

# Veles Water Weekly Report

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April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025

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VelesWater



## WATER FUTURES MARKET ANALYSIS

Welcome to ***WATERTALK***

by Joshua Bell

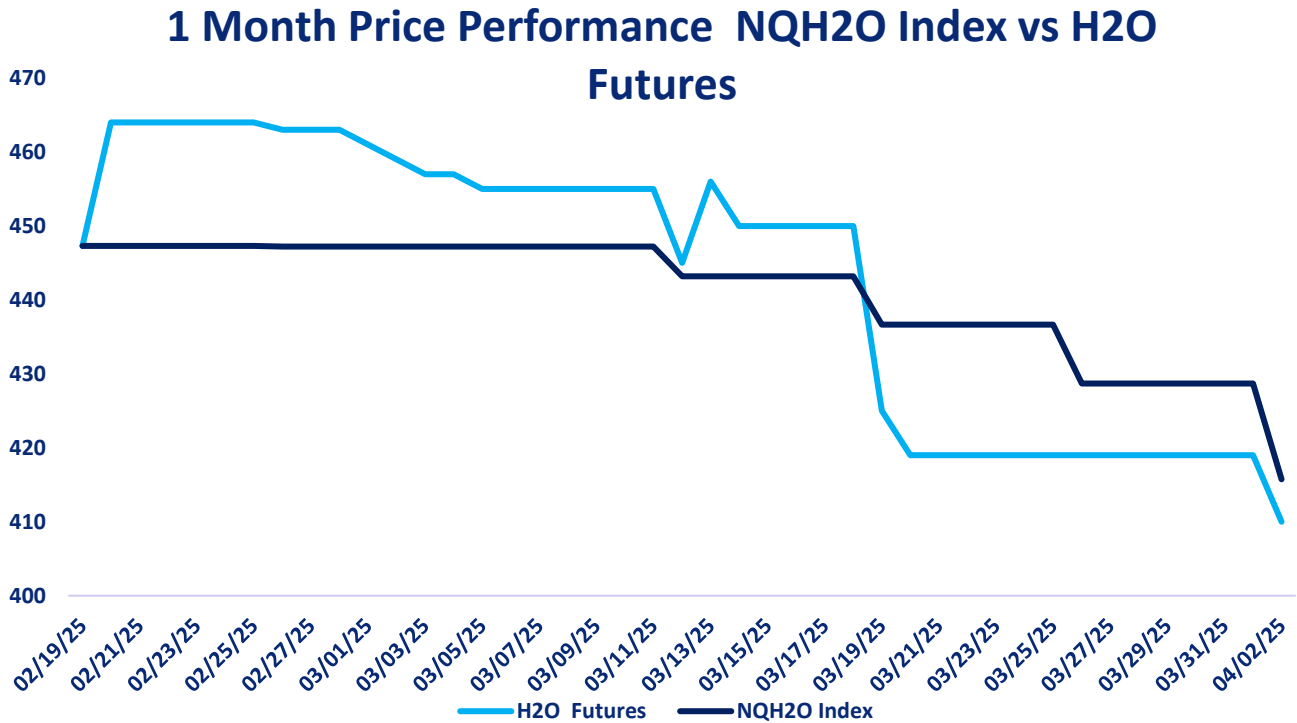
**CLICK THE LINK BELOW**

*"A 2 minute technical analysis video of H2O futures"*

<https://vimeo.com/1072071100?share=copy#t=0>



NQH2O INDEX PRICE vs H2O FUTURES PRICE



Price Chart Based upon Daily Close

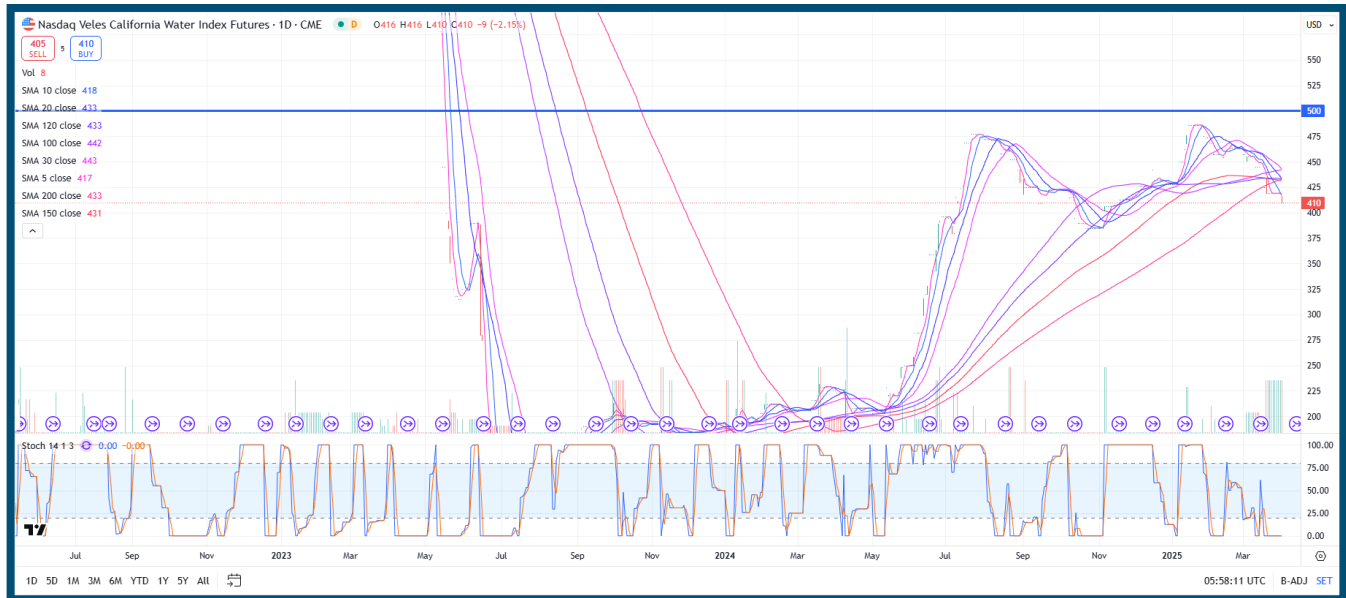
The new NQH2O index level of \$415.74 was published on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, down \$12.97 or 3.03% from the previous week. April Contract is considered the front month. The futures prices closed at a discount of \$5.74 to \$9.71 versus the index over the past week.

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

Apr 25	405@410
May 25	407@415
June 25	430@450
June 26	515@560



## H2O FUTURES TECHNICAL REPORT



### Price Action

#### Current Price: 410

The price has dropped by 2.15% in the latest trading session, continuing a recent short-term downtrend. This decline places the price at a critical juncture as it approaches major support levels.

### Moving Averages Analysis

#### Short-Term Averages:

- **5-day MA: 417** - The price is below this level, indicating continued near-term weakness.
- **10-day MA: 418** - The price is also below the 10-day MA, reinforcing short-term bearish momentum.
- **20-day MA: 433** - The price is significantly below this level, confirming that bearish sentiment has extended beyond immediate-term signals.

#### Medium-Term Averages:

- **30-day MA: 443** - The price is well below this level, indicating that the medium-term trend has turned bearish.

#### Long-Term Averages:

- **100-day MA: 442**





- **120-day MA:** 434
- **150-day MA:** 431
- **200-day MA:** 433

The price is now trading below all of these key long-term moving averages, which signals a breakdown in broader trend strength. This confirms a shift in momentum toward a more sustained bearish phase unless a reversal takes place.

### Support and Resistance Levels

- **Resistance at 433–443:**  
This zone is now a significant overhead resistance area, encompassing the 20-day, 30-day, and several long-term moving averages.
- **Support at 410 (current level):**  
Price is testing immediate support. A break below could lead to further downside with the next psychological support near 400.

### Stochastic Oscillator

- **K%: 0.00, D%: 0.00**  
The stochastic oscillator has reached extreme oversold conditions. While this suggests potential for a bounce, confirmation via price action or volume is needed. Oversold conditions can persist during strong downtrends.

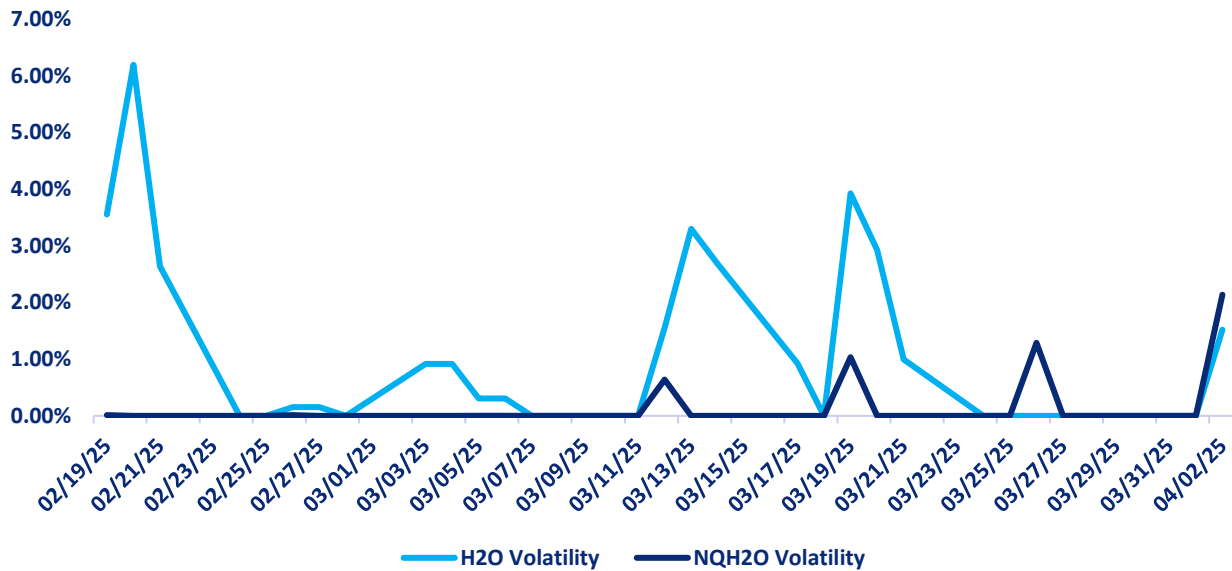
### Summary and Key Takeaways

- The short- and medium-term momentum is clearly bearish, with price action firmly below the 5-day through 30-day moving averages.
- The long-term trend has also weakened, as the price is trading below the 100-day to 200-day moving averages.
- The stochastic oscillator is in extreme oversold territory, which may signal exhaustion in selling pressure and a possible near-term reversal, but no clear buy signal is confirmed yet.
- The 410 level is a key technical support. A decisive break lower could open the way for a retest of psychological levels around 400.
- To regain positive momentum, the price must reclaim the 433-443 zone, which now represents significant resistance.



