Veles Water Weekly Report

July 3rd 2025

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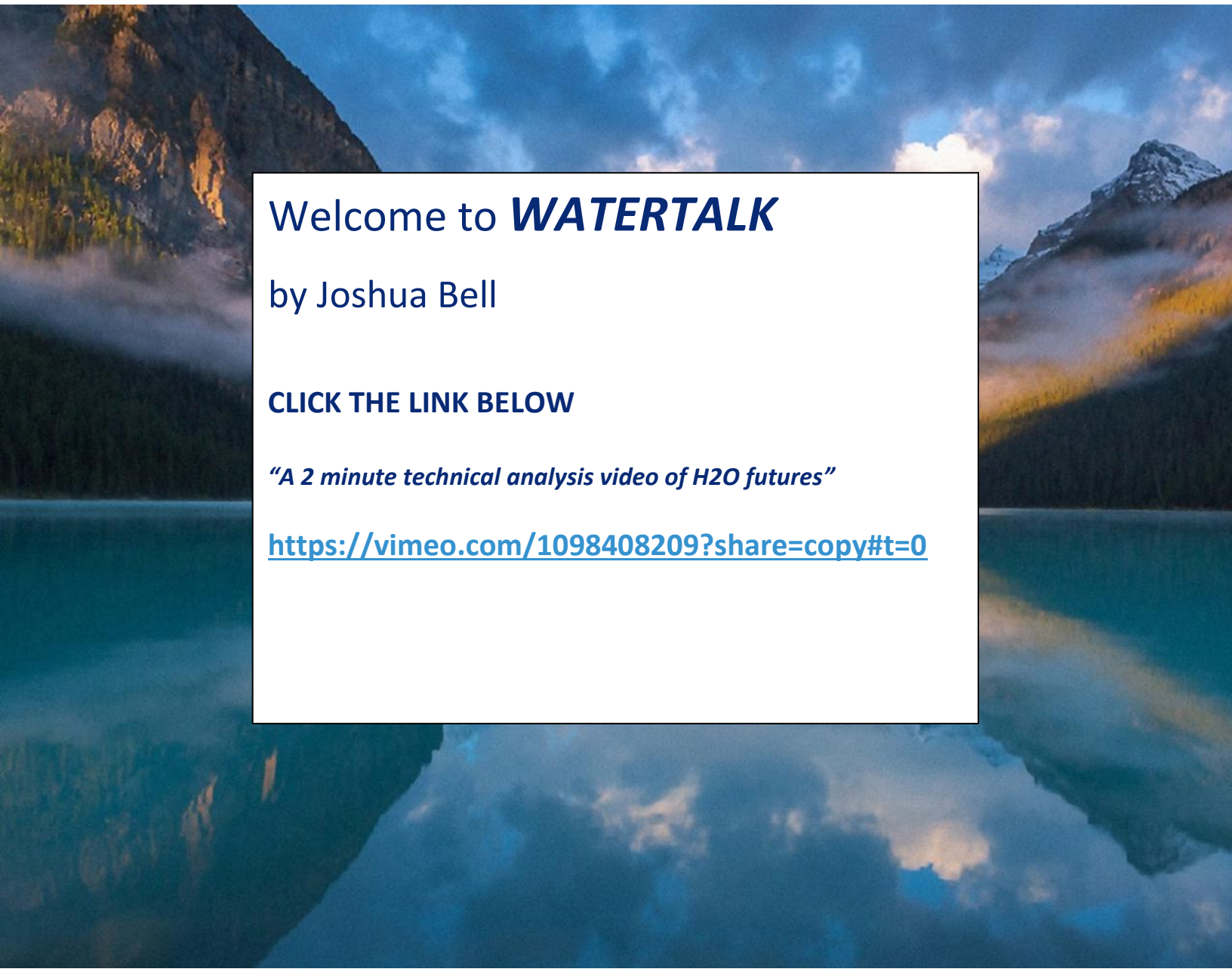
Veles Water

WATER FUTURES MARKET ANALYSIS



Welcome to ***WATERTALK***

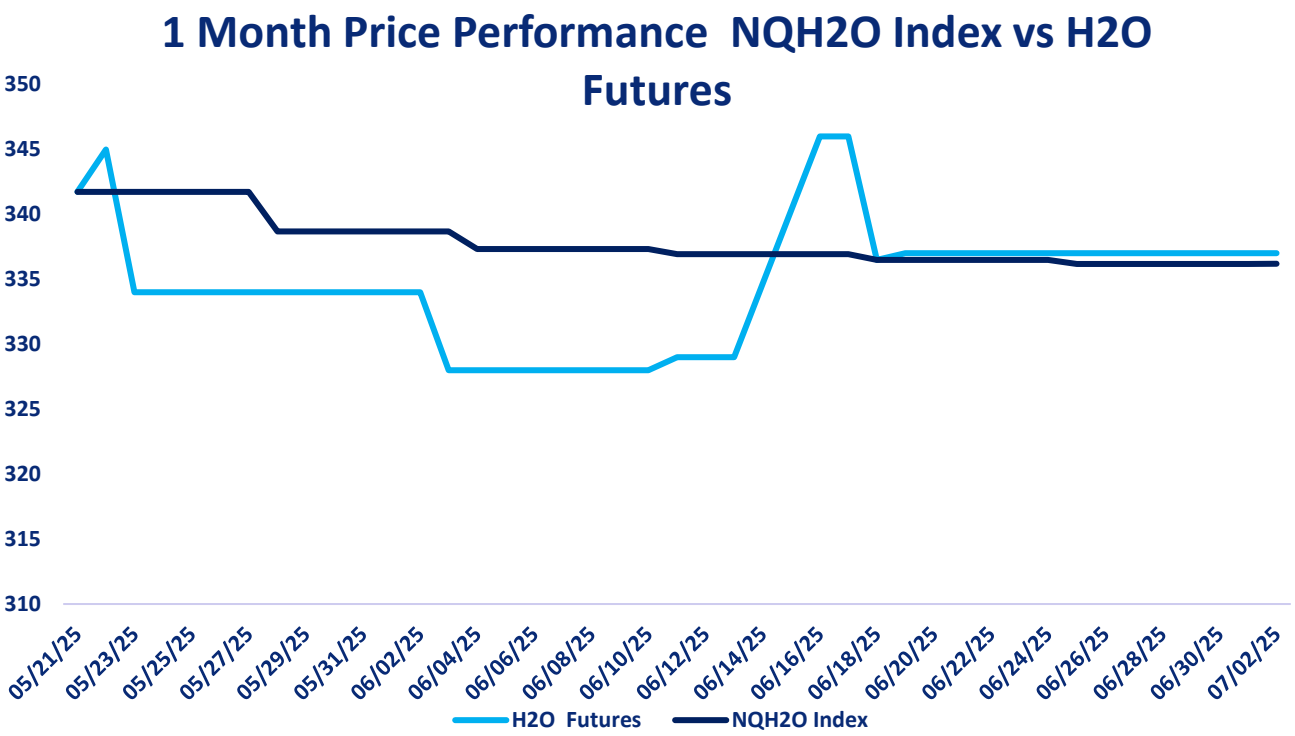
by Joshua Bell

CLICK THE LINK BELOW

"A 2 minute technical analysis video of H2O futures"

https://vimeo.com/1098408209?share=copy#t=0

NQH2O INDEX PRICE vs H2O FUTURES PRICE



Price Chart Based upon Daily Close

The new NQH2O index level of $336.20 was published on July 2nd, up $0.02 or 0.01% from the previous week. The July contract is considered the front month. The futures prices closed at a premium of $0.80 to $0.82 versus the index over the past week.

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

July 25	333@338
Aug 25	315@356
Sept 25	320@370
Dec 25	320@420
June 26	400@429

H2O FUTURES TECHNICAL REPORT

Price Action

- **Current Price**: $337
- Price closed flat on the day, holding ground after a recent bounce from sub-$330 levels.

Moving Averages

Short-Term

- **5-day SMA**: 337
- **10-day SMA**: 337
- **20-day SMA**: 334
  Price is consolidating just above short-term SMAs. A close above 338 could trigger upside momentum.

Medium-Term

- **30-day SMA**: 335
  Holding just above, this is now acting as immediate support.

Long-Term

- **100-day SMA**: 396
- **120-day SMA**: 409

- **150/200-day SMAs**: Also above 410
  These are all declining and well above current price — clear signal that the long-term trend is still bearish.

Stochastic Oscillator (14,1,3)

- **%K**: 47.06
- **%D**: 48.04
  Stochastic shows a slow grind upward, hovering around mid-range. No clear signal yet, waiting for follow-through or rejection.

