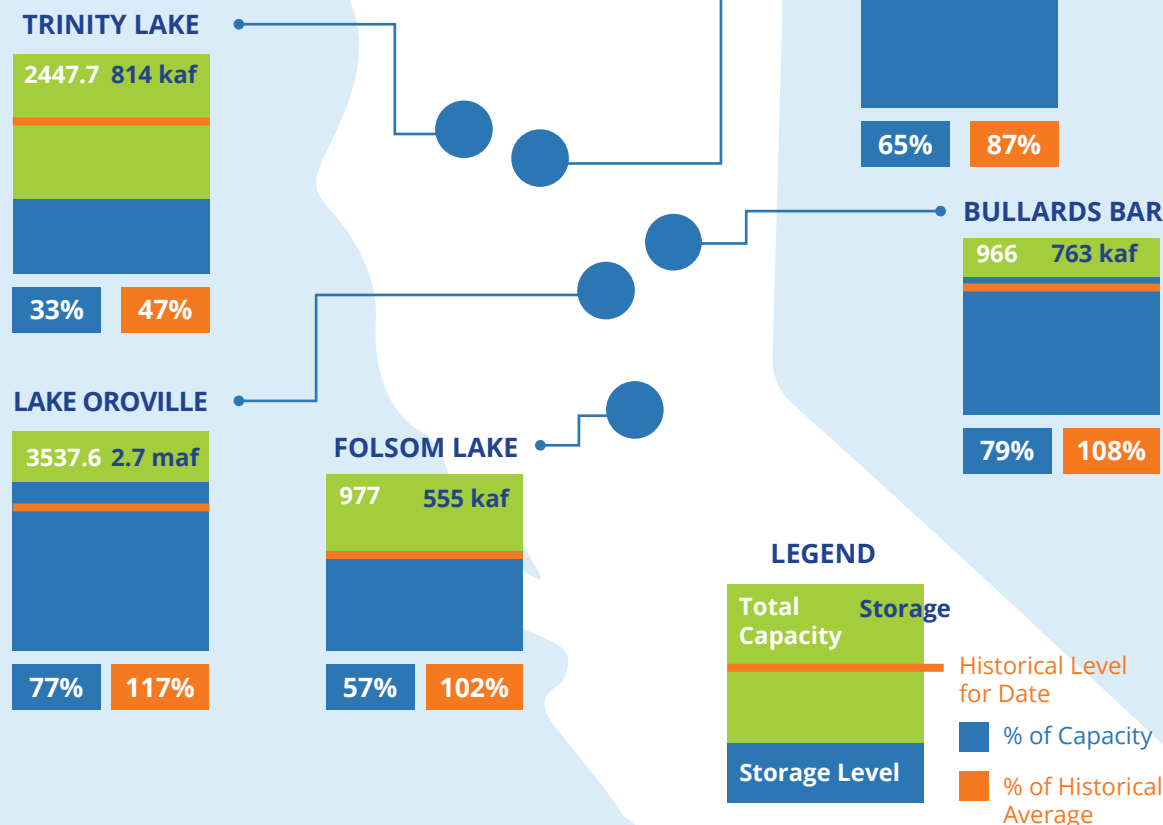


2023 Water Year Update and Outlook

SACRAMENTO RIVER BASIN

Updated March 13, 2023

Current Surface Water Supplies

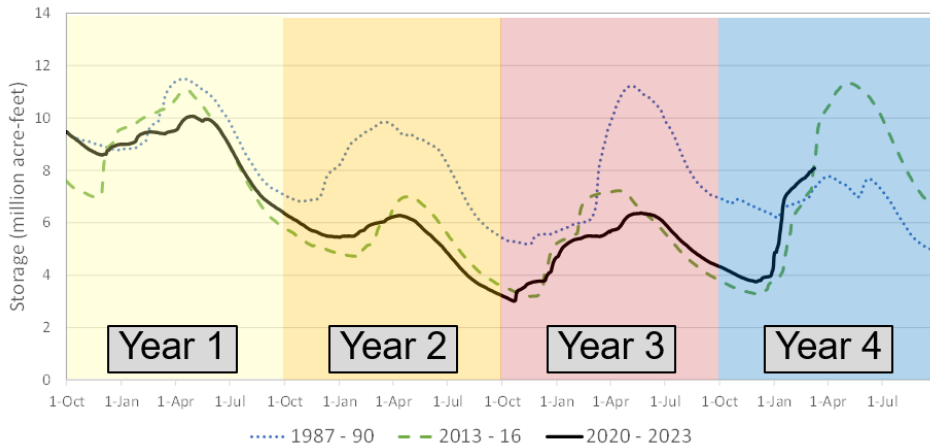


For daily water supply information, see [CDEC](#) or for more information, see [California Water Watch](#).