## H2O FUTURES AND NQH2O INDEX VOLATILITY ANALYSIS

### Daily H2O Futures Volatility vs Daily NQH2O Index Volatility



### DAILY VOLATILITY

Over the last week the April contract daily future volatility high has been 0.51%.

ASSET	1 YEAR (%)	2 MONTH (%)	1 MONTH (%)	1 WEEK (%)
NQH2O INDEX	29.46%	3.00%	1.63%	1.20%
H2O FUTURES	N/A	14.07%	6.88%	2.15%

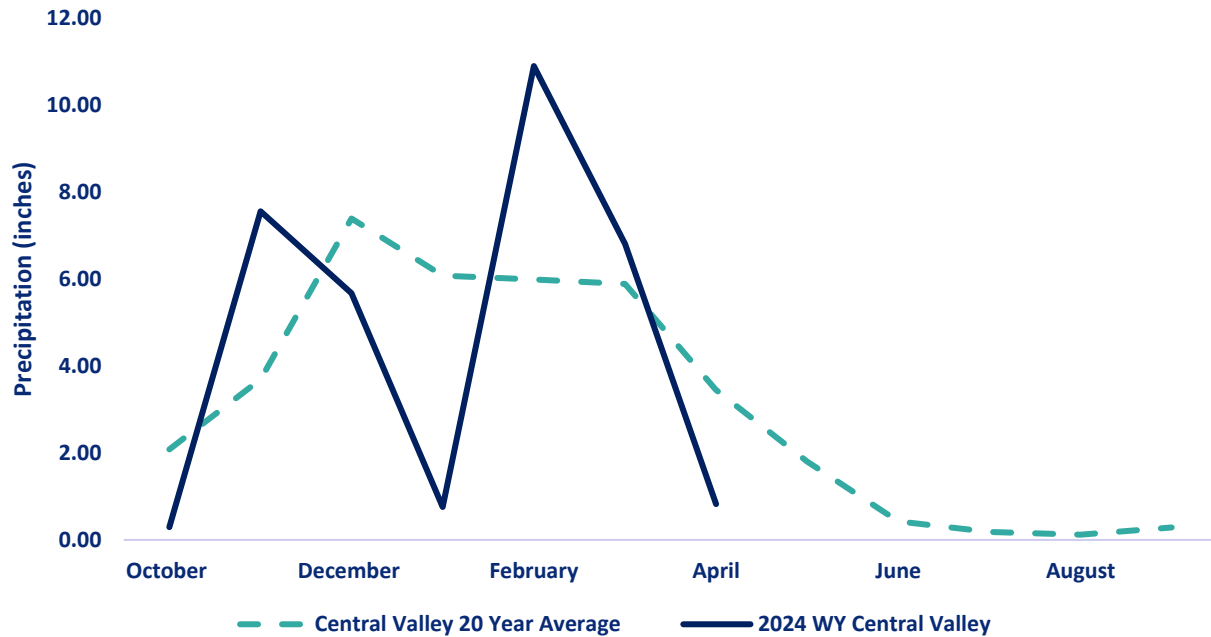
For the week ending on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the two-month futures volatility is at a premium of 11.07% to the index, down 1.02% from the previous week. The one-month futures volatility is at a premium of 5.03% to the index, down 6.59%. The one-week futures volatility is at a discount of 0.95% to the index volatility.

*The 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 Central Valley, California.  
Data as of 02/04/2025

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)	0.79	0.79	22.17	86	72
TULARE 6 STATION (6SI)	0.87	0.87	33.86	84	89
NORTHERN SIERRA 8 STATION (8SI)	0.81	0.81	19.23	97	116
CENTRAL VALLEY AVERAGE	0.82	0.82	23.88	89	92

## RESERVOIR STORAGE

RESERVOIR	STORAGE (AF)	% CAPACITY	LAST YEAR % CAPACITY	*% HISTORICAL AVERAGE
TRINITY LAKE	2,054,694	84	78	116
SHASTA LAKE	3,932,740	86	89	111
LAKE OROVILLE	2,958,688	86	89	121
SAN LUIS RES	1,814,518	89	72	104

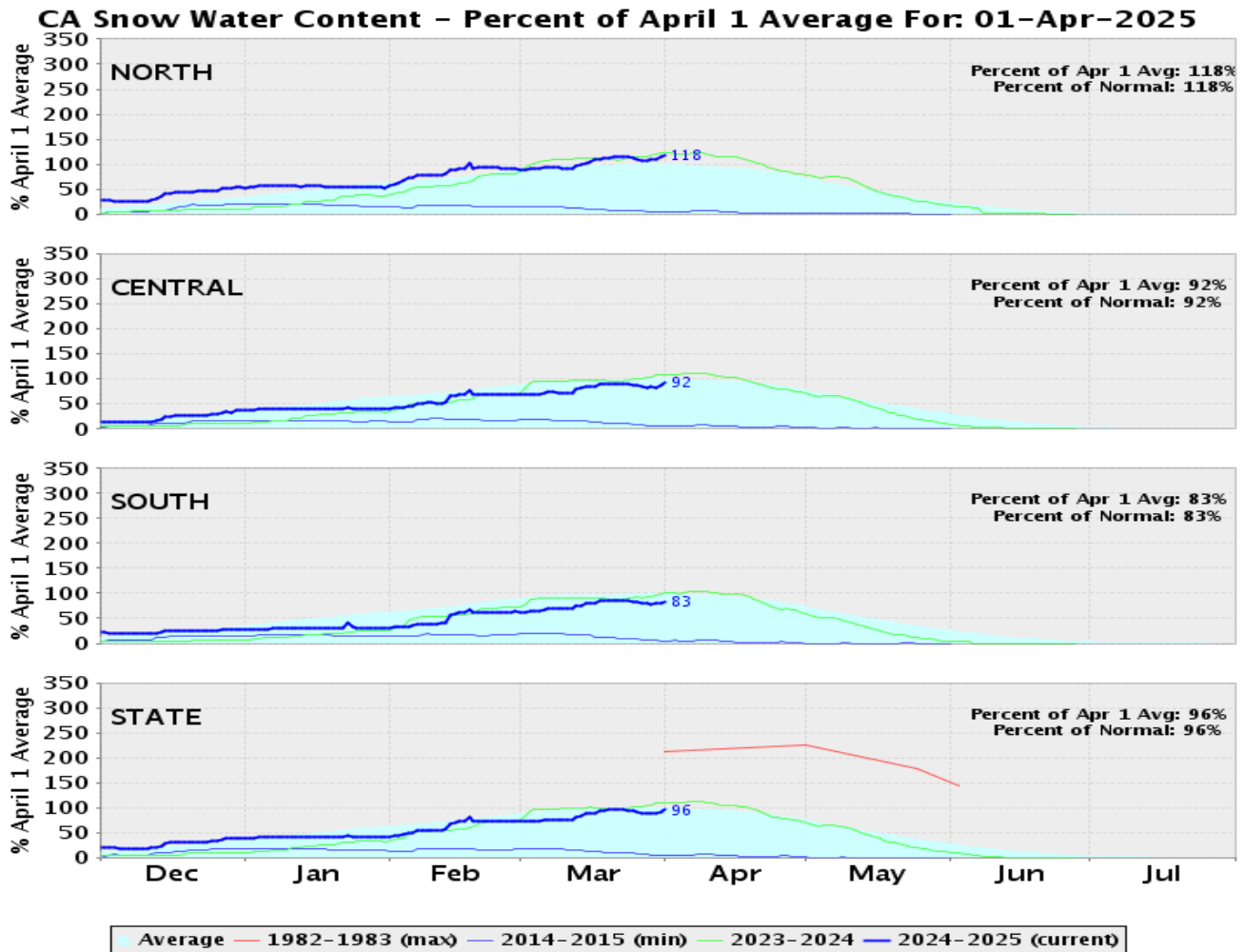
\*% Historical Average is based on a daily average that is interpolated from historical monthly averages. The monthly averages are computed using monthly data from water year 1991 to 2024. The monthly averages are updated every 5 years using a sliding 30 year period.

[Reference: California Water Data Exchange](#)



# VELES WATER WEEKLY REPORT

## 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	30.6	-0.1	123	118	118
CENTRAL SIERRA	25.3	-2	109	91	91
SOUTHERN SIERRA	18.9	-0.2	100	84	84
STATEWIDE	25.1	-0.3	111	96	96

\*Snow Water Equivalent, or SWE, is a commonly used measurement used by hydrologists and water managers to gauge 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

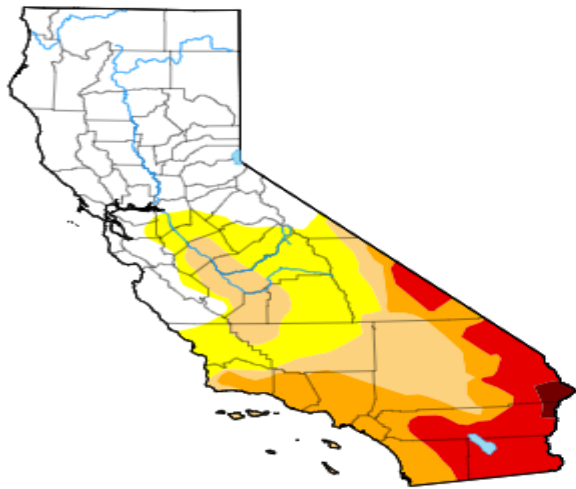




# DROUGHT MONITOR

## California

[Home](#) / [California](#)



Map released: Thurs. March 27, 2025

Data valid: March 25, 2025 at 8 a.m. EDT

### Intensity

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

### Authors

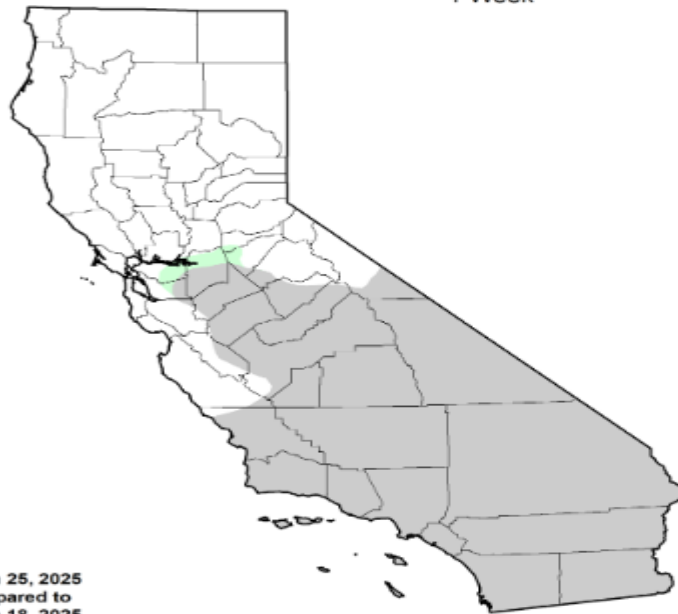
United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[Brad Rippey](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Denise Gutzmer](#), National Drought Mitigation Center

