

California Water Boards Drought Response

Jessica Bean

Division of Water Rights

State Water Resources Control Board



California Water Boards

- 💧 **Protect Water Quality**
- 💧 **Regulate Drinking Water**
- 💧 **Administer Water Rights**
- 💧 **Provide Financial Assistance**



Water Boards Drought Actions

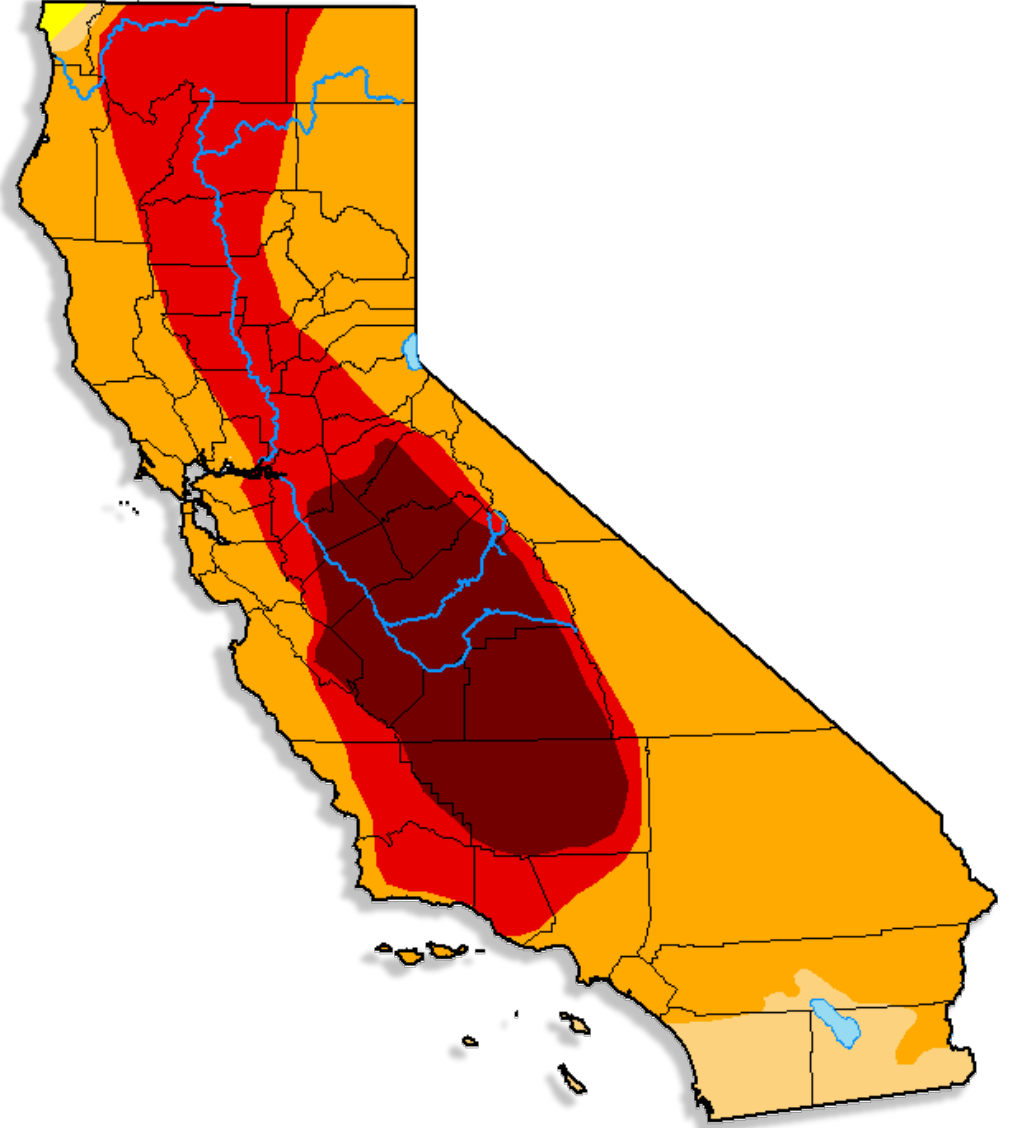
 Drinking Water Assistance

 Emergency Curtailments

 Water Conservation

 Financial Assistance

 Drought Planning





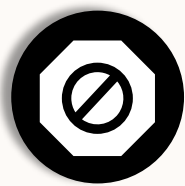
Drinking Water Assistance

Safe & Affordable Funding for Equity & Resilience (SAFER) Drinking Water Program

- \$50 million emergency funding (10,000 households & 150 water systems)
- \$700 million for small disadvantaged community projects
- Improvements for 650,000 people and 120 communities
- Consolidated 80 water systems (210 in progress)

