Veles Water Weekly Report

March 6th 2025

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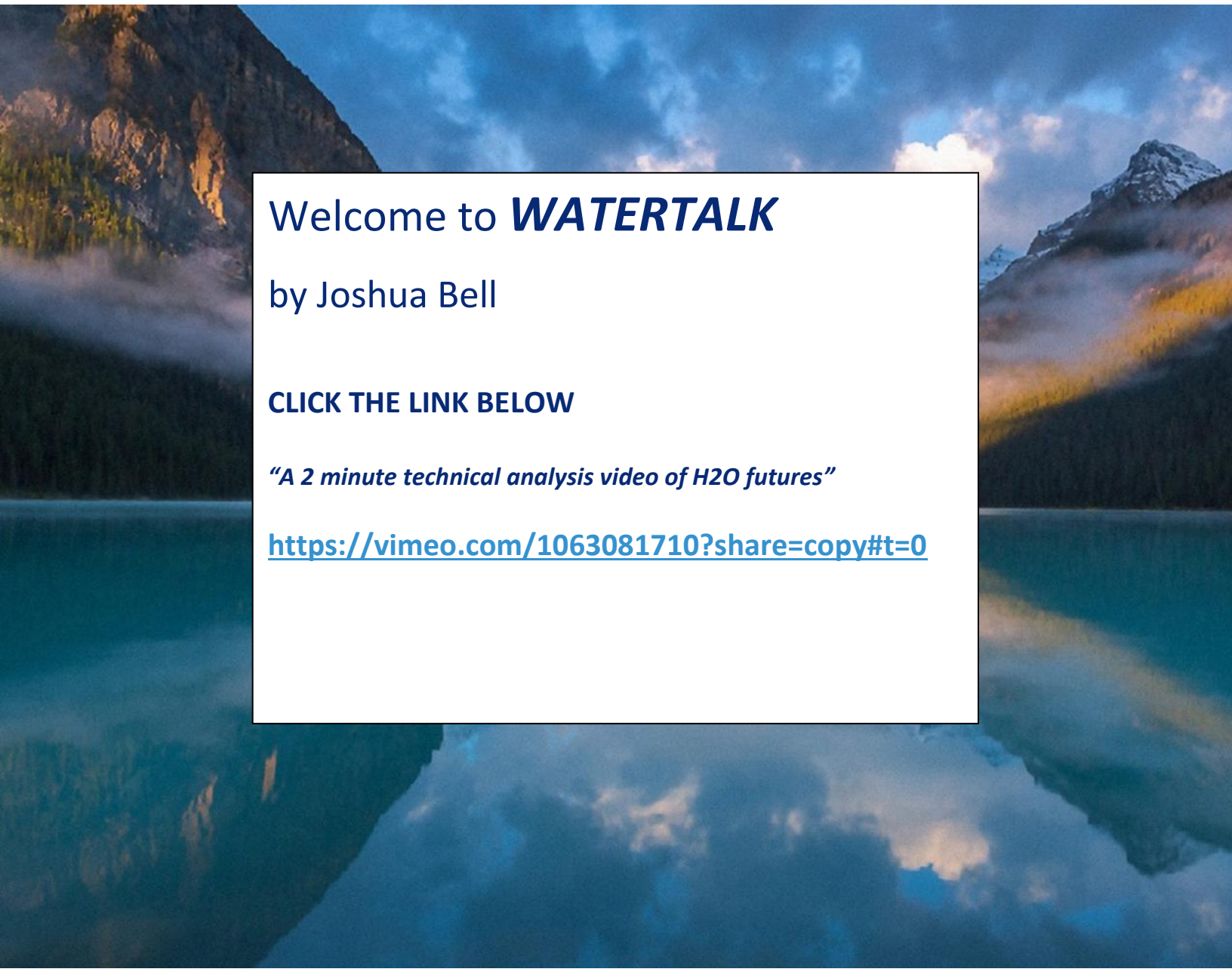
Veles Water

WATER FUTURES MARKET ANALYSIS



Welcome to ***WATERTALK***

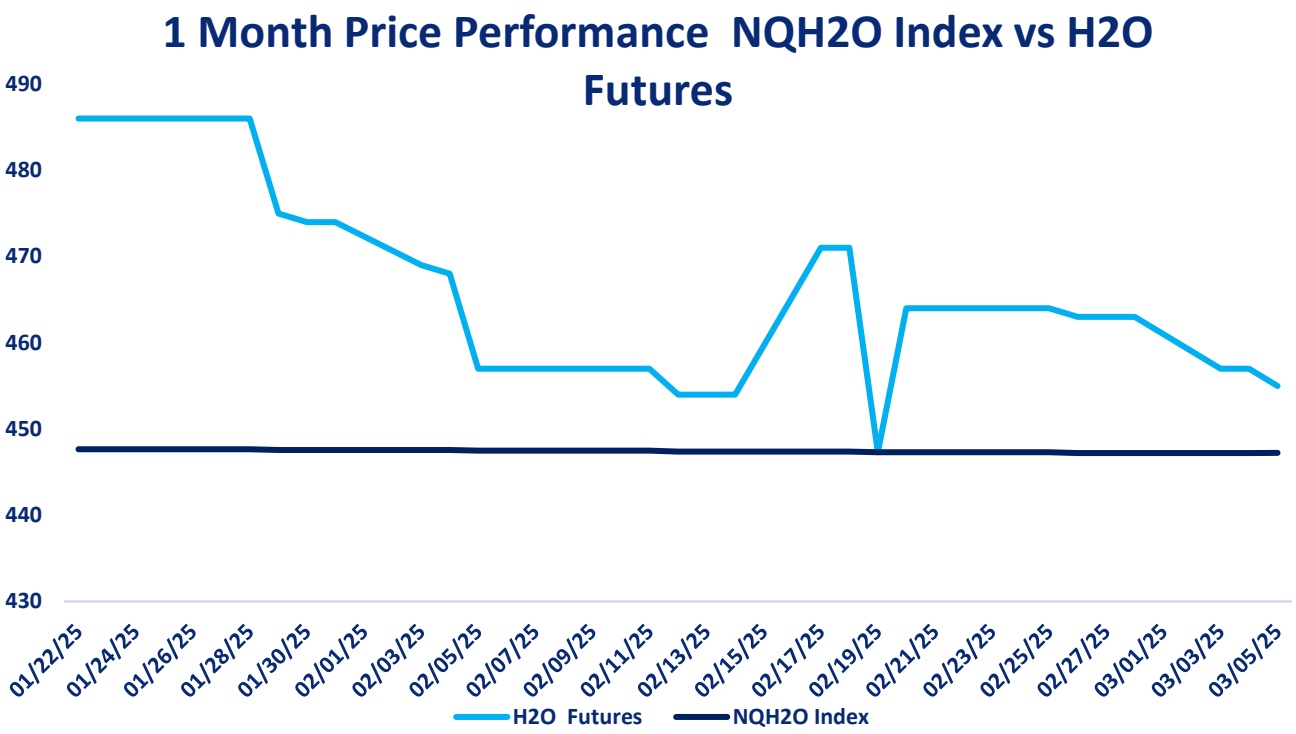
by Joshua Bell

CLICK THE LINK BELOW

"A 2 minute technical analysis video of H2O futures"

https://vimeo.com/1063081710?share=copy#t=0

NQH2O INDEX PRICE vs H2O FUTURES PRICE



Price Chart Based upon Daily Close

The new NQH2O index level of $447.23 was published on March 5th, up $0.02 or 0.004% from the previous week. The March contract is considered the front month. The futures prices have closed at a premium of $7.77 to $15.79 versus the index over the past week.

Below are the bid offer prices on different expiries being quoted in the market.

Mar 25	451@456
Apr 25	461@482
May 25	470@592
June 25	495@520
June 26	575@630

H2O FUTURES TECHNICAL REPORT

Price Action
Current Price: 455
The price has decreased by 0.44% in this trading session, indicating a minor pullback after recent bullish movement.