Support & Resistance

Resistance:

- **338-340** zone, key resistance from recent highs
- **350-354** former support, now overhead resistance
- **380** major breakdown area

Support:

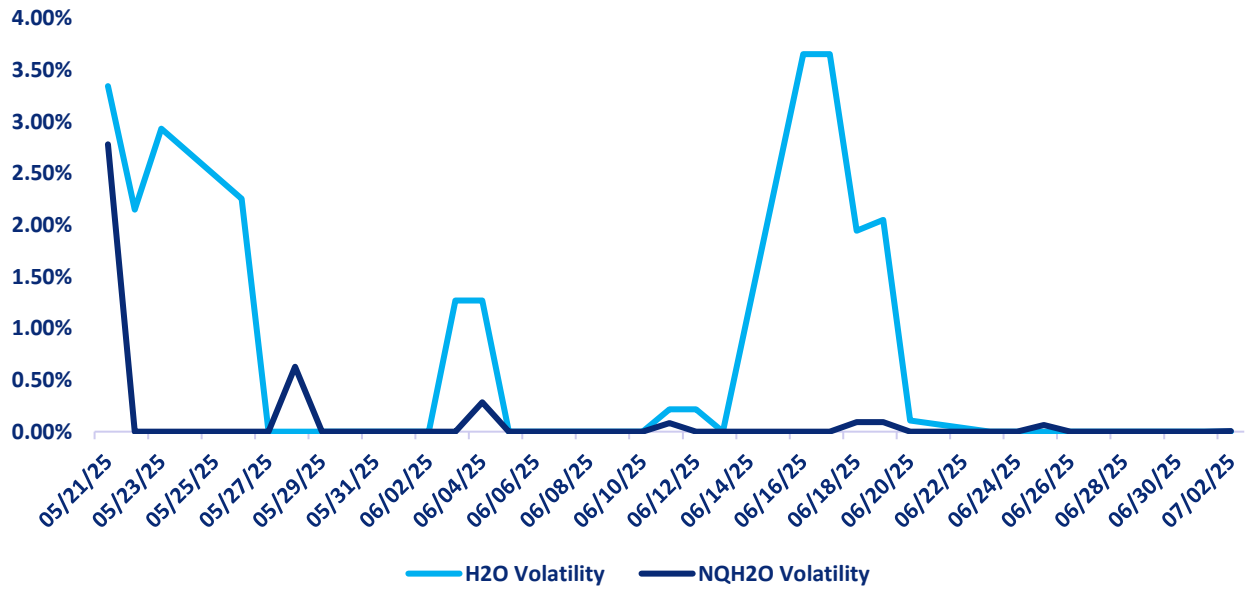
- **333-335** aligned with SMAs and short-term floor
- **325** last swing low
- Below that: psychological support at **$300**

Summary

- **Short-Term**: Cautiously neutral. Consolidation near moving average cluster.
- **Medium-Term**: Watch 338 breakout for bullish bias.
- **Long-Term**: Bearish trend remains intact unless price closes above 380+.
- **Action Watch**: Bulls must reclaim 338+ to shift tone. Bears likely defend below 354.

H2O FUTURES AND NQH2O INDEX VOLATILITY ANALYSIS

Daily H2O Futures Volatility vs Daily NQH2O Index Volatility



DAILY VOLATILITY

Over the last week the July contract daily future volatility high has been 3.65%.

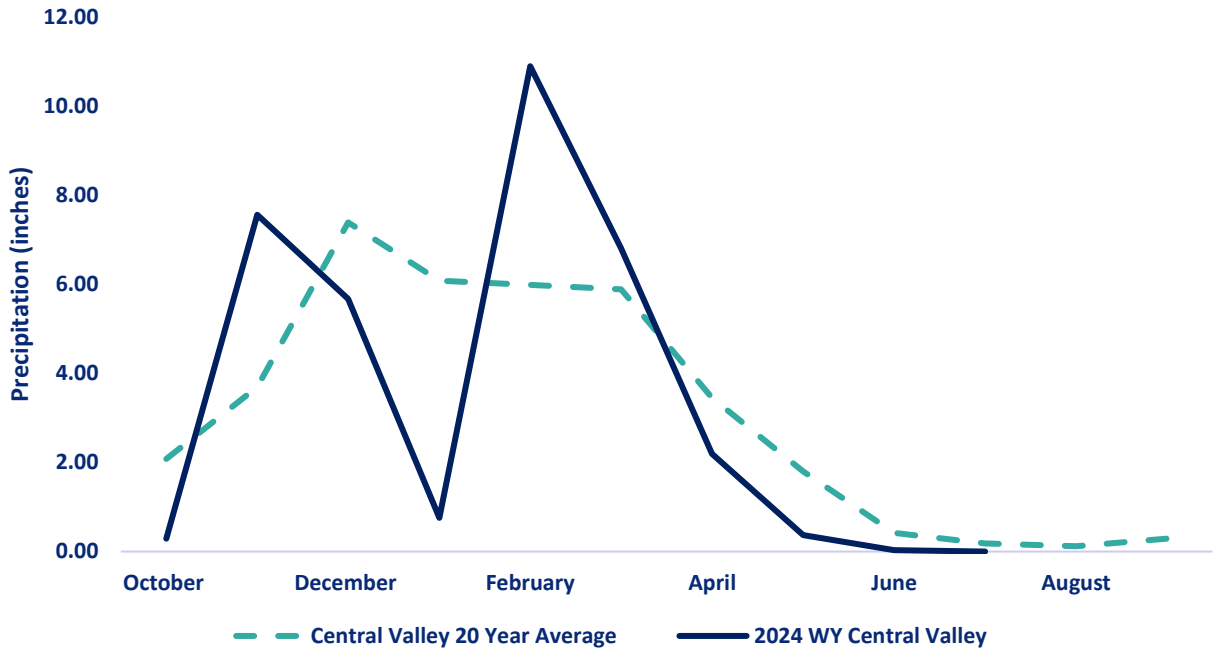
ASSET	1 YEAR (%)	2 MONTH (%)	1 MONTH (%)	1 WEEK (%)
NQH2O INDEX	19.20%	8.21%	0.14%	0.10%
H2O FUTURES	N/A	14.07%	5.98%	0.00%

For the week ending on July 2nd, the two-month futures volatility is at a premium of 5.86% to the index, remaining unchanged from the previous week. The one-month futures volatility is at a premium of 5.84% to the index, down 1.73%. The one-week futures volatility is at a discount of 0.10% 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 02/07/2025

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	0	0.00	84	68
TULARE 6 STATION (6SI)	0	0.02	0.00	82	83
NORTHERN SIERRA 8 STATION (8SI)	0	0	0.00	91	106
CENTRAL VALLEY AVERAGE	0.00	0.01	0.00	86	86

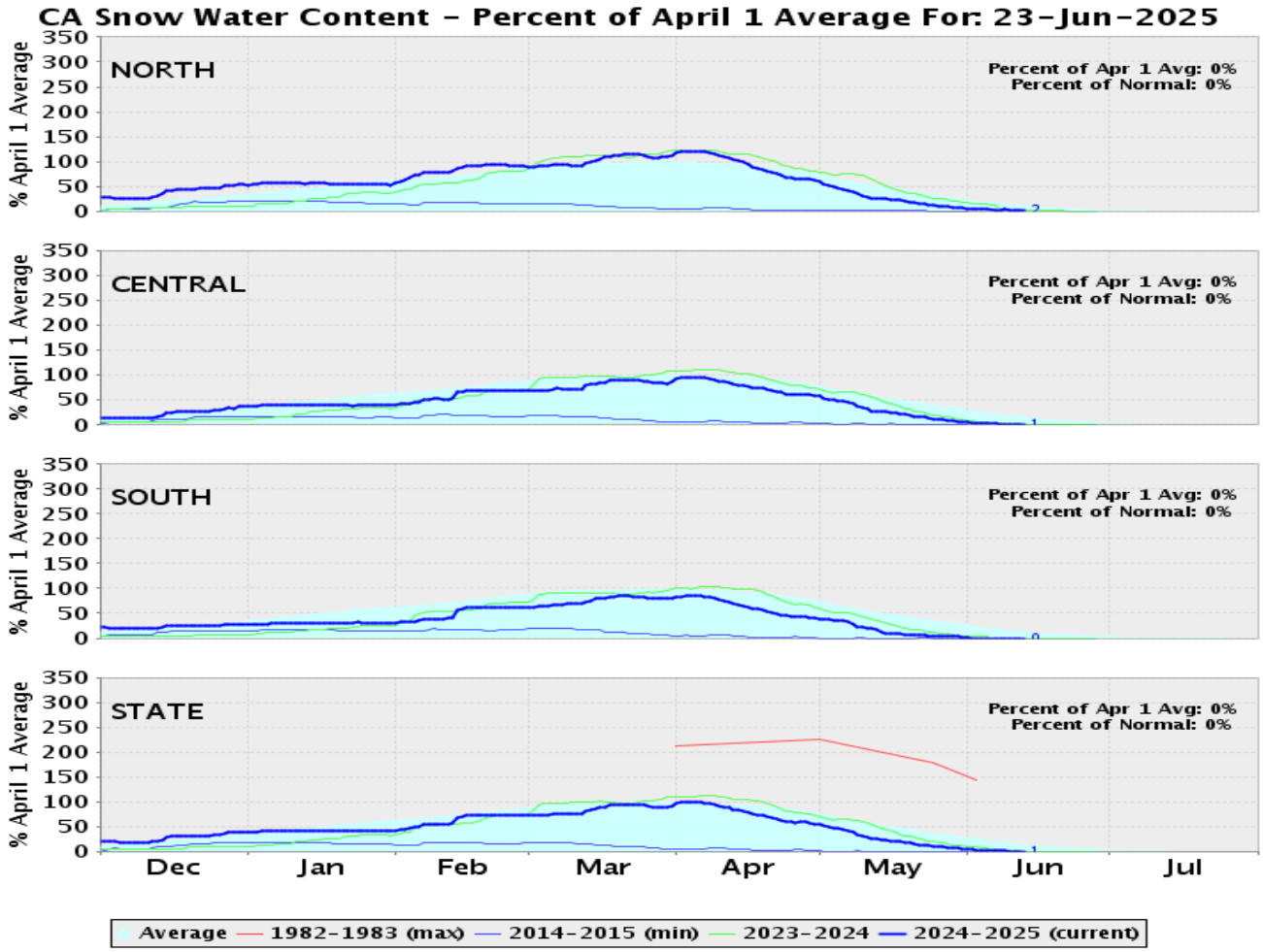
RESERVOIR STORAGE

RESERVOIR	STORAGE (AF)	% CAPACITY	LAST YEAR % CAPACITY	*% HISTORICAL AVERAGE
TRINITY LAKE	2,209,198	90	84	117
SHASTA LAKE	3,788,087	83	88	107
LAKE OROVILLE	3,232,243	94	98	120
SAN LUIS RES	972,567	48	49	88

