



Drought Update

Background

Despite recent storms in Northern California, the state remains in a severe drought that has entered its fourth year. The recent precipitation has boosted reservoir storage in California's major reservoirs, but water levels still remain below average for this time of year. Due to modest increases in water supply, the Department of Water Resources was able to increase the initial 2015 State Water Project allocation from 10% to 15%. Even so, California's precipitation totals and snowpack remain below average. Precipitation in the Southern Sierra is approximately 55% of average for this date. Statewide snow water content is less than 30% of normal for this time of year. The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook, released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, predicts that the drought will persist or intensify across most of California through the end of April 2015.

Jeanine Jones, DWR's Deputy Drought Manager, will update the Commission on current conditions and drought response actions.

Contact

Rachel Ballanti
Acting Executive Officer
California Water Commission
(916) 657-7937