Moving Averages Analysis
Short-Term Averages:
5-day MA: 459 - The price is below this level, signalling short-term bearish pressure.
10-day MA: 461 - The price is slightly below the 10-day MA, suggesting continued short-term weakness.
20-day MA: 461 - The price is also below the 20-day MA, confirming short-term downside momentum.

Medium-Term Averages:
30-day MA: 467 - The price is testing this level, which may act as an important support zone.

Long-Term Averages:
100-day MA: 433 - The price remains well above this level, supporting a strong long-term trend.
120-day MA: 431 - The price is also above the 120-day MA, confirming overall bullish sentiment.

Support and Resistance Levels

Resistance at 500:

This remains a key breakout level. A move above 500 could indicate strong upside continuation.

Support at 455:

This is the immediate support level. If broken, the next key support zones are:

433 (MA 100) - Strong long-term support.

Stochastic Oscillator

K%: 20.00, D%: 18.43

The stochastic oscillator is nearing oversold conditions, indicating that the market could see a potential reversal or bounce if buying interest increases.

Summary and Key Takeaways

Short-term momentum is bearish, with the price sitting below key moving averages.

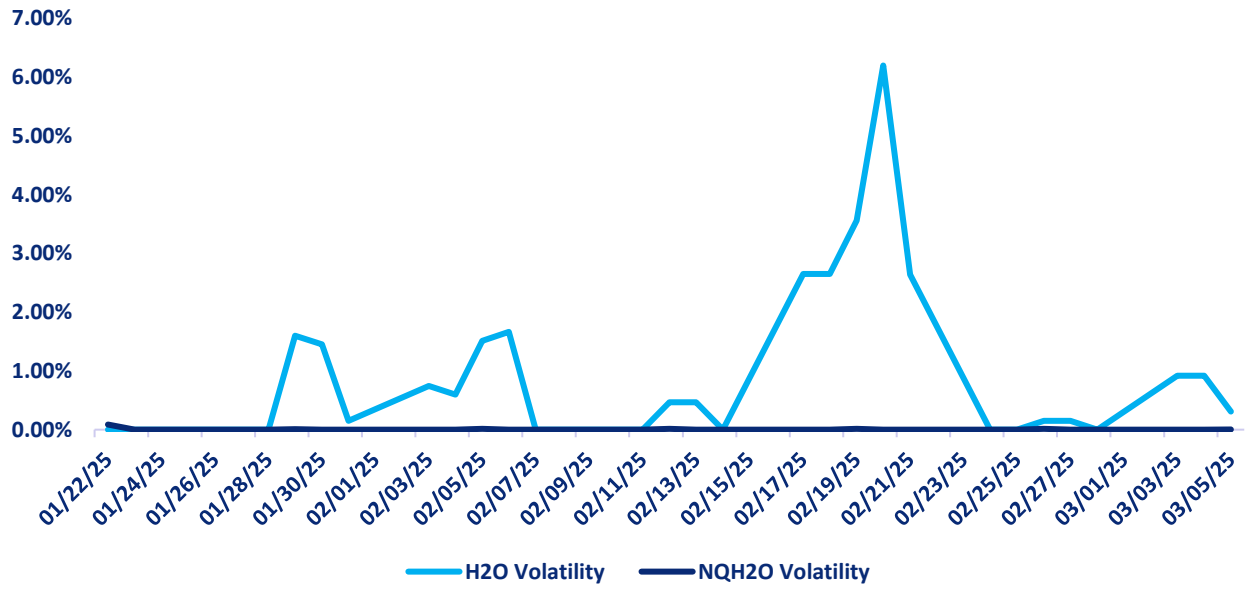
The 100-day moving average at 433 is an important level to monitor for potential price support.

The long-term trend remains strong, as the price is still well above the 100-day and 120-day moving averages.

The stochastic indicator suggests that the market is approaching oversold territory, meaning there is potential for a short-term reversal or continued downside pressure.

H2O FUTURES AND NQH2O INDEX VOLATILITY ANALYSIS

Daily H2O Futures Volatility vs Daily NQH2O Index Volatility



DAILY VOLATILITY

Over the last week the March contract daily future volatility high has been 0.92%.

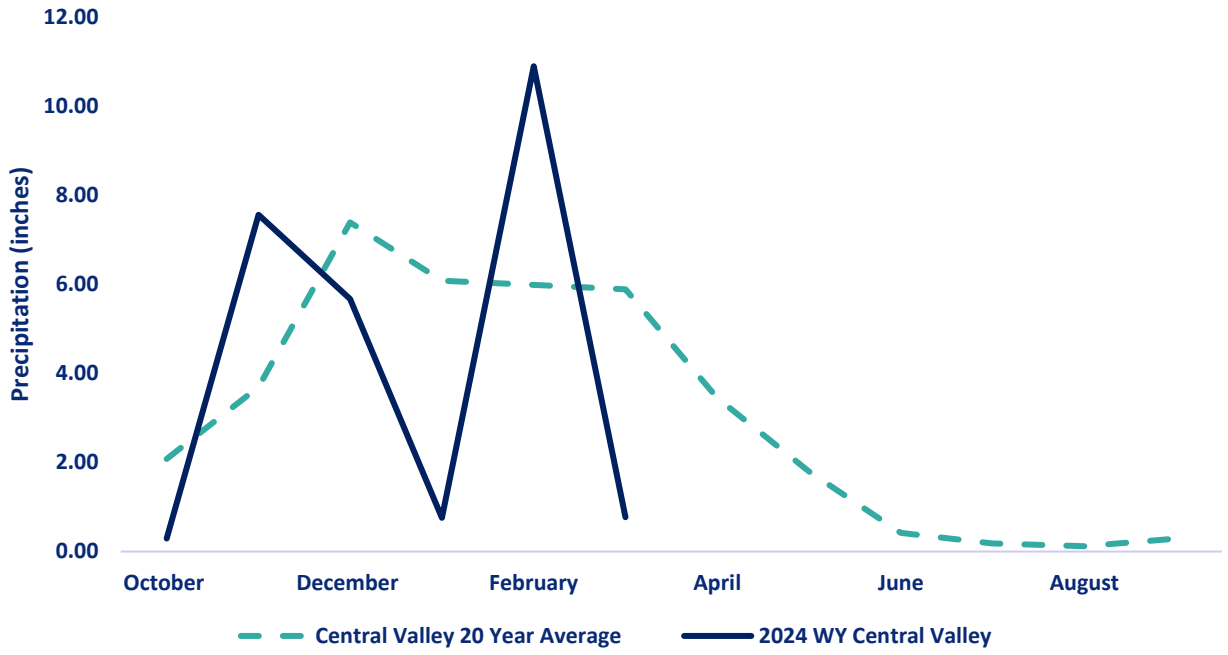
ASSET	1 YEAR (%)	2 MONTH (%)	1 MONTH (%)	1 WEEK (%)
NQH2O INDEX	**28.85%**	**3.04%**	**0.03%**	**0.02%**
H2O FUTURES	N/A	**14.07%**	**7.65%**	**1.26%**

For the week ending on March 6th, the two-month futures volatility is at a premium of 11.03% to the index, down 0.01% from the previous week. The one-month futures volatility is at a premium of 11.84% to the index, up 4.22% The one-week futures volatility is at a premium of 1.24% to the index, volatility.