*% 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	0.5	0	18	18	2
CENTRAL SIERRA	0.2	0	6	6	1
SOUTHERN SIERRA	0	0	0	0	0
STATEWIDE	0.2	0	7	7	1

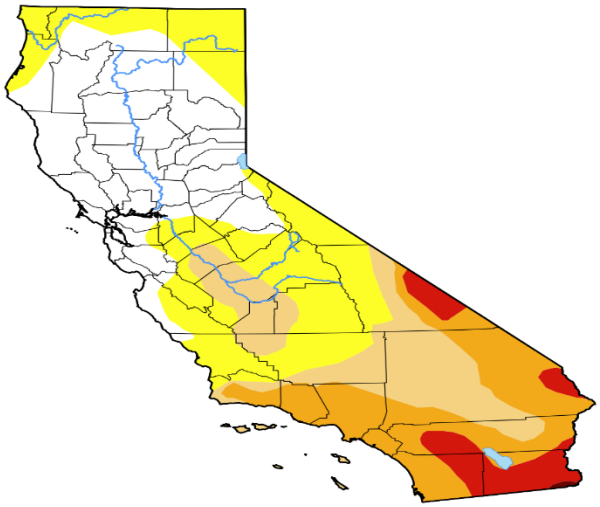
Snow Water Equivalent*, **or SWE**, is a commonly used measurement used by hydrologists and water managers to gauge the amount of liquid water contained within the snowpack. In other words, it is the amount of water that will be released from the snowpack when it melts. SWE has regional variance.**

**** April 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. June 26, 2025

Data valid: June 24, 2025 at 8 a.m. EDT

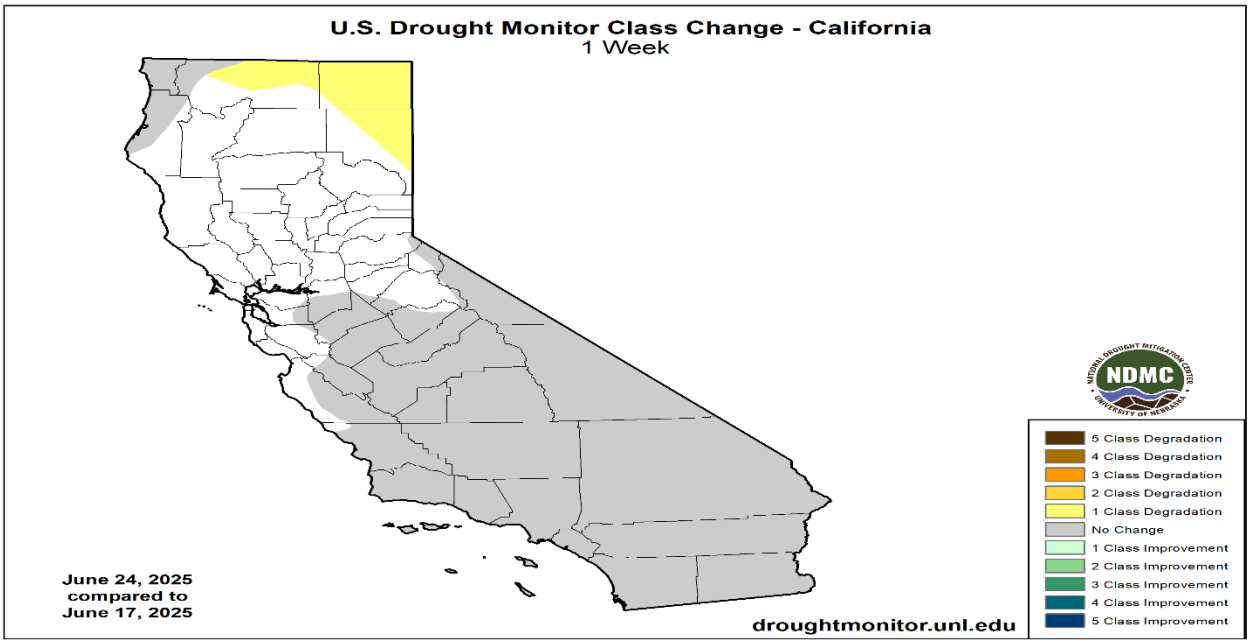
Intensity

- 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):
Curtis Riganti, National Drought Mitigation Center

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture

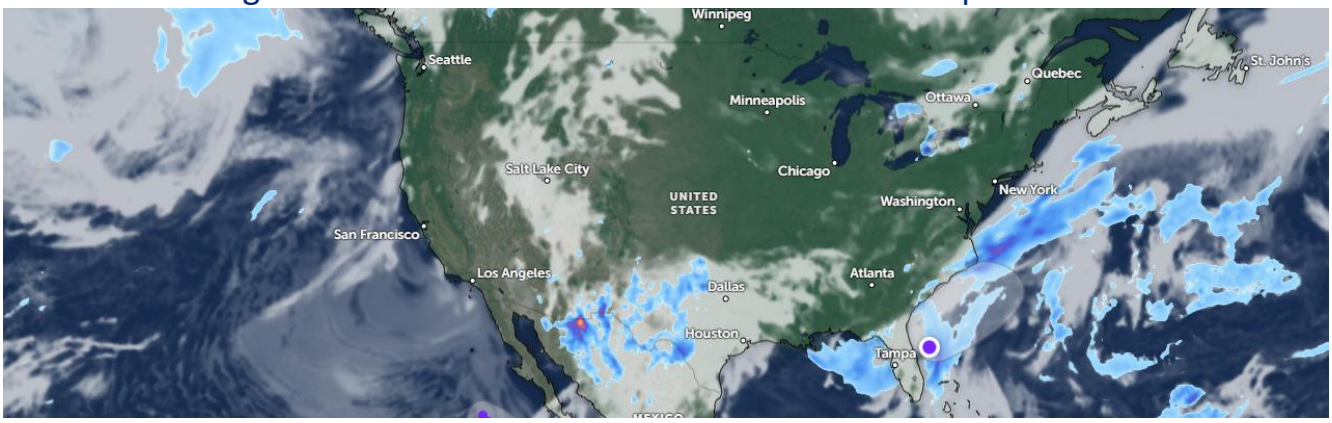


Week	Date	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	DSCI
Current	2025-06-24	32.17	67.83	39.29	22.98	5.91	0.10	136
Last Week to Current	2025-06-17	37.73	62.27	39.29	22.98	5.91	0.10	131
3 Months Ago to Current	2025-03-25	43.71	56.29	39.81	24.73	11.76	0.73	133
Start of Calendar Year to Current	2024-12-31	40.90	59.10	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	2024-06-25	97.18	2.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3

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.

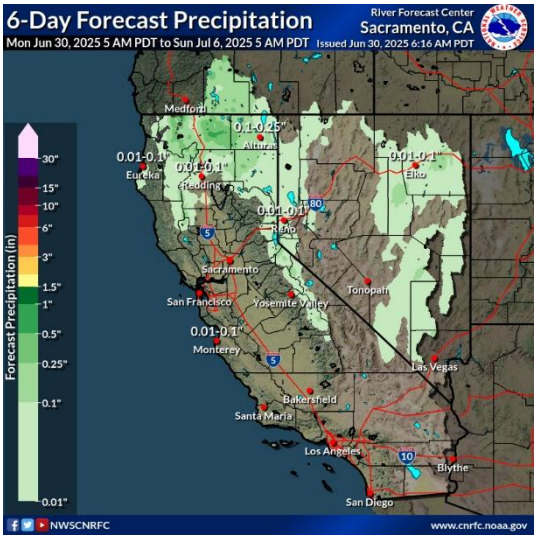
CURRENT SATELLITE IMAGERY

The satellite picture shows some cloud cover over the Rockies but generally a clear western US and a clear Midwest with some light storms over the Great Lakes area. the southern US has moisture inflow from the Mexico region and this band stretches from Arizona to Georgia. Florida has summer storms over the whole peninsula.



Map Ref: Zoom Earth

10 Day Outlook



CA sits between two upper lows this morning, one over the Pacific southwest of soCal and a larger low traversing the Gulf of Alaska. The gulf low also drags a large frontal system with 1" PW of moisture across the eastern Pacific. This system will lift northward as it approaches the west coast likely entirely missing CA in favor of the PacNW and BC later today into tomorrow. The smaller low to the southwest will head towards Baja arriving some time Thursday. The combination of these systems will keep some troughing overhead for today along with instability. This means the slight chance of thunderstorms over parts of the Sierra and the Shasta Drainage.

In between these lows offshore, high pressure will build and shift towards the coast the rest of the work week as the southwest low hovers near Baja. By Friday afternoon, the ridge will be firmly overhead with 500 mb heights exceeding 590 dm. This will keep dry conditions over the region and bring well above normal (+10 to +20 deg F) afternoon temperatures. Overnight lows will also be well above normal by similar amounts through Saturday. Many locations across CA are already under heat related products (please see local WFO pages for heat risk/alert information). Into Sunday, a trough will move through the PacNW as the ridge shifts further inland.

