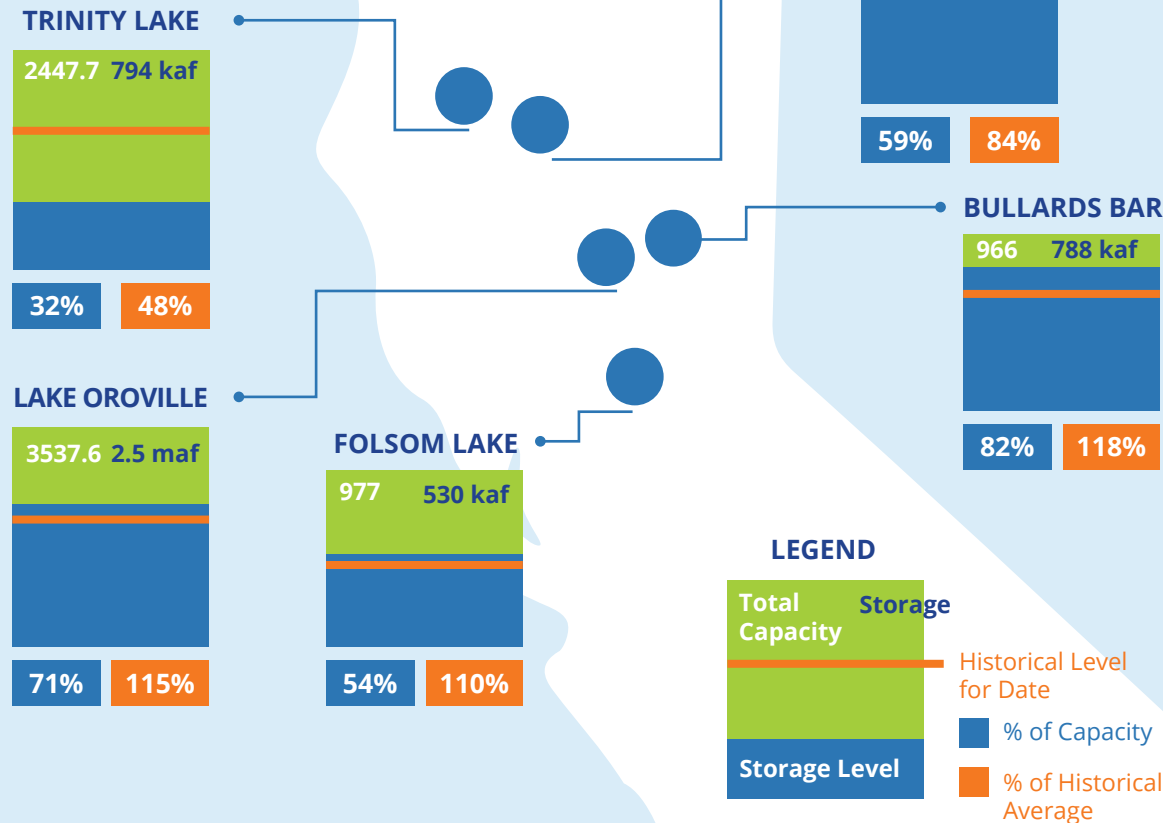


# 2023 Water Year Update and Outlook

## SACRAMENTO RIVER BASIN

Updated February 23, 2023

### Current Surface Water Supplies



For daily water supply information, see [CDEC](https://www.cdwr.ca.gov/) or for more information, see [California Water Watch](https://www.waterwatch.ca.gov/).



### Summary

With the December, January and late February storms the water supply trajectory is good for most of the state. Reservoir storage in Shasta and Trinity reservoirs are below the historic average for this time of year and runoff forecasts indicate that overall storage for these reservoirs may be limited if substantial spring precipitation does not materialize.

Trinity Lake. (2023, January 9). In Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity\\_Lake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity_Lake)

We are living in an interesting moment in California, as we have simultaneously had serious flood emergencies (see e.g., [President Biden's emergency declaration here](#)) while continuing to prepare for a dry year in certain parts of the state and operating under the Governor's drought proclamations and orders. This seems like a paradox, but it instead reveals the nature of California, with the weather whiplash that graces the west coast, and why we need to more aggressively advance water management that better adapts to a changing climate and our state's important values. This moment in time highlights the importance of good wet-year water management and the need to capture the abundance of water now—when it is available—so we can have water in both reservoirs and groundwater aquifers for use at a later time when needed, not knowing whether these storms will continue throughout the winter and spring. In this spirit, 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](#).