### U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - California 1 Week



March 25, 2025  
compared to  
March 18, 2025



- 5 Class Degradation
- 4 Class Degradation
- 3 Class Degradation
- 2 Class Degradation
- 1 Class Degradation
- No Change
- 1 Class Improvement
- 2 Class Improvement
- 3 Class Improvement
- 4 Class Improvement
- 5 Class Improvement

[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

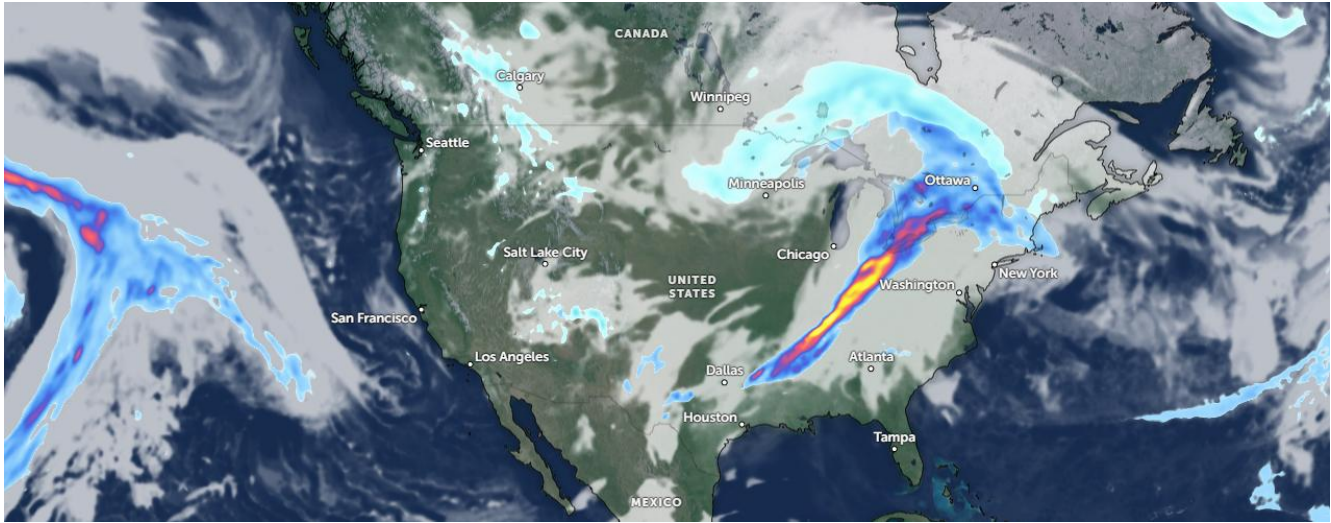
Week	Date	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	DSCI
Current	<a href="#">2025-03-25</a>	43.71	56.29	39.81	24.73	11.76	0.73	133
Last Week to Current	<a href="#">2025-03-18</a>	42.90	57.10	39.81	24.73	11.76	0.73	134
3 Months Ago to Current	<a href="#">2024-12-24</a>	43.49	56.51	16.72	5.70	1.03	0.00	80
Start of Calendar Year to Current	<a href="#">2024-12-31</a>	40.90	59.10	31.52	5.70	1.06	0.00	97
Start of Water Year to Current	<a href="#">2024-10-01</a>	28.40	71.60	10.67	0.08	0.00	0.00	82
One Year Ago to Current	<a href="#">2024-03-26</a>	95.46	4.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5

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

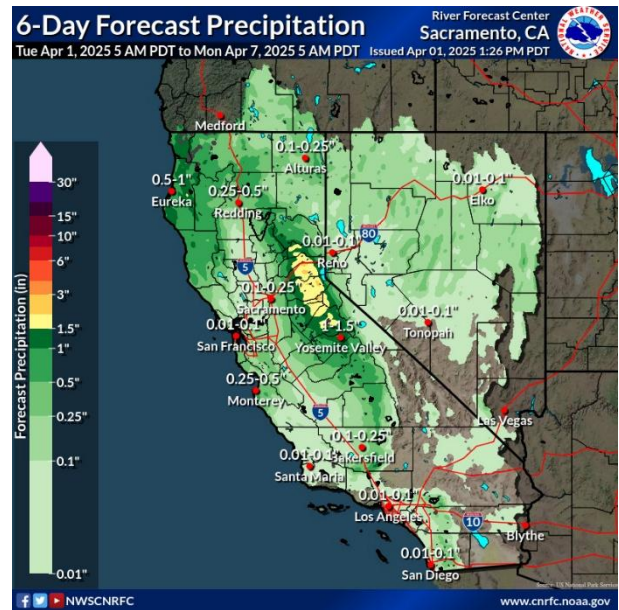
A storm in the Pacific may bring some precipitation and inclement weather to California next week but the main action is a line of severe storms stretching for Dallas to Ottawa moving eastwards with extreme weather conditions associated with it. The western US and Midwest is partly cloudy with scattered cloud cover.



### 10 Day Outlook

Upper level trough moves SE through the region on Friday as shortwave ridging builds in behind it. Isolated light precip is possible over the Srn Sierra and over Srn CA (mainly over San Bernardino Mtns and south into the San Diego County mtns) and over NV on Friday. Precip amounts generally expected to be less than a tenth of an inch. Shortwave ridging over the region on Saturday between systems as the trough moves through the four corners region and another low pressure system approaches the west coast. Dry and warmer conditions expected on Saturday.

Map Ref: Zoom Earth



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



### WESTERN WEATHER DISCUSSION

Occasional precipitation continued to fall across roughly the northern half of the region, further improving high-elevation snowpack, as well as spring and summer runoff prospects. Drought improvements of up to one category were introduced from the northern Great Basin to the northern Rockies. Meanwhile, dry weather returned across the Southwest, following some late-season precipitation that was heaviest in parts of southern California but did not reach the southern Rockies. In fact, significant increases of all drought categories were introduced in New Mexico, parts of which have been affected by the same windy, dusty weather that has been plaguing the southern Plains.

Reference:

Lindsay Johnson, National Drought Mitigation Center

Richard Tinker, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



## WATER NEWS

### CALIFORNIA WATER NEWS

#### **California solar on canals initiative moves forward**

The California Solar Canal Initiative (CSCI) aims to increase the number of solar installations on California's canals.

The initiative is led by the University of Southern California (USC) Dornsife Public Exchange and independent advisory Solar AquaGrid, and includes faculty from seven universities, six of which are in California.

A 2021 study conducted by researchers from University of California, Merced, found that covering large sections of California's 4,000 miles of canals with arrays of solar panels could help conserve water, reduce air pollution, save land and generate clean energy using existing land and infrastructure.

The [Merced study](#) showed that covering the public water delivery system infrastructure in California with solar panels can generate 13 GW of energy annually, equal to what was, at the time, about one sixth of the state's current installed capacity and about half the projected new capacity needed to meet the state's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 40% by 2030. The study also found that solar on canals could reduce land use by up to 50,000 acres because solar arrays would be placed on existing infrastructure.

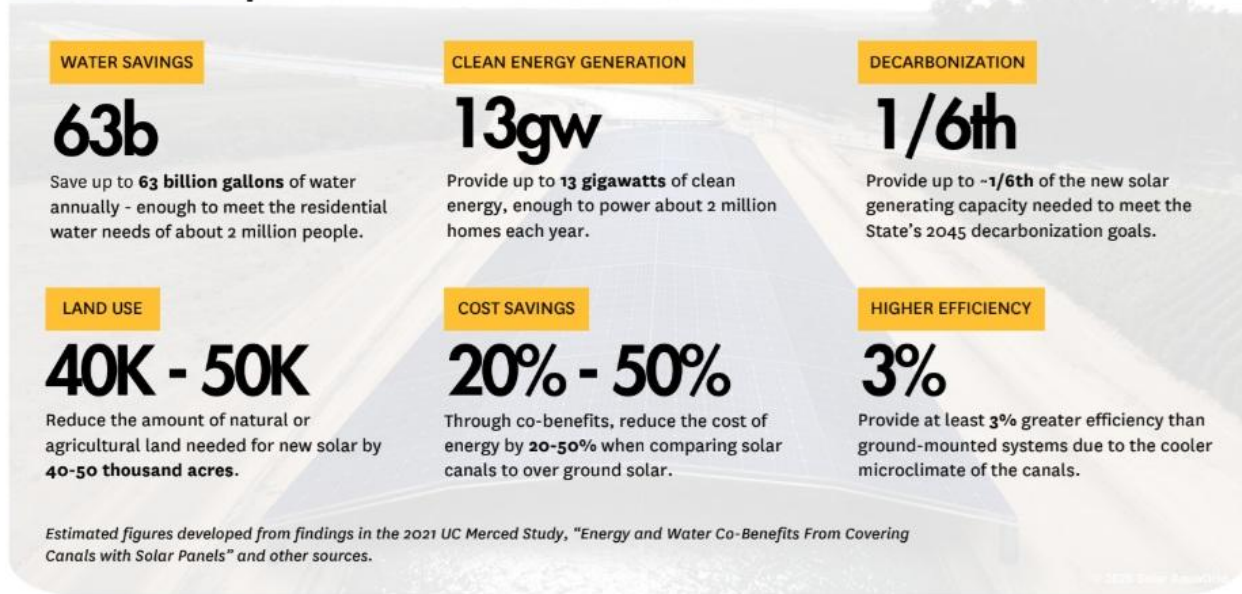
[Project Nexus](#) was the result of the 2021 study, which is a \$20 million solar on canal project funded by the State of California and conducted by the Turlock Irrigation District, partnering with the Department of Water Resource, Solar AquaGrid and the University of California, Merced. The project is serving as a proof of concept and pilot, with construction underway of solar arrays over one 20-foot wide and one 110-foot wide canal. Expected to be operational this year, the project also includes energy storage to study how storage facilities can support the local electric grid when solar generation is suboptimal due to cloud cover.

The 2025 CSCI project aims to use the information gained in the 2021 study and move forward with deployment first by providing data on locations and willing communities to government agencies, utilities and community members.





