

Drought Update April 2024 Lake County CA

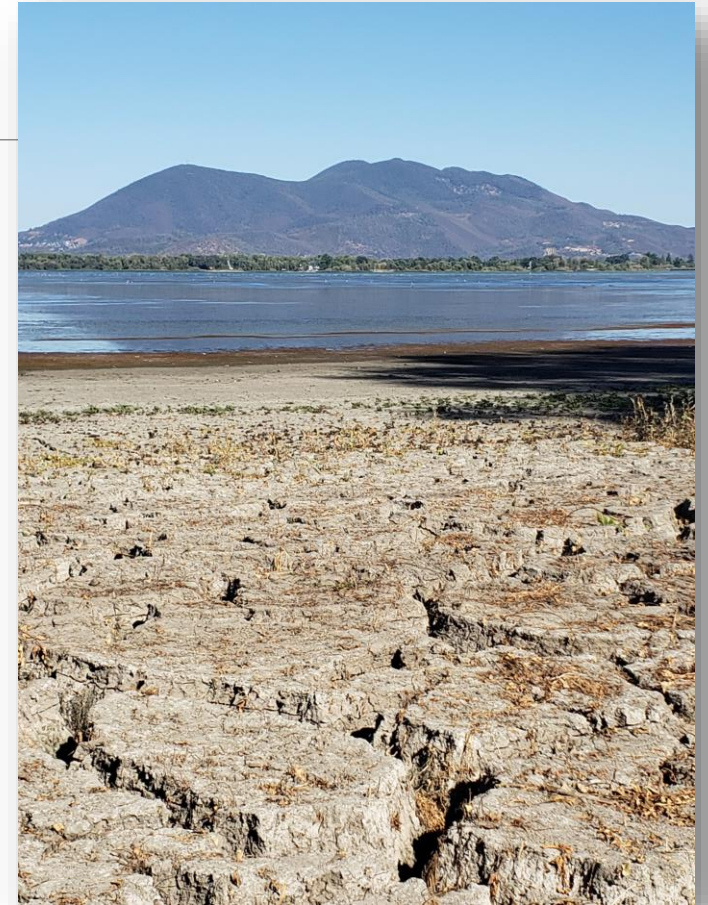
MITCHELL BREEDLOVE AND ANGELA DE PALMA-DOW

COUNTY OF LAKE WATER RESOURCES

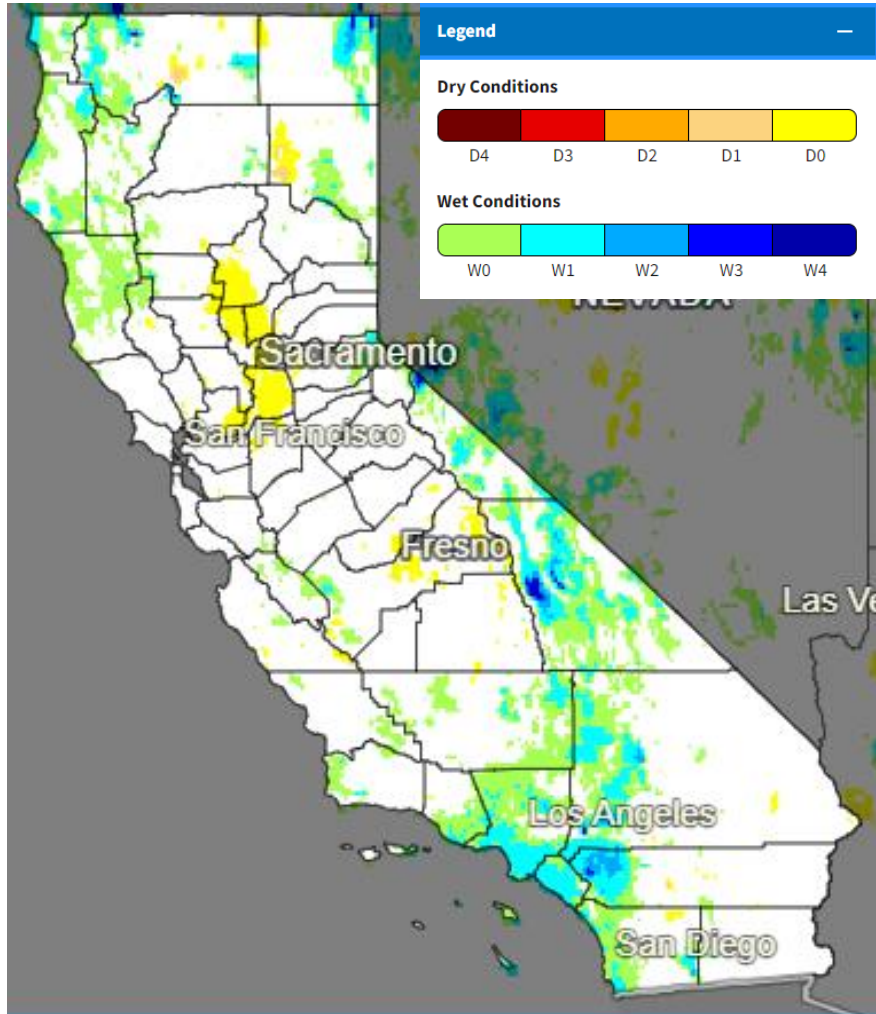
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024