## February 22 Storage Comparison

Reservoir	2014	2015	2021	2022	2023
Shasta	1,728	2,578	2,258	1,680	2,689
Trinity	1,180	1,133	1,271	786	793
Oroville	1,387	1,711	1,333	1,668	2,518
Folsom	290	557	339	529	528
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,585</b>	<b>5,980</b>	<b>5,201</b>	<b>4,663</b>	<b>6,528</b>

All values in 1,000 acre-feet



## Governor's Executive Order

Governor Gavin Newsom on February 13 signed an executive order to protect the state's water supplies from the impacts of climate-driven extremes in weather. The order helps expand the state's capacity to capture storm runoff in wet years by facilitating groundwater recharge projects. It also continues conservation measures and allows the State Water Board to reevaluate requirements for reservoir releases and diversion limitations to maximize water supplies north and south of the Delta while protecting the environment. Additionally, the order directs state agencies to review and provide recommendations on the state's drought response actions by the end of April, including the possibility of terminating specific emergency provisions that are no longer needed, once there is greater clarity about the hydrologic conditions this year. [The text of the executive order can be found here.](#)



## Major Project Allocations – Water Supply Contracts

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 allows DWR and Reclamation to conserve additional water in upstream storage in Oroville and Folsom Reservoirs. [The order, TUCP, public notice, and other information related to this matter are posted here.](#)



## Dry Year Task Force

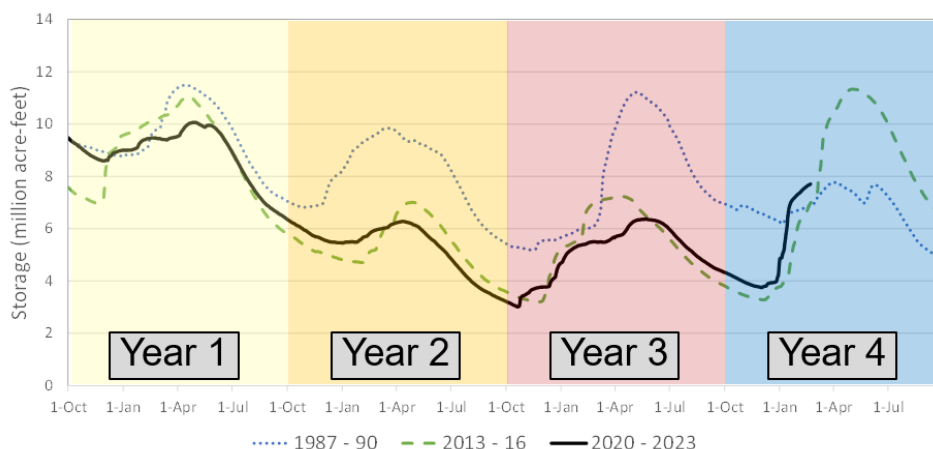
Leaders in Northern California this past fall convened our Dry Year Task Force, chaired by Fritz Durst and Nicole Van Vleck, to work with state and federal agencies and conservation partners to better prepare for 2023. Our objective is to identify early actions, cooperative approaches, and creative partnerships 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.

### Sacramento River Basin Conditions in Context



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





## 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

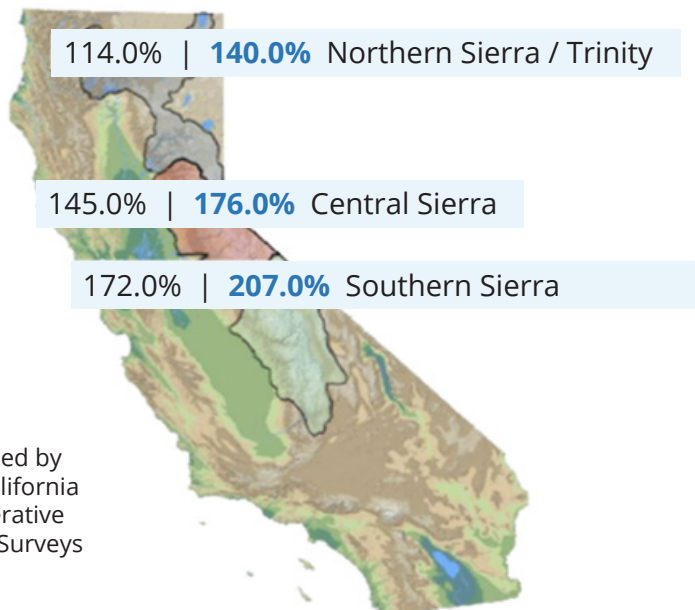
February 6th CNRFC forecasts show:

