



7/29/2026

California County Café

– Specializing in Drought Resilience



Welcome and Setting Intention

Charles Delgado - CA State Association of Counties

Julie Ekstrom - CA Department of Water Resources

Happy birthday!



On the Menu

Welcome and Setting Intention

- The C3 Process – Reminder
- Statewide SB 552 Status

Standing updates on...

- Hydro-climate conditions, policy & budget updates, funding & assistance, state & partner efforts/events

Closing

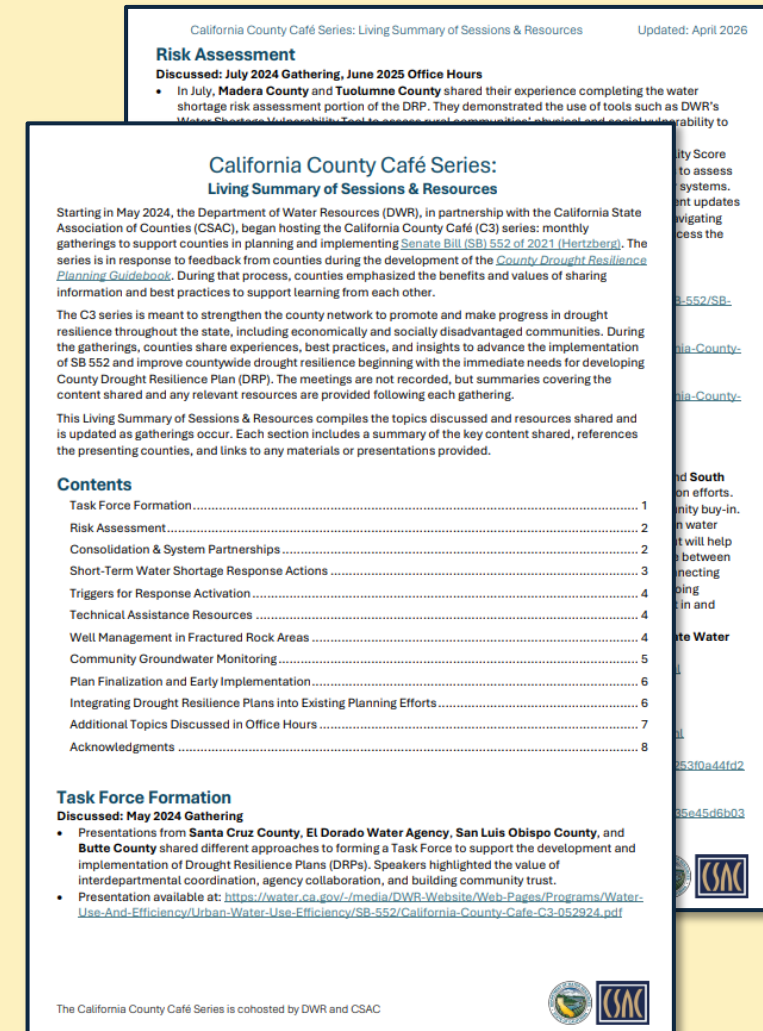
The C3 Process

Desired outcome – Network and exchange ideas and resources among counties.

- Increase understanding of SB 552 intent and requirements.
- Share implementation approaches, practices, and experience.
- Compare resource needs and share funding opportunities.
- Improve coordination with other agencies, partner organizations, and interested parties.

Our format – Bimonthly virtual gatherings on (*usually*) the last Wednesday of the month from 9-10am. Meetings are not recorded; presentation and summary shared with attendees. Format includes recurring updates plus feature presentations as appropriate.

Intended audience – County staff responsible for SB 552 and Drought Resilience Plan implementation.
Appreciate others listening in but primary focus is for County staff.



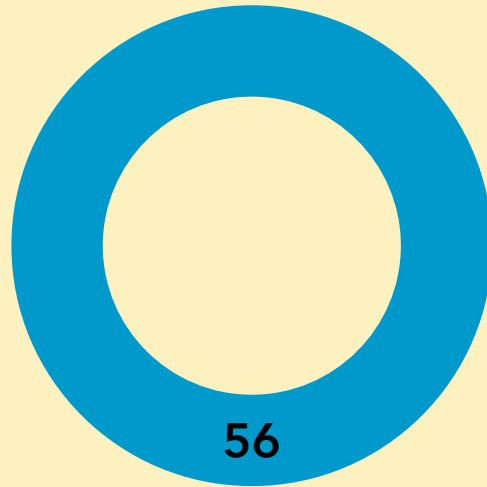
Summary of past sessions & shared resources. Available [here](#).

Essentials of the C3 Gathering

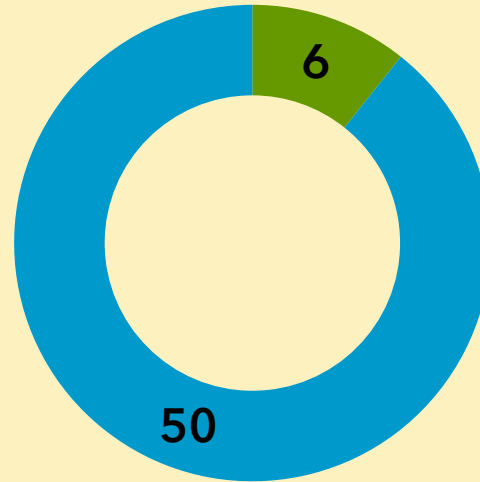
- ✓ Join the conversation – share your experience and learn from other perspectives and experiences.
- ✓ Make a connection – use the chat to connect with other participants.
- ✓ County focused – While all are invited to join, this gathering will focus on supporting county staff.