Troughing will dig into nrn CA/NV as well while the low offshore of Baja finally begins to move inland. This will provide some relief across the region with coastal areas back to near/below normal and afternoon temperature anomalies inland down to about +5 to +15 deg F.

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

WESTERN WEATHER DISCUSSION

Predominantly cooler temperatures occurred in the West this week, with many areas west of Utah, Arizona and Wyoming seeing temperatures range from 2-8 degrees cooler than normal. Despite the cooler weather this week, the drying trend continued across much of the Northwest states, with abnormal dryness and moderate and severe drought significantly growing in coverage in northern portions of Utah and Nevada, northeast California, far western Montana, Idaho and southeast portions of Oregon and Washington. In these areas, short-term precipitation deficits are growing, streamflow is lower in spots, vegetation is struggling and soil moisture deficits are developing. Near the end of the week, scattered heavy rains fell in the eastern plains of New Mexico, leading to localized improvements in drought and abnormal dryness. The impact of these rains on the rest of the water cycle, as well as any further rain, will be further evaluated next week.

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

WATER NEWS

CALIFORNIA WATER NEWS

Wildfires Erupt in California As Drought Conditions Expand

Fire season is in full swing across California, with more than a dozen wildfires igniting since Saturday.

Most of the blazes are burning in the southern half of the state, where dry conditions are more extensive, allowing fires to quickly get out of hand.

Hundreds of firefighters are working to contain wildfires in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, which have even forced evacuations.

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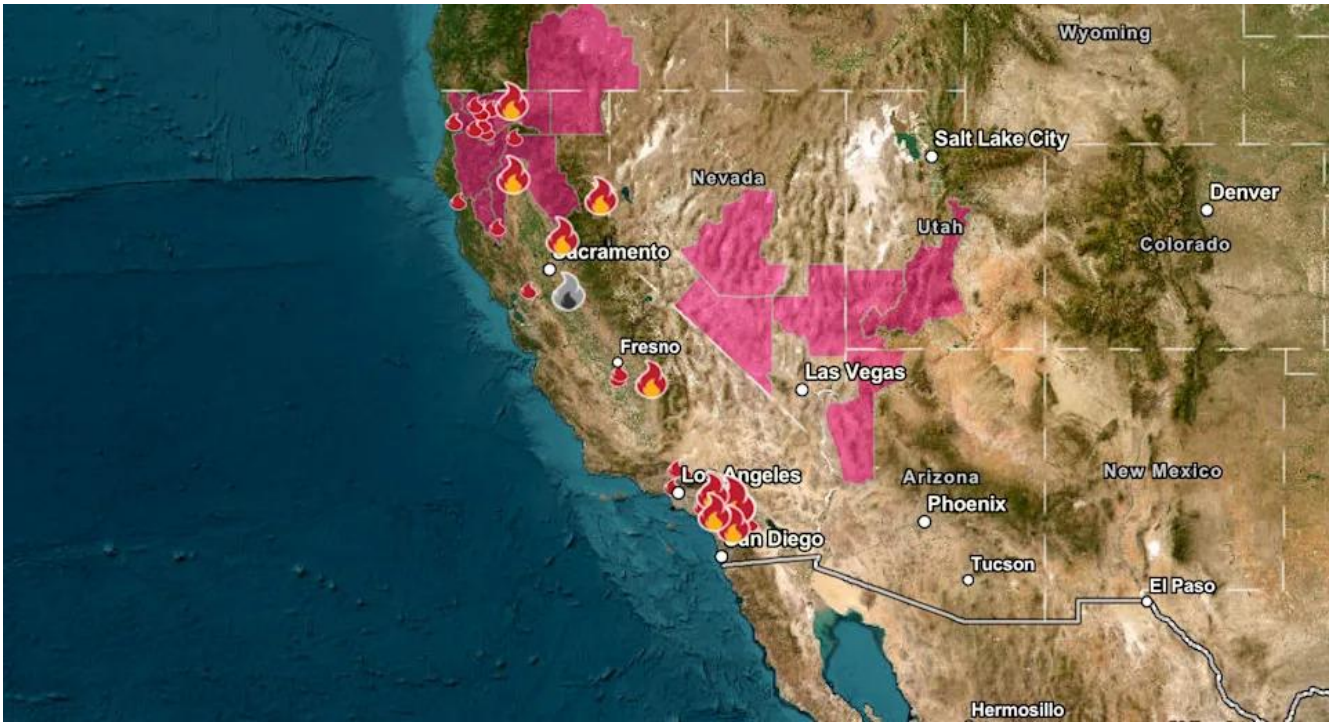
In Riverside County, the Wolf Fire has exploded in size after first being spotted over the weekend outside of Banning, California.

As of Tuesday, according to CAL FIRE, more than 2,400 acres had burned, with containment only around 35%.

More than 4,000 structures were considered threatened south of Interstate 10, with the American Red Cross establishing at least one shelter for evacuees.

So far, no homes have been reported damaged; however, at least three firefighters have been injured while battling the blaze.

The U.S. Forest Service says it is also working to keep the flames out of the San Bernardino National Forest, which encompasses more than 800,000 acres throughout Southern California.



Active wildfire map in California

Further southwest, firefighters have made more progress with the Juniper Fire, which has burned nearly 700 acres but is more than 60% contained.

Similar to the Wolf Fire, the blaze started within the past 72 hours, and the cause remains under investigation.

Farther north, the Lake Fire in San Bernardino County is the one firefighters are most concerned about.

At last check with CAL FIRE, the wildfire had burned nearly 500 acres and was around 50% contained.

Some evacuation warnings remained in effect for hillside communities, and nearby recreation zones were off-limits as crews used resources both in the air and on the ground to try to contain the flames.

Around 70% of the state is considered to be unusually dry or suffering from drought conditions, according to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor, and there appears to be no relief in sight as the state enters the driest months of the year.

Even though the annual monsoon has begun, most of the precipitation has been on the eastern flank, impacting areas around New Mexico and West Texas, leaving large parts of California and Arizona high and dry.

Additionally, tropical moisture, which has led to a record amount of cyclone activity across the eastern Pacific, has remained well south of the Golden State, keeping rain chances near nil at best.

Fortunately, authorities have not had to contend with gusty winds or weather patterns such as the Santa Anas, which are most common during the fall, winter, and spring.

Long-term outlooks from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center show no widespread relief over the summer months, which means drought conditions will continue to deteriorate, and the threat of wildfires will gradually increase.
According to a congressional research report, an annual average of 61,410 wildfires burn some 7.2 million acres every year across the country. Most fires are human-caused, but wildfires sparked by lightning tend to be larger and burn more acreage.
Original Article: Fox Weather/ Yahoo news by Andrew Wulfeck

California lawmakers roll back environmental law. Why is high-tech manufacturing now exempt?

California lawmakers today approved one of the most substantial rollbacks of the state's signature environmental review law in decades, including a controversial exemption that would allow high-tech manufacturing plants to be built in industrial zones with no environmental review.
The changes to the California Environmental Quality Act were embedded in a last-minute budget bill that sailed through the Senate and the Assembly. The new law exempts nine types of projects from environmental reviews: child care centers, health clinics, food banks, farmworker housing, broadband, wildfire prevention, water infrastructure, public parks or trails and, notably, advanced manufacturing.
Aiming to streamline and lower the cost of construction in California, the new law also restricts legal challenges under CEQA by narrowing which documents courts can consider. It also allows limited environmental reviews of projects that don' t have an array of impacts.
The changes in the 54-year-old law were forced by Gov. Gavin Newsom, who told legislators last week that he would not approve the state's $321 billion spending plan without them. A provision in the budget act approved last week stated the spending plan "shall be inoperative and repealed" if changes to the state's environmental review process were not final by midnight tonight.
Newsom signed the bill tonight, after it passed with overwhelming votes in the Senate and Assembly.
For decades, business and building groups have railed against what they call "CEQA abuse," saying the environmental reviews drag out projects for years. But supporters say the law requires developers and others to examine and take steps to correct an array of environmental impacts, including air pollution, traffic, noise, wildlife, energy use and water supplies.
Recently, with climate change front and center, some liberals have joined calls for overhauling the environmental law, arguing that California must build faster and at scale to decarbonize its electric grid and construct housing and transportation systems.

The new exemption for "advanced manufacturing" facilities in areas already zoned for industrial use — including plants that build semiconductors and nanotech — drew some of the fiercest criticism. State law defines the category as processes that improve or create new materials, products or technologies.

The changes were met with vehement opposition from more than 100 environmental and community groups, which said industrial plants will be more easily built in low-income communities. They also say the exemptions will advantage developers by limiting public oversight and could create legal confusion.

"This bill is the worst anti-environmental bill in California in recent memory," a coalition of opponents, including the California Environmental Justice Alliance and the Western Center on Law and Poverty, wrote in a letter to Newsom and legislators.

"This law would not harm all California communities equally. This budget deal is an attack on lower-income communities of color that consistently get sited for harmful industrial projects."

At the over three-hour hearing preceding the vote, dozens of members of the public spoke in opposition, with some holding signs saying "When CEQA is silenced, polluters speak louder."

Asha Sharma, state policy manager with Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability, called the changes "a back-room, last-minute deal" that made the state budget "dependent on gutting environmental review for resource-intensive and polluting industrial projects."

"This law would not harm all California communities equally," Sharma said. "This budget deal is an attack on lower-income communities of color that consistently get sited for harmful industrial projects."