Today's Talking points

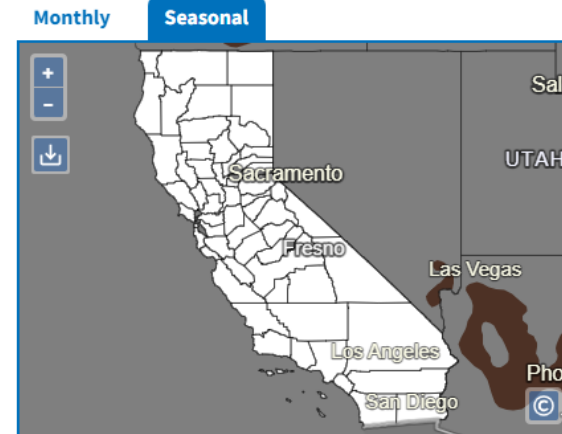
- ✓ State & Local Drought Status
- ✓ Current Clear Lake Lake Levels
- ✓ State Drought Declarations
- ✓ Reminder SB 552
- ✓ Water Resources drought-related Activities
- ✓ County Drought-related Activities
- ✓ Next Steps



California Current Drought Map & Lake Co. Drought Outlook (drought.gov/CA)

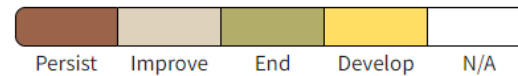


Drought Outlooks for California



Legend

Drought Is Predicted To...



0

people in Lake County are affected by drought

— No change since last week

— No change since last month

0%

of people in Lake County are affected by drought

— No change since last week

— No change since last month

21st

wettest February on record, over the past 130 years

↑ 5.58

inches from normal

25th

wettest year to date over the past 130 years (January-February 2024)