Statewide SB 552 Status

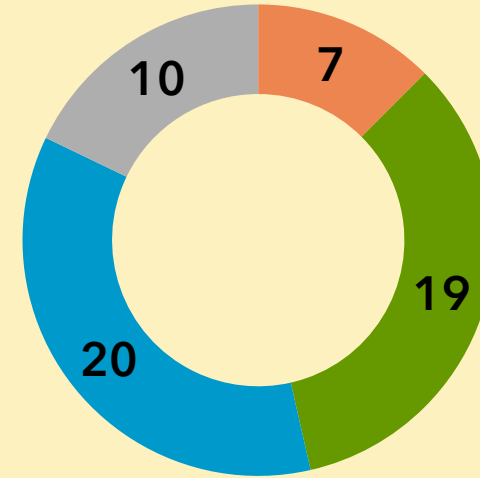
Task Force Formation



County Drought Resilience Plan Development



County Drought Resilience Plan Adoption*



Unknown Planned Completed Not Applicable

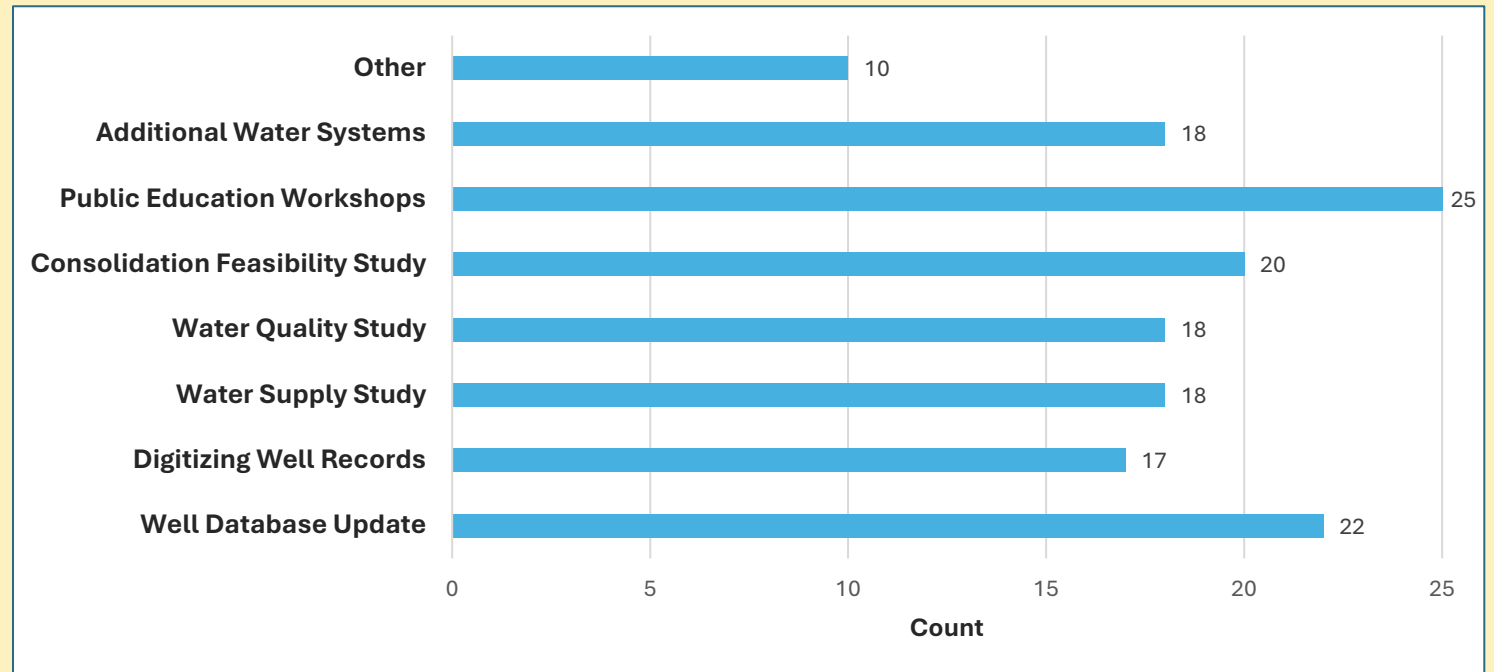
Source: 7/17/2026 data based on input from 56 counties enrolled in DWR's assistance program. Exclusions: The City and County of San Francisco are covered by other requirements, and one County has not enrolled in DWR's assistance program.

*** - Plan adoption is not required by SB 552 legislation**

Looking Towards Implementation

Other Projects:

- Community engagement SB 552 materials
- Future DRP updates
- State small water system database update
- Assistance for other water systems
 - Secondary power source for small water systems
 - Incentives/Programs for public water systems to consolidate
- Well monitoring support (e.g. establish monitoring wells, equipment/education)
- Countywide DRP
- Developing local tools with local data



DWR conducting exit interviews for those enrolled in DTA and grants to better understand implementation needs throughout the State. Results shown are from 36 counties.

Best Implementation Practices

Topic-specific guidance documents to support CDRP implementation. Drafts are anticipated to be ready for the SB 552 Symposium in September 2026.



Emergency Water Supplies

- Dedicated water filling station setup & mutual aid agreements
- Bulk water hauling & storage tanks



SB 552 Materials

- Templates on SB 552 (reqs, DRP, TF) for webpage, invitations, presentations (BOS & public)
- Dry Well Reporting System fact sheet



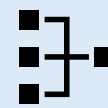
Domestic Wells

- Well data management best practices
- Voluntary well monitoring program guidance



Local & Regional Planning Coordination

- Crosswalk: SB 552 requirements vs other county plans.
- Covers local hazard mitigation, emergency operations, and General plans



System Consolidation Planning

- Consolidation primers (built from existing county models)
- Roles, funding resources, common challenges/barriers

Have similar materials to share or feedback on this effort? Contact CountyDRP@water.ca.gov.