The Assembly approved the bill with a 50 to 3 vote, and the Senate, 33 to 1.

Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, a Democrat from Torrance who did not cast a vote, raised concerns on the Assembly floor about the bill's exemption for advanced manufacturing plants, citing the environmental opposition, and urged the measure to be revisited. Republican Assemblymembers Carl DeMaio of San Diego and Kate Sanchez of Orange County's Rancho Santa Margarita voted against it, along with Democrat Gregg Hart of Santa Barbara.

The lone senator to stand against it was Republican Roger Niello from the Sacramento-area city of Roseville. However, several who voiced concerns in the hearing today did not cast a vote, including Democratic state Sen. Catherine Blakespear from Encinitas in San Diego County and Sen. John Laird from Santa Cruz.

Newsom said his budget maneuver was necessary and thanked the leaders of the two houses of the Legislature.

"This was too important to play chance. It was too urgent, too important to allow the (legislative) process to unfold as it has for the last generation, invariably falling prey to all kinds of pratfall," Newsom said.

The governor's public comments were limited as the fierce debate broke out in recent days. But his press office account posted on social media last week that "the Legislature has a chance to deliver the most significant housing and infrastructure reforms in decades."

"This is our moment to build the California Dream for a new generation," his office said. "We're done with the roadblocks and delays — let's get this done."

"This is a bill that, literally, will help us get more housing, more childcare centers, more health centers, more food banks, and bring clean advanced manufacturing to California."

A major proponent of the exemptions, State Sen. Scott Wiener of San Francisco said in an interview with CalMatters today that criticisms by environmentalists were "extreme, unfounded, melodramatic statements."

"This is a bill that, literally, will help us get more housing, more childcare centers, more health centers, more food banks, and bring clean advanced manufacturing to California," Wiener said. "And to suggest that that kind of bill is bad for the environment — or the worst environmental bill in decades — or whatever it is they said, that's just over the top."

Wiener said the changes exempt manufacturing projects only on land that is already zoned as industrial. The goal is to make it easier for high-tech industries to build, with Wiener arguing that California risks losing out on major private-sector investment because it's too costly and difficult to build in the state.

"The environmental movement needs to ask itself: Why is it that CEQA keeps getting used to stymie climate action, whether it's transit-oriented development or bike lanes or public transportation or phasing out oil?" Wiener said.

Several housing advocacy and business groups voiced support for the law today.

Alex Torres, speaking on behalf of housing groups, the tech trade association Chamber of Progress, the Bay Area Council and others, said exempting advanced manufacturing from environmental review will help "the Bay Area's competitiveness" and "shift some manufacturing opportunities to the Bay Area."

Several other manufacturing groups declined to comment to CalMatters about the law changes or did not respond to inquiries.

'Shortcutting' legislative process

The debate today in the committee hearing included a testy exchange between senators about whether Newsom was forcing their hand.

"We have a situation here where the executive branch is telling the Legislative branch that if it doesn't pass this trailer bill, that the budget itself will be null and void. I have to

say, that profoundly disturbs and offends me," Niello, a Republican, said at today's hearing.

Wiener fired back that all aspects of the budget and trailer bills were a three-party agreement. "We don't have a dictatorship," he said.

"I wasn't part of that three-party agreement," Niello countered.

Environmental and community groups also questioned the use of the budget to shortcut the legislative process, limiting public and legislative input.

"If the only way you can change state law is to keep it out of the public eye as long as possible, and condition passage of the state budget on the proposed changes, does that not show that its backers know the public wouldn't support it if they knew the truth?" the coalition of opponents wrote to Newsom and legislators.

California lawmakers enacted CEQA in 1970 amid a rising tide of environmental awareness. It had broad bipartisan support: Gov. Ronald Reagan signed it into law, and President Richard Nixon approved its federal counterpart the same year. At the time, environmental concerns were mostly local — unchecked development, polluted waterways, pesticide use and the loss of open space.

Two years ago, in another effort to use the state budget process as leverage, Newsom proposed a series of last-minute changes to the law. That move was rejected by lawmakers.

But after years of failed attempts to rewrite the law, Democrats have begun to rally around a new message: The political conversation among Democrats in Sacramento, and across the U.S., has shifted following last year's presidential election, with growing consensus that removing regulatory barriers is a top priority.

Still, just hours before their vote, lawmakers were grappling with how exactly the bill would affect communities on the frontlines of manufacturing, with Wiener fielding most of the questions.

State Sen. Caroline Menjivar, a Democrat from Van Nuys, asked about the definition of "advanced manufacturing." Laird, a Democrat from Santa Cruz, asked whether it included nuclear materials. Wiener said it did not.

"It is a horrible day when a senator even has to ask if an exemption from environmental review includes nuclear manufacturing," said Sharma, of the justice and accountability organization.

At the earlier committee hearing, State Sen. María Elena Durazo, a Democrat from Los Angeles, cited the massive cleanup of lead-contaminated soil around the battery recycling facility Exide Technologies in Vernon as a warning of the risk.

Original Article: Cal Matters by Alejandro Lazo and Rachel Becker

Judge backs Reclamation in fight over California water contract conversions

A federal judge agreed on Monday with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation that conversion of temporary water contracts from the California Central Valley Project doesn't require a new environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act or the Endangered Species Act.

U.S. District Judge Jennifer Thurston, a Joe Biden appointee, ruled on cross motions for summary judgment that the bureau's interpretation of the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act was more plausible than that of the environmental advocacy organization that sued five years ago.

"Given the layered complexity of the multiple statutory schemes at issue, it is easy to lose track of the central issues in this case," the Fresno, California-based judge said. "The question is whether Reclamation's obligations under the WIIN Act regarding contract conversion make it impossible for the agency to exercise discretion for the protected species' benefit."

In this regard, the judge said she agreed with and adopted the bureau's interpretation that the statute requires contract conversion upon request by farmers and other water users that obtain water from the Central Valley Project and that it strips the bureau of discretion to modify any contractual right other than those related to the financial terms specifically addressed in the statute.

The WIIN Act was signed into law by President Barack Obama to, among other things, help address the historic drought in California at the time. By converting temporary water contracts into permanent ones with prepayment for construction costs, the statute would finance several water projects to promote storage and supply, flood control, desalination, and water recycling to make the state better able to cope with droughts.

"It is undisputed that a principal purpose of the WIIN Act is to fund the construction of water storage projects," Thurston said. "To further this purpose, Congress provided incentives to encourage contractors to elect to convert their water service contracts to accelerated prepayment contracts."

The Center for Biological Diversity, Restore the Delta and the Planning and Conservation League sued in 2020, arguing that the converted water contracts lock in federal water deliveries to large agricultural water users with no consideration of the environmental consequences of making the contracts permanent.

The contractors, the nonprofits said, include Westlands Water District, which serves about 600,000 acres on the San Joaquin Valley's west side and, as the Central Valley Project's largest customer, uses about as much water as the entire state of New Hampshire.

The Central Valley Project is one of the world's largest water storage and delivery systems. It collects water in Northern California, where large reservoirs hold the flow

from melting snow in the Sierra Nevada, and distributes it to agricultural and urban users in Central and Southern California.

According to the environmental organizations, the project, which includes 20 reservoirs, about 500 miles of canals and aqueducts and two pumping plants, has caused widespread environmental damage by reducing freshwater flows in the San Francisco Bay Delta, blocking salmon migration and killing wildlife with toxic runoff from irrigated farmland.

Bob Wright, an attorney for Restore the Delta and the Planning and Conservation League, said the judge's ruling erred in interpreting the WIIN Act, the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

"The water diversions have adverse impacts on public health in the Delta, including worsening harmful algal blooms, on endangered and threatened fish species, and on the entire watershed," Wright said. "Our decision-making process is already starting on whether to appeal once a judgment is entered."

Original Article: Courthouse News by Evard Pettersson

Golden Mussel Presents Widespread Threat To Major California Reservoir

The invasive two-inch wide golden mussel showed up near the Port of Stockton last fall. Since then, it's spread south, extending to other waterways in the Delta and some in the San Joaquin Valley. Now, eyes are looking north to Lake Oroville, where the mussels could pose a large threat if they're introduced.

The reservoir is the second largest in California. It's part of the state's system that delivers water through a network of pipes and pumps to more than two-thirds of residents and hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland.

Golden mussels like to stick to hard surfaces — like those pipes and pumps — and that has state officials concerned. "They're going to grow, they're going to settle out, attach onto the walls, and then begin forming those colonies," said Tanya Veldhuizen, an environmental program manager with the Department of Water Resources. "They just keep adding layers and layers and mussels until that pipeline is completely blocked."

The mussels also pose a significant environmental threat. Eric See is with the Department of Water Resources. He said Lake Oroville feeds water into the Feather River Fish Hatchery through small diameter piping. It raises steelhead trout and chinook salmon. Chinook populations are threatened, and the state is currently trying to bring them back. If that pipe gets blocked, it cuts off water to the fish. "Within just a few minutes you can lose millions of fish," See said. The mussels could also create large algae blooms that can kill fish and filter water, increasing aquatic weed growth. That makes it harder for fish in the water to navigate and find food.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed on Friday a budget that pares back a number of progressive priorities, including a landmark health care expansion for low-income adult immigrants without legal status, to close a $12 billion deficit.

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It's the third year in a row the nation's most populous state has been forced to slash funding or stop some of the programs championed by Democratic leaders. Lawmakers passed the budget earlier in the day following an agreement of a $321 billion spending plan between Newsom and Democratic leaders.