## Potential Impact of California Solar Canals



CSCI researchers will collaborate with the state agencies responsible for water, land and energy: California Department of Water Resources, California Natural Resource Agency and California Energy Commission.

“California is leading the way in exploring innovative solutions to tackle climate change and strengthen our water and energy resilience,” said CNRA Secretary Wade Crowfoot. “We are excited to see top research institutions come together to help deploy solar panels over water canals — a big idea with great potential. Science-driven collaborations like this one are critical to guide our path forward.”

USC Dornsife Public Exchange has assembled a multidisciplinary research team from faculty at seven universities: University of Southern California, University of California (UC) Merced, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC Law San Francisco, San Jose State University, and the University of Kansas.

Solar AquaGrid, is leading an advisory council of experts from government, academia, and the private sector to ensure that its outcomes are actionable.

Original Article: [PV magazine by Anne Fischer](#)

## PG&E conducts snow survey in Lassen Volcanic National Park to determine snow melt potential for hydroelectricity

On Tuesday, a crew from Pacific Gas & Electric took to the skies in a helicopter to access a remote part of the Lassen Volcanic National for their snow survey.

PG&E, which is dependent on the snow melt to help generate hydro-electricity around the state of California, conducted the survey to help predict just how much snow melt is expected in the coming months.





## VELES WATER WEEKLY REPORT

"The Northstate is a beautiful place and to be here in the Lassen Volcanic National Park, almost in winter when people can't get in this far, is fantastic," said Paul Moreno, spokesperson for PG&E.

Due to the amount of snowfall at the park making it impossible to get where they need to go by car or on foot, PG&E has to fly their snow survey crew in with a helicopter in order to conduct the survey.

"Somebody in a day to day situation doesn't even know that this work is occurring," said Dan Stephens, a hydrographer on the snow survey crew for PG&E. "It's an obscure job, but it underpins the effort to understand the quantity of water across the landscape and how its going to provide a societal need."

While conducting the survey, PG&E says their crew is checking for two things: the depth of the snow and the water content of the snow itself.

"The good news is that with this amount of water available for hydropower will provide clean, reliable, cost-effective energy for our customers and we can use hydropower throughout the summer and into the fall seasons, and it doesn't rely on the wind blowing and the sun shining," said Moreno. "Hydropower is there whenever you need it."

At the conclusion of the survey, PG&E says that crews measured 119 inches of water content at the measurement location in Lassen Volcanic National Park, which is 11 percent above average for this time of the year.

With more snowfall expected for storms that are anticipated to move through the area, PG&E says that the numbers gathered by the snow survey crew today can change.

Original Article: [Action News Now by Nathan Espindula](#)

### **Kern farmers agree to continue funding the delta tunnel – with caveats**

The Kern County Water Agency [voted](#) Thursday to pony up its \$32.6 million share of planning and pre-construction costs for the so-called delta tunnel after its member districts gave a somewhat grudging go-ahead.

This phase of the tunnel is expected to cost \$300 million, a tiny fraction of the eventual cost, estimated at \$20 billion by the Department of Water Resources but closer to \$50 billion by environmental opponents.

"The decision was not easy for us. There were a lot of thoughts and discussion about dropping out entirely or lowering our participation level," said Sheridan Nicholas, General Manager of the Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District. The district ultimately voted at its [March 12](#) meeting to continue funding the tunnel but sent a letter to the agency with contingencies.

Several other agricultural districts that receive water through contracts held by the agency [also sent letters](#) outlining concerns about the tunnel's affordability, among other issues, and urging the agency to operate with greater transparency and collaboration before decisions are made on the final funding agreement.



## VELES WATER WEEKLY REPORT

The stakes are high for the districts, including the Semitropic Water Storage District whose share in this funding round will be \$917,000 in 2026 and \$1.375 million in 2027.

That's on top of \$38.9 million paid by Kern districts from 2021 through 2024, not to mention the [\\$13 million they spent](#) for studies and planning on the original twin tunnels proposed by then Gov. Jerry Brown.

Kern ag districts want more direct participation in the process and some basic operational information, according to the raft of letters sent to the agency prior to Thursday's vote.

Of particular concern is how [Article 21 water](#) will be handled using the tunnel, known as the Delta Conveyance Project. Article 21 refers to excess water in the system after all contractors have received their full allotment and there is more precipitation in the forecast.

Currently, Article 21 water is delivered to State Water Project (SWP) contractors through the California Aqueduct, which all contractors help pay to maintain and operate.

Not all SWP contractors are paying for the tunnel, however. So, districts are asking who has priority if Article 21 water is moved through the tunnel?

Agency Board President Eric Averett said the agency would make sure that question and others are answered before the districts, called "member units" in the agency, are tapped for more money.

"Our commitment is to make sure the member units are making informed decisions and that you guys are part and parcel to this so we make sure as we move forward, we're doing it in lockstep," he said.

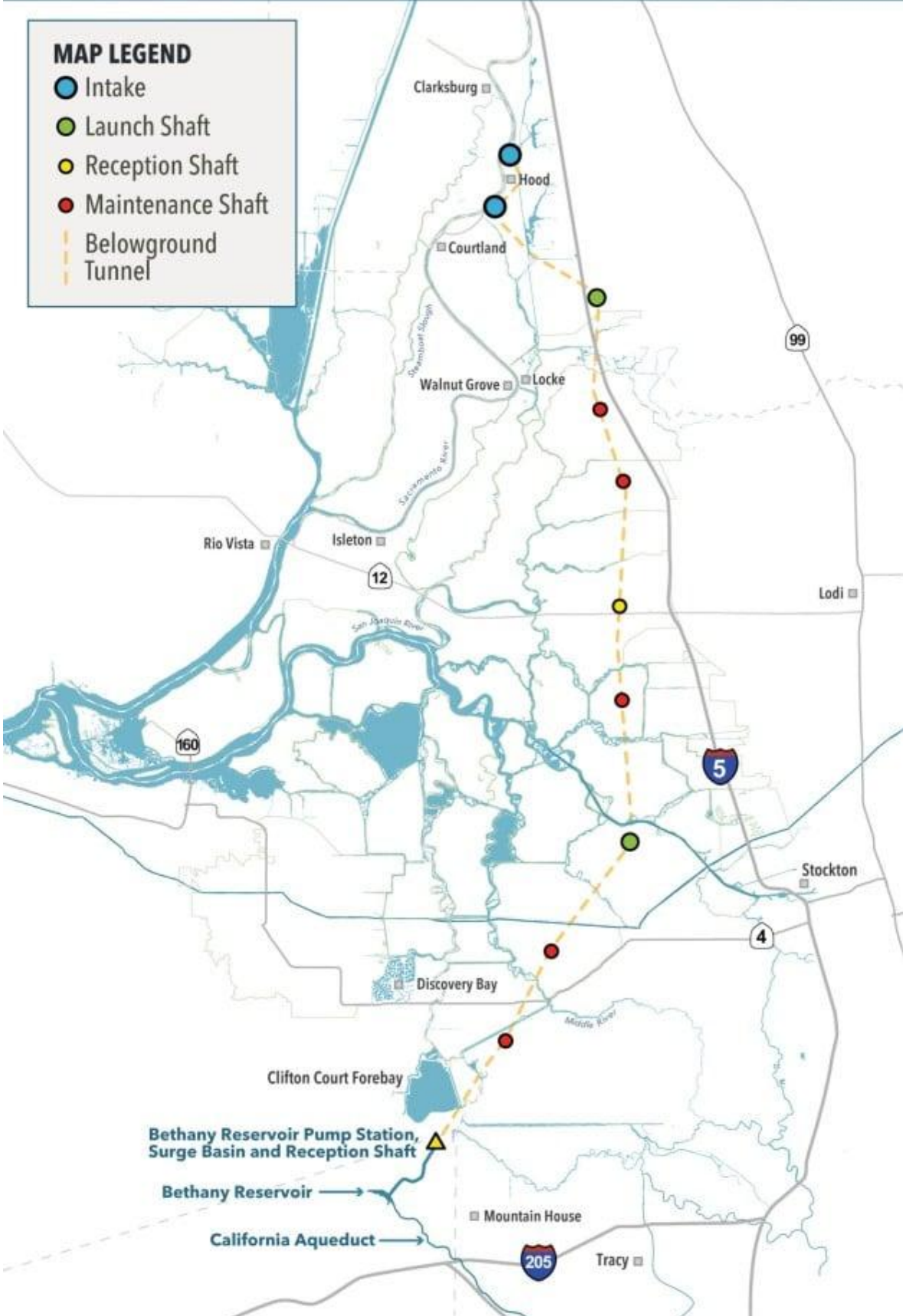


# Delta Conveyance Project

January 2024

**MAP LEGEND**

- Intake
- Launch Shaft
- Reception Shaft
- Maintenance Shaft
- Belowground Tunnel





## VELES WATER WEEKLY REPORT

The ag district letters also addressed several non-tunnel, long-standing issues with the agency, including seeking a more liberal policy for out-of-county water transfers. The letters came from Wheeler Ridge, the Cawelo Water District, Semitropic and Rosedale-Rio Bravo water storage districts and the Westside Water Authority, made up of the Belridge Water Storage District and Lost Hills, Berrenda Mesa and Dudley Ridgewater districts.

Kern County is the second largest contractor on the SWP, making its continued funding of the tunnel critical. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the largest SWP contractor, already committed to \$144 million of that.

The Department of Water Resources, which operates the SWP, has said the tunnel won't bring contractors any "new" water. Its function is to create greater reliability in the system as climate change and ecological conditions in the delta are expected to reduce exports by 570,000 acre feet a year by 2070.

Its greatest benefit, according to DWR, would be during the winter months and under conditions, such as the presence of endangered species, that prevent pumps from moving water out of the delta.

Even during the extreme drought of 2022, DWR calculated the tunnel could have moved an extra 236,000 acre feet to contractors had it been in operations, according to Craig Wallace, the agency's SWP representative.

Original Article: [SJV water by Lois Henry](#)

### **How expensive will water get? County officials won't say, but they expect a sizable rate hike**

County water officials said Thursday that financial challenges they face may force them to substantially raise rates for wholesale water next year, a move that would lead to higher water bills across much of the county.

Officials stressed that their discussions were preliminary and that no decision is scheduled until June.

"What you will be presented with today is a draft, preliminary, early, initial, could-be, might-be, unfinalized, beginning-stage budget," said Nick Serrano, chair of the San Diego County Water Authority board. "This is not a final product, nor is it a proposal that this board is supporting at this point."

Serrano and other board members said many variables could change before June, including new deals to sell the authority's extra water supply and new statistics on customer demand.