Hydro-Climate Update

Dr. Mike Anderson, State Climatologist, DWR

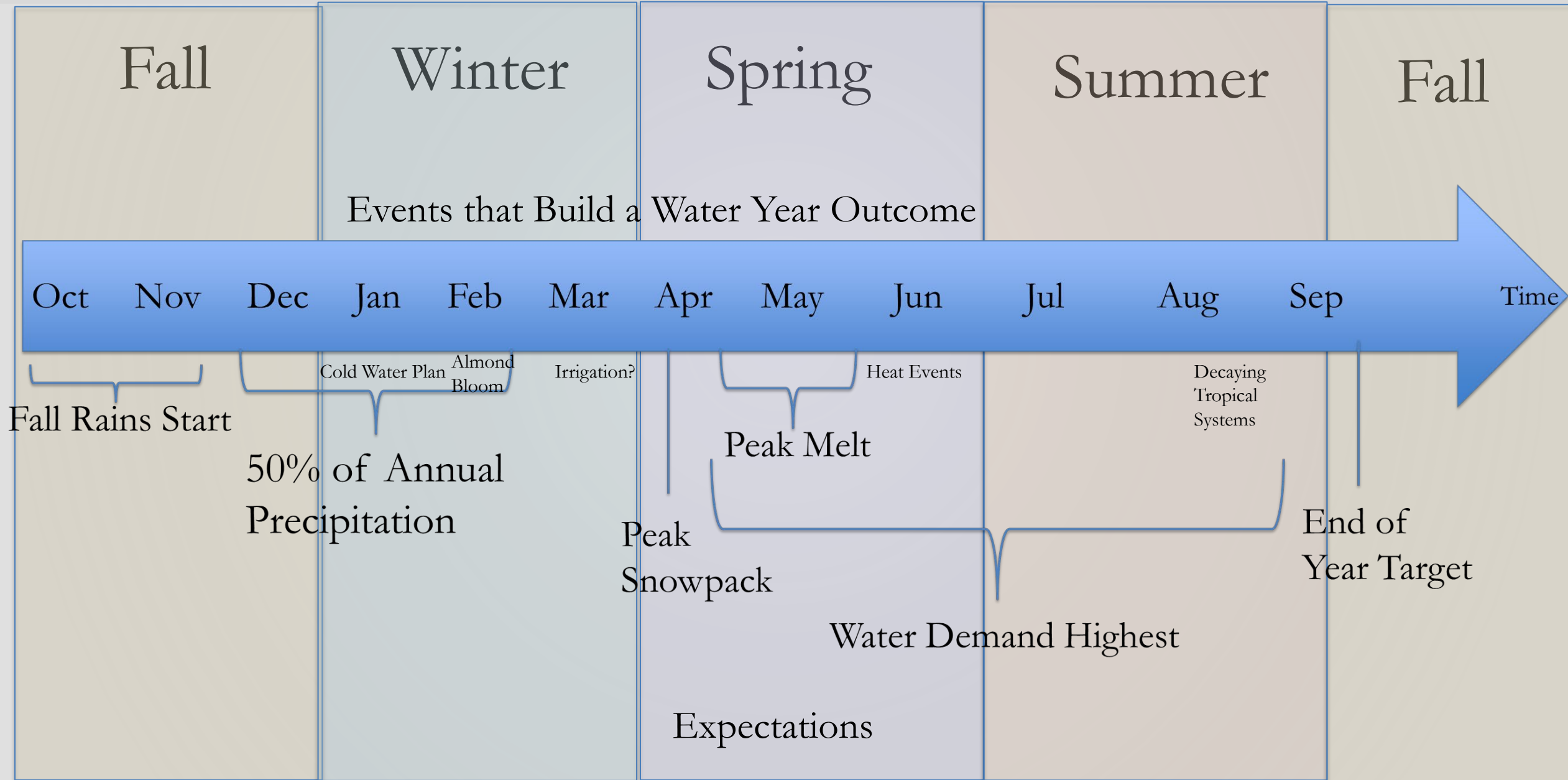


California Water Conditions Update and Expectations

CA County Cafe
July 29, 2026