But the whole budget will be void if lawmakers don't send him legislation to make it easier to build housing by Monday.

The budget avoids some of the most devastating cuts to essential safety net programs, state leaders said. They mostly relied on using state savings, borrowing from special funds and delaying payments to plug the budget hole.

Arguments Continue In Legal Case Over Family Separation

On Friday, the American Civil Liberties Union argued in court that the federal government is breaking its promise to protect migrant families who were forcibly separated at the U.S.-Mexico border during the first Trump Administration.

Under a 2023 settlement agreement, the separated families were promised a path to asylum and things like legal and mental health support. But the ACLU said the Department of Justice has stopped funding many of those services. Lawyers also said the government has still not followed a court order to reinstate legal services to families.

The judge in the case ordered the government not to deport family members while the matter is being resolved.

Original Article: KQED by Keith Mizuguchi

Future-Proofing California: Why Smarter Water Storage Matters More Than Ever

Contrary to what many think, California doesn't suffer from a lack of water, but it does suffer from a lack of timing. Rain and snow may fall in abundance during a few months each year, but that water isn't always there when it's needed most.

The real challenge is managing the supply so it lasts. Overflowing reservoirs in wet months often waste water that could serve communities later. That's why storage, specifically smarter, long-term storage, is key to a more balanced statewide water strategy.

Storage Options: Why the Traditional Model Isn't Enough

For decades, California counted on snowpack and reservoirs as natural storage tools. These systems once provided seasonal flow, slowly releasing water through spring and summer.

But warmer winters and hotter summers have disrupted that balance. Snow melts too quickly, and reservoirs evaporate too fast. Traditional surface systems can't handle the volatility of modern weather patterns.

The result? Less water saved, more water lost. California needs a new model that can adapt to unpredictable conditions and store supplies efficiently.

Groundwater Banking: An Underused Advantage

One of the most promising solutions is storing water underground. Groundwater banking captures surplus surface water during wet periods and deposits it in aquifers for future use.

Unlike reservoirs, aquifers are shielded from evaporation. Water stays protected and available on demand during droughts or seasonal shortages.

This method isn't just more efficient; it's more flexible. Agencies can draw from underground reserves as needed without the rigid limitations of surface systems.

And because it taps into natural formations, groundwater storage doesn't require massive construction projects. It's scalable and often faster to deploy than new reservoirs.

Infrastructure in Motion: Examples of Groundwater Innovation

Across the state, projects are turning theory into practice. In the Central Valley, water districts are investing in recharge basins that push water back into underground systems.

Southern California is also moving quickly. Public-private collaborations are tapping into underused aquifers and converting aging infrastructure to meet current needs.

One notable effort is led by Cadiz, Inc. Based in Los Angeles, the company operates a large groundwater storage facility in the Mojave region. With a capacity of one million acre-feet, it offers a sizable reserve of protected water.

Cadiz also controls a 220-mile underground pipeline, once used for natural gas, that is being repurposed to transport water. With its 2022 acquisition of ATEC Water Systems, the company now adds modular filtration to the mix, offering treatment options for impaired groundwater sources.

The Road Ahead: What Smarter Storage Looks Like

Smarter storage doesn't mean building bigger; it means building better. Groundwater banking, modular treatment, and flexible delivery networks form the backbone of this future-forward approach.

Rather than waiting for crises, agencies are planning ahead. Integrated systems allow for real-time responses to drought, flood, or seasonal imbalances.

Investments in infrastructure and technology are reshaping how California manages its water. These aren't band-aid solutions. They're long-term strategies designed to evolve with changing conditions.

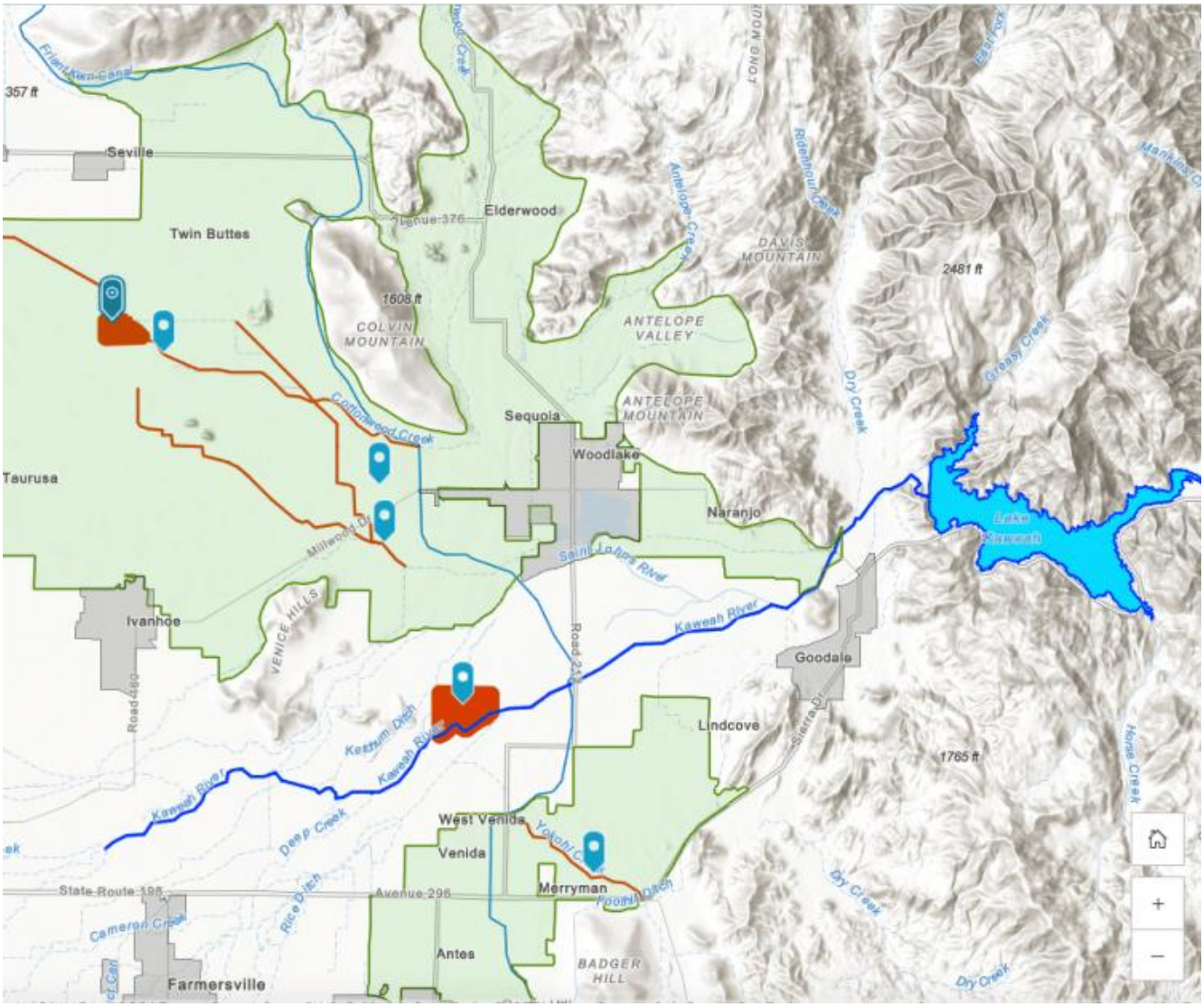
A Quiet, Practical Revolution

California's water resilience won't hinge on one massive reservoir or sweeping pipeline. It will depend on a network of smarter, quieter innovations.
From aquifer recharge to modular treatment to projects like Cadiz's hybrid model, the state is laying a more adaptable foundation. And while the transformation may not make headlines, its impact will be lasting.
The future of California water lies beneath the surface, protected, planned, and ready when it's needed most.
Original Article: USA Today by Matthew Kayser

Kaweah is second San Joaquin Valley groundwater basin to escape state enforcement

The Kaweah subbasin is the second San Joaquin Valley region to successfully escape state intervention, managers learned today.
In a phone call with state Water Resources Control Board staff, managers of Kaweah's three groundwater sustainability agencies got the news that their efforts to rewrite their groundwater management plans were good enough for staff to recommend that they return to Department of Water Resources oversight.
"I think the proof is in the pudding," said Aaron Fukuda, speaking on behalf of the East, Mid- and Greater Kaweah groundwater sustainability agencies. "We put everything we had into the development of the GSP, and now we will put all that energy into implementation."
The Chowchilla subbasin successfully made the u-turn from state enforcement back to oversight in early June. Fukuda said Kaweah will follow much the same path as Chowchilla.
The Water Board will consider the staff recommendation for Kaweah at a meeting in the fall, when it can pass a resolution formally sending Kaweah back to DWR.
Returning to DWR oversight guarantees landowners freedom from additional fees under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, which mandates that overdraft stop and aquifers reach balance by 2040. Under probation, landowners would have to register wells at $300 each, install meters and pay $20 per acre foot pumped, on top of fees already paid to their irrigation and groundwater agencies.
That breathing room means a lot to landowners, who just a few years ago were in a subbasin wracked by disagreements over pumping allocations. The three groundwater agencies were at loggerheads and tense meetings pitted farmer against farmer.
Part of the challenge that continues to this day is that the East and Mid-Kaweah groundwater agencies have substantial amounts of imported surface water whereas a large chunk of Greater Kaweah has no surface water. Farmers in those areas are totally dependent on groundwater.