Since SAFER began in 2019

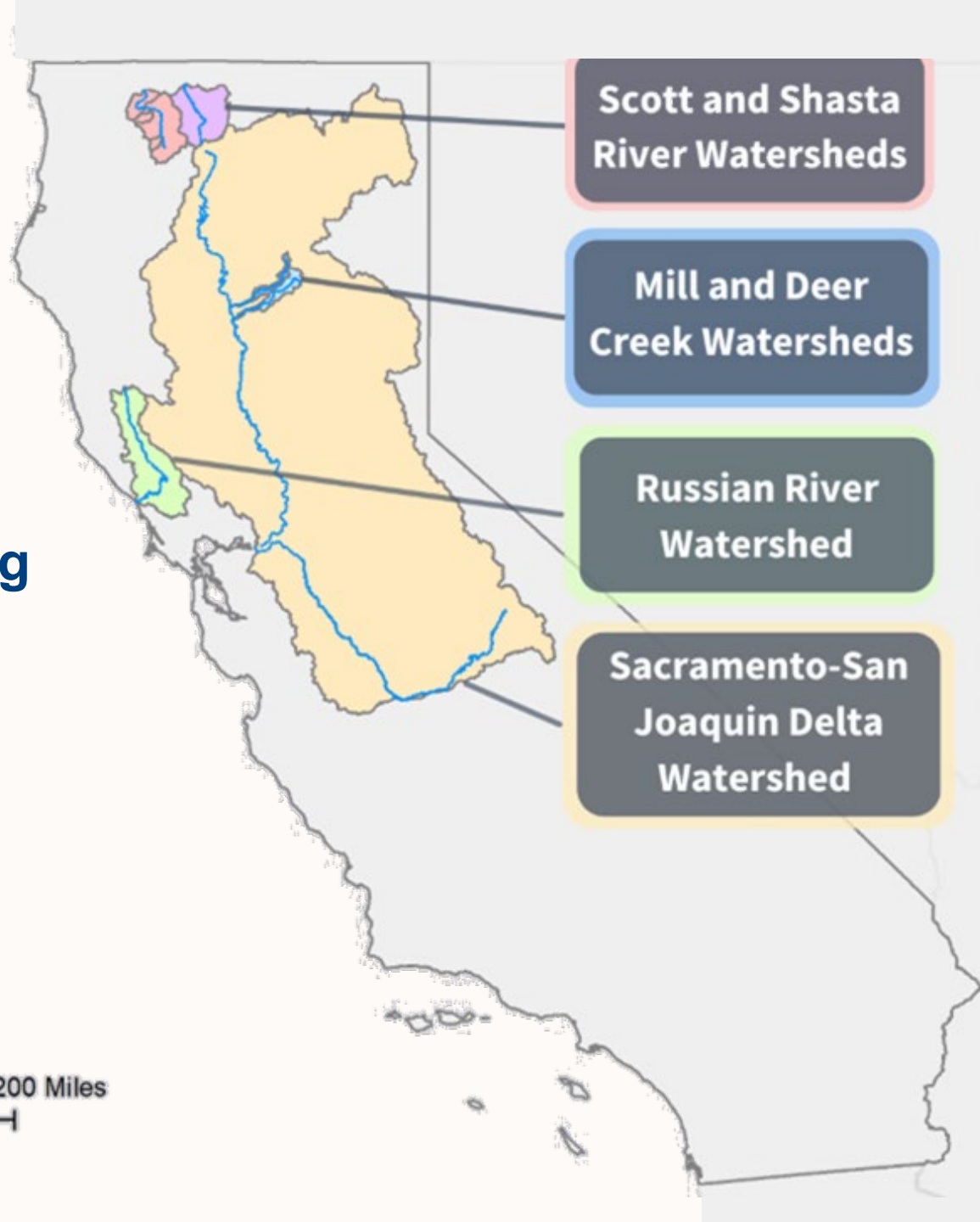




Emergency Curtailments

Implement priority system while protecting fish, wildlife, & human health & safety.