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

## Snow Water Equivalents (inches)

Data for February 23, 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:

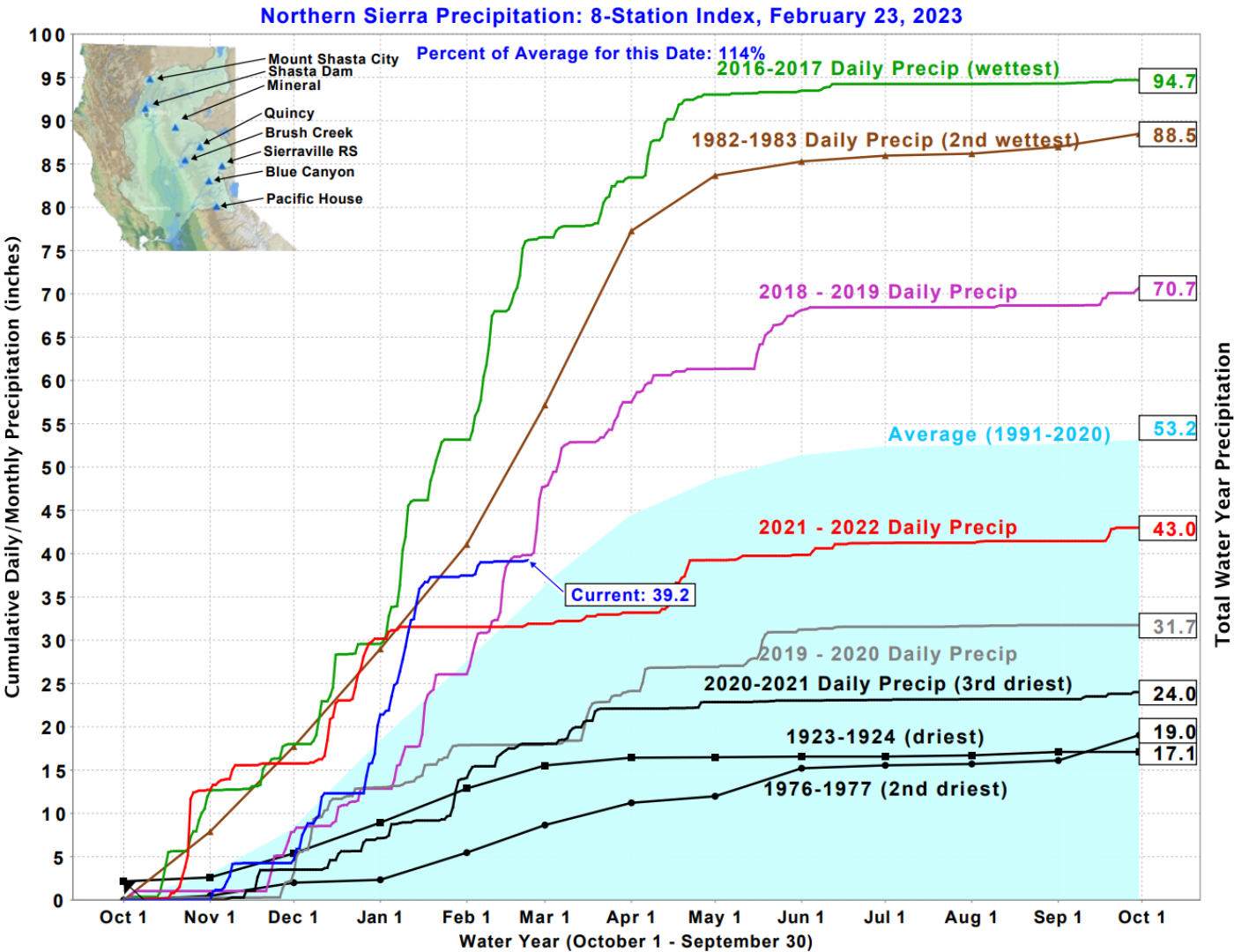
- [National Weather Service](#);  
See twitter @NWSSacramento
- [NOAA](#)
- [Weather West](#)

## A Path Forward for 2023



Serving Water for Multiple Purposes

# Northern Sierra Precipitation: 8-Station Index, February 23, 2023



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



**NCWA**  
Northern California Water Association



**California Rice**  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL CROP