Michael L. Anderson, State Climatologist

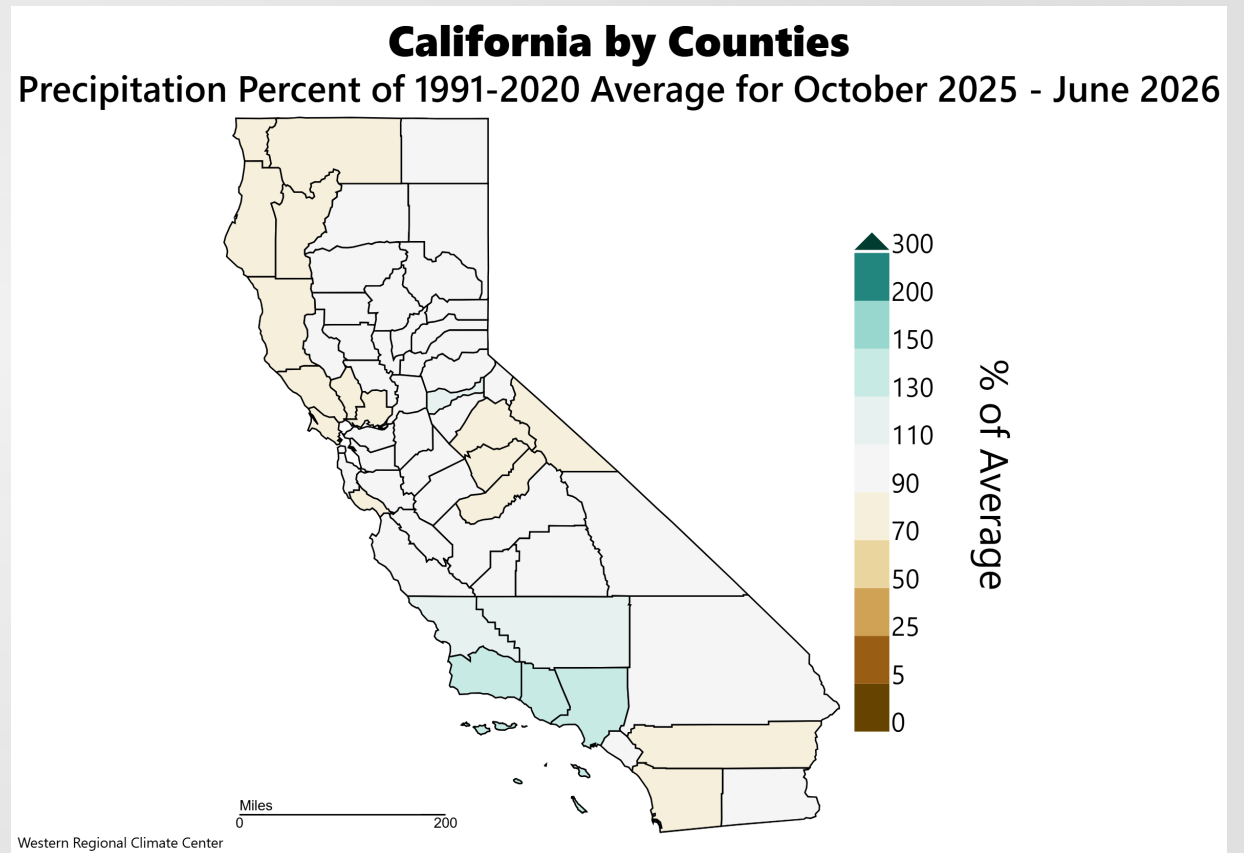
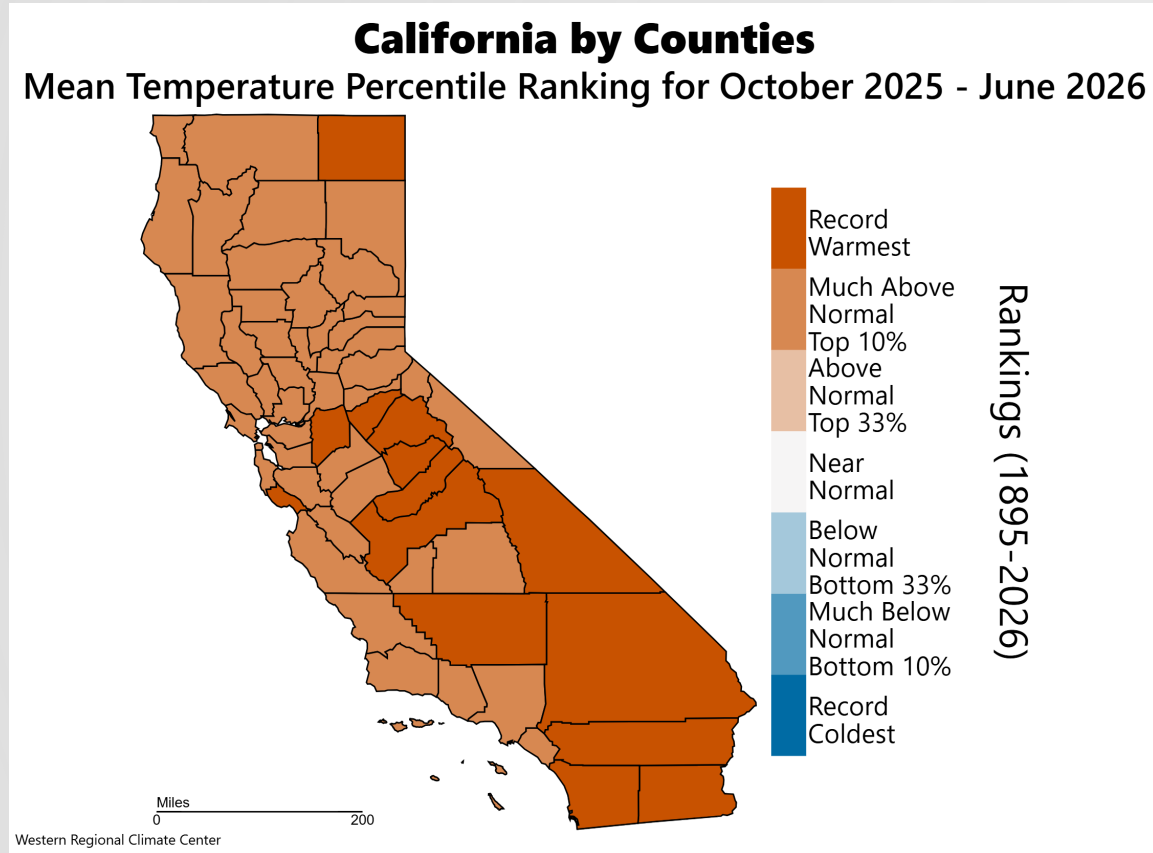
Water Year Timeline



Water Year 2026 So Far

Statewide Anomaly +4.2 degrees F (warmest*)