"We put everything we had into the development of the GSP, and now we will put all that energy into implementation."
Aaron Fukuda, interim manager of the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency
But facing the spectre of probation, water managers, residents and landowners rewrote the region's plan to include aggressive pumping restrictions basin wide and ramped up the number of water recharge projects.
The efforts earned them first a delay and then a cancellation of their probationary hearing.
The revised plan focuses on four key problems pointed out by Water Board staff: chronic lowering of groundwater levels; land subsidence; degradation of water quality and depletion of interconnected surface water.
Groundwater agencies also opened their pocketbooks to address impacts that lowered groundwater levels have on domestic wells. The crown jewel of the revised plan is a $5.8 million domestic well protection program in cooperation with Visalia-based nonprofit Self-Help Enterprises, hailed by drinking water advocates as a beacon for other subbasins to follow.
Managers have returned to the drawing board on that program, though, as state funding challenges have threatened the GSAs' ability to assist residents whose wells have gone dry.



Some projects in East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency are funded by the state Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program.

Fukuda gave credit to the consultants who have worked alongside basin managers Mark Larsen of Greater Kaweah and Mike Hagman of East Kaweah.

Fukuda said many challenges remain for water managers, including how the state allocates surface water.

“We’re basically managing the extraction of surface water,” he said. “So, if the game changes on the surface water side, it’s going to affect groundwater. But my goal is to give agriculture and communities a fair shot at the same future they had in the past, even though it’s going to be a challenge.”

Kaweah’s revised GSP is posted on the DWR portal at https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/state/preview-intervention/4 and is open for a 75-day public comment period until Sept. 1.

According to a June 26 press release from DWR’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Office, posting a GSP on the portal initiates a 75-day public comment

period. However, DWR will not evaluate or assess any GSP from the Kaweah subbasin unless requested to do so by the water board or until the board notifies DWR that state intervention is complete and indicates jurisdiction be returned back to DWR. DWR will provide notice if it evaluates the GSP and will open a second public comment period.

Status of other basins

The six other San Joaquin Valley subbasins found to have inadequate plans are in varying stages of the enforcement process.

The Water Board has already placed two valley subbasins on probation, including Tulare Lake, which covers most of Kings County, and the Tule subbasin, which covers the southern half of Tulare County's flatlands.

The Kings County Farm Bureau sued the state and has so far been able to stave off probationary sanctions in the Tulare Lake subbasin. Probationary sanctions are just getting under way in the Tule subbasin.

The Water Board held Kern's probationary hearing in February and gave water managers more time to tweak that subbasin's plan, also noting substantial progress. Its next hearing is scheduled for Sept. 17.The Delta-Mendota subbasin will come before the board sometime this year. The Pleasant Valley subbasin just received an inadequate designation for its plan in February.

Original Article: Mevens Notebook/ SJV Water by Lisa McEwen

US WATER NEWS

Western states step up to save their wetlands

The U.S. Supreme Court's 2023 decision on *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency* dramatically weakened protections for millions of acres of the West's essential wetlands and streams. Under the ruling, only bodies of water with a "continuous surface connection" to a "relatively permanent" traditional, navigable water body can be legally considered part of the waters of the United States (WOTUS) and therefore covered by the Clean Water Act.

The court's definition excludes wetlands with belowground connections to bodies of water as well as those fed by ephemeral or intermittent streams. In effect, an estimated 60% of wetlands have lost federal protection, according to a National Resources Defense

Council report. The language in the decision was ambiguous — exactly how wet a wetland has to be to fall under WOTUS and qualify protections was left up to federal agencies.

Wetlands are critical to both human and ecosystem health as well as for climate change mitigation. But they are also prime targets for dredging, filling and other disruptions because of their proximity to water and rich, fertile soil.

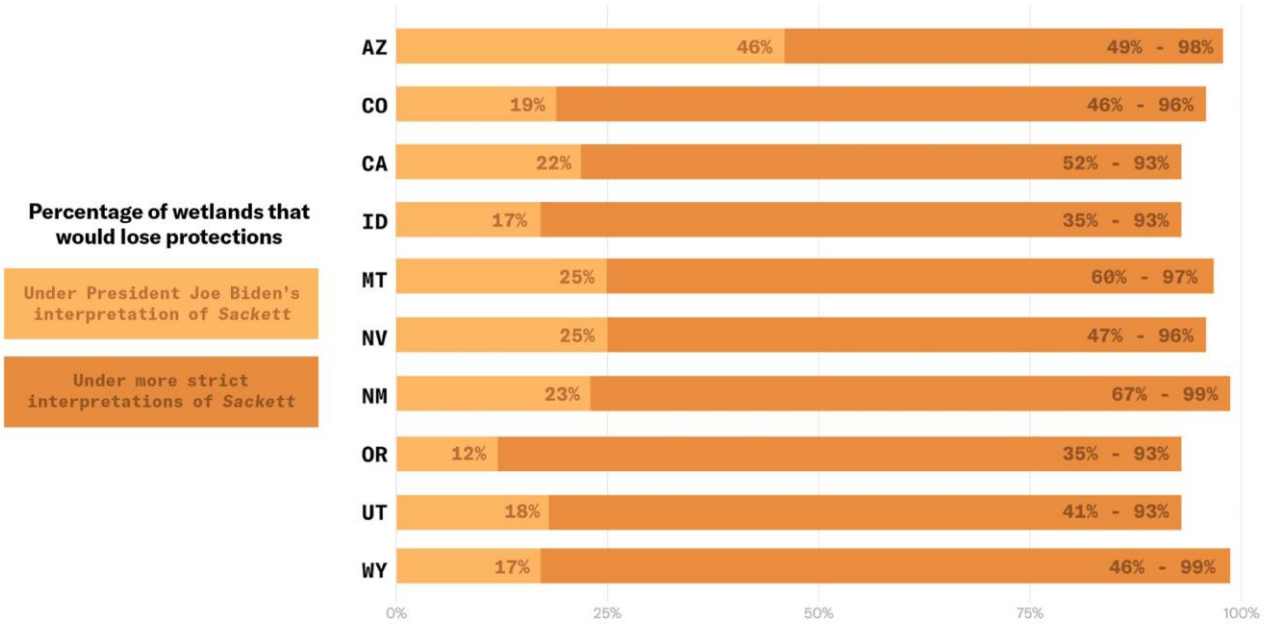
Under President Biden, the EPA broadly interpreted *Sackett*, focusing on protecting wetlands adjacent to bodies of water, with no explicit threshold for how often they had to be flooded. In March, however, Donald Trump's EPA released a memo indicating that it plans to restrict *all* WOTUS, although it's not yet clear by how much.

"The current EPA seems to be using *Sackett* as a springboard to find any perceived ambiguities and narrow the definition of WOTUS further," said Julian Gonzalez, senior legislative counsel at Earthjustice.

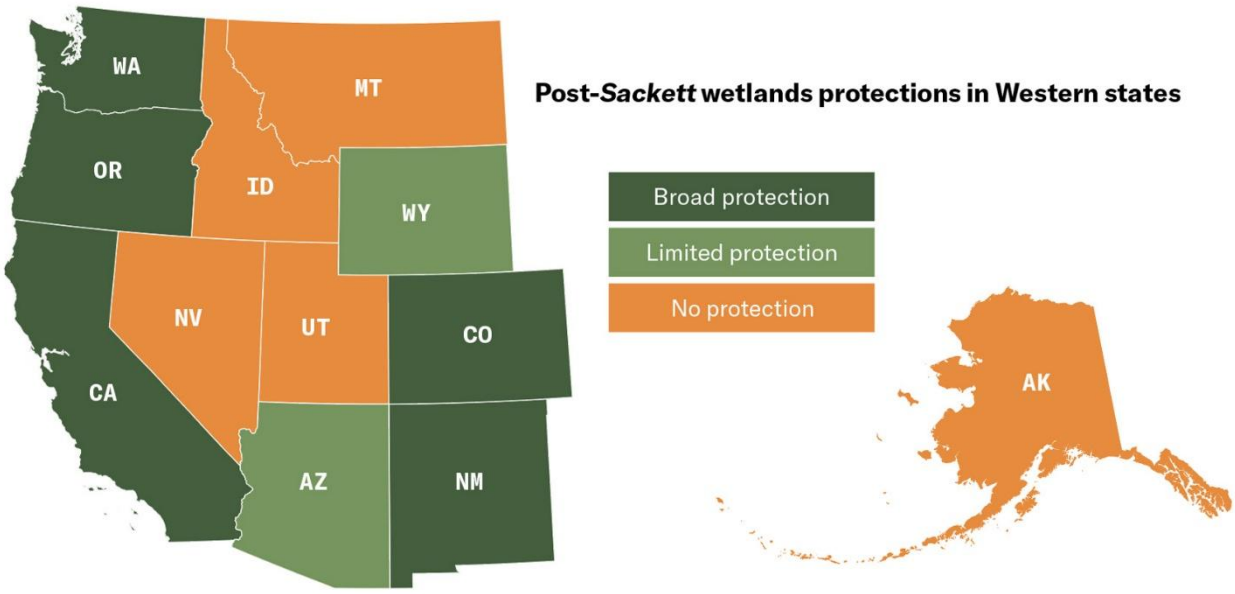
"The current EPA seems to be using *Sackett* as a springboard to find any perceived ambiguities and narrow the definition of WOTUS further."