↑ 6.78

inches from normal



Clear LK a Lakeport CA - 11450000

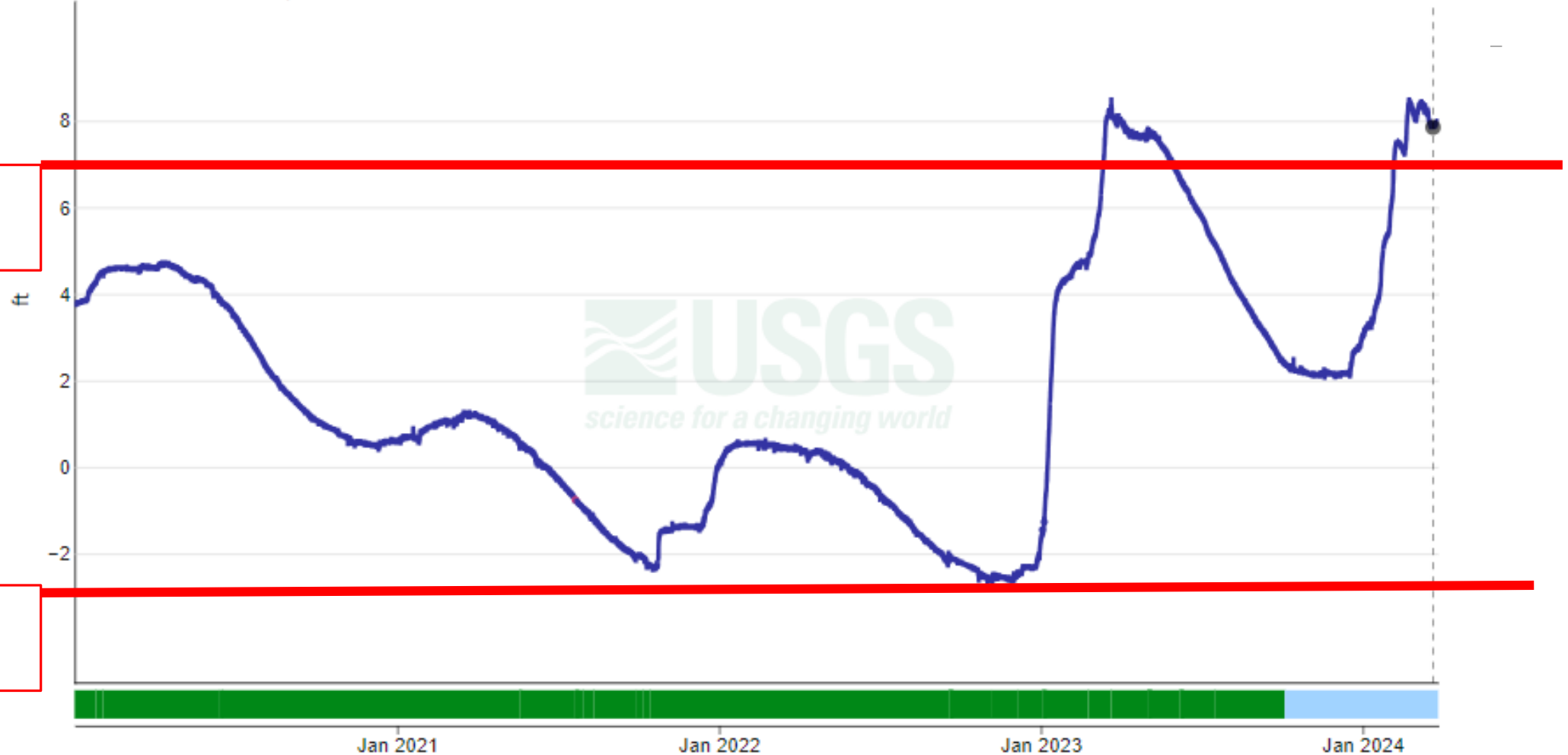
January 1, 2020 - March 26, 2024

Gage height, feet

7.85 ft - Mar 20, 2024 07:30:00 PM PDT

Full Lake

2021 & 2022 Low
Lake Levels



Executive Order N-5-23 (March 24th, 2023) Relaxes and Terminates Previous Drought Proclamations and Orders - But not really for Clear Lake Watershed

WHEREAS improved conditions have helped rehabilitate surface water supplies, but have not abated the severe drought conditions that remain in some parts of the State, including the Klamath River basin and the Colorado River basin, and many groundwater basins throughout the State remain depleted from overreliance and successive multi-year droughts; and

WHEREAS continued action by the State is needed to address ongoing consequences of the drought emergency, **including groundwater supply shortages, domestic well failures, and drought-related harm to native fishes** in the Klamath River and **Clear Lake watersheds**; and

Available: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/3.24.23-Drought-update-executive-order.pdf?emrc=44334c>