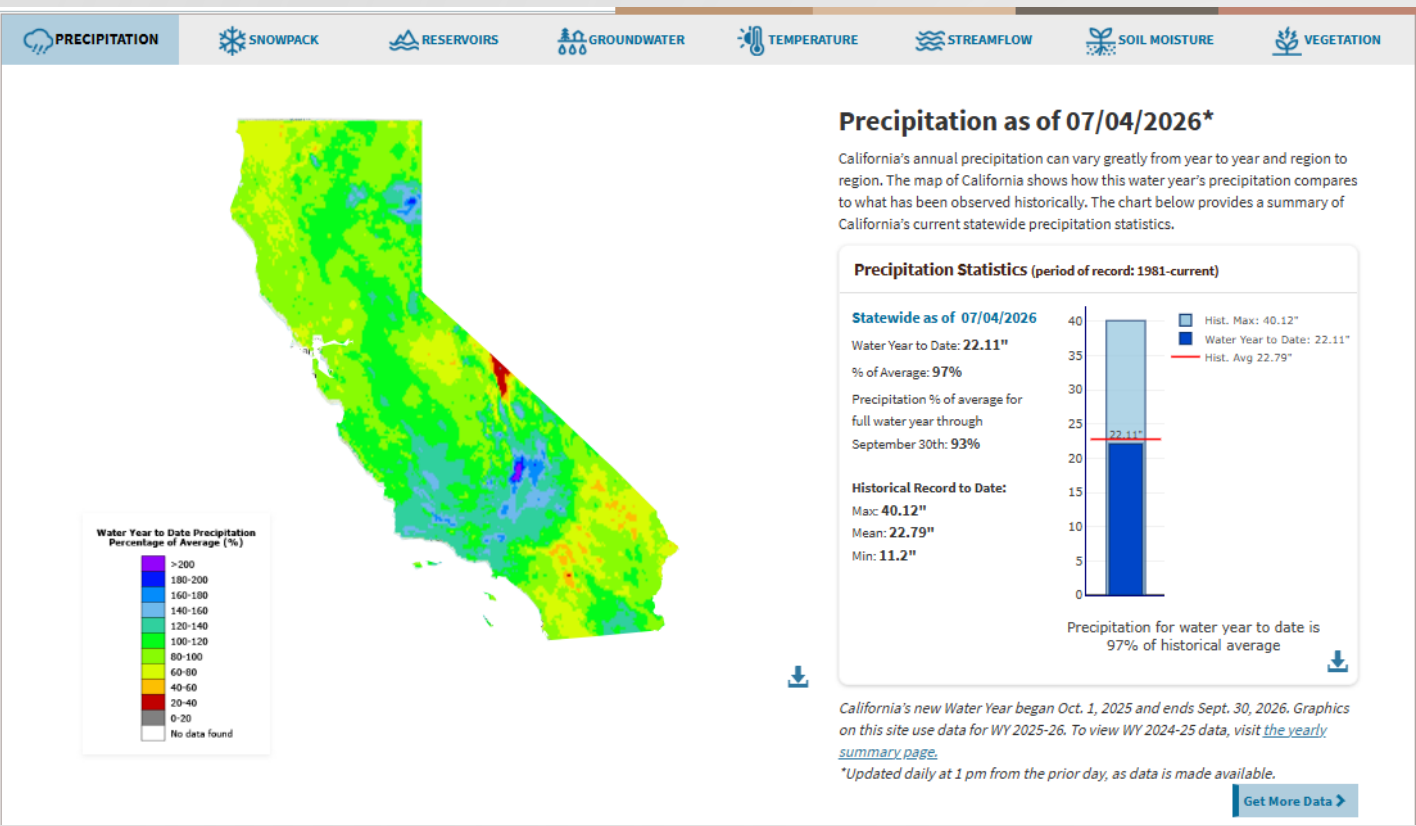
Water Year to Date 96% of average



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

*Tied with water year 2015

California Water Watch



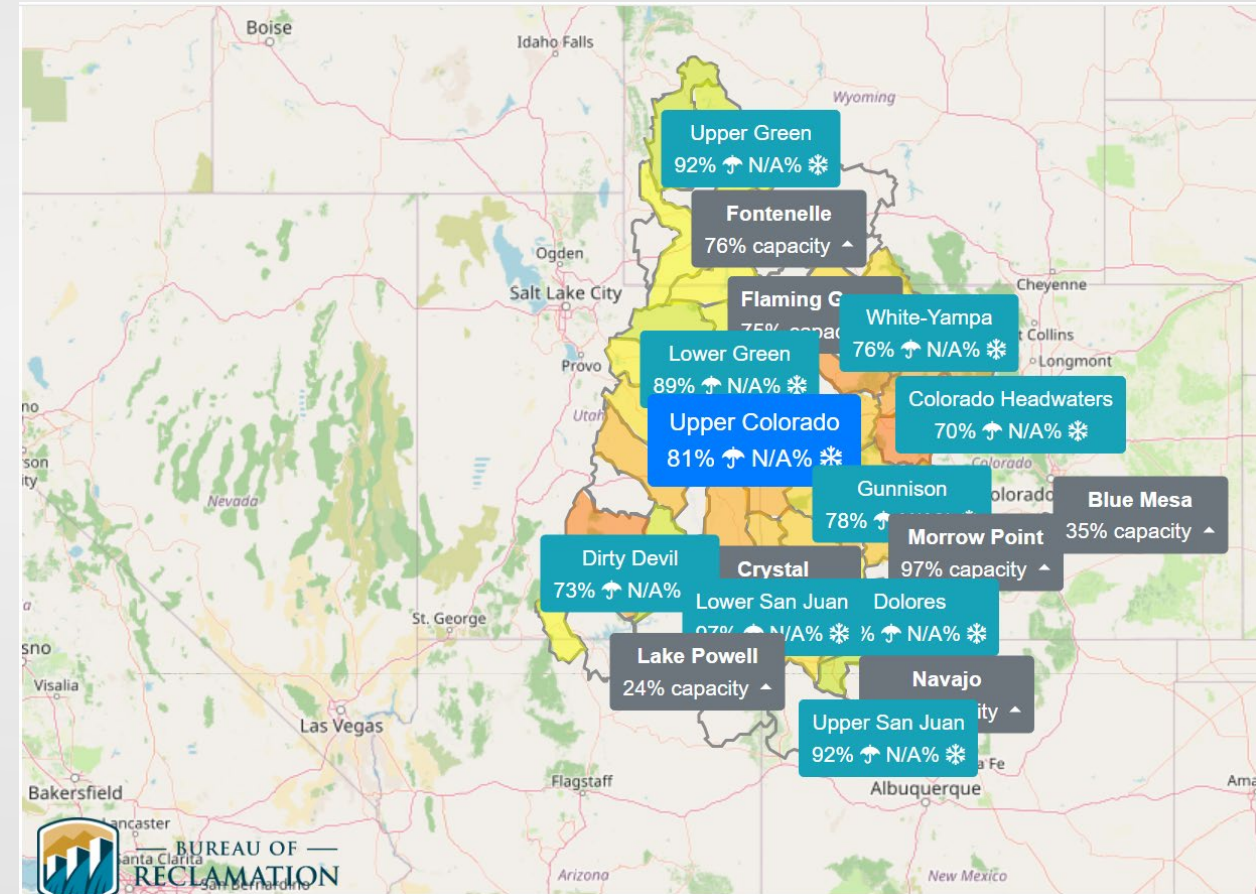
CVP/SWP Allocations 2026

- CVP:
 - 100% North of Delta
 - 100% In Delta M&I
 - 20% In Delta Irrigation
 - 20% South of Delta Irrigation
 - 70% South of Delta M&I
- SWP
 - 45% of Contract Requests



Colorado River Conditions

- Water year 2026 resulted in the lowest snowpack on record necessitating changes in Upper Basin storage to maintain power generation at Lake Powell for this year.



