



# Easing Drought Restrictions

**WHAT TO KNOW:** Climate change has made California's dry and wet spells more extreme and unpredictable – after the three driest years on record, recent rain and snowfall have dramatically changed conditions in many parts of the state. Today's action eases drought emergency provisions that are no longer needed while maintaining others to support impacted regions and communities and help build water resilience.

**DROUGHT EMERGENCY MEASURES WERE NEEDED TO CONSERVE WATER:** The past three years were the driest on record in California. The West has been in a 1,200 year megadrought. The state could lose 10% of its water supply in only 17 years.

Gov. Newsom took action to protect against drought impacts, including a call for voluntary conservation that resulted in 600,000 acre-feet of water saved, or 1.2 million households' yearly usage.

**GOV. NEWSOM TOOK ACTION TO BOOST STORAGE & SUPPLY:** Gov. Newsom and the Legislature have advanced unprecedented measures to build water resilience:

- \$8.6 billion investment to boost water supplies and storage, another \$327 million proposed for flood protection and drought resiliency;
- Executive orders to capture and store more water during storms;
- Fast-tracking groundwater recharge projects and capacity;
- Expanding storage above and below ground to increase capacity by 2.77 million acre-feet;
- Advancing clear, ambitious targets – 142 actions to improve water resilience;
- Modernizing water infrastructure to safeguard long-term water reliability.

**EASING SOME DROUGHT MEASURES, MAINTAINING OTHERS:** While recent storms have brought record rain and snow to California, actions led by Gov. Newsom and the Legislature also helped get us to this point – in response to current conditions, Gov. Newsom is now easing some drought restrictions while maintaining others to support impacted communities and build water resilience:

- Ends the voluntary 15% water conservation goal, continues to encourage using water wisely;
- Ends requirement that local water agencies implement level 2 drought contingency plans;
- Maintains ban on wasteful water uses, like watering ornamental grass on commercial grounds;
- Preserves current emergency orders focused on groundwater supply;
- Maintains orders on specific watersheds that have not benefited as much from recent rains;
- Retains state of emergency for all 58 counties so response and recovery efforts can continue.