

## **HHIA – Water & Utility Report for 2022.10.17 Meeting**

Main San Gabriel Key Water Well Level updates:

Historic High: 295.30 ft. on 1983.07.20 (Since entry of judgment in 1973)

**\*\* Historic Low: 169.4 ft. (on 2018.11.21)**

Current: (As of 2022.10.07), **177.3 ft.** (60.04% to High, **pushing to record low**).

### **Related link:**

<http://www.watermaster.org/>

**As of now, Hacienda Heights residents are still under Level 2 water conservation guideline. For information please refer to our website in July report.**

We have had representatives from Rowland Water District, San Gabriel Valley Water Company and Suburban Water Systems in our August and September meeting, providing informational and educational updates during the most critical drought season; hope we all are alert and learned some tips how to conserve water (and money too).

### **CA Dept of Water Resources**

#### **State Collaborates with Farmers to Conserve Water, Provide Critical Habitat for Migratory Birds in the Delta**

Published: October 07, 2022

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Farmers are receiving financial incentives to reduce their water use and protect wildlife and water quality in the Delta as part of a Delta Drought Response Pilot Program launched by the State of California. The program is led by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, in partnership with the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Office of the Delta Watermaster, and The Nature Conservancy.

The program works with farmers to implement practices to conserve water, protect Delta water quality, promote soil health, and mitigate potential drought impacts on fish and migratory birds. The program first launched in January 2022. Response to the first phase of the program offering \$8 million in funding was a success, with more than 8,700 acres enrolled.

With funding allocated in the Budget Act of 2022, the program has launched a second phase with an additional \$10.7 million in grant funding available to farmers implementing conservation measures. The Delta Conservancy will conduct the 2023 program through a reverse auction. Bids can be submitted through the Delta Conservancy's website and will be accepted through October 18, 2022.

“This has been a great collaboration with the Delta farming community to develop a program that meets the shared objective of better understanding how we can best conserve water in times of drought,” said Delta Conservancy Executive Officer Campbell Ingram.

“With the help of farmers located throughout the Delta, the information and benefits gained through this program will help us respond to current and future droughts while also supporting wildlife,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth.

In addition to providing grants to farmers for their conservation measures, the program is offering bonus incentives to participants who provide critical habitat improvements for waterbirds. The Central Valley is one of the major wintering grounds for migratory waterbirds, supporting wintering waterfowl

and attracting millions of birds to seasonal marshes. With California's extended drought and climate change resulting in less water and habitat for wildlife, participants could receive a bonus of \$75 per acre for short-term shallow flooding or \$40 per acre for providing nesting habitat through delayed harvest.

“The Delta Drought Response Pilot Program is an important demonstration of how to effectively reduce agricultural water demand while simultaneously creating ecosystem health and wildlife benefits that are desperately needed to protect California's natural heritage,” said Rodd Kelsey, associate director of the water program with The Nature Conservancy in California. “It will serve as a model for achieving water resilience in California going forward. We are excited to be helping design and execute the program.”

The pilot program is collaborating with UC Davis to calculate water savings that result from this initiative. Outcomes will be monitored to identify which agricultural practices and conservation methods are most effective, informing conservation and water quality protection responses during current and future droughts.

This program is supported by North, Central, and South Delta Water Agencies in collaboration with the California Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Natural Resources Agency, The Nature Conservancy, the University of California Cooperative Extension as well as Davis and Merced campuses, and made possible by multi-benefit drought relief funds contributed by DWR. Data and results from implemented conservation measures will be made publicly available through the California Natural Resources Agency Open Data Portal.

For questions about the Delta Drought Response Pilot Program and future solicitations, please contact the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy at [Contact@DeltaConservancy.ca.gov](mailto:Contact@DeltaConservancy.ca.gov).