Building the Water Year

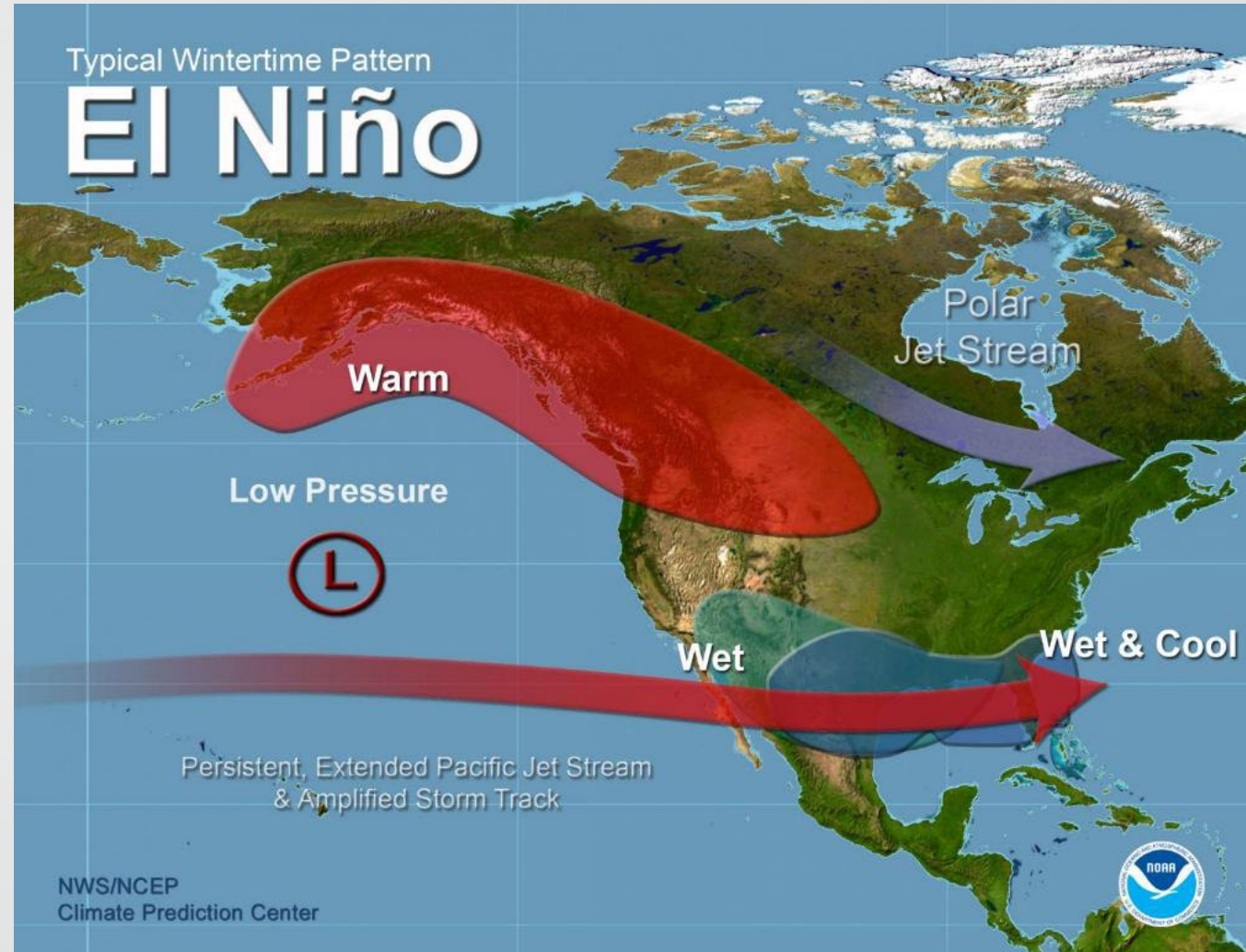
- Fall (October/November)
 - Precipitation Onset
 - Temperature Anomaly
 - Soil Moisture State with Snowpack Initiation
- Winter (December/January/February)
 - Wet/Dry
 - Notable Anomalies
- Spring (March/April/May)
 - Late-Season Bailout or Early Shutoff?
 - Peak Snowpack Timing and Magnitude
- Summer (June/July/August/September)
 - Drying Pace and Scale
 - Heat Events
 - Tropical Activity
- Multi-Year Prediction – What about next year?

Climate Change: How different will the next decade be?



ENSO Impacts Wintertime Storm Tracks

- Jet stream flat and fast
- Displacement to the south determines CA impacts
- More quick storms and coastal damage likely
- Higher sea levels
- Marine animal stress