But water authority officials said they have "little leeway" to avoid what is now projected to be a double-digit percentage rate increase next year.

The authority's rate stabilization fund has been substantially depleted to soften rate increases earlier in the pandemic and during the last two years.



## VELES WATER WEEKLY REPORT

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has already approved an 8% rate increase for calendar year 2026, which will raise the county water authority's costs.

While the authority has made water sale deals in recent years that have yielded \$40 million, those have left fewer opportunities for potential additional deals to pursue.

The Trump administration could try to cancel a \$19.4 million grant the authority was awarded last spring by the U.S. Department of the Interior for an intake pipe at the Carlsbad desalination plant.

And while demand can fluctuate, the largest variable appears to be how sharply March rains cut back on customers' March irrigation usage. Drops in usage make the authority's finances worse, not better.

A jump in wholesale rates would force nearly every local water agency to pass on the extra costs to its customers, but just how much gets passed on could vary widely.

Some agencies buy less wholesale water than others, especially those with groundwater basin storage or other local water supplies. And some agencies have already built projected water authority increases into their rates.

Water authority officials say the fundamental problem they face is that they borrowed money to build and maintain a significantly larger water storage and delivery system than is now needed.

Officials expected demand to continually grow as population rose and development expanded, but member agencies have been buying steadily less wholesale water during the last two decades.

General Manager Dan Denham said the authority is in the middle of a three-year plan to stabilize its finances and smooth rates so they rise more slowly and predictably.

Making the authority more nimble when it comes to making deals with other water agencies in Southern California is a key goal, he said. Settling ongoing litigation with the Metropolitan Water District over rates and other issues could help with that.

"It put us in a box in terms of operations and not having the flexibility to move water around," Denham said of the multiyear litigation. "I really look forward to getting this settlement agreement done."

Denham and other general managers have also formed a working group that will begin meeting soon to discuss strategies for cooperation among water agencies, including deals for excess supplies.

The working group meetings will be held behind closed doors with no board members or other participants or observers.

"We need to have a very candid discussion amongst the GMs in this region as to what kind of road map we're on," he said.





## VELES WATER WEEKLY REPORT

The water authority will also soon begin analyzing whether it should buy the privately owned Carlsbad Desalination Plant. Denham said assessing the financial risks and the condition of the plant would be key precursors to such a move.

“All of that is going to have to start occurring in the next two years,” he said.

Losing the \$19.4 million federal grant would be a major blow.

“We still expect those funds, but until it’s in our checking account, I don’t think we’re going to be very comfortable,” said Pierce Rossum, the authority’s rate and debt manager.

Officials are slated to propose a range of possible rate increases for 2026 in April and then narrow that down to a specific proposed hike in May. A final board vote is scheduled for June.

The city of San Diego, which controls 10 of the board’s 36 seats, has had a history of successfully lobbying to lower rate increases.

Officials last year proposed a hike between 16% and 22% in April, but the board ended up approving a 14% increase.

Original Article: [The San Deigo Union Tribune by David Garrick](#)

### **California snowpack is near-average — what does this mean for water supplies?**

Despite some heavy rainstorms and squalls of snow in recent months, the Sierra Nevada snowpack today stands at 90% of average, according to state officials.

This year’s measurements mark the first below-average snowpack since 2022, when it dropped to a dismal 38% of the historical average. Last year at this time, the statewide calculation reached 110% of the average, and in 2023, the snowpack was one of the largest ever, measuring more than twice the average.

More snow is on the way, however, which could make this year right around average.

“This will be the third year in a row that the snowpack conditions at the start of April are near or above the average,” which is “great news for the state,” said Andy Reising, manager of the Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit.

Snow levels in the Sierra Nevada at this time of year are considered especially important, since they help water managers determine how much water will be available through the dry season, which typically begins around May.

Sierra Nevada snowpack supplies about a third of the state’s water on average.

As snow fell this morning, a Department of Water Resources survey team measured several spots on the snowy meadow at Phillips Station, a few miles south of Lake Tahoe. The average snow depth was 39.5 inches, with a water content of 17 inches — numbers representing 70% of the April 1 average for that location.



“We hope to add a few more inches before the year is out,” Reising said, noting that storms forecast to cross the Sierra next week could add more snow.

Reising said the erratic winter weather patterns of the past six months “are a good reminder that the next flood or drought could come at any time.”

“We know future years won’t all unfold like this one has, and in addition we know that floods and droughts can happen at any time,” Reising said. “It is the California way of life to expect that.”

Throughout the state’s main mountain range, snowpack averaged from more than 250 sites ranged from above average to considerably below. In the northern Sierra Nevada and southern Cascade peaks, it stands at 108% of the historical April 1 average, but in the central and southern Sierra, it’s just 83% and 81%.

The data reflects a sharp regional discrepancy this winter, with wet conditions prevailing in the northern half of the state and drought across Southern California. Reising noted that Southern California has experienced roughly 50% of its average annual rainfall.

Sierra Nevada snow provides cold runoff that feeds rivers and reservoirs and helps support fish habitat all summer.

“As we near the end of the wet season, our focus shifts to snowpack runoff and whether temperatures allow for a slow melt so we can capture as much of that runoff as possible,” said Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth.

The north-to-south disparity in the state’s precipitation this year “affects how much water the State Water Project will be able to deliver,” she said.

“It’s great news that our state’s snowpack has recovered from several weeks of extremely dry conditions in the heart of our winter storm season,” Nemeth said. “However, it’s not a wet year across the entire Sierra Nevada.”

State officials earlier this week announced that deliveries to water users would be increased this year from an earlier allocation. As of March 25, water users who depend on the State Water Project receive 40% of requested supplies.

A final allocation will be issued in May or June and could result in another increase, according to the department.



The State Water Contractors, which receives and distributes the water to farms and urban areas, mostly in Southern California, issued a statement on March 25 noting a “mismatch in hydrology and exports” from the Delta.

General Manager Jennifer Pierre urged state officials “to continue to pursue modernized infrastructure to further develop scientific rationale to refine regulatory requirements and ramp up adaptive management.”

[Reservoir levels statewide](#) are well above average. In Southern California, in spite of a relatively dry winter, most reservoirs are nearly full. In Northern California, Lake Shasta, the state’s largest reservoir, is 111% of its average capacity for this date. Lake Oroville, the largest reservoir of the State Water Project, is at 120%.

Together, these two reservoirs now contain about 7 million acre-feet of water. While that’s [almost enough water](#) to supply all of the state’s residents for about two years, most of it is diverted to farms.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which manages the Central Valley Project, has also announced an increase in the 2025 allocation of water supplies.

President Donald Trump repeatedly tried to blame water issues and the Los Angeles fires on the Newsom administration’s management of Delta water supplies. Though [corrected repeatedly by media](#) and outspoken officials, he ordered the release of water from two federal reservoirs in late January. San Joaquin Valley farmers and others said the releases wasted water because they came at a time when their crops didn’t need irrigation. That water also doesn’t reach Los Angeles.

California’s ski resorts report mixed results this year. [Mammoth Mountain](#) has reported 248 inches of snow this season, considerably less than the ample amounts that fell during the past two winters but more than the 168 inches in the drought-plagued winter of 2014-15.

Original Article: [Cal Matters by Alastair Bland](#)



## US WATER NEWS

### **Arizona groundwater protection bill advances, but rural residents say it still doesn't do enough**

Republican state lawmakers advanced an Arizona rural groundwater protection bill in the House on Tuesday, but rural stakeholders say the bill doesn't do enough.

Groundwater aquifers are running low in rural areas of the state, but Democrats and Republicans haven't been able to come to an agreement on a conservation plan.

The GOP management plan is in the form of a bill pushed by Sen. Tim Dunn (R-Yuma). It advanced out of a House committee on party lines Tuesday, despite the concerns of speakers and several lawmakers.

The main sticking point is the amount of water use the plan would allow. In Dunn's bill, SB 1520, water users would have to cut up to 10% of their use.

Opponents say that isn't enough.

A group of rural stakeholders held a hearing protesting the bill before the committee hearing and said the maximum cuts to water use should be 25%.

[In January, Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs announced her own alternative](#) groundwater protection proposal, which would require even more cuts to water use, but that bill never got a hearing.

Republican Mohave County Supervisor Travis Lingenfelter is frustrated by the lack of compromise, and said the GOP bill in its current form [will get vetoed, like it did last year](#).

"To just squabble and be so politically divisive on the issue of water; I mean, there's plenty of things for us to argue and fight about, but you can't argue about anything if you don't have water," Lingenfelter said.

He added that one way he and the other members of his rural stakeholder group might be able to put some pressure on Republican lawmakers is to try and leverage a different water issue known as "ag to urban."

Like rural groundwater protection areas, the ag-to-urban concept is supported by Republicans and Democrats, but a bipartisan agreement hasn't come together yet. [The proposal would let agricultural entities in protected groundwater areas](#) sell their land to housing developers.

Since housing land uses less water than agriculture, it would ideally increase the state's housing supply while conserving groundwater.

"I would ask the governor's office to tie the passing of ag-to-urban into law with the passage of something that's worthwhile and that everybody can live with on rural groundwater," Lingenfelter said, adding that making it an urban issue might give it more urgency.



“We've been trying for decades and really trying with our sleeves rolled up since like 2017, he said. “And it's like, if it's a rural issue, our groundwater issues don't get heard, and we're tired of that.

Original Article: [KJZZ Phoenix by Camryn Sanchez](#)

### **AZ drought persists: 'You can't get much lower than this,' experts say of snowmelt**

When hydrographic scientist Luis Hernandez wades into the Salt River in a typical February, he has to watch his footing as the water rushes by.

Runoff from winter precipitation resulting in heavy streamflows can make his job difficult, even dangerous, as he dons his waders to guide Salt River Project's remote-controlled boat into the water.

Although the green and blue boat may be small, it plays an important role in SRP's operations. It measures the velocity of river water and, ultimately, its inflow into Roosevelt Lake, one of the primary reservoirs SRP uses to store water for over 2 million people in Phoenix.

But after months of short-term drought across Arizona, the stream gently rippled by on a February outing. The water level was so low it didn't reach the rocky riverbank. It was a sign of how the lack of precipitation during the 2024 monsoon and the following abnormally dry fall and winter seasons could create problems in the months ahead.

“For a lot of winter, there's been no snow in areas we're usually flying over and measuring the snowpack,” said Bo Svoma, principal climate scientist and meteorologist for SRP. “We haven't done one (snow survey) this year.”

The Salt and Verde Watersheds aren't the only places unusually dry over the last few months. Arizona and much of the Southwest have been in a short-term drought, one of the worst in recent history.