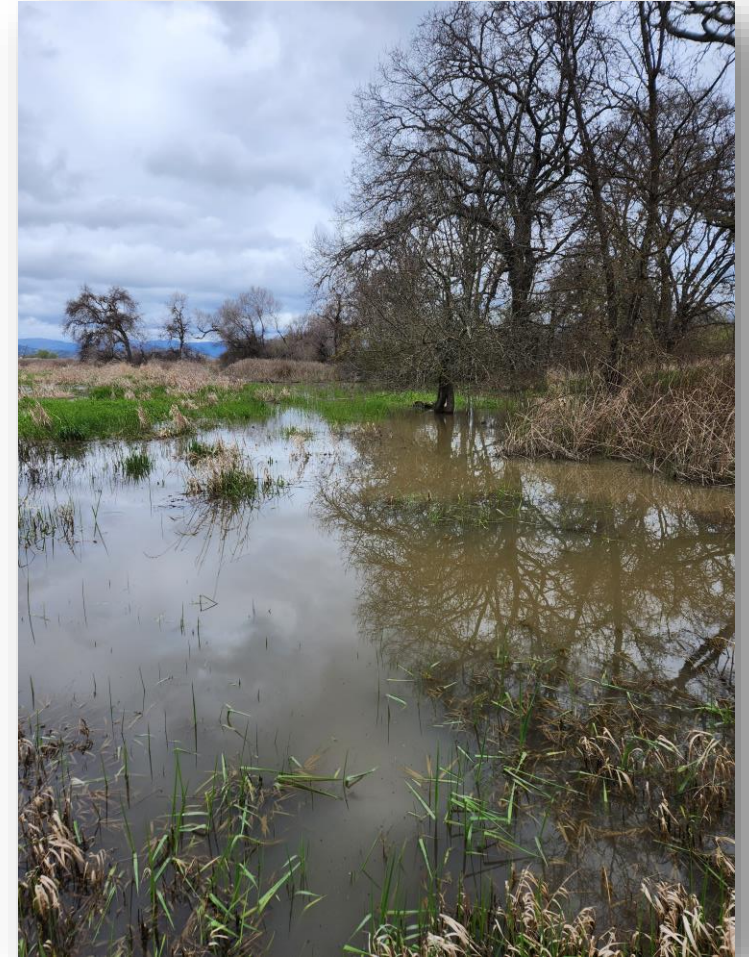
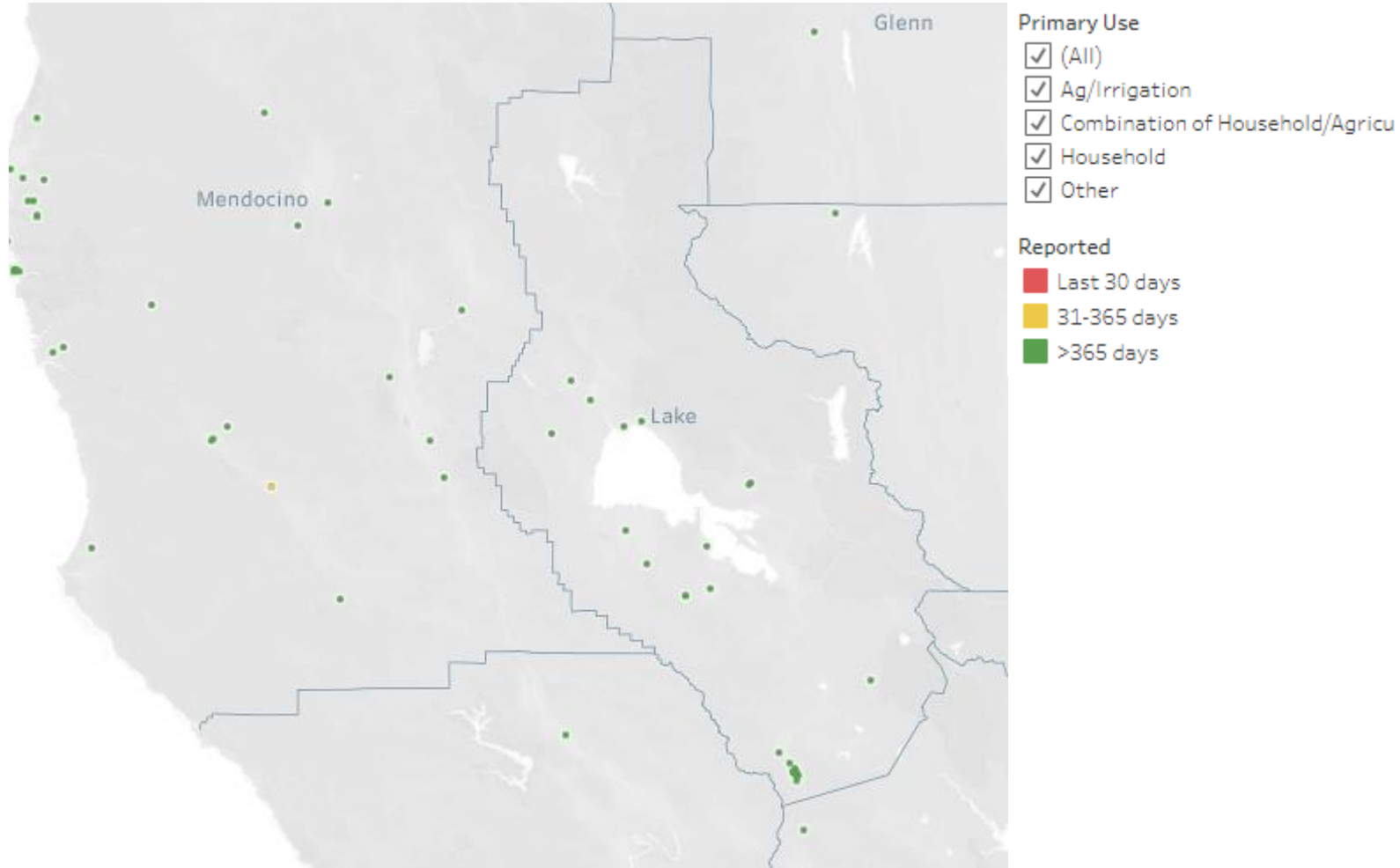
9. Paragraph 6 of my State of Emergency Proclamation dated May 10, 2021, and Paragraph 9 of my State of Emergency Proclamation dated July 8, 2021, are withdrawn and replaced with the following text:

