

6 THINGS TO KNOW!

About the California Drought

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As drought conditions persist, Californians have been called to action. In April 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a regional drought emergency for two Northern California counties.

In May, the number increased to 41, and in October, the drought emergency was expanded once again to include the entire state.

During this period, the Governor urged Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15%, yet the statewide average reduction was just 1.8% in July.

Here are some important things to know about California's current drought situation:

1 **100% OF CALIFORNIA IS EXPERIENCING SOME LEVEL OF DROUGHT.**

Nearly 40% of the state is categorized as being in exceptional drought, the most extreme classification.

2 **CALIFORNIA IS IN THE SECOND YEAR OF THE DRIEST TWO-YEAR PERIOD IN STATE HISTORY.**

The state received less than half its average rain and snowfall in the 2021 water year, and July 2021 was the driest month on record for the state since records began in 1895.

3 **THE SUMMER OF 2021 WAS THE HOTTEST SUMMER ON RECORD.**

This past summer tied the 1936 Dust Bowl summer for the hottest on record in the United States. It was also the hottest summer on record in California.

4 **THE SEVERITY OF THIS DROUGHT HAS BEEN AMPLIFIED BY THE COMBINATION OF LOW PRECIPITATION AND EXTREMELY HIGH TEMPERATURES.**

The multi-year drought has dramatically [lowered reservoir levels](#) and has contributed to one of the [most extreme wildfire seasons](#) the state has ever recorded.

5 **THE RECENT RAINS HELPED, BUT WE NEED MUCH MORE.**

Weather and water resource experts from [USGS](#) and [DWR](#) estimate that we would need 140% of average precipitation to curb drought conditions. The average amount of precipitation the state receives each water year is 23 inches. California would need roughly 32 inches to recover.

6 **WE MUST ALL DO OUR PART TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE RESOURCES WE HAVE.**

Water is not limitless. We can endure this drought and ensure long-term water reliability by reducing water use and eliminating water waste.