“In terms of short-term drought, it's comparable to 2002, 2018, 2021,” Svoma said. “You can't get much lower than this.”

Phoenix endured its [second-longest dry spell on record](#), with 159 days without measurable rainfall from the end of a lackluster 2024 monsoon through January 2025. In Flagstaff, Arizona's snowiest city, snow on the peaks during most of the season was created by Snowbowl snow machines.

While a few [early March storm systems](#) brought snow and rain across much of the state, it won't be enough to offset months of extreme drought.

“It's going to do very little to move the drought indices in both the short and long term,” said Michael Crimmins, a climatologist at the University of Arizona. “We have precipitation deficits that extend all the way back to the summer. It's just too late in the season.”





But how bad is the drought in Arizona, especially compared to infamous droughts in the state's history?

While tree ring records show dry years are normal across the arid Southwest, climate change could be worsening the effects of modern-day droughts. With each day further into spring, the chances for major storms and significant snowmelt decrease while wildfire risk grows.



### **What the current short-term drought looks like**

This short-term drought is just as bad, if not worse, than notable droughts in Arizona's past. Crimmins believes this event is a "mash-up" of the 2017-2018 and 2020-2021 droughts.

The 2020 monsoon season was poor, triggering a significant short-term drought, but the state received scattered precipitation through the winter in 2021. The fall and winter seasons in 2017 and 2018 were particularly dry and warm as well.

This year's drought is a combination of all three conditions — abnormally dry and warm summer, fall and winter seasons — making it one of the worst short-term droughts on record.

Original Article: [AZ Central by Hayleigh Eveans](#)

### **Utah bans fluoride in public drinking water, a first in the US**

Utah has become the first state to ban [fluoride in public drinking water](#), pushing past [opposition from dentists and national health organizations](#) who warn the move will lead to medical problems that disproportionately affect low-income communities.



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Republican Gov. Spencer Cox signed legislation Thursday barring cities and communities from deciding whether to add the mineral to their water systems.

Florida, Ohio and South Carolina are considering similar measures, while in New Hampshire, North Dakota and Tennessee, lawmakers have rejected them. A bill in Kentucky to make fluoridation optional stalled in the state Senate.

The American Dental Association sharply criticized the Utah law, saying it showed “wanton disregard for the oral health and well-being of their constituents.”

Cavities are the most common chronic childhood disease, the ADA noted. Fluoride strengthens teeth and reduces cavities by [replacing minerals](#) lost during normal wear and tear, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“As a father and a dentist, it is disheartening to see that a proven, public health policy, which exists for the greater good of an entire community’s oral health, has been dismantled based on distorted pseudoscience,” the association’s president, Denver dentist Brett Kessler, said in a statement.

### **Is fluoride unhealthy? Some lawmakers say it is**

The ban, effective May 7, brings into the mainstream concerns over fluoridation that for decades were considered fringe opinions.

It comes weeks after water fluoridation skeptic Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was sworn in as U.S. health secretary. [Kennedy said](#) in November that the administration of then-presidential candidate Donald Trump would advise water systems nationwide to remove fluoride.

Cox, who grew up and raised his own children in a community without fluoridated water, compared it recently to being medicated by the government. Utah lawmakers also said the ban was a matter of personal health choice and that putting fluoride in water is too expensive.

Florida’s surgeon general last year recommended against community water fluoridation because of what he called its “neuropsychiatric risk.” That guidance came after a federal judge ordered the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [to regulate fluoride](#) in drinking water because high levels could pose a risk to the intellectual development of children.

[Federal officials determined](#) last year “with moderate confidence” that there was a link between higher levels of fluoride exposure and lower IQ in kids. But the National Toxicology Program based its conclusion on studies involving fluoride levels at about twice the recommended limit for drinking water. [The amounts of fluoride](#) that can be added to water based on federal guidelines are below levels considered problematic, Kessler said.

### **It’s nearly impossible to get a toxic dose of fluoride in water, the NIH says**

The National Institutes of Health says very high doses of fluoride that can cause sickness are typically the result of rare accidents, such as the unintentional swallowing of fluoride used by dentists’ offices or supplements inappropriately given to children. The agency



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says it's "virtually impossible" to get a toxic dose from fluoride that's added to water or toothpaste at standard levels.

However, communities sometimes [exceed the recommended levels](#) because fluoride occurs naturally at higher levels in certain water sources. In 2011, officials reported that 2 in 5 U.S. adolescents had at least mild tooth streaking or spottiness because of too much fluoride.

Since 2015, federal health officials have recommended a fluoridation level of 0.7 milligrams per liter of water. For five decades before that, the recommended upper range was 1.2 milligrams per liter. The World Health Organization has set a safe limit for fluoride in drinking water of 1.5 milligrams per liter.

### **Fluoride is considered one of the greatest health achievements in 100 years**

The addition of low levels of fluoride to drinking water has long been considered one of the greatest public health achievements of the past century: one of the most cost-effective ways to prevent tooth decay on a large scale.

In 1950, federal officials endorsed water fluoridation to prevent tooth decay, and they continued to promote it even after fluoride toothpaste brands hit the market several years later. More than 200 million people in the U.S., or almost two-thirds of the population, [receive fluoridated public water](#).

Original Article: [AP News by Mathew Brown, Hannah Schoenbaum and Mead Gruver](#)

### **Seven Colorado River states have mere weeks to reach water agreement after long impasse**

Colorado River states have weeks remaining to resolve deep divides over how to manage the river for years to come, officials at a water conference in southwestern Colorado said Friday.

"We have a real ticking-clock problem in this basin right now," Chuck Cullom, executive director of the Upper Colorado River Commission, told an audience of almost 200 water experts, ranchers, water managers and others gathered Friday for the Southwestern Water Conservation District's annual seminar. "Folks are working hard."

Basin officials must submit a joint management proposal by May for it to be considered in the larger federal process that will decide how the river is managed. A seven-state agreement would send a clear signal to federal decision-makers about how the basin wants to manage its own water future. But for months, basin state officials at the center of negotiations have been at odds.

These state meetings have resumed in earnest, and the seven basin states have been meeting about every two weeks since January, Cullom said.

The current river management agreement lapses fully in September 2026, and there are many steps left in a larger federal process before a new management plan is finalized. If



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the states can reach an agreement by May, then the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation can consider the proposal as part of its longer process.

That process aims to identify different ways to manage the river's key reservoirs, like lakes Mead and Powell, share water cuts, assess environmental impacts and more for years to come.

Lakes Mead and Powell make up about 92% of the total reservoir capacity for the basin. The reservoirs' water levels dropped to historic lows in recent years, threatening a vital storage system that helps pace the flow of water for 40 million people across the West. If the seven basin states cannot come to consensus, they will forfeit a chance to have a strong, united voice in their own water future. Without a basinwide proposal, the federal government will move forward with its own management options based on a variety of proposals, letters, climate models and more.

Without a basin states' agreement, the federal government's approach will lead to significant cuts in the Lower Basin states — Arizona, California and Nevada, Cullom said, [based on a report from the Bureau of Reclamation](#).

With or without basin state consensus, the Bureau of Reclamation does not plan to continue its current management approach, which would run the system "into the mud" according to the federal analysis, Cullom said.

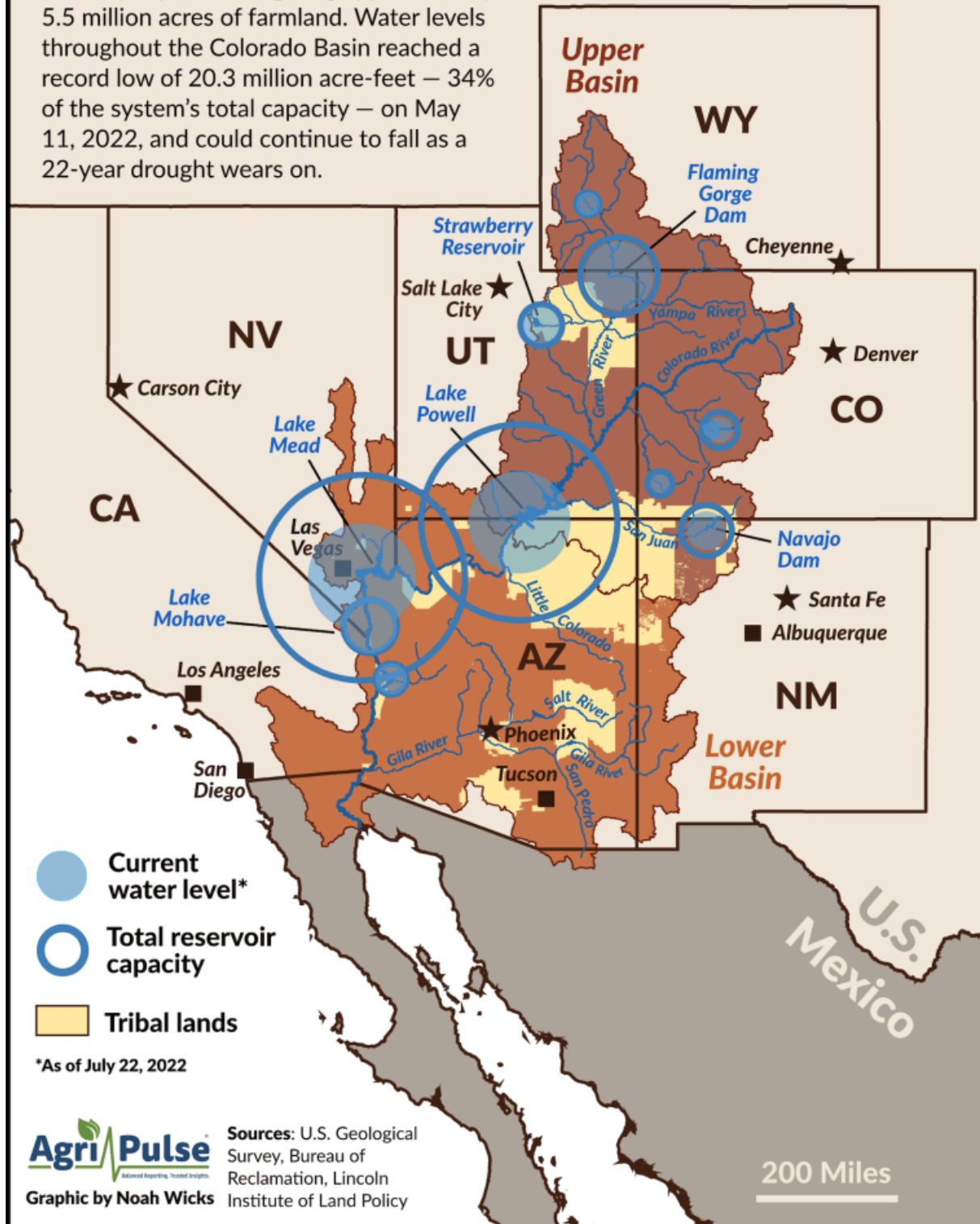
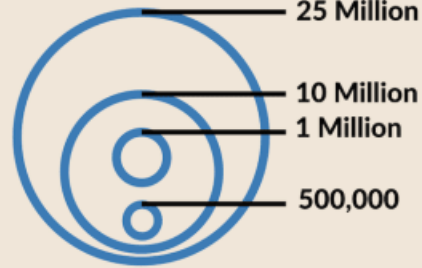




# Water in the Colorado Basin

The Colorado River and its tributaries flow through seven U.S. states and 22 tribal communities, supplying water to nearly 40 million people and irrigating approximately 5.5 million acres of farmland. Water levels throughout the Colorado Basin reached a record low of 20.3 million acre-feet – 34% of the system’s total capacity – on May 11, 2022, and could continue to fall as a 22-year drought wears on.