To ensure critical instream flows for species protection in the Klamath River and **Clear Lake watersheds**, the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) and Department of Fish and Wildlife shall evaluate the minimum instream flows and other actions needed to protect salmon, steelhead, the **Clear Lake Hitch, and other native fishes in critical streams systems in these watersheds and work with water users, tribes, and other parties on voluntary measures to implement those actions**. To the extent voluntary actions are not sufficient, the **Water Board, in coordination with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, shall consider emergency regulations to establish minimum instream flows to mitigate the effects of the drought conditions**. For purposes of state agencies carrying out or approving any actions contemplated by this paragraph, Public Resources Code, Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are suspended. **Nothing in this Paragraph affects or limits the validity of actions already taken in the Klamath and Clear Lake watersheds** or ongoing under Paragraph 6 of my State of Emergency Proclamation dated May 10, 2021, or Paragraph 9 of my State of Emergency Proclamation dated July 8, 2021 .

Groundwater Conditions & Wells

Statewide Distribution of Dry Wells

(Last updated 3/26/2024 4:03:51 AM) https://tableau.cnra.ca.gov/t/DWR_SGM/views/mydrywatersupply/Map.pdf



Reminder Senate Bill (SB) 552

SB 552, Hertzberg. Drought planning: small water suppliers: nontransient noncommunity water system "No one should go without running water during a drought." (Water Code §10609.50, subd. (e).)

By January 1, 2022, each county must establish a standing county drought and water shortage task force to facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness

Develop Risk Mitigation Plan

- Potential drought and water shortage risk
- Proposed interim and long-term solutions for state smalls and domestic wells in the county The plan must consider the following, at a minimum (Water Code §10609.70. subd. (b)):
- Consolidations for existing water systems and domestic wells
- Domestic well drinking water mitigation programs
- Provision of emergency and interim drinking water solutions
- An analysis of the steps necessary to implement the plan
- An analysis of local, state, and federal funding sources available to implement the plan



Water Resources Activities – *In progress*

- 1) DWR Support Services through CA Drought Resilience Planning Assistance Program.
 - Provided by Stantec March 2024 – March 2025
 - Facilitate Lake County Drought Task Force
 - Drought Mitigation Plan Development
- 2) Submitting Application through County-Wide and Regional Water Funding Program
 - Provide short and long-term solutions to water shortages and drought planning and response
 - Requires cross-department collaboration to share resources and workload
- 3) Received funding to improve in-stream hitch habitat and to modify reservoir storage and operation to increase Big Valley surface flows and groundwater recharge
- 4) Developing Storm Water Plans for Stormwater capture and reuse
 - Include Future Water Bond Eligibility requirements