*Above prices are all **HISTORIC VOLATILITIES**. All readings refer to closing prices as quoted by CME.*

CENTRAL VALLEY PRECIPITATION REPORT

Central Valley Precipitation Index



Central Valley average is calculated using data from 19 weather stations in the Central Valley, California.
Data as of 05/03/2025

STATION	MTD (INCHES)	WEEK ON WEEK CHANGE (INCHES)	% OF 20 YEAR AVERAGE MTD	2025 WYTD VS 2024 WYTD %	2025 WY VS 20 YEAR AVERAGE TO DATE %
SAN JOAQUIN 5 STATION (5SI)	0.73	0.01	12.52	87	68
TULARE 6 STATION (6SI)	0.98	0.00	24.80	88	80
NORTHERN SIERRA 8 STATION (8SI)	0.61	0.29	7.76	98	118
CENTRAL VALLEY AVERAGE	0.77	0.10	13.15	91	89

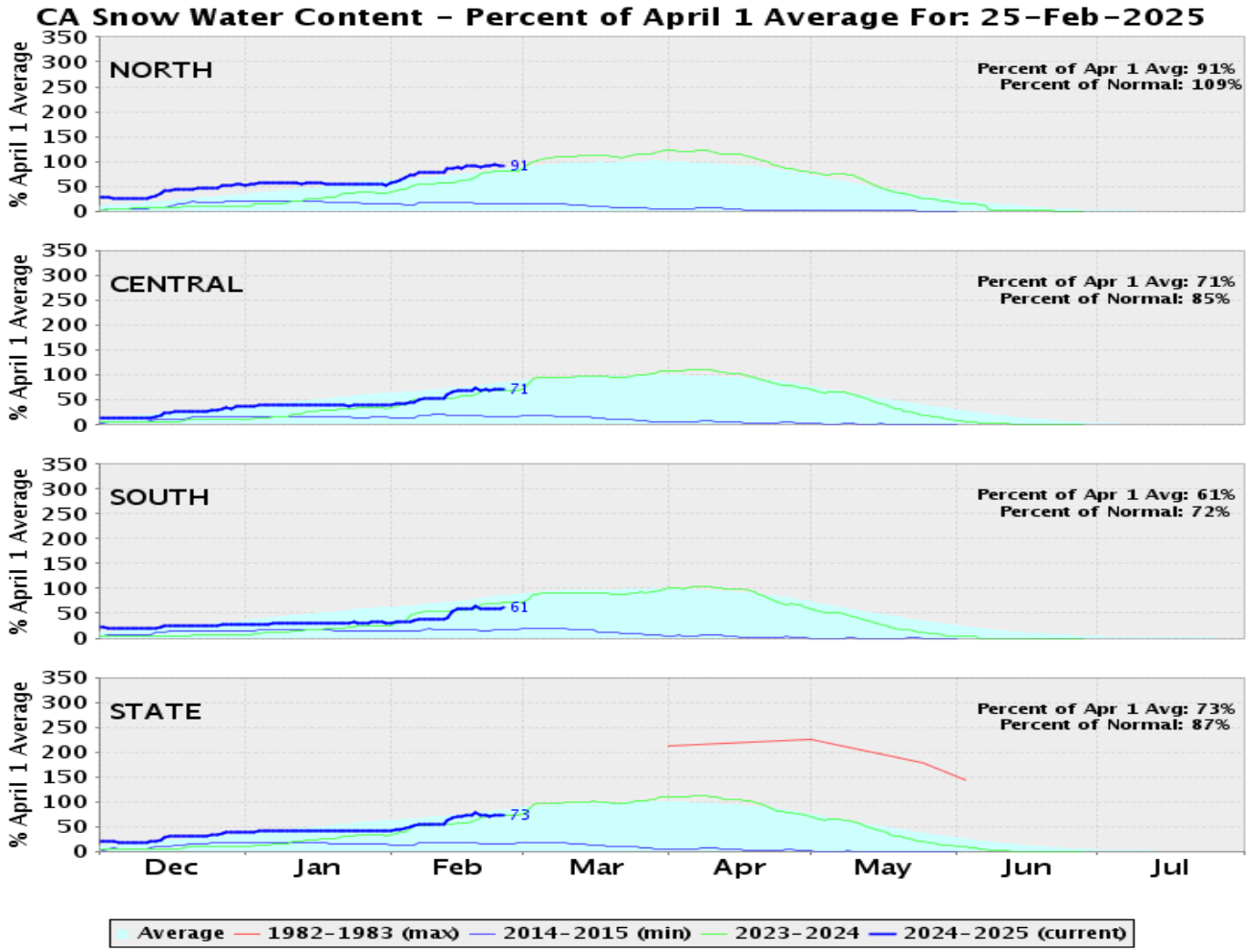
RESERVOIR STORAGE

RESERVOIR	STORAGE (AF)	% CAPACITY	LAST YEAR % CAPACITY	*% HISTORICAL AVERAGE
TRINITY LAKE	2,028,855	83	73	121
SHASTA LAKE	3,605,013	79	82	109
LAKE OROVILLE	2,860,220	84	87	127
SAN LUIS RES	1,678,794	82	69	101

*% Historical Average is based on a daily average that is interpolated from historical monthly averages. The monthly averages are computed using monthly data from water year 1991 to 2024. The monthly averages are updated every 5 years using a sliding 30 year period.

Reference: California Water Data Exchange

SNOWPACK WATER CONTENT



REGION	*SNOWPACK WATER EQUIVALENT (INCHES)	WEEK ON WEEK CHANGE (INCHES)	% OF AVERAGE LAST YEAR	% OF 20 YEAR HISTORICAL AVERAGE	% OF HISTORICAL **APRIL 1ST BENCHMARK
NORTHERN SIERRA	24.5	-0.8	112	100	91
CENTRAL SIERRA	19.9	-0.1	105	76	69
SOUTHERN SIERRA	15.1	1.3	98	75	68
STATEWIDE	20.1	0.8	106	83	75

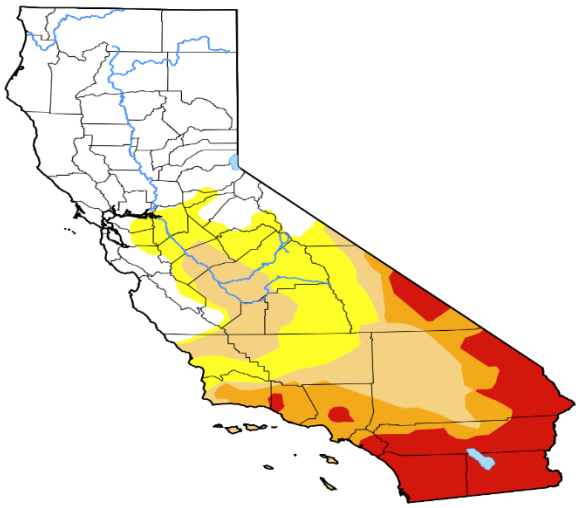
Snow Water Equivalent*, **or SWE**, is a commonly used measurement used by hydrologists and water managers to guage the amount of liquid water contained within the snowpack. In other words, it is the amount of water that will be released from the snowpack when it melts. SWE has regional variance.**

**** April 1st is used as the benchmark as it when the snowpack in California is generally deepest. It has been used the benchmark date since 1941 by DWR and can be used to predict spring river flow.**

DROUGHT MONITOR

California

Home / California



Map released: Thurs. February 27, 2025
Data valid: February 25, 2025 at 7 a.m. EST