Amount of water (in acre-feet)



\*As of July 22, 2022





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Colorado River Basin covers 245,000 square miles in the West. (Agri-Pulse)

The Bureau of Reclamation has already outlined five “Franken-alternatives,” as Cullom described them, which combine facets of various proposals, including those submitted by tribal nations, environmental groups, the Upper Basin states — Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming — and the Lower Basin states.

All of the federal alternatives aim to avoid the chance that water levels in lakes Mead and Powell would drop so low that the reservoirs’ dams could not generate hydropower, Cullom said.

Some Lower Basin officials [called in February for a new review](#) of the future management options, saying their proposal was not adequately considered by former President Joe Biden’s administration.

Their proposal includes larger cuts in the Upper Basin than officials in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming want to see.

Cullom, who works with the Upper Basin states, said that century-old water agreements allocated water to the Upper Basin so it would be able to grow long into its future.

“For someone to come and tell you, ‘You need to shrink,’ would be antithetical, anathema to what you were promised in 1922,” Cullom said, referring to the 1922 Colorado River Compact, which outlined water sharing in the basin. “The Lower Basin has achieved its full use — some would argue maybe a skosh more. ... But you all have not.”

Regardless of the outcome of the state negotiations, officials agree new Colorado River management rules must be finalized by August 2026 so they can be used starting in October 2026, Cullom said.

These state negotiations are only one part of the larger Colorado River conversation. Mexico-U.S. negotiations over Colorado River water are being held through a separate process.

The Trump administration is making unprecedented moves in Colorado River relations with Mexico. This month, the administration denied a special request to deliver Colorado River water to the city of Tijuana for the first time in 81 years because Mexico is behind on water owed to the U.S. from the Rio Grande River under a 1944 treaty, [according to news reports](#).

Original Article: [The Colorado Sun by Shannon Mullane](#)

### **Trump’s denial of Mexico’s Colorado River request sparks concerns over future water negotiations**

The Trump administration’s unprecedented decision to deny a delivery of water to Mexico is raising alarm among experts, who fear it could jeopardize future cross-border negotiations in an increasingly thirsty region.



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The refusal, which marked the [first such rejection](#) in 81 years, pertained to a special request from Mexico for the transfer of additional Colorado River water to the city of Tijuana. Defending this decision, the U.S. State Department accused Mexico of failing to uphold commitments to Texas included in a 1944 water-sharing treaty.

Stephen Mumme, a political scientist at Colorado State University, characterized the move as both irrational and potentially harmful.

Mumme, who is also a nonresident fellow at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy, said that if he was one of the seven Colorado River basin state commissioners, he would be "really ticked off right now," as those states are in the throes of long-term renegotiations with Mexico regarding their shared resource.

"This is not designed to encourage Mexican cooperation, and Mexico can drag its feet in any number of ways," he added.

Through [the 1944 treaty](#) — which focused on the "utilization of waters of the Colorado and Tijuana rivers and of the Rio Grande" — the U.S. pledged to convey Colorado River water to Mexico, while Mexico agreed to make deliveries to the U.S. from the Rio Grande.

The treaty also created the joint International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), which is responsible for managing shared water deliveries and associated infrastructure. Mexico is entitled to 1.5 million acre-feet of Colorado River water each year, in line with the artery's historic flow of from Colorado to the Gulf of California in the Mexican state of Sonora.

For context, U.S. Colorado River basin states are entitled to 15 million acre-feet, and the average American household consumes about 1 acre-foot of water annually.

Regarding the Rio Grande, the 1944 treaty directs Mexico to deliver 1.75 million-acre feet to the U.S. over the course of a five-year distribution cycle — with the proviso that Mexico can carry over deficits from one cycle to the next. Over the years, the country has accrued considerable Rio Grande water debt and has fallen behind on its water-sharing payments.

The U.S. State Department [harped on this point](#) last week, posting on the social platform X that Mexico's shortfalls "are decimating American agriculture."

But Mumme maintained Mexico is "absolutely compliant with the treaty," which allows for "extraordinary drought" and enables the countries to agree on mutually acceptable emergency measures.

As of December, about 55.4 percent of the Rio Grande basin was experiencing what the [North American Drought Monitor](#) classifies as "moderate to exceptional drought."

Data from the IBWC shows that from the October 2020 beginning of the [current five-year cycle](#) to present day, Mexico has delivered 488,634 acre-feet of water total. This amounts to just 28 percent of Mexico's total requirement.



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Given the fact the current five-year cycle ends this October, Mumme recognized “that there’s no chance in hell that they’re going to meet it.”

“This would be the second time that we’ve been in this situation,” he said, noting that the first time was in 1997. “The treaty provides that the U.S. can extend forbearance and allow Mexico to roll over its debt into a second cycle.”

Gabriel Eckstein, a professor at the Texas A&M University School of Law, agreed that “there’s no way they’re going to meet the obligation” and that “Texas is going to blow its gasket.”

“Unless a hurricane comes in and dumps a ton of water, this is going to be the new reality for years,” Eckstein told The Hill.

On Friday, record-breaking rainfall brought flash floods to the Rio Grande Valley, leading to what Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller described in a statement as “a devastating tragedy” amid widespread community destruction.

“While rain was desperately needed, the sheer volume that has fallen in this region has caused severe harm,” Miller said. “The rain also fell downstream of the Rio Grande River and is unlikely to replenish water levels in Falcon Reservoir, where relief is still urgently needed.”

In November, the U.S. and Mexico [signed the Minute 331 agreement](#), which focused on improving the reliability of Rio Grande water deliveries — in part by suggesting two alternative tributaries through which the transfers could occur.

Maria-Elena Giner, the U.S. commissioner for the IBWC, referred to the “overstretch water resources” in a statement at the time, adding “that the status quo was not acceptable.”

Minute 331 also promoted the development of tools that could improve conservation and efficiency, including new control infrastructure, water reuse technologies, irrigation modernization and desalination projects.

Original Article: [The Hill by Sharon Udasin](#)

### **\$50 million in federal funding won't reach Arizona projects because of government shutdown bill**

In Arizona, \$50 million in federal [funding](#) for local projects was eliminated as part of the government shutdown resolution that passed Congress earlier this month. The money is part of billions of federal dollars for local projects that won’t be disbursed.

Of those funds, \$34 million was designated by Republican Congressman Juan Ciscomani for communities across his district. Part of that would have funded upgrading Tucson’s police vehicle [fleet](#) and revamping the city’s water system.

Tucson Mayor Regina Romero said the city will reapply for the funding but also look for alternative revenue sources.



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"It undermines not just the funding cycle, but the faith in the system itself," Romero said.

She also said the city has found it difficult to contact federal officials amidst the Trump administration's cuts to the federal workforce.

"We are already confronting the inability of being able to talk to people at HUD and other departments," she said.

Oro Valley was [set](#) to receive \$7 million in federal funding to address repair bridges throughout the community. One of the town's engineer's said the loss in funding won't have an "immediate" impact on the schedule for bridge repairs.

Karl Shaddock, who's the assistant to the town manager of Oro Valley, said they hope the bridge repairs are taken under special consideration when they reapply for the funds next fiscal year.

In a statement to KJZZ, Ciscomani's office said they'll be working with project recipients to find alternative funding.

"Unfortunately, as I have conveyed to all of this year's recipients, I am very disappointed that the bipartisan Continuing Resolution Congress passed did not include any of the funds I secured through my work on the Appropriations Committee," he said.

In total, \$13 billion worth of federal funding towards local projects nationwide was eliminated by the government shutdown resolution.

Original Article: [KJZZ Phoenix by Nick Karmia](#)

## GLOBAL WATER NEWS

### **Thames Water names US private equity group KKR as preferred bidder**

Thames Water has picked the US investment firm KKR to take a stake in the business, as the embattled water company fights to stave off nationalisation.

The UK's biggest water supplier, which is struggling under a debt pile of close to £20bn, said it had selected KKR as a "preferred partner" as it seeks to secure fresh equity funding for its operations [by the end of June](#). The New York-based private equity firm is expected to acquire a stake in Thames worth £4bn.

The UK-based business water retailer Castle, with more than 250,000 customers, had also put in a bid for £4bn, Bloomberg News reported last week. Hong Kong-based CK Infrastructure Holdings, part of CK Hutchison, and London-based investment group Covalis Capital were also among the bidders.



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Thames's chief financial officer [quit on Friday](#). Alastair Cochran, who had also recently served as interim co-chief executive at Thames, is leaving at a critical time, after Thames agreed to take on billions more debt from its creditors after a court ruling earlier in March.

Thames, which serves 16 million customers in London and south-east England, said: "The company remains focused on putting Thames [Water](#) on a more stable financial foundation, implementing its turnaround plan and delivering a market-led solution that is in the best interests of customers, UK taxpayers and the wider economy."

It expects to agree a deal with KKR by the end of June, and complete it in the second half of the year.

KKR is already involved in the UK water industry, as a minority shareholder in Northumbrian Water. Thames and Northumbrian have both asked the competition watchdog [to examine a decision](#) by the industry regulator, Ofwat, on how much they can increase bills over the next five years – although Thames has since [agreed to delay its appeal](#).

Thames' announcement on Monday means that senior bondholders will take a hefty "haircut" on their loans, as expected. KKR's proposal will lead to a "material impairment" of the company's class A debt and discussions continue in relation to other aspects of the proposal, Thames added.

Thames has been at the centre of growing public anger over the state of the privatised water industry, as consumers face steeply rising bills while companies have been criticised for pumping raw sewage into rivers and waterways.