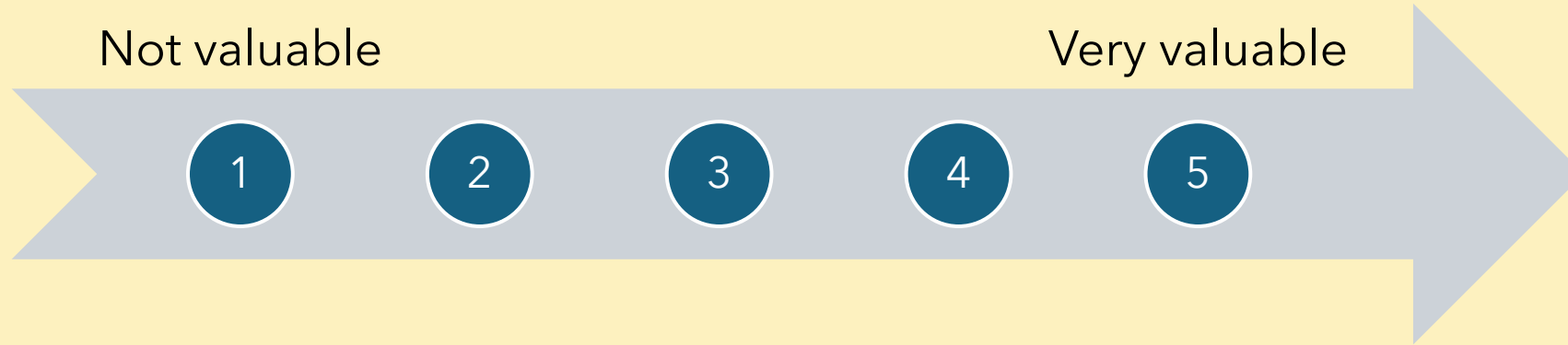


Years with Strong El Niño

Water Yr	PkRONI	Season	Statewide Precipitation	Apr 1 SWE
1958	2.02	DJF	149%	171%
1966	2.04	OND	84%	83%
1973	2.27	NDJ	113%	148%
1983	2.52	NDJ	184%	227%
1992	2.32	DJF	84%	60%
1998	2.38	SON	167%	158%
2016	2.37	NDJ	102%	85%



Poll Question: We intend to include the hydro-climate update in future sessions, how valuable is this information to your county's drought planning and response work?



Poll Question: Which of the following areas would be most valuable to your work in future updates?

- Groundwater conditions and trends
- Precipitation and drought outlook
- Reservoir and surface water storage
- Something else (share in chat)
- Snowpack
- Climate projections / long-range outlooks
- County- or region-specific conditions

Poll Questions: Answer in the chat!

Is your county involved in recharge?

**Is your county interested in learning
more about recharge?**



Policy Updates

Charles Delgado, CA State Association of Counties

2026 Legislation

AB 2739 (Soria) - Water affordability and system stabilization

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee

Would establish the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund and the Community Water Affordability Program, important steps in ensuring that local jurisdictions have the necessary resources to ensure access to clean, affordable drinking water for all residents.

SB 1085 (Durazo) - Water Supply Planning: housing developments

Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee

Would require new large housing developments to undergo a water supply assessment.

SB 1125 (Menjivar) - Water Rate Assistance Program

Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee

Would establish a water rate assistance program, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to provide rate assistance to low-income residents.

State Budget

- **FY 2026-2027 Budget Enacted in June**

- Water infrastructure is not a major part of this year's budget agreement
- Discussions between the Legislature and Administration are ongoing

What's Next

- More news expected in August on:
 - **Proposition 4**
 - **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)**
- Trailer bills are an avenue for regulatory action and potential agreements.



Funding & Assistance

On July 17th, DWR, SWB, and CDFA presented on their Prop 4 funds. Recording available [**here**](#).

Proposition 4 at a Glance

Funding Requirements: No cost share, 25% advanced payment option, indirect costs eligible, and 40% of funds must directly benefit disadvantaged communities or vulnerable populations.

Authorizes **\$10 Billion** in State general obligation bonds to reduce climate risks and impacts:

- ✓ Protects drinking water
- ✓ Reduces wildfire and flood risks
- ✓ Restores natural places
- ✓ Supports healthy working lands
- ✓ Expands access to parks and outdoor spaces

Eligible entities:

- ✓ Public agencies
- ✓ Local agencies
- ✓ Nonprofit organizations
- ✓ Special districts
- ✓ Joint powers authorities
- ✓ Tribes
- ✓ Public utilities
- ✓ Mutual water companies

Full Text: [November 5, 2024, General Election Voter Information Guide - Proposition 4 Text of Proposed Laws](#)

DWR Prop 4 Opportunities

On April 30th, DWR held a public workshop about Prop 4.
Slide deck available [here](#).
Workshop recording available [here](#).

DWR Program Design: Both programs will use a two-step application process (concept proposal, then full application). Draft guidelines are targeted for Fall 2026 with awards in late 2027-2028.

Sustainable GW Management Grant Program (\$320M)

- Focused on advancing GSP implementation
- Priority project types: recharge/conjunctive use, subsidence BMPs, corrective actions, ag land adaptation, and conveyance
- Set-aside: \$25M Tribal & \$3.5M Small GSAs (pumping <10,000 acre-feet/year)

Program webpage: <https://water.ca.gov/work-with-us/grants-and-loans/sustainable-groundwater>

Watershed Resilience Grant Program (\$152M)

- Early Action Implementation (collaborative groups with vetted projects)
- Planning+ (covering plan development plus immediate implementation of a top priority project)

Program webpage: <https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/watershed-resilience-program>

Sign up for DWR program email updates: <https://tinyurl.com/2ru24r7b>
Questions: financialassistance@water.ca.gov



SWB Prop 4 Opportunities

Advice for counties: Submit an initial application early to get a dedicated project manager; construction funding requires being shovel-ready (CEQA, engineering design, financing in place)

Water Recycling (\$386M)

- \$130M remaining
- Construction grants for large-scale (10,000+ acre-feet) projects; up to \$15M/project
- **Eligible planning costs:** feasibility studies, engineering/design, environmental review, financial and legal analysis, and rate-setting support

Program webpage:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/water_recycling/

Stormwater (\$101M)

- Multi-benefit urban stormwater management projects. Projects must be in a Storm Water Resource Plan.
- **Funding priorities:** multiple benefit, urban stormwater project, addresses flooding
- Draft guidelines [available here](#). Next Board meeting on October 6th to discuss/approve.
- Program webpage:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/swgp/prop4/

Sign up for program email updates: [waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/)
Questions: wrfp@waterboards.ca.gov; swgp@waterboards.ca.gov