- Good for one year (2021 & 2022)
- Requires emergency proclamation and e-reg
- Exemptions for human health & safety
- Voluntary solutions
- Enforcement

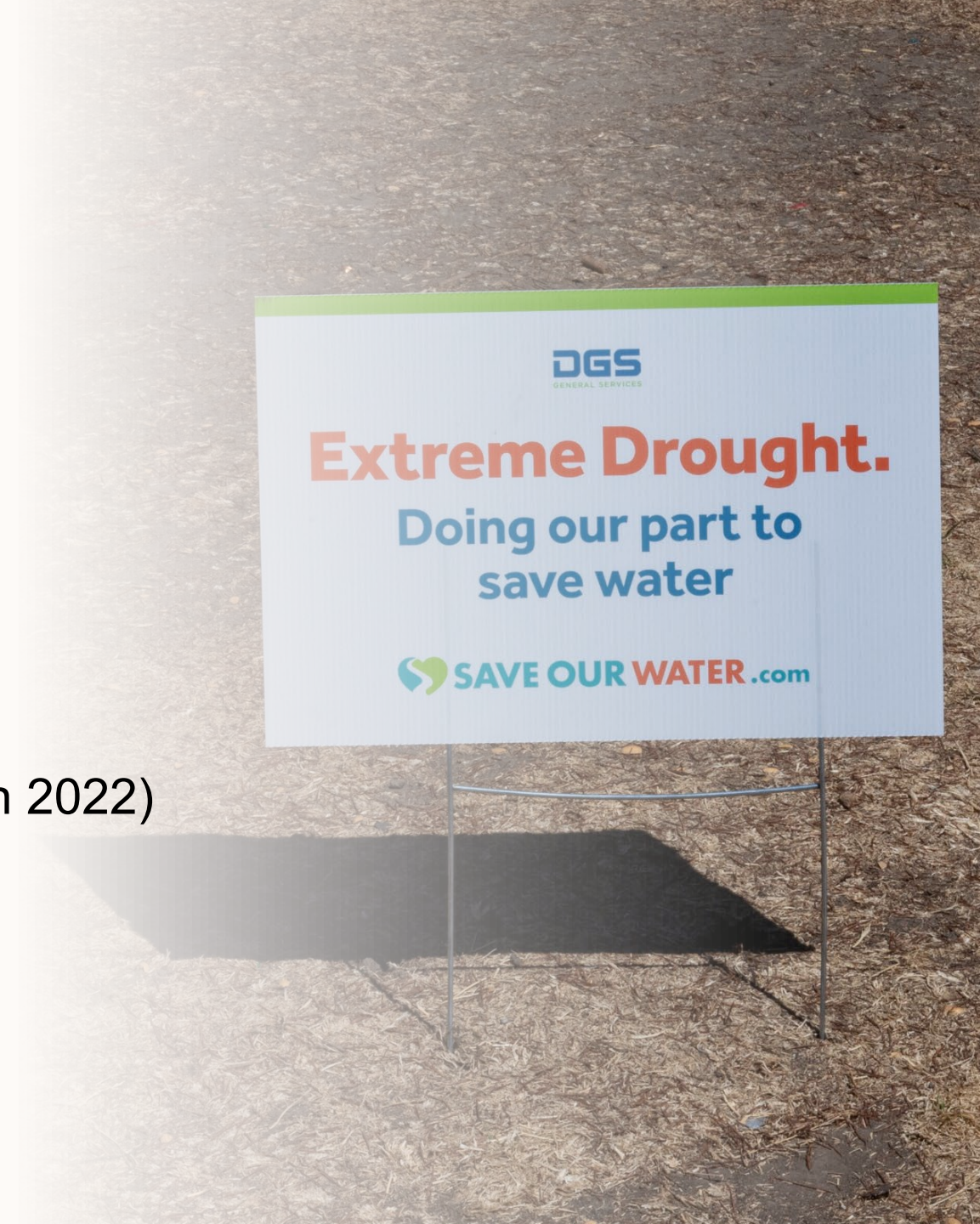




Water Conservation

Fastest, cheapest & easiest way to stretch water supplies

- Voluntary 15% conservation (Jul 2021)
- Emergency wasteful water use prohibitions (Jan 2022)
- Emergency water demand reduction (Jul 2022)
- Water loss prevention standards (Oct 2022)