Summary

With the March storms across Northern California, much of the Sacramento River Basin is now operating for flood protection. Inflows into Shasta and Trinity Lakes have also picked up, which — if this continues over the next several weeks — will allow for full temperature operations on Lake Shasta this year and secure full water supplies for Sacramento River Settlement Contractors and increased water supplies for water service contractors. We are currently in a below normal year as the graphs show under a 90% exceedance, with a good chance this will transition to an above normal year by April 1. The state and federal projects have also been able to pull water into San Luis Reservoir south of the Delta, which will be very helpful for statewide water supplies. Under the new Governor's Executive Order and with excess (i.e., section 215) water temporarily available, there are opportunities to recharge groundwater throughout the Sacramento Valley.

Sacramento River Basin Conditions in Context



*Shasta, Oroville, Folsom, Trinity, New Bullards Bar, Indian Valley, Clear Lake, and Camp Far West.

MBK
ENGINEERS



March 13 Storage Comparison

Reservoir	2014	2015	2021	2022	2023
Shasta	1,959	2,641	2,295	1,705	2,820
Trinity	1,240	1,159	1,277	793	805
Oroville	1,549	1,764	1,366	1,631	2,664
Folsom	376	571	351	521	587
Total	5,124	6,135	5,288	4,650	6,876

All values in 1,000 acre-feet



Governor's Executive Order for Recharge

Governor Gavin Newsom on March 10 signed an executive order to enable local water agencies and other water users to capture water from the latest round of storms to recharge state groundwater supplies. The order suspends regulations and restrictions on permitting and use to enable water agencies and water users to divert flood stage water for the purpose of boosting groundwater recharge. The order includes wildlife and habitat protections, ensuring that any diversions would not harm water quality or habitat or take away from environmental needs. A copy of the Executive Order is [here](#). A fact sheet is [here](#).

We appreciate the urgency called for by Governor Newsom in [California's Water Supply Strategy](#) to accelerate and modernize California's water management system to better serve people, farms, fish and wildlife, and recreation and to help implement [ridgetop to river mouth water management in the Sacramento River Basin](#).



Major Project Allocations – Water Supply Contracts

With the recent storms, we anticipate that water supply allocations will be increased over the next several weeks. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) on February 22nd announced “a modest increase in forecasted State Water Project (SWP) deliveries this year due to early gains in the Sierra snowpack. DWR now expects to deliver 35 percent of requested water supplies, up from 30 percent forecasted in January, to the 29 public water agencies that serve 27 million Californians. That would translate to an additional 210,000 acre-feet of water. [For more information, click here.](#)

The Bureau of Reclamation announced initial 2023 water supply allocations for Central Valley Project contractors on February 22nd. Allocations are based on an estimate of water available for delivery to CVP water users and reflect current reservoir storages, precipitation, and snowpack in the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada. These allocations will be adjusted up or down depending on hydrology over the next several months.

For North-of-Delta Contractors, the allocations are:

American River

- M&I water service and repayment contractors north-of-Delta who are serviced by Folsom Reservoir on the American River are allocated 75% of their historical use.

Sacramento River

- Irrigation water service and repayment contractors north-of-Delta are allocated 35% of their contract total.
- Municipal and industrial water service and repayment contractors north-of-Delta are allocated 75% of their historic use or public health and safety needs, whichever is greater.
- Sacramento River Settlement Contractors’ (SRSC) water supply is based upon settlement of claimed senior water rights and the 2023 water year is currently determined as non-critical, as defined in their Settlement Contracts, which allows for 100% of their contract supply.

Wildlife Refuges

- For wildlife refuges (Level 2) north of Delta, the 2023 water year is currently determined as non-critical, as defined in their contracts, which allows for 100% of contract supply.

For more information, [click here.](#)



Temporary Permit to Store Water

On February 21 the State Water Board approved an order on the Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) requesting temporary modification of water right permit and license requirements imposed pursuant to Revised Water Right Decision 1641 during February and March. This allowed DWR and Reclamation to conserve additional water in upstream storage in Oroville and Folsom Reservoirs. With the recent storms and high flows in the Delta, the State Water Board rescinded the TUCP on March 9. [The order, TUCP, public notice, and other information related to this matter are posted here.](#)