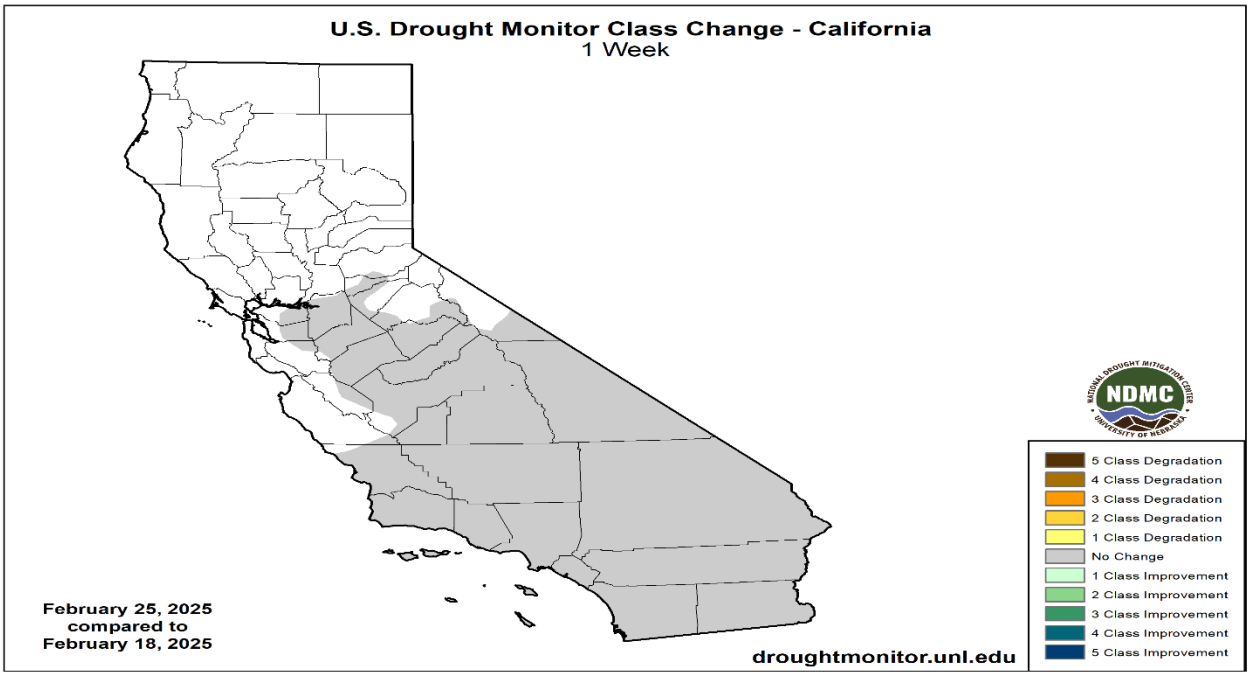
Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
Rocky Bilotta, NOAA/NCEI

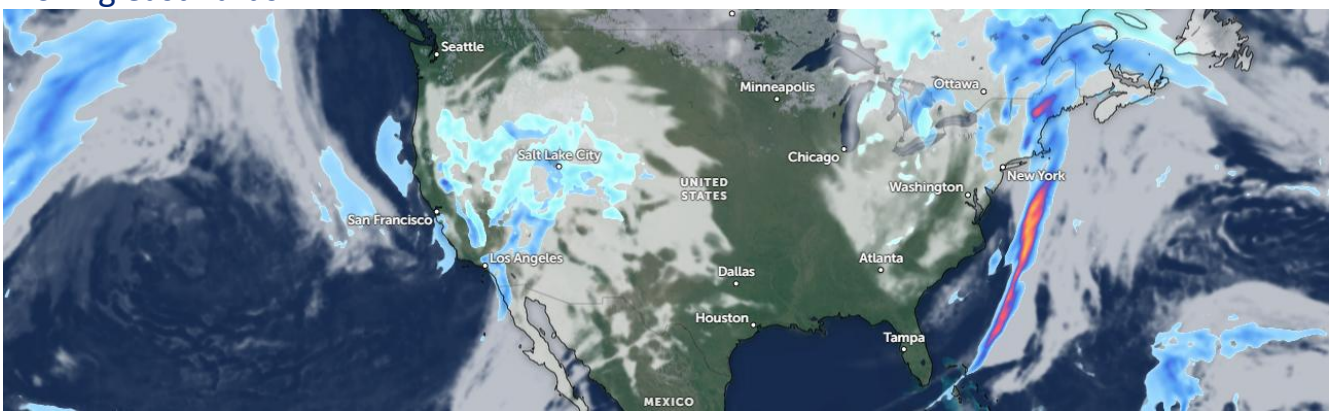


Week	Date	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	DSCI
Current	2025-02-25	41.82	58.18	41.58	24.83	14.75	0.00	139
Last Week to Current	2025-02-18	41.82	58.18	41.58	24.83	14.75	0.00	139
3 Months Ago to Current	2024-11-26	56.09	43.91	16.72	5.70	1.03	0.00	67
Start of Calendar Year to Current	2024-12-31	40.90	59.10	31.52	5.70	1.06	0.00	97
Start of Water Year to Current	2024-10-01	28.40	71.60	10.67	0.08	0.00	0.00	82
One Year Ago to Current	2024-02-27	92.97	7.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7

The U.S Drought Monitor is jointly produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Map courtesy of NDMC.

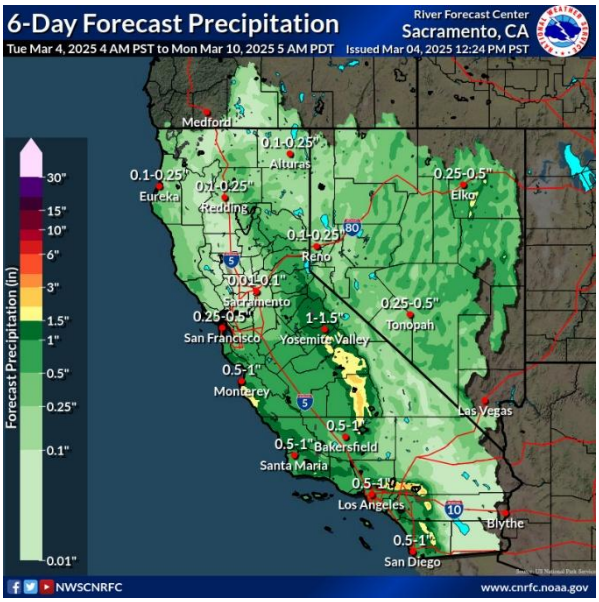
CURRENT SATELLITE IMAGERY

The whole of California has a low pressure system over it and bringing precipitation to various areas in California. The Midwest is completely dry but will later feel the effect of the moisture inflow from California. The east has a storm system stretching from Chicago eastwards, most of the southern portion of this has already reached the Atlantic and is moving eastwards.



Map Ref: Zoom Earth

10 Day Outlook



Lingering showers over srn CA/NV on Friday as an upper low moves through srn CA in the morning and exits se CA into AZ in the afternoon/evening. High pressure will build in behind the low over the PacNW and nw CA late Friday into Saturday. The next system will push the ridge inland across the west coast the rest of the weekend keeping conditions dry. A trough offshore will approach on Sunday closing off into an upper low with a surface low underneath. Models continue to disagree on the timing of the arrival of this next system with a range of possibilities being predicted by the ensembles as well. About 75% of the CMC/ECMWF/GFS total ensemble members keep CA dry through the extended with showers not moving in until Monday morning. The other ~25% have precip along the coast from Point Conception northward and inland through the Bay Area.

Given this, backed off on the precip a bit compared to this morning delaying the arrival until the evening/overnight hours. Went with the NBM QPF for that time frame as this seems to show less widespread coverage as one would expect given the ensembles. As a result, QPF went down along the coast by about 0.10-0.25" compared to this morning.

QPF 12z Fri-12z Mon: 0.10-0.50" nrn/cntrl CA coastal mountains from Cape Mendocino to Big Sur, a few hundredths to <0.20" the rest of the nrn/cntrl CA coast and Bay Area, and a few hundredths to a tenth of an inch or so over the San Diego Area (0.10-0.30" surrounding mountains).

Reference: National Weather Service / California Nevada RFC / Sacramento CA

WESTERN WEATHER DISCUSSION

A very divided region with wetter-than-normal conditions in the north and zero precipitation in the south. The most abundant precipitation was along the coastal areas of Washington and Oregon and into Idaho and western Montana. Unlike the rest of the country, much of the West had near- to slightly-above-normal temperatures this week. The wetter pattern in Oregon allowed for abnormally dry conditions to improve in the west and both moderate drought and abnormally dry conditions improved in the northeast. No changes in Washington occurred this week as the most recent rains helped to stabilize conditions that had been deteriorating. In Idaho, abnormally dry conditions were improved over much of western and southern portions of the state. Abnormally dry conditions were improved over northern portions of Nevada. In Wyoming, abnormally dry conditions improved over the southwest part of the state while moderate, severe and extreme drought conditions improved over the northern and western parts of the state. Montana had improvements to moderate, severe and extreme drought over eastern portions of the state in response to the improving indicators. In Colorado, some abnormally dry conditions improved in the northcentral areas while they were expanded in the south. Moderate and severe drought expanded in the south along with a new pocket of extreme drought due to the long-term drought indicators and the poor snow season to date. In New Mexico, moderate drought expanded over the west and abnormally dry conditions expanded in the east.