In the absence of federal regulations, state dredge-and-fill permitting programs can protect wetlands, and California, Oregon and Washington all have broad protections for non-WOTUS wetlands and streams. And since the *Sackett* decision, Colorado and New Mexico have passed laws restoring clean water protections for waters excluded from WOTUS. "It's a dereliction of duty on the federal government's part by not appropriately protecting the waters of the U.S. and that leaves it up to the states to fill in those protections," said Rachel Conn, deputy director of Amigos Bravos, a New Mexico conservation organization.

The result is a patchwork of laws protecting the nation's wetlands. But if more Western states were to emulate their neighbors' efforts and take action, millions of acres of wetlands could be saved, even in the absence of strong federal protections.



National Resources Defense Council estimates are based on scenarios in which the federal government adopts two interpretations of Sackett that are supported by industry and some states: one, excluding wetlands adjacent to intermittent or ephemeral streams (bottom of range), and another, excluding wetlands that are not wet or flooded most of the year (top of range). According to legal experts, the EPA's current guidance suggests that the administration will limit WOTUS significantly, excluding most wetlands. Alaska is excluded from this graph due to lack of data.



Arizona

Wetland oversight is primarily conducted through the Surface Water Protection Program (SWPP), administered by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. House Bill 2691, passed in 2021 before *Sackett*, established the SWPP, which allows the state to protect some waters not covered under the Clean Water Act.

Wyoming

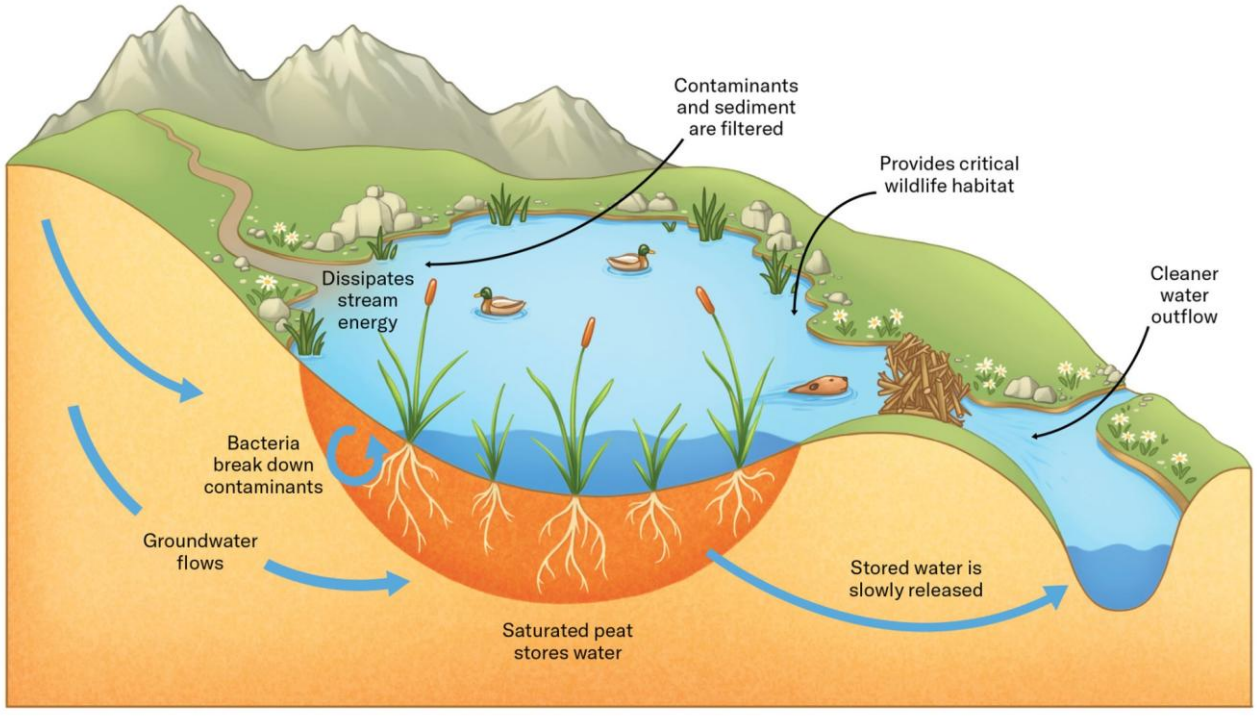
While Wyoming lacks a permitting program, it does bar the discharge of any pollution or wastes into its waters without a clean water permit. In addition, Wyoming established a Wetland Banking Fund before *Sackett* to encourage individuals and companies to preserve wetlands. It enables entities to bank wetland credits earned from wetland conservation projects and use them later to offset a development's impacts on wetlands, with the goal of achieving "no net loss of wetland function and value in the state."

Colorado

Wetland protections are primarily governed by House Bill 24-1379, a law passed in 2024 that aims to restore Clean Water Act protections to state wetlands that lost them owing to *Sackett.* It establishes a state permitting program.

New Mexico

The Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Act (SB 21), which was signed into law on April 8, gives the state authority to regulate surface waters. It creates a statewide permitting program and addresses polluted groundwater that falls outside federal programs.



Original Article: [High Country News by Natalia Mesa]

Arizona approves 'Ag-to-Urban' water conservation plan

In a bipartisan compromise between state lawmakers and the executive branch, Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs approved a program estimated to conserve nearly 10 million acre-feet of water and facilitate thousands of new housing developments across central Arizona.

State Senator T.J. Shope's Senate Bill 1611 met Hobbs' pen Monday morning, setting in motion what state officials refer to as the "Ag-to-Urban" plan. The legislation, backed by a Senate supermajority and bipartisan coalition in the House, creates a voluntary program for farmers in the Phoenix and Pinal County active management areas to sell portions of their land and the accompanying water rights to developers to build new urban communities with a lower demand than the previous agricultural use.

"Hard-working Arizonans will be able to pursue their American dream of homeownership as home supply increases in Maricopa and Pinal Counties and prices naturally ease," Shope, a Republican from Coolidge, said in a press release. "Our farmers, who are ready to retire, can reap the benefits of their land while also allowing the state to save water.

"The Ag-to-Urban plan is the most consequential piece of groundwater conservation legislation since the 1980 Groundwater Management Act," he said.

That bill established Arizona's five initial active management areas, including the Phoenix metro and Pinal County, in which groundwater pumping is regulated and monitored as opposed to virtually unlimited pumping in other parts of the state. In an active management area, developers must receive a designation of assured water supply, typically by proving the existence of a 100-year supply of groundwater beneath the pre-developed land.

For the last two years, both Republican legislators and the Arizona Department of Water Resources have worked on their own versions of the ag-to-urban solution to allow new communities to be built while still conserving the lifeline that is the state's ever-dwindling water supply. Though vastly different at conception — Hobbs vetoed Shope's first crack at the idea last year — the plans eventually coalesced.

"The Ag-to-Urban Program is based on the significant reduction in groundwater use that would otherwise continue if the grandfathered rights to irrigate farmland were not retired," water department director Tom Buschatzke said in the press release. "The strong bipartisan support for this program is an indication that Arizona can make the hard choices on water needed in an era of limits."

Under the program, farmers in either of the active management areas would voluntarily relinquish groundwater rights on individual acres of land irrigated by groundwater in three of the previous five years. In exchange, a farmer would receive conservation credits based on the number of acres relinquished.

The farmer would then sell the acres to land developers, who would "pledge" the credits to a water provider that services that land. The water provider would in turn apply the conservation credits to its requirement to prove physical availability, more easily achieving a designation of assured water supply and allowing new commercial and residential developments to proliferate.

Both the water department and lawmakers made concessions between their two proposals. While the department proposed 100 acre-feet of water credits in exchange for an acre in the Phoenix AMA and 70 acre-feet for an acre in Pinal County, the final bill allows for higher conversion rates: 150 acre-feet in Phoenix and 100 in Pinal County.

Shope's bill originally included the Tucson active management area, even though the area doesn't have the same unmet demand for housing and water conservation as Phoenix and Pinal County. An amendment on the Senate floor removes Tucson from the bill pending a more in-depth study on the Tucson area's water and development needs.

The amendment also added additional limits pushed by Senate Democrats to ensure the program doesn't lead to more pumping on land that hadn't been heavily irrigated in the past.

"This Ag-to-Urban bill, SB1611, represents a bipartisan compromise to allow grandfathered irrigation rights in our active management areas to be converted to housing that uses less groundwater," Senate Democrat Priya Sundareshan said. "Importantly, it contains many key guardrails designed to ensure that groundwater savings will be achieved over the next 100 years as a result of this program."

As Arizona continues to negotiate the future of its share of Colorado River water, lawmakers say the historic conservation step will show the federal government and the six other states reliant on the river that Arizona is willing and able to make necessary cuts.

"We are putting Arizona in a good position for Colorado River negotiations moving forward with the other basin states," Shope said.

The seven basin states have until October 2026 to negotiate fair water use before the federal government steps in and mandates cuts. In the meantime, the flow of the Colorado continues to shrink, and the surrounding states are left searching for solutions elsewhere.

Original Article: Courthouse News by Joe Duhownik

Stricter Oregon water transfer rules die with end of legislative session

Oregon's legislative session ended with lawmakers not taking action on bills that would impose new environmental review regulations on certain water rights transfers. The debate over stricter rules for water rights transfers persisted throughout the session, but even the proposal with the most momentum, Senate Bill 1153, ultimately died in committee on June 27. Proponents claimed that Oregon has gone too long without

considering the environmental consequences of such transfers, but critics feared that additional reviews would inevitably lead to more red tape and litigation "If you have a drought situation, and you need to divert where you are using or diverting water, it can't be a years-long thing," said Greg