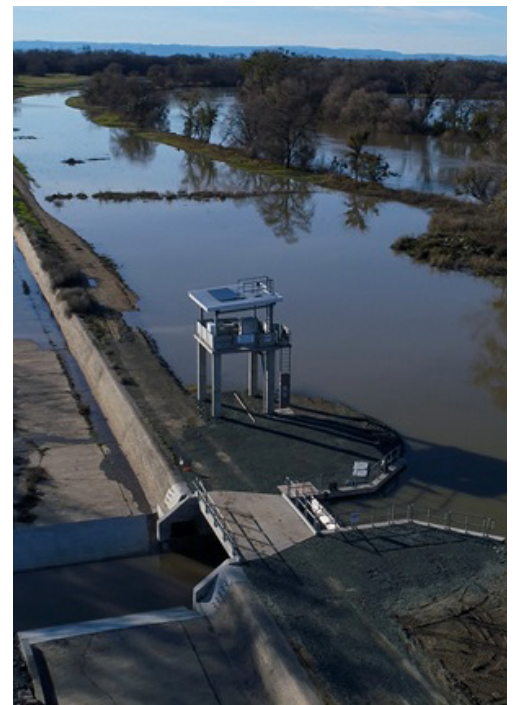
Dry Year Task Force

Leaders in Northern California this past fall convened our Dry Year Task Force, chaired by Fritz Durst and Nicole Van Vleck, to work with state and federal agencies and conservation partners to better prepare for 2023. Our objective is to identify early actions, cooperative approaches, and creative partnerships that can help us protect shared values that will mitigate the economic, social and environmental impacts from another dry year. As part of this process, we are also working to integrate [ridgetop to river mouth](#) actions to provide multiple benefits for our communities, economy and our ecosystems for long-term resilience in the face of a changing climate.



SWRCB Water Right Curtailments

With the storms, all curtailments of water rights and claims of right within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) watershed issued pursuant to Initial Orders Imposing Water Right Curtailment and Reporting Requirements in the Delta Watershed ([Order for water rights/claims under 5,000 acre-feet](#) and [Order for water rights/claims over 5,000 acre-feet](#)) remain **temporarily suspended** until further notice. Water supply forecasts will continue to be evaluated regularly to determine if, when, and to what extent reimposition of curtailments is appropriate. Notice of any reimposed curtailments will be provided by email and web posting at least 48 hours prior to going into effect.





Small Business Funding Relief

The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GOBiz) is targeting early to mid-April 2023 to release applications for the California Small Agricultural Business Drought Relief Grant Program, which included \$75M from the state budget last year. Grants of \$60,000 – \$100,000 will be available based on the percentage loss of annual gross receipts or gross profits for 2022 compared to 2019. To see more information and to sign up for future updates on when applications are available, visit [Drought Relief Grant Program](#).



Water Conservation: A Way of Life

The State Water Resources Control Board has adopted two emergency regulations that prohibit certain wasteful water use practices statewide and encourage water suppliers and Californians to monitor water use more closely while building habits to use water wisely and make conservation a way of life. Local water suppliers may have adopted stricter water conservation measures than the State Water Board's, so water customers should check with local agencies about their current restrictions. For more information visit the [SWRCB website](#). Also, for more information on conservation, see [Save Our Water](#).



Legal Actions Affecting Operations

On February 24 the U.S. District Court, in the case *Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Association v. Raimundo*, granted the Federal and State parties' requested Interim Operations Plan (IOP) through the end of the year. Depending on the water year type and the hydrology over the next several months (see table on the right), the IOP could affect operations of Lake Shasta and allocations in the Sacramento River Basin.

Water Year Type

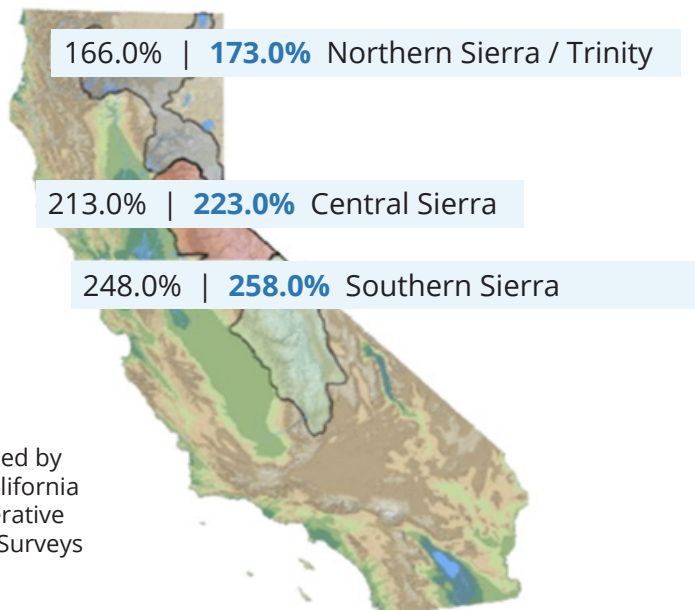
March 7th CNRFC forecasts show:

- 10 & 25% exceedance = wet
- 50% exceedance = above normal
- 75 & 90% exceedance = below normal

Snow Water Equivalents (inches)

Data for March 13, 2023

% Apr 1 Avg | % Normal for this Date



Provided by
the California
Cooperative
Snow Surveys



Groundwater Management

With the lack of surface water in many parts of the Sacramento Valley last year, there will be additional pressure on groundwater. For more information on groundwater, see [Groundwater Live](#) and [A Pathway for the Future: Sustainable Groundwater Management in the Sacramento Valley](#).