State & Partner Updates

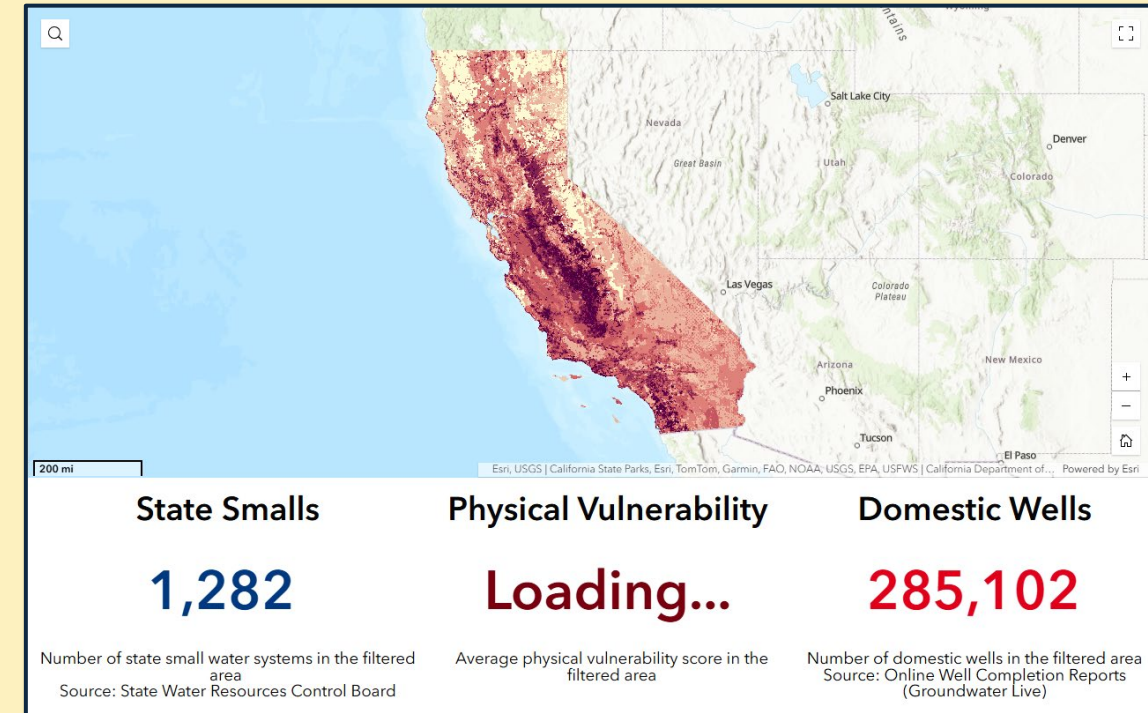
Water Shortage Vulnerability Explorer Tool: 2026 Update

Rescheduling webinar for 2026 update:

- Will be recorded
- Presentation slides will be available after

Will Cover:

- Overview of the tool's features and underlying data
- Updates to the scoring methodology, including:
 - Revised indicators
 - A new alternative physical vulnerability index
 - Social vulnerability indices from the CDC and LCI VCP
- Demonstration of how to navigate the tool and apply it to common use cases



Screenshot of the water shortage vulnerability explorer tool.

DRIP Collaborative: 2026 topics

Roles & Responsibilities for Domestic Wells & State Small Water Systems

Clarifying and strengthening roles across state, local, and regional entities to support domestic well owners and SSWS during drought.

- Analysis on local plans (including CDRP and GSP Domestic Well Mitigation plan) to understand local service coverage
- Regional workshops connecting counties, GSAs, and other SB 552 partners

August 24th, 1-3pm: Roles & Responsibilities for Domestic Wells and SSWS Workshop

→ [Zoom registration link](#)

Drought Indicators & Metrics

Improving the usability and coordination of drought indicators so the right information reaches the right audiences in time to act.

- Focus on specific data user needs to improve indicator and metric usefulness and accessibility
- CA Water Data Consortium will engage with specific user groups - including counties

September 3rd, 1-3pm: Drought Indicators and Metrics Workshop

→ [Zoom registration link](#)

SB 552 Drought Resilience Symposium

Join state and local leaders to celebrate five years of progress implementing SB 552 and advancing drought resilience across California.

Celebrate SB 552 accomplishments.

Explore opportunities for integration of drought planning with broader planning efforts and ideas for the next phase of implementation

Connect with practitioners shaping the future of drought resilience.

The symposium will feature panel discussions, presentations, an interactive informational showcase, and opportunities to connect with partners from across the state.

Please [register](#) to attend.



The graphic is a vertical rectangular poster. The top left corner features the Department of Water Resources logo. The top right corner has the title 'SB 552 Drought Resilience Symposium'. The background is a composite image showing a dry, cracked landscape transitioning into a body of water. A dark brown rectangular box in the center contains white text: 'Celebrate 5 years of implementation and envision drought resilience for rural California.' To the right, the text 'SAVE the DATE' is written in large, bold, serif font, with 'the' in a smaller, cursive font. Below this, 'SEPTEMBER 24 2026' is displayed in large, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, it says '1-5 pm @ CNRA Auditorium'. At the bottom left, there is a line of text: 'For more information on DWR's efforts in building drought resilience in rural communities.' and a QR code to the right.

SB 552 Drought Resilience Symposium

Celebrate 5 years of implementation and envision drought resilience for rural California.

SAVE *the* DATE

SEPTEMBER 24 2026

1-5 pm @ CNRA Auditorium

For more information on DWR's efforts in building drought resilience in rural communities.



Next California County Café Gathering

In lieu of the September C3 gathering, we will host the...

SB 552 Drought Resilience Symposium on Thursday, September 24th 1-5pm

Held at the California Natural Resources Agency
headquarters in downtown Sacramento.

Please [register](#) to attend.

The next gathering will be held on **Wednesday, November
4th from 9-10am.**

→ [Registration link](#)

Follow-up questions?
Feedback to share?
Please fill out this survey!



<https://forms.office.com/g/mifq4w8UCA>



Closing – Thank you!

Next steps – we will follow up with an email to counties for future gatherings, ppt, invitation to share in upcoming gathering.