Other Department & Agency Activities

Department	Contact	Drought Emergency Removal Impacts
Special Districts	Scott Harter, <i>Director</i>	No impacts. State funding still in effect.
CA Division of Drinking Water	<i>Sydney Little, SWRCB, Division of Drinking Water</i>	No impacts, but forthcoming state regulations for water suppliers. Konocti County Drinking Water District Urgent Need Bottled Water Programs
Department of Ag	Katherine VanDer Wall, <i>Director</i>	No Impacts. No Projects tied to a local proclamation.
Community Development & Planning	Mireya Turner, <i>Director</i>	Requirements to include hydrology reports for projects will continue, tied to department authority.
Environmental Health	Craig Wetherbee, <i>Director</i>	Well Permit restrictions are regulated by separate Gov. executive order N-7-22 Action 9.
Climate Resiliency	Terre Logsdon	California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) for mass tree mortality is due to drought and bark beetle.
Tribal EPAs	Luis Santana, <i>Robinson</i> Daniella Cazares, <i>Habematolel</i> Sarah Ryan, <i>Big Valley</i>	Drought-related projects completed or in progress. Drought-related projects completed or in progress. No drought-related projects tied to local drought proclamation.



Drinking Water During Drought

Lake County Special Districts manages five Public Water Systems, two of which are surface water treatment plants on Clear Lake.

Spring Valley <i>Surface Water, Cache Creek</i>	North Lakeport <i>Surface water, Clear Lake</i>	Soda Bay <i>Surface water, Clear Lake</i>	Kono Tayee <i>Groundwater system</i>	Kelseyville <i>Groundwater system</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No current impacts on water system due to water availability or quality.• Awarded \$880,500 to explore source redundancy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant impact due to the drought.• Intake was lowered 2022 summer to -5.5' Rumsey.• Significant increase in flocculent and chlorine in order to produce compliant drinking water, during low water & drought.• Awarded \$1.5M to extend lake intake and explore well as redundant source of raw water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimal impact due to the drought induced water quality requiring slightly higher chemical use in the treatment process.• Plant run times are up slightly, during drought.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No impact due to drought.• Well levels remain consistent and water quality is good.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No noticeable impact at this time.• Well levels have remained consistent over the last five years.• Water quality not impacted by drought.

Water Conservation – Special Districts & State of California



Water Conservation
Ordinance

Water Conservation Tips

[Home](#) › [Departments](#) › [Special Districts](#) › [Useful Information](#) › Water Conservation

Water Conservation

Voluntary Water Conservation Measures

Critically low water table levels and low lake levels are threatening the water systems managed by Special Districts and weather experts are predicting dry conditions continuing into the next year.

Sheriff Martin issued a proclamation of a local emergency due to drought on May 5, 2021. On May 10th, 2021 Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency in Lake County due to drought conditions, and on May 11, 2021, the Board of Supervisors took action to ratify Sheriff Martin's May 5th proclamation, formalizing the local emergency.

The Department of Water Resources is urging local water agencies to brace for a second dry year and acute water shortages this next summer. Helpful tips on conserving water can be found on the state [Save Our Water](#) website.