Long-Term Weather Forecasts

For weather forecasts, please check with your local provider, or check out:

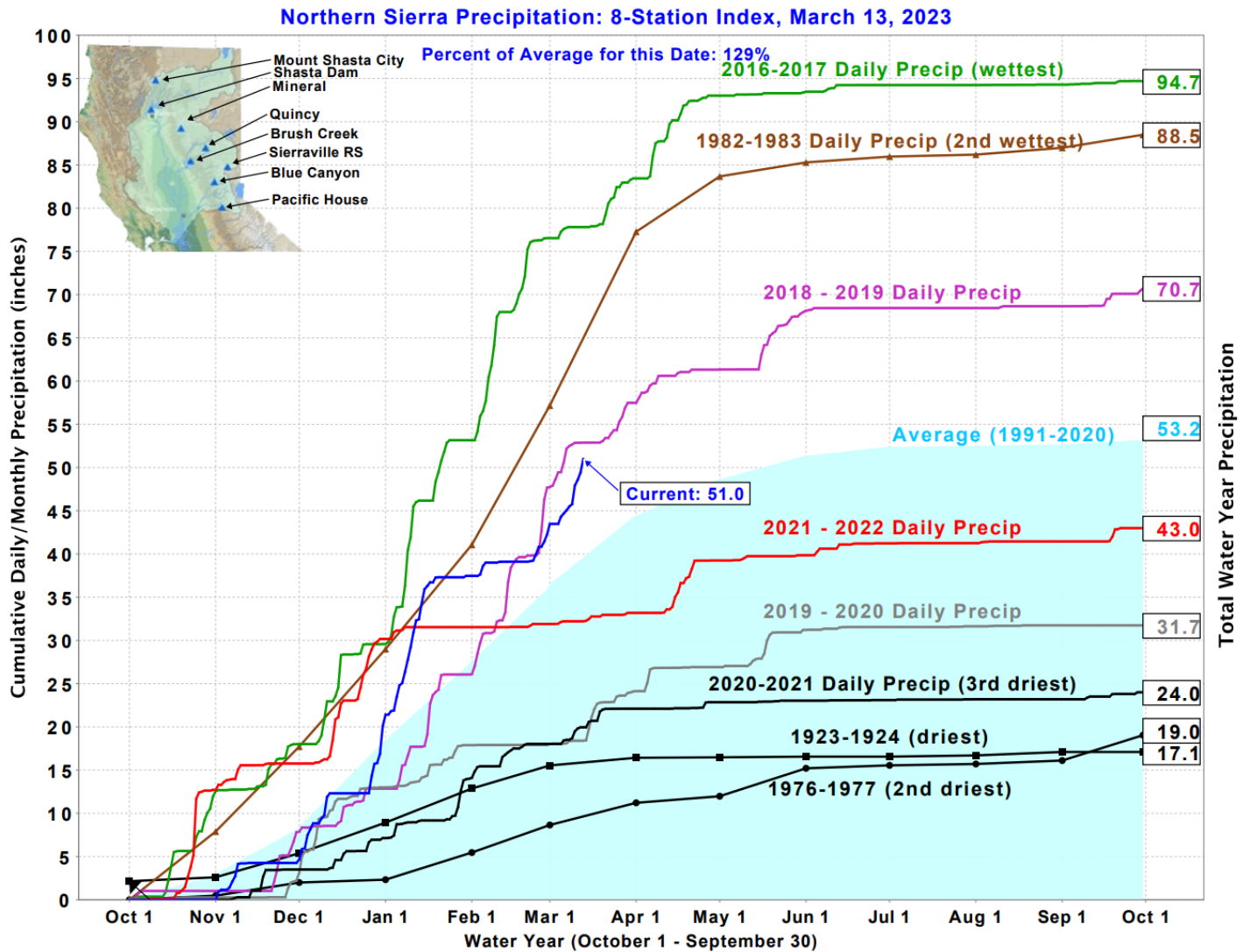
- [National Weather Service](#);
See twitter @NWSSacramento
- [NOAA](#)
- [Weather West](#)

A Path Forward for 2023



Serving Water for Multiple Purposes

Northern Sierra Precipitation: 8-Station Index, March 13, 2023



For specific information for your area, please contact [your local water supplier](#).



NCWA
Northern California Water Association



California Rice
THE ENVIRONMENTAL CROP