Reference:
Lindsay Johnson, National Drought Mitigation Center
Richard Tinker, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

WATER NEWS

CALIFORNIA WATER NEWS

Trump administration dramatically cuts staff at water agency in California

The Trump administration has ordered firings and buyouts at the federal agency that operates water infrastructure in California, potentially jeopardizing the agency's ability to manage dams and deliver water, according to Central Valley water officials.

The job cuts at the Bureau of Reclamation were ordered by Elon Musk's so-called Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, according to two bureau employees with knowledge of the situation who were not authorized to speak publicly.

The bureau, which employs about 1,000 people, is set to lose about 100 employees in California through terminations and buyouts, eliminating about 10% of its regional staff, one of the employees said. But larger workforce reductions are planned, and the bureau has been ordered to prepare plans to cut its staff by 40%, this person said.

Those targeted first for dismissal have been employees in their first year and others who have been at the agency the shortest.

The Trump administration has offered millions of government workers eight months of salary if they voluntarily agree to leave.

The employees who have applied for "deferred resignation" buyouts include Karl Stock, the bureau's regional director for the California-Great Basin Region. Those taking the buyouts are set to leave in March and be paid through September under the program, which Musk is leading.

Unions representing federal employees have challenged the program in court.

Internal documents reviewed by The Times show that the positions being eliminated include maintenance mechanics, engineers, fish biology specialists and others.

"It's going to significantly impact our operations," said one Bureau of Reclamation employee.

Musk's DOGE team didn't respond to a request for comment. The staff cutbacks were reported previously by Politico.

State officials criticized the staff cuts.

"Water experts should manage our water systems, not tech executives," said Tara Gallegos, a spokesperson for Gov. Gavin Newsom. "Declaring that federal water management is a priority while simultaneously gutting the Bureau of Reclamation truly defies common sense."

As part of an executive order issued Monday, Newsom directed the California Department of Human Resources to streamline the hiring process for former federal employees seeking employment in key roles, including natural resource management and weather forecasting and modeling. Gallegos said the state "takes water

management and water supply seriously — which is why we maintain a workforce of experienced professionals working to deliver water to people who need it."

The loss of jobs at the agency worries leaders of California water districts. Managers of 14 water agencies in the Central Valley warned in a Feb. 25 letter to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum and acting Reclamation Commissioner David Palumbo that making such major reductions at the Bureau of Reclamation would "compromise its ability to fulfill its mission of delivering water and power."

"Reclamation's employees in this region have critical knowledge of the many quirks of our aged infrastructure. This knowledge is absolutely *essential* to assuring the continued safe and reliable delivery of water throughout the state," the water agency managers said in their letter. "A reduction in force that eliminates Reclamation employees with the specialized knowledge needed to manage, operate, and maintain our aging infrastructure could negatively impact our water delivery system and threaten public health and safety."

The water agencies that registered concerns include agricultural suppliers such as the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and municipal suppliers such as the Contra Costa Water District. The agencies receive water from the federally operated Central Valley Project, a system of more than 20 dams and reservoirs that extends more than 400 miles and delivers water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta to farmlands and communities in the San Joaquin Valley.

Original Article: The LA Times by Ian James

Implementing Climate-Smart Conservation

California has demonstrated a commitment to protecting its endangered freshwater species for decades. Yet despite this, most protected species have not recovered, and now a new threat multiplier is pushing many populations to the brink: climate change. The usual conservation tools cannot keep up with the pace of change; instead, as described in our first report, *Climate-Smart Tools to Protect California's Freshwater Biodiversity*, the state needs to adopt a broad portfolio of climate-smart tools to conserve at-risk species. But is such change feasible? In this report, we show that laws such as the Endangered Species Act are not, for the most part, impediments to using the tools identified in our previous report. Rather, the problem lies with how society is applying them. To make real progress, the state must address the key issues that are hampering conservation work: permitting complexity, competition for funding, inadequate staffing, and a culture of risk aversion within agencies, water users, and environmental organizations. Although the federal government will continue to be a partner, the state should lead these efforts.

- **Address the key issues that are hampering adaptation efforts.** Agencies, water users, and the environmental community should work to promote innovation, experimentation, and flexibility at the pace and scale needed.→
- **Strengthen the legal framework.** Most existing laws are already sufficiently flexible to allow for the incorporation of climate-smart conservation policies into species and ecosystem management. We outline regulatory and legislative changes that may make this approach more effective and expeditious.→
- **Support watershed planning and implement urgent actions.** Beyond salmon, the state still lacks conservation plans for freshwater species and their ecosystems. California should integrate climate-smart conservation into all facets of ecosystem and biodiversity planning.
- **Build institutional capacity.** A combination of factors makes people reluctant to take risks and to act in innovative ways to adapt. Cultivating leadership that is committed to expanding permitting for climate resilience, embracing legal flexibility, developing training programs, and creating a reward structure that promotes innovation and adaptation will help.

Original Article: PPIC by Jennifer Harder, Brian Gray, Letitia Grenier, Ellen Hanak, Gokce Sencan, and Ted Sommer

February storms help, but snowpack below normal

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) on Friday conducted the third snow survey of the season at Phillips Station.

The manual survey recorded 34 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 13.5 inches, which is 58 percent of average for this location. The snow water equivalent measures the amount of water contained in the snowpack and is a key component of DWR's water supply forecast. Statewide, the snowpack is 85 percent of average.

This winter has been marked by a series of extremes, as unseasonably dry and warm conditions have been interrupted by powerful storms that temporarily boosted the snowpack to near normal. That was the case in February, with multiple rounds of atmospheric rivers early in the month. Following the storms, the statewide snowpack was 97 percent of average and has since fallen to 85 percent.

DWR's electronic readings from 130 stations placed throughout the Sierra Nevada indicate the statewide snowpack's snow water equivalent is 19.2 inches, or 74 percent of the critical April 1 average, which is when the snowpack usually peaks.

California has seen several years in recent history with large early season snow totals, only for predominantly dry conditions to dominate the rest of the season. The southern Sierra Nevada have especially fallen behind this season, with the region's snowpack just 70 percent of average.

"In addition to the large swings in snowpack conditions we've seen this year, a big regional disparity remains between the Northern, Central and Southern Sierra Nevada," said Andy Reising, manager of DWR's Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit. "With so many of this season's storms missing the southern half of the state, our statewide snowpack average can mask just how below average some regions are. Water managers will need to consider not just the extreme swings through the winter and spring months but also the big differences from watershed to watershed."

Measuring California's snowpack is a key component that guides how California's water supplies are managed. The data and measurements collected help inform water supply and snowmelt runoff forecasts, known as Bulletin 120, that help water managers plan for how much water will eventually reach state reservoirs in the spring and summer. This information is also a key piece in calculating State Water Project allocation updates each month.

On average, California's snowpack supplies about 30 percent of California's water needs. Its natural ability to store water is why California's snowpack is often referred to as California's "frozen reservoir." Data from these snow surveys and forecasts produced by DWR's Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit are important factors in determining how DWR and other agencies manage the state's water resources.

Thanks to efforts to capture as much water as possible from the storms, reservoirs across the state are currently 118 percent of average.

Original Article: Gold Country Media by DWR

$14 million in grants awarded to 14 California conservation and restoration projects

The California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) approved 14 habitat protection and restoration projects spanning 14 counties across more than 4,700 acres at its February 26, 2025, quarterly meeting.