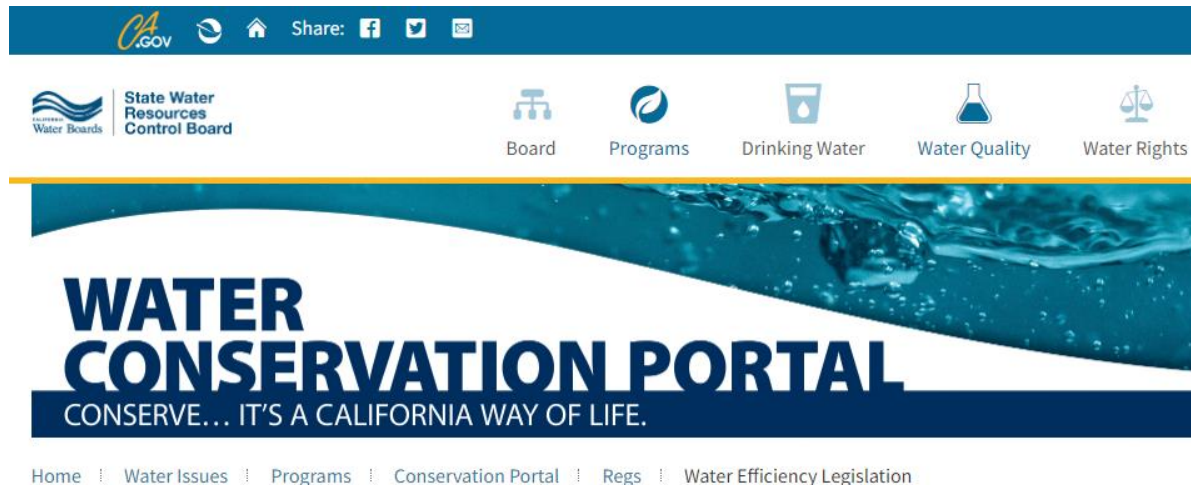
Water Conservation Ordinance

- Low-flush toilets, (1.6 gallons)
- Low flow shower heads, (2.5 gallons per minute)
- [Water Conservation Ordinance 2291 – Adopted July 11, 1995 \(PDF\)](#)
Original, adopted July 11, 1995
- [Ordinance 2291 Amendment – Adopted November 2, 2004 \(PDF\)](#)
Adding Middletown, Land's End, Holiday Cove, Corinthian Bay, and South Lakeport, adopted November 2, 2004
- [Ordinance 2291 Amendment – Adopted January 4, 2005 \(PDF\)](#)
Adding Kelseyville, adopted January 4, 2005

On the horizon....

2018 Legislation on Water Conservation and Drought Planning Senate Bill 606 (Hertzberg) and Assembly Bill 1668 (Friedman)

- Applies to Urban Retail Water Supplier (3,000+ end users)



Rulemaking to Make Conservation a California Way of Life



Making Conservation a California Way of Life

What is ***Making Conservation a California Way of Life?***

Making Conservation a California Way of Life is a new regulatory framework proposed by State Water Board staff that establishes individualized efficiency goals for each Urban Retail Water Supplier. These goals are based on the unique characteristics of the supplier's service area and give suppliers the flexibility to implement locally appropriate solutions. Once implemented, these goals are expected to reduce urban water use, helping California adapt to the water supply impacts brought on by climate change.

Next Steps...

Drought Task Force

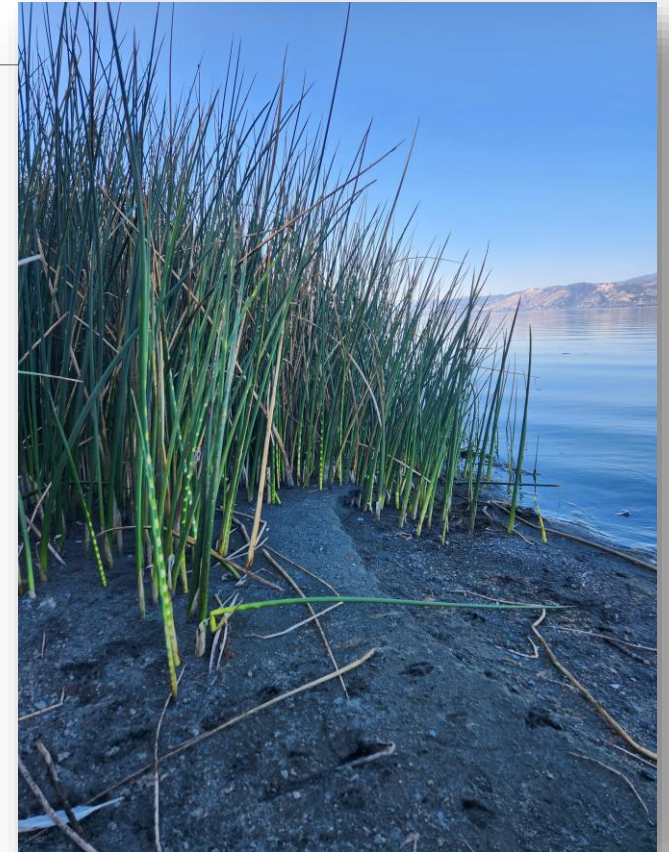
- Meet during development of Drought Resiliency Plan and Regional Water Funding Program

Comply with State Drought Proclamations

- Continue working with Water Board, CDFW, tribes, and community to comply with State Drought requirements for Clear Lake hitch instream-flows needs