Cat Hobbs, the founder and director of the campaign group We Own It, said: "KKR is a private equity firm that [inspired](#) a book and film about corporate greed called Barbarians at the Gate.

"In 1989, Thatcher's privatisation of water opened the gate to the 'barbarians' and gave them the keys to the kingdom. With record levels of sewage pollution and water bills going up by 26% this week, what we are witnessing is the catastrophic failure of that privatisation experiment."

Most of the [six bidders](#) were seeking reassurance that they would be able to avoid or manage future fines and punishments for poor performance.

The Guardian [revealed in March](#) that Thames had asked Ofwat to be spared billions of pounds of costs and fines over the next five years. The company said at the time it had "ongoing engagement with Ofwat as part of the recapitalisation process".

Hobbs added: "If KKR secure a £4bn stake in Thames Water, this will do nothing to change the picture. They will still be drowning in ... debt, still trying to dodge environmental fines, and will still prioritise shareholders over bill payers and the environment."





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She said putting Thames into special administration, a form of temporary nationalisation, to bring debts down before returning it to full public ownership was “the only way to reverse this catastrophe”.

Castle Water, based in Blairgowrie in Scotland, has more than 250,000 business customers and is co-owned by the Conservative party treasurer, Graham Edwards.

Two weeks ago, [Thames won approval](#) from the court of appeal for a £3bn emergency debt bailout from its existing creditors to avoid an immediate collapse into a special administration regime.

The company’s future has been under intense scrutiny and there are concerns over the state of its ageing assets, which were [the subject of a recent BBC documentary](#).

Original Article: [The Guardian by Julia Kollewe](#)

### **China innovates water management with AI and Blockchain**

As China faces increasing water scarcity due to urbanization, climate change, and an aging infrastructure, the integration of advanced technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and blockchain is reshaping how the country manages its water resources. These digital solutions are enhancing efficiency, sustainability, and transparency across water management systems.

AI is transforming water quality monitoring by leveraging machine learning to analyze data from sensors placed in water bodies, treatment plants, and distribution networks. Chinese companies such as Harbin Institute of Technology have developed AI-driven platforms deployed in cities like Shanghai and Beijing. These systems enable real-time monitoring, predictive analytics, and anomaly detection, improving water quality management by detecting contaminants early and minimizing risks. This proactive approach is not only reducing operational costs but also ensuring cleaner and safer water for millions of citizens.

In addition, AI is revolutionizing pipe network leakage control, a critical issue for water utilities worldwide. AI-based systems can detect and predict leaks, enabling predictive maintenance and optimized resource allocation. In Shenzhen, Huawei’s smart water solution has reduced water loss by 20% by monitoring the pipe network in real time and addressing potential issues before they escalate. These AI-driven innovations help minimize wastage and make water management more efficient.

Blockchain technology is also playing a significant role in China’s water sector, particularly in water rights trading and supply chain transparency. In water-scarce regions like the Yellow River Basin, blockchain is being explored for managing water rights through secure, transparent, and decentralized platforms. This technology optimizes water allocation, ensuring that resources are used sustainably and efficiently. Additionally, blockchain enhances transparency in the water supply chain, ensuring accountability and reducing fraud.



Original Article: [Water Magazine](#)

### **Plateau govt. signs N30 billion contract to tackle water challenges**

In a move to permanently address the persistent water challenges in Plateau Southern Zone, the Plateau State Government has signed a N30 billion contract for the rehabilitation and construction of conservation structures as part of the management of the Langtang Dam in Langtang North Local Government Area.

Governor Caleb Mutfwang, who witnessed the contract signing on Friday, restated his administration's commitment to finding a long-term solution to the state's water crisis. The contract was signed under the Plateau State Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscape (ACReSAL) project, a World Bank-funded initiative in partnership with the Plateau State Government.

Speaking at the event, Governor Mutfwang explained that the contract represents a crucial step in the government's efforts to resolve the water scarcity affecting the state's southern senatorial district within the next 30 months.

"Indeed, signing this agreement today marks a significant milestone in our quest to address Plateau's water crisis. When we assumed office, we inherited a water sector that was virtually on its knees. For years, the Yakubu Gowon Dam has lacked serious intervention, leading to an epileptic water supply in the Jos-Bukuru metropolis.

"However, we are working tirelessly to fix the problem. Each time we address one issue, another emerges, but we are tackling it holistically. By God's grace, within the next six months, we aim to resolve the challenges surrounding the Yakubu Gowon Dam and other key dams within the metropolis," Governor Mutfwang assured.

He further stressed that the acute water shortage in the Plateau Southern zone is a top priority for his administration. The contract signing, he noted, is a significant step toward reversing the dire water situation in the area.

"Let me remind the people of Plateau State that this project is financed through a loan secured under the World Bank framework in collaboration with other northern states. The project is designed to combat desertification, ensuring sustainable water supply and environmental restoration. The dedicated project team has worked tirelessly to reach this stage, and we are fully prepared for implementation," he stated.

The project scope includes the desilting of Dams One and Two in Langtang North, the construction of hedge rows to minimize future siltation, the maintenance of washout embankments with laterite filling compacted to 100% WASC standards, and the planting of grass and trees to prevent erosion, enhance environmental greening, and curb land degradation. These interventions are expected to ensure a stable water supply for the affected communities.

Garba Gowon Gonkol, the Project Coordinator of ACReSAL, who signed the contract on behalf of the state government, commended Governor Mutfwang for prioritizing



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impactful projects, noting that Plateau State has never experienced such a high level of commitment to addressing water challenges.

Similarly, Akin Fagbohun, the Project Engineer and Contractor, provided an overview of the project and pledged to complete the contract within the stipulated 30-month timeline.

Original Article: [Business Day by Nathaniel Gbaoron](#)

### **\$250M World Bank Water Project Fails to Deliver in Rivers, Others – Report**

A \$250 million World Bank-funded initiative aimed at improving access to potable water in Nigeria has failed to meet its objectives, a new report by Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA) has revealed.

The report, “**Big Debt, Big Thirst: A Case Study of World Bank Supported Projects in Ekiti, Rivers, and Bauchi States,**” highlights systemic failures in the Third National Urban Water Sector Reform Project (NUWRSP3), which was designed to enhance water supply in select states.

Presented in Lagos on Friday, the study attributes Nigeria’s water crisis to prolonged underinvestment by the state and the imposition of neoliberal policies that prioritize market-driven solutions over public access. It challenges the effectiveness of privatization, noting that instead of improved infrastructure, affected communities have faced rising tariffs, job losses, and diminished public accountability.

CAPPA’s Executive Director, Akinbode Oluwafemi, stated that the findings underscore the ongoing debate over whether water should remain a fundamental right or be subjected to profit-driven market forces. He emphasized that the realities in Ekiti, Rivers, and Bauchi contradict claims that privatization enhances efficiency.

The report calls for a reassessment of water sector policies to ensure sustainable and equitable access for all Nigerians.

Original Article: [ELAN Hub by Stanley Uhegbu](#)

### **Europe’s Drought Crisis Could Be the Worst in 500 Years**

Europe is currently grappling with a drought of epic proportions, one that experts believe could be the worst in 500 years. This alarming situation has stirred concerns across the continent, as water levels in rivers and reservoirs dwindle rapidly. Droughts are not new to Europe, yet the severity and scale of the current crisis are unparalleled. The drought is impacting not just the environment but also the economy, agriculture, and daily life. It's a wake-up call for nations to reassess their water management practices before the situation worsens. Understanding the gravity of this crisis is the first step towards finding viable solutions.

Original Article: [MSN/ Weather Fox by Nelleke van Niekerk](#)



## **Bridging borders: Science diplomacy for water protection**

Water is essential for life, economic growth and social development. Inland waters supply clean water for drinking, agriculture and industry, while the ocean regulates climate and supports biodiversity. Yet, access to safe water remains deeply uneven, exacerbated by climate change, pollution and demographic pressures. With rising demand and diminishing freshwater sources, sustainable water management is a global priority, requiring international cooperation and scientific efforts.

On 21 March, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe hosted scientists, policymakers and international experts for “The Role of Science Diplomacy in Water Supplies”, an event exploring how knowledge-sharing and cross-border collaboration can safeguard the future of water. Held on [World Water Day](#) and the first-ever [World Day for Glaciers](#), the event marked the launch of the [UN World Water Development Report 2025: Mountains and glaciers -Water Towers](#). This report provides an overview of the current state of play and makes recommendations to protect increasingly vulnerable mountain water systems, warning that over 6,000 glaciers across UNESCO sites could vanish by 2050 if current climate trends persist.

Magdalena Landry, Director of the UNESCO Office in Venice, opened the event by underscoring the urgent need to preserve glacier-fed ecosystems, essential for water security, energy systems and resilience. Similarly, Christina Hainzl of the University for Continuing Education Krems (UWK), Alessandro Lombardo of the Central European Initiative (CEI) and Councillor Massimiliano De Martin of the Municipality of Venice, stressed the critical need for urgent action on glacier loss and greater integration of science diplomacy in water policy.

Water challenges require international scientific collaboration and strong institutional frameworks. In his keynote address, László Balatonyi, UNESCO IHP, called for enhanced data sharing systems, long-term investment in hydrological research, and stronger links between science and diplomacy to alleviate water-related pressures.

Leading voices in water governance, diplomacy and science integration showcased how science diplomacy bridges research and policy – especially in transboundary regions. Panellists stressed the role of scientific institutions and international organisations in mediating water disputes, and fostering cooperation through data-sharing, environmental monitoring and multilateral engagement, demonstrating the power of science diplomacy to overcome political and institutional barriers.

Science diplomacy is a powerful tool to foster inclusive and interdisciplinary partnerships vis-à-vis global science-driven challenges. This is even more significant when challenges are inherently transboundary, such as water governance.

**Alessandro Lombardo, Central European Initiative**



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Building trust within science-policy interfaces is essential; panellists stressed the need for policymakers to incorporate scientific findings into decision-making, while ensuring researchers have clearer pathways to real-world impact. The Danube River Basin was highlighted as a model for how stakeholder platforms, integrated action plans, and coordinated monitoring can effectively facilitate transnational cooperation. Cultural institutions also play a key role, with artistic engagement helping convey complex scientific concepts in ways that encourage public support for sustainable water governance.

Discussions linked water governance to the broader vision of the SDGs. As Christina Hainzl (UWK) noted, there is a need to view water and related cultural practices as both public goods and catalysts for more human- and nature-centred thinking. As the event concluded, the message was clear: glaciers may be melting, but international water cooperation is gaining momentum. Science and diplomacy – together – remain the strongest tools for securing a sustainable water future.

Original Article: [UNESCO](#)

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