One of the grants restores 1,300 acres of tidal marsh habitat at the Congressman Pete Stark Ecological Reserve at Eden Landing, near the cities of Hayward and Union City on the east San Francisco Bay shoreline. This landscape-scale restoration project balances the needs of tidal marsh-dependent and estuarine species with waterbirds that rely on pond habitats by enhancing existing ponds and restoring tidal wetlands.

The WCB's $5.35 million grant to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. — in a cooperative project with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California State Coastal Conservancy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — increases biodiversity, improves water quality, protects bayside communities against extreme weather events and improves opportunities for public access and recreation.

"Southern Eden Landing is a unique stretch of East Bay shoreline that plays a critical role for waterbirds, fish, other wildlife and people," **said Renee Spenst, Ph.D., regional biologist for Ducks Unlimited, San Francisco Bay and California Coast**, in a press release. "This project represents true landscape-scale restoration, providing homes for plovers, terns, rails, salmon, sturgeon and leopard sharks. It is situated in an easily accessible location near the communities of Union City and Hayward, for all Bay Area residents. The WCB's partnership is essential to the success of this significant endeavor, joining other federal, state, regional and nonprofit partners."

WCB's grants advance California Governor Gavin Newsom's goal of conserving 30% of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030, an initiative known as 30x30. The initiative seeks to protect biodiversity, expand access to nature for all Californians and fight and adapt to climate change.

Notable projects include:

- A $10.6 million grant to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the State Route 91 B Canyon Wildlife Crossing in Riverside County — a project identified on the CDFW Wildlife Barrier Priorities List as a critical step toward restoring habitat connectivity in Southern California. This initiative aims to counteract habitat fragmentation, which threatens the genetic health of local mountain lion populations.
- A $4 million grant to the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency for the preservation of Richmond Ranch, protecting 1,218 acres of critical habitats and biodiversity while also providing future opportunities for wildlife-oriented public use. The property borders thousands of acres of protected land, enhancing connectivity and ensuring long-term ecological and recreational benefits for Santa Clara County.
- A $5.77 million grant to the California Waterfowl Association (CWA), in collaboration with CDFW, to upgrade water conveyance structures and improve water use efficiency to enhance the management and stewardship of wetlands at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area in Riverside County.
- A $728,000 grant to Save Mount Diablo to acquire 98 acres of oak woodland and grassland habitat at Ginochio Schwendel Ranch, adjacent to Mount Diablo in Contra Costa County. This project enhances connectivity between Mount Diablo, surrounding protected areas and the Marsh Creek corridor, benefiting wildlife such as the iconic golden eagle, the Alameda whipsnake and several listed amphibians.

Original Article: Storm Water Solutions

State, federal officials announce increased water deliveries

State and federal water managers last week announced significant increases to water allocations across California thanks to early February storms and healthy reservoir levels.

The California Department of Water Resources increased its estimate of deliveries from 20% of requested water supplies in January to 35% on Feb. 25.

"California is experiencing a winter of extremes. We've seen predominately dry conditions broken up by very wet, short storm events. Those conditions mean we must move as much water when it's available and as safely as possible," DWR director Karla Nemeth said.

DWR operates the State Water Project, which provides water to 29 public agencies that serve 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland across the state – including the Zone 7 Water Agency in the Tri-Valley.

Also on Feb. 25, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation announced that water delivery agencies for cities and farms north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, and within the Delta itself, will receive 100% of their requested supplies from the federal water storage and delivery system.

Meanwhile, most farms south of the Delta will receive 35% of their contract amounts, while urban and industrial water users to the south will receive 75% from the federal system.

The Bureau of Reclamation operates the Central Valley Project, which delivers irrigation water to 3 million acres of farmland and drinking water to more than 6 million people in the state.

The rosy water delivery announcements come at a time when all the state's major reservoirs report water levels that are either close to, at or above historical averages for this time of year.

Also, the California Department of Water Resources is reporting that average snowpack levels in the Sierra Nevada are about 87% of normal for this date.

Original Article: Pleasanton Weekly by Kiley Russell, Bay City News Service

US WATER NEWS

El Paso, Texas Claims They're The First City in America to Recycle Their Water, Wichita Falls Says Otherwise

A special groundbreaking took place over the weekend in El Paso for what they're claiming is the first advanced purification system in the United States.

Drought stricken parts of Texas are looking for alternatives to save water. Cities do things like limiting outdoor watering, encouraging residents to use water-efficient appliances,

restricting car washing, and sometimes even rationing water usage based on specific days or times.

At a certain point though, if no rain is coming in the forecast, restricting water usage can only go on for so long before a city has to do something to get the people water. The City of El Paso is moving towards what they're calling a Pure Water Center. This center will be able to treat ten million gallons of wastewater a day and turn it into high quality water for the city to use.

The City of El Paso is a few years away from turning this facility on. It's expected to be ready to go at some point in 2028. However, El Paso may want to fact check that this is the first of these in the country because Wichita Falls started doing this almost a decade ago.

City of Wichita Falls Water Reuse Project

Back in 2014, it was announced that the city of Wichita Falls would begin construction on the Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) Project, discharging water to Lake Arrowhead via a 17 mile pipeline. The Wichita Falls Reuse Project was able to process 16 million gallons a day. Articles from CBS News with headlines like, "From Toilet to Tap", got Wichita Falls national attention. Jimmy Fallon even made a joke about us on The Tonight Show when the plan was announced.

Hopefully the people of El Paso can get this system operating in the next few years. However, maybe don't say you're the first in the country to do so. Wichita Falls didn't get made fun of for years to take this claim from us. I remember people in town wearing the shirts above when the system went online.

Original Article: East Texas Sports Network

Feds pause $50 million Biden-era investment in Great Salt Lake

In December, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation announced the largest ever federal investment in the Great Salt Lake, awarding Utah $50 million to go toward habitat restoration and securing more water to flow to the lake.

It was widely celebrated among Utah's leaders. But state officials now say that funding has been paused.

"We're still working with our partners in the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and trying to figure things out from a federal level on what goes, what stops. Right now, as they figure that out, we're on a temporary pause," said Brian Steed, the state's Great Salt Lake commissioner.

Steed is confident that the state will see that money eventually — he doesn't think the funding is in jeopardy.

"This too shall pass, and we'll get the money out the door as soon as we can," he said.

When those funds will be unlocked is unclear. Officials with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation declined to comment on Thursday.

When asked about the pause on Thursday, Utah House Speaker Mike Schultz, R-Hooper, said the state will continue to make its case for why it needs the $50 million.
“I think they paused pretty much everything. So it wasn’t just specific to that,” he said. “I think that’s fair, right? … The new administration comes in, and pushes pause on it.”
Trump administration cuts budgets for federal programs, agencies
The Trump administration has slashed budgets for a number of federal programs and agencies, while announcing widespread layoffs of federal workers. Whether the pause in that $50 million investment was part of a larger federal directive was not immediately clear on Thursday.
The bureau manages federal water systems and infrastructure in the West, including the Colorado River, the Glen Canyon Dam and Flaming Gorge Reservoir. Trump has yet to announce his pick for commissioner.
The agency’s commissioner and Biden appointee Camille Calimlim Touton stood alongside Steed and other state officials on Dec. 2 to announce the $50 million package, which stems from the Inflation Reduction Act. The law passed along party lines in 2022 and included hundreds of billions of dollars for various reforms, program expansions, subsidies and more — Affordable Care Act subsidies, expanding the Internal Revenue Service, investments in green energy and drought infrastructure are included in the bill.
The state often gets help from federal agencies for conservation projects around the lake and its tributaries — but except for a $3 million investment from Reclamation and the U.S. Geological Survey in November, federal funds to help the Great Salt Lake are rare.
The funding is intended to be split two ways. Most is intended for ecosystem restoration along the lake, helping agencies like the Utah Division of Water Resources, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, or the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands fight invasive plants, and improve the wetlands and waterfowl management areas.
The rest will be used to secure seasonal water rights leases from farmers, business and other water rights holders in the Great Salt Lake Basin.
“In truth, it’s given us some time to figure out how to best approach this,” Steed said about the pause. “We’ve put the time to good use.”
The Great Salt Lake hit a historic low in November 2022. It’s rebounded since then, with two above-average winters, but it’s still below what the state considers healthy. On Thursday, the south arm of the lake was at 4,193 feet, while the north arm was at about 4,192 feet.
Original Article: Idaho Capital Sun by Kyle Dunphey

Trump admin targeting 65% reduction in EPA spending

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under recently confirmed Administrator Lee Zeldin is targeting a 65% reduction in agency spending, according to

a White House spokesperson who clarified a remark by President Donald Trump last week after he seemed to suggest the cuts applied to staff.