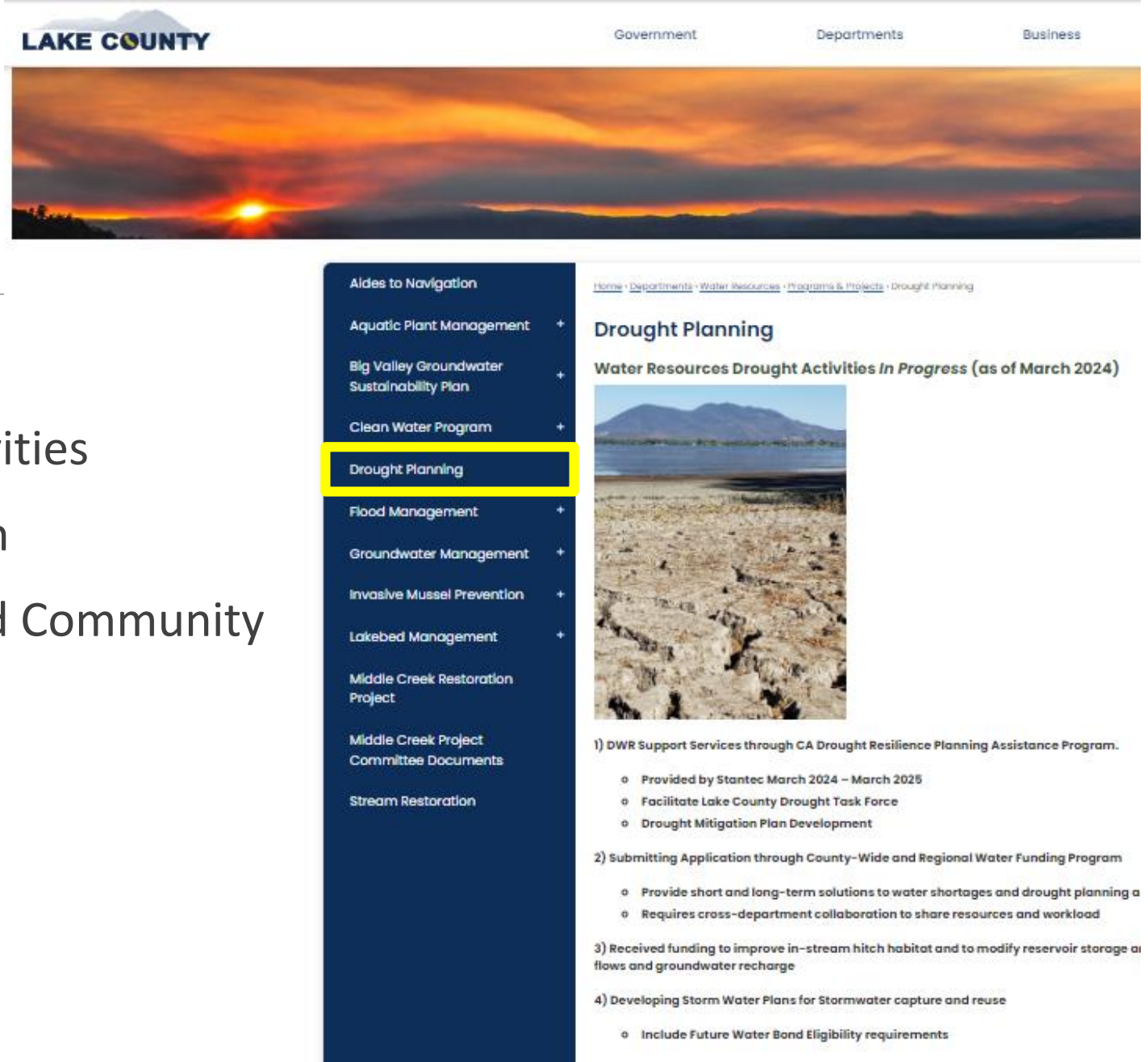
Water Conservation Efforts

- Continue County Facilities water conservation efforts
- Public Messaging on water conservation, as needed
- Lake County Drought Planning Page, Lake County Water Resources



Website

- House this presentation
- Water Resources Drought Activities
- Drought Task Force Information
- Drought Plan Development and Community Engagement Opportunities
- Outreach & Education



Contact Information



**California
Department of
Water Resources**

<https://water.ca.gov/water-basics/drought>



**Lake County Water
Resources**

707-263-2344

Water.Resources@lakecountyca.gov

<http://www.lakecountyca.gov/Government/Directory/WaterResources.htm>



**California Water
Boards**

<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/>