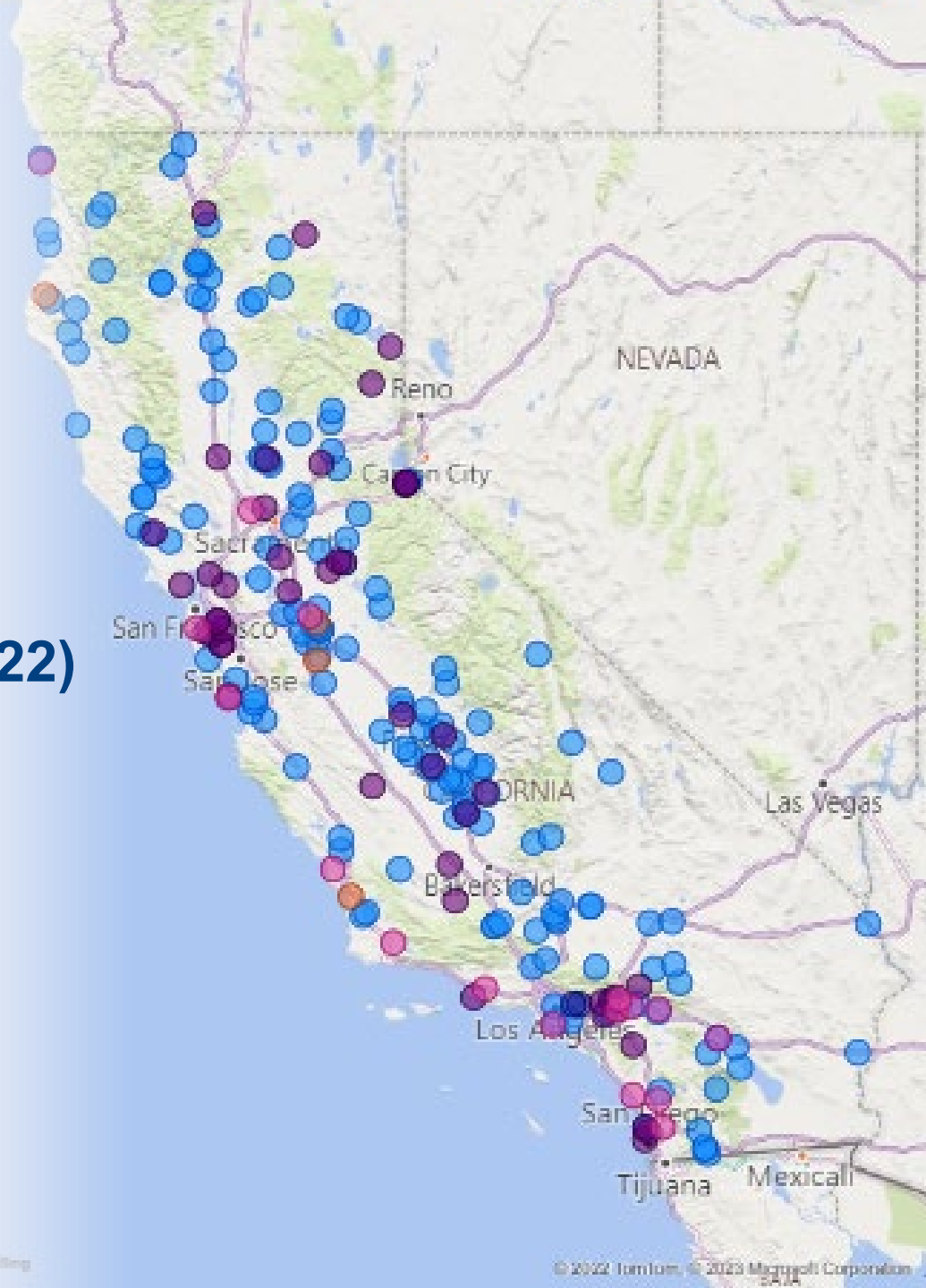




Financial Assistance

\$3.3 billion to communities to boost drought resilience and increase water supplies (FY 21/22)

- \$1.2 billion for recycled water projects
- \$26 million for emergency projects
- \$984 million for drinking water construction projects
- \$1.1 billion for wastewater & stormwater projects





Drought Planning

Water Supply Strategy sets goals for recycled water, storm water, desalination, and groundwater recharge

- Recycled Water Strike Team (Jan 2023)
- Storm Water Project (early-2024)
- Desalination Interagency Group (Oct 2022)
- Groundwater Recharge Permit Prioritization (ongoing)
- Conservation & Water Rights Modernization



Collaboration & Engagement

Advisory Groups

- SAFER
- Recycled Water
- Cooling Water Intake

Workshops & Listening Sessions

- Water Rights Drought Effort Review
- Drinking Water Affordability
- Emergency Curtailments
- Water Use Efficiency
- Racial Equity

Interagency Workgroups

- Emergency Response (drought, fire, other)
- Water Quality Monitoring Council
- Many project-specific groups

Local Knowledge & Solutions

- Russian River Voluntary Water Sharing Program
- Scott/Shasta Local Cooperative Agreements
- Many project-specific activities

What's Next?

- 💧 **Monitor conditions- one wet season won't end the drought!**
- 💧 **Continue emergency actions & collaboration**
- 💧 **Plan for a hotter, drier future:**
 - **Conservation as a Way of Life**
 - **Water Rights Modernization**
 - **Recycled Water, Storm Water, Desalination & Recharge**

More information at waterboards.ca.gov/drought

Email: drought@waterboards.ca.gov