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**Related link:**

<https://water.ca.gov/News/News-Releases/2022/Oct-22/State-Collaborates-with-Farmers-to-Conserve-Water-Provide-Habitat-for-Migratory-Birds>

### **New Water Year Begins Amid Preparations for Continued Drought**

Published: Oct 03, 2022

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Conserving water has become a way of life in California, especially as projections forecast warmer, drier conditions. The State's new water year has begun and with it comes fresh concerns about a fourth year of extreme drought for the state.

California's water year runs from October 1 to September 30 and is the official 12-month timeframe used by water managers to compile and compare hydrologic records.

Water Year 2022 ended on Friday and featured continued extreme drought with historically dry months and a record-shattering heatwave. Now, the focus shifts to the months ahead with state officials preparing for a fourth dry year.

Over the past 12 months, California saw extreme swings between record-breaking storms and dry conditions driven by our changing climate. In October 2021, parts of Northern California experienced the highest single-day rain totals ever, followed by a dry November and then a record snowfall in parts of the Sierra in December. Conditions took a turn again with the driest January, February, and March in over 100 years.

Despite some rain recorded in parts of California in September, uncertainty remains about what the new water year may bring. Long-range forecasting suggests warmer and drier than average conditions to persist.

“This is our new climate reality, and we must adapt. As California transitions to a hotter, drier future, our extreme swings from wet and dry conditions will continue,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. “We are preparing now for continued extreme drought and working with our federal, state, local, and academic partners to plan for a future where we see less overall precipitation and more rain than snow.”

Water Year 2022 ended with statewide precipitation at 76 percent of average. Statewide reservoir storage is 69 percent of average for this time of year. Lake Oroville, the State Water Project’s largest reservoir, sits at 64 percent of average for this time of year.

The current drought from 2020 to 2022 is now the driest three-year period on record, breaking the old record set by the previous drought from 2013 to 2015. This extended, extreme drought is having an impact on all Californians, especially the State’s most vulnerable communities. California is aggressively addressing the urgent need for financial and technical support for water resilience projects across California. To date, DWR has provided over \$480 million in grant funding through its Small Community and Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief programs. This summer, the Legislature approved hundreds of millions in additional funding and programs to support these communities.

Californians can all do their part to adapt to the hotter, drier future by making water conservation a way of life. Governor Newsom has asked all Californians to reduce water usage at home by 15 percent. Learn more at [saveourwater.com](https://saveourwater.com). DWR also recently announced a series of actions to make water conservation more affordable through financial assistance and tax exemptions.

State water officials will provide an update to the media on current dry conditions and the outlook for this winter. DWR will also outline actions being taken now to better prepare for a hotter, drier future. The media briefing will be held via Zoom at 1 p.m. today. Credentialed media can register at [https://ca-water-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsce-tqj8sGNQmPNGyb0S8b9\\_Po0Tduh8Z](https://ca-water-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsce-tqj8sGNQmPNGyb0S8b9_Po0Tduh8Z).

Californians can access current water conditions in real time at California Water Watch, a new website launched by DWR. This website will help Californians see their local hydrological conditions, forecasts, and water conditions down to their address or their local watershed. The site presents data from a variety of sources and allows the public to obtain a quick snapshot of local and statewide water conditions. Complete data for Water Year 2022 is available now.

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**Related link:**

<https://water.ca.gov/News/News-Releases/2022/Oct-22/New-Water-Year-Begins-Amid-Preparations-for-Continued-Drought>

## **DWR Takes Actions to Support State's Future Water Supply Strategy**

Published: Sep 29, 2022

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Today, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced new steps that, if approved, could save enough water to supply 4.7 million Californians annually while making conservation more affordable through financial assistance and tax exemptions. The actions improve long-term water conservation and reduce wasteful outdoor water use as California adapts to a hotter, drier future driven by climate change.

“We have the tools to make it easier than ever for Californians to conserve water and we’re taking action to get it done. It will take forward-thinking practices to ensure that we’re managing our water resources resiliently now and for the future,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. “From regulatory recommendations to funding for lawn replacement and water conservation, DWR is putting California on the path to achieve historic water savings.”

The new actions will build on California’s ongoing long-term efforts to make water conservation a way of life while advancing water efficiency efforts outlined in California’s Water Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future. The plan, released by Governor Newsom this summer, sets a target of securing 500,000 acre-feet of additional water per year through increased efficiency and conservation.

DWR will be implementing and supporting actions that include:

### **Outdoor Water Use Recommendations**

To help prepare for a hotter and drier future, DWR has submitted outdoor water use efficiency recommendations to the State Water Resources Control Board. With outdoor water use accounting for 50 percent of urban resident water use on average, the recommendations outline standards that would provide urban retail water suppliers with a framework to support more efficient outdoor residential water use. The framework will also include standards for the irrigation of large commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) landscapes in their service areas.

DWR’s outdoor water use recommendations combined with indoor residential water use recommendations submitted in November 2021 would result in expected long-term water savings of 450,000 acre-feet per year starting in 2030 – enough water to supply about 1.6 million homes or about 4.7 million residents for both indoor and outdoor annual needs. The recommendations would also result in near-term savings of 100,000 acre-feet a year starting in 2023. DWR’s recommendations will be evaluated by the State Water Resources Control Board through a formal rulemaking process, which will include additional analysis, engagement, and opportunity for public comment.

### **Indoor Water Use Legislation Signed**

California also recently took additional steps to increase indoor water use savings with Governor Newsom’s signing of Senate Bill 1157 (Hertzberg), which adopts recommendations made by DWR and the State Water Board last year to reduce indoor water use targets to 47 gallons per day by 2025 and 42 gallons by 2030. By adjusting indoor water use standards to reflect the joint recommendation of DWR and the State Water Board, the legislation will help increase water conservation and water use efficiency, ensuring a more water-resilient future for California.

### **Financial Assistance for Turf Transition and Conservation**

DWR has developed a set of funding programs that will help build resiliency in all communities including underrepresented communities and Tribes. The funding programs include financial assistance for projects that strengthen resilience in urban communities, turf transition for residential and commercial landscapes and water conservation programs for urban water suppliers. DWR’s

programs will help to clear some of the hurdles that underserved communities face with direct install programs and support for local water agencies, while also helping build resiliency with equity in mind. DWR plans to release these grant programs in October. These new programs will build on the momentum created by the millions of dollars in grant funding that has been distributed by DWR in 2022.

### **Turf Tax Exemption**

For those making smart water decisions to replace their lawns now and in the future, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 2142 (Gabriel), which will exempt from state income tax calculations any grant, rebate or additional financial assistance awarded from a state or local agency for turf transition. The law will provide the exemption through tax year 2027.

These announced actions come on the heels of state and local leaders gathering today at the Bay View Google Campus to discuss the urgent need for all Californians, including businesses, to conserve water amid extreme drought. With California experiencing a climate transformation bringing hotter and drier conditions, each individual act of conservation makes a difference.

For more information on water use efficiency and the recommended standards, visit DWR's Urban Water Use Efficiency Standards webpage. For information about other DWR and State drought response efforts and funding programs, visit [drought.ca.gov](http://drought.ca.gov)

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### **Related link:**

<https://water.ca.gov/News/News-Releases/2022/Sep-22/DWR-Takes-Actions-to-Support-Future-Water-Supply-Strategy>

### **DWR Announces \$6 Million to Support Desalination Projects**

Published: Sep 08, 2022

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – As California faces a hotter, drier future and ongoing extreme drought conditions, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is offering \$6 million in financial assistance to support desalination projects that will help develop new sources of local water supplies in California.

Funded by Proposition 1, the Water Desalination Grant Program is offering \$6 million to support construction and design pilot projects that desalinate naturally occurring brackish and ocean water for potable water supply. Desalination is the process of removing salts and minerals from brackish water and seawater to produce water suitable for consumption, irrigation, and other supply needs.

“Desalination remains a critical water supply source in communities where traditional water supplies are limited,” said Karla Nemeth, DWR Director. “California faces a range of water supply challenges and climate change continues to intensify impacts and weather extremes. Our priority is building water resilience through a set of actions that will prepare our water systems to support our growing state in a hotter, drier climate.”

Funding request applications must be submitted by October 5 using DWR's online submittal tool, GRanTS. DWR expects to announce the final awards in February 2023. Eligible applicants include public agencies, mutual water companies, nonprofit organizations, and Tribes. Interested parties can

find more information about the funding and eligibility requirements in the Proposal Solicitation Package.

This funding supports actions identified in the Governor’s recently announced strategy document, “California’s Water Supply Strategy, Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future.” The strategy outlines a series of proposed actions to help replenish our state’s water supply and make our system more resilient, which includes capturing stormwater and desalinating ocean and salty water to help diversify supplies.

To date, DWR has awarded over \$81 million in Proposition 1 desalination grants ranging from over \$100,000 to \$10 million to 17 projects. In addition to supporting local desalination efforts, DWR contributed \$16 million to the National Alliance for Water Innovation (NAWI) in 2021 to help advance desalination research. Led by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, NAWI and its team of 180 institutions are conducting a five-year research project to lower the cost and energy required for desalination. The research will also improve brine management, increase longevity of system components, and develop methods to optimize operational efficiency. It is hoped that the benefits realized in the desalination industry will support other industrial sectors.

For more information about upcoming grant opportunities, visit DWR’s Grants and Loans webpage.

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**Related link:**

<https://water.ca.gov/News/News-Releases/2022/Sep-22/DWR-Announces-6-Million-to-Support-Desalination-Projects>

## **Southern California Edison**

### **Application Period Opens for \$1.5 Million Edison Scholars Program**

STEM students can earn \$50,000 scholarship, paid summer internship with Southern California Edison

October 06, 2022

Media Contact: Diane Castro, (626) 302-2255

ROSEMEAD, Calif., Oct. 6, 2022 — High school seniors with big dreams who want to make a difference in the world through the study of science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) are invited to become Edison Scholars. Edison International is accepting applications for the \$1.5 million scholarship program through Dec. 9. Students can see if they are eligible and apply at [edisonscholars.com](http://edisonscholars.com).

Each year, Edison International awards scholarships to 30 high school seniors who live in Southern California Edison’s service area. This year, the scholarship award amount has increased from \$40,000 to \$50,000, paid over four years. In addition, Edison Scholars are now eligible for a paid summer internship with SCE upon completing their first year of school. Scholars must meet the minimum eligibility requirements and complete the required hiring screening.

“I am so pleased that we are expanding the Edison Scholars Program by increasing the scholarship amount and giving the students an opportunity to work as a paid intern,” said Pedro J. Pizarro, president and CEO of Edison International. “The passion, resiliency and commitment of our Edison Scholars to follow their dreams is incredibly inspiring. We will need the next generation of STEM

students to help lead society's transition to a clean energy future. I encourage high school seniors from all backgrounds to apply for the Edison Scholars Program.”

Applicants must live in SCE's service area and plan to be a full-time undergraduate student majoring in a STEM field, cybersecurity or data analytics. Eligible students also must have at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA and demonstrate financial need. SCE encourages students from underserved communities, underrepresented groups and first-generation college students to apply.

Edison International has awarded more than \$13.5 million in scholarships to 730 students through the Edison Scholars Program since 2006. Edison International, the parent company of SCE, is one of the largest corporate philanthropic contributors in Southern California. The Edison Scholars Program is funded entirely by Edison International shareholders. SCE customers' utility bill payments do not fund company donations.

**Related link:**

<https://newsroom.edison.com/releases/application-period-opens-for-1-5-million-edison-scholars-program>

Report by *Ted Chang*  
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