While the White House is now saying the planned reductions apply to spending and not staff directly, the workforce may still be at risk for cutbacks amid a 65% reduction. As of now, it is unclear which spending programs or funds could be on the chopping block. According to a news brief from the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA), a 65% reduction in EPA spending would almost certainly touch the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF programs in some way, considering the two programs together represent about a third of the EPA's budget. WIFIA, as well as other water infrastructure grant programs run by EPA could be at risk, AMWA said.

Congress will have the final say in EPA spending cuts, however, as it considers agency spending for FY26. AMWA pointed out that Republicans in Congress or the White House in recent years have proposed slashing funding for EPA, but in each case, the most severe spending reductions have been avoided. The association said it will continue advocating for strong funding for EPA's water infrastructure programs as it continues to coordinate with the Trump administration and lawmakers.

Original Article: Water FM

Proposed water transfer restriction alarms Oregon irrigators

New requirements would be imposed on Oregon water rights transfers under a bill that environmental advocates claim is overdue but irrigators fear will block many transactions. Water rights transfers would be prohibited under Senate Bill 427 if they reduce stream flows along a longer stretch of a waterway, which proponents say is needed to protect fish habitat. "Stream flow is a vital issue for native fish and other aquatic species," said James Fraser, state policy director for the Trout Unlimited nonprofit. "It would just make sure that proposed changes and moving water rights around do not make conditions worse for fish." Currently, water rights transfers cannot cause injury to other water users or expand the amount of water used, among other requirements. Under SB 427, transfers that involve changing the point of water diversion would also be prohibited if they result in the "diminishment" of stream flows. For example, if a water diversion is transferred upstream of its original location, the stream flows along the stretch of river between those points would be diminished. In other words, even though the same quantity of water is withdrawn, flows would be reduced along a longer portion of the entire river, which environmental advocates argue is detrimental to its ecological health. While regulations for new water rights take "modern environmental values" into consideration, the transfer of existing water rights does not, said Caylin Barter, a representative of the Oregon Water Partnership, a coalition of environmental groups. "We have a loophole by which old water rights are bypassing the standards for new uses," Barter said during a recent legislative hearing.

Updating regulations for water rights transfers is part of a movement to make Oregon law reflect the "21st century water reality" of increased scarcity, she said. "We have momentum to update outdated transfer laws." If stream flows are decreased along a longer stretch of a river or creek due to a transfer, lower water levels can create "bottlenecks" for migrating steelhead and salmon, according to the bill's supporters. Proponents of SB 427 also say that decreased stream flows counteract the principle of "dilution is the solution to pollution," as contaminants become more concentrated along the diminished portion of a waterway. "We must ensure we don't diminish stream flows in systems that are already stressed," said Jeremy Austin, wild lands and water program director for the Central Oregon Landwatch nonprofit. However, irrigators and other water users claim that SB 427 will effectively prohibit many transfers at a time that new water rights are no longer possible to obtain in most waterways and aquifers. "This bill represents one of the biggest threats to Oregon water law and policy that I have encountered over the course of my career," said Steve Shropshire, an attorney representing the Oregon Association of Nurseries. The state has entered an era in which transfers are becoming the "primary management tool," so lawmakers should be trying to make regulations more flexible rather than impose sweeping new restrictions, he said. "It is far from a narrow fix as suggested by the bill proponents," Shropshire said, adding that SB 427 would likely be "weaponized" by opponents during the already burdensome transfer application process. "This sets the stage for years of time-consuming litigation." It's also frustrating that environmental advocates who crafted the bill did not seek any advice from irrigators and other water users who'd be affected by the legislation, said April Snell, executive director of the Oregon Water Resources Congress, which represents irrigation districts. "We have not been invited to provide any feedback whatsoever," she said. Several other agricultural organizations urged the Senate Natural Resources Committee against passing SB 427, joined by representatives of city governments and water utilities who said it'd impair or prevent their ability to replace water intakes — even if only slight relocations upstream are involved. For example, the Eugene Water and Electric Board is planning to break ground on a new water treatment facility next year, which would be precluded by the bill, said Karen Kelley, its chief operations officer. "It would keep us from being able to build this plant," she said.

Original Article: Capital Press by Mateusz Perkowski

Checking in on Southern Nevada's water supply as spring arrives in March

March is here — marking the start of Meteorological Spring — and it's time to take another look at the state of water in our area. Normally, Las Vegas sees 0.69 inches of rainfall during this season.

However, the moisture that really matters for Southern Nevada comes from the Upper Colorado Basin, which is currently at 83% of the 30-year snowpack average.
Things don't look as good downstream, though. The Lower Colorado Basin is only at 21% of average, which isn't surprising considering we just went 214 days without rain before finally getting 0.57 inches of rainfall on February 13.
Lake Mead, our main water storage for Colorado River water, is sitting at just 35% of full capacity.
On a brighter note, there's some above-normal precipitation expected in the West over the next couple of weeks. Still, drought conditions are likely to persist in Nevada.
Original Article: KTNV by Geneva Zoltek

GLOBAL WATER NEWS

Agricultural value chains key to Kenya's economic empowerment

Deputy President Kithure Kindiki now says that the fight against poverty in Kenya is highly dependent on the revitalisation of key value chains in the agriculture sector.
Speaking on Monday when he received a technical briefing on progress made and the status of productivity of the priority agricultural value chains, Kindiki said agriculture consists of at least half of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
He said this is the sector where almost 90 per cent of Kenyans derive their livelihoods from, and it is the reason the agriculture sector is at the heart of the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (Beta).
"Agriculture carries almost half, in terms of where the daily household incomes of citizens of Kenya come from. Somebody is either in agriculture, a keeper of livestock, within the fisheries and blue economy or is doing certain primary sector activity like mining.
"If you combine the number of people directly and indirectly engaged in the sectors I have mentioned, 90% of people in Kenya will fall in that bracket. This pillar of revitalising value chains, the largest carrier of values chains being agriculture, is at the heart of transforming Kenya especially from the bottom-up approach," Kindiki said.
The Deputy President said that the revitalisation also involves improving the support infrastructure for the value chains.

He insisted that this modernisation and transformation would help Kenyans get more income.

“Then there is critical support infrastructure. Roads, electricity, ICT connectivity, water, markets for traders, SEZ for our industrialisation and job creation agenda and also the CAIPs. That is the support infrastructure that will help us transform the value chains in agriculture, livestock, fisheries and so forth.”

During the meeting, Kindiki said constant tracking of progress made in increasing productivity and creation of jobs and income opportunities in priority agricultural value chains is crucial to assuring that the targets set in the Kenya Kwanza Plan - The Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda 2022-2027 are met.

Present at the meeting were various heads of relevant Government departments and agencies.

Original Article: The Star by Brian Ortuta

Bangladesh delegation visits India to discuss sharing of water resources

Dhaka [Bangladesh], March 3 (ANI): A technical delegation from Bangladesh went to Kolkata on Monday to discuss the sharing of water resources between Bangladesh and India, officials said.

They said the 12-member Bangladesh delegation, led by Muhammad Abul Hossen, a member of the Joint River Commission (JRC), is expected to observe the flow of the Ganges at Farakka until March 5 morning.

Thereafter, the delegation is set to return to Kolkata for a two-day meeting, under the aegis of the India-Bangladesh Joint River Commission, at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Kolkata on March 6-7, The Daily Star reported.

"After the Farakka site visit, there will be two meetings between Bangladesh and India. One meeting will discuss the implementation of the Ganges Agreement, and the other meeting will discuss various technical issues of the common rivers," Kazi Shahidur Rahman, Executive Engineer of JRC, told ANI over the phone.

"The delegation will return to Dhaka on March 8," he added.

The Ganges is one of the 54 rivers shared by India and Bangladesh. Long-standing differences over its water sharing were resolved with the signing of the Ganges Water Treaty on December 12, 1996, by then-Indian Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda and his then-Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina.

The Treaty was to remain in force for a period of 30 years and was renewable by mutual consent. For monitoring the implementation of the Treaty, a Joint Committee was set up, as per the Department of Water Resources.

The treaty is due for renewal in 2026. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is expected to play a crucial role in the efforts to renew the Ganges water-sharing treaty.

Banerjee continues to oppose the Teesta River water sharing treaty despite India and Bangladesh agreeing on its text in 2011.
Notably, a system of transmission of flood forecasting data exists on major rivers like Ganga, Teesta, Brahmputra and Barak during the monsoon season from India to Bangladesh.
The transmission of flood forecasting information during the monsoon has enabled the civil and military authorities in Bangladesh to shift the population affected by floods to safer places, as stated by the ministry. (ANI)
Original Article: The Tribune by Ani

Experts sound alarm over health hazard lurking in water supply: 'Wherever we look, we find it'

Water experts and providers are pushing for a broad ban on PFAS, or "forever chemicals," which stay in our environment for years, The Guardian reported.
These substances can be found in thousands of everyday products and are increasingly showing up in our water.
The Water Services Association of Australia wants PFAS banned from non-essential consumer items.
"We need to reduce now, as much as possible, how much PFAS is in the environment," said Adam Lovell, the association's executive director. He added that water providers are "deeply concerned about the levels of PFAS that are being allowed to enter the country through thousands of everyday household and industrial chemicals and products."
A ban would help protect both people and wildlife from these dangerous substances. Ian Wright of Western Sydney University has found PFAS in platypuses, noting that "wherever we look, we find it."
His research shows these chemicals move up through the food chain, reaching humans. Meanwhile, New South Wales has identified 51 sites with major PFAS contamination that require ongoing cleanup.
For families, this ban would mean safer drinking water and lower future costs. Removing PFAS from water supplies is extremely expensive. Treating just 1 kilogram of PFAS that has entered a wastewater system costs between $4 million and $25 million. These costs eventually hit consumers through higher water bills.
Some industries may worry about finding safe alternatives for their products. However, supporters point to European countries that have already successfully implemented broad PFAS bans. They also note that the targeted approach of banning specific PFAS has backfired, with companies switching to similar but less-researched replacements.
"We need to ban them as a class," Nicholas Chartres of The University of Sydney said.

Starting July 1, Australia will ban three PFAS, showing progress toward cleaner water for all. New drinking water guidelines with updated limits for these substances will be finalized later in 2025.
"Ultimately it comes down to the health evidence, and what our local advisory committee advises us is the most certain evidence to base the guideline values on," Kristal Jackson of the National Health and Medical Research Council said.
Original Article: The Cool Down by Leslie Sattler

Investment taking shape across the hydropower industry

British International Investment (BII), the UK's development finance institution and impact investor, is to provide up to US$25million to expand access to sustainable energy in Tanzania.
The funding given to renewable energy platform Rift Valley Energy (RVE), which is owned and managed by Meridiam, will support part of RVE's ambitious investment and development plan for future renewable energy projects, including new hydropower capacity across the country. Such support will contribute to increasing the national grid's supply of sustainable and affordable electricity to businesses and communities in low-income rural areas.
RVE, a Tanzania-based renewable energy infrastructure development company, is wholly owned by Meridiam, an independent investment Benefit Corporation and an asset manager that specialises in the development, financing, and long-term management of sustainable public infrastructure. Meridiam acquired RVE in 2023 with a view to grow its generation assets.
The national electrification rate in Tanzania is 37% and as low as 24% in rural areas. This financing from BII is expected to support an additional 7.6MW of new renewable energy assets which will provide power to about 170,000 people per year and connect 4000 businesses and households to the grid for the first time. The provision of clean and affordable power to local industries including factories that process tea, veneer, timber as well water treatment plants is expected to create 1800 jobs.
Meridiam's Deputy CEO and Africa Head, Mathieu Peller, said: "Rift Valley Energy is an investment which is true to Meridiam's mandate and purpose, and we are pleased to partner with BII to grow the renewable energy projects being developed by the company. This facility affirms our confidence in Tanzania as a market, where the government has clear and ambitious economic development plans which we look forward to supporting through sustainable investment."

Developing finance

The US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has approved technical assistance funding to support the development of a 120MW hydropower project in Madagascar.

Volobe, a run-of-river power plant, will boost the supply of stable and affordable power to millions of people in Tamatave and the capital city, Antananarivo, through a 270km transmission line which is under construction. The Volobe project will increase the country's electricity generation capacity by approximately 20%, bringing clean energy, jobs, and productivity gains to Malagasy businesses and individuals across the country. The project is managed by the Compagnie Générale Hydroélectrique de Volobe (CGHV) which has Axian and Africa50 as shareholders.

Once operational, the hydropower plant is expected to generate substantial cost savings for JIRAMA (the Malagasy state-owned utility company) and will significantly contribute to Madagascar's climate agenda.

The new technical assistance facility is a significant milestone that underscores the strategic cooperation between DFC and pan-African infrastructure investor and asset manager Africa50, and their shared commitment to scale innovative and climate-resilient infrastructure across the continent. The project company will deploy the funding into expediting project development activities, accelerating the project's path to financial close.

DFC Deputy Vice President of the Office of Development Policy, Christopher Walker, said they were proud to support Africa50 in their efforts to advance the development of the hydro projects. "Investments in energy provide people and businesses with reliable and secure sources of electricity to drive development, promote economic growth, and advance job creation," he said.

Anas Charafi, Senior Investment Director of Africa50, added: "This technical assistance funding by DFC is testament to the strength and strategic importance of the Volobe project which we are jointly developing with Axian. It will help expedite the development of the project, which will support industrialisation and play a key role in decarbonising the energy sector. Africa50 mobilises local and global capital at scale and, working hand in hand with our strategic partners, we aim to fast track the execution of transformative infrastructure projects."

Volobe will be located on the Ivondro River, approximately 30km from the eastern city of Toamasina, the second largest city in Madagascar. The project harnesses Madagascar's extensive hydroelectric potential, estimated at approximately 7.8GW, with over 800 hydropower sites with high untapped potential having been identified across the country.

Original Article: Water Power Magazine

Aegea secures $600 million sustainable financing package for water projects

Brazilian water and sanitation company Aegea Saneamento has **announced a $600 million financing package**, comprising a **$480 million syndicated ESG loan** and an upcoming bond issuance in the local market, reports Latin Finance.

According to a securities filing on Friday, the loan was secured with a consortium of local and international lenders and is set to be finalized in March. The five-year facility will carry an interest rate of SOFR plus 3.4%, as outlined in minutes from a board meeting.

To complete the financial arrangement, Aegea plans to issue BRL 720 million ($120 million) in debentures maturing in 2030, priced at the DI interbank lending rate plus 2.45%. The company emphasized that the loan qualifies as a "blue" loan due to "the allocation of the proceeds to projects focused on environmental preservation and sustainable use, and recovery of water resources and marine ecosystems."

Original Article: Smart Water Magazine

Note the attachment is not an inducement to trade and Veles Water does not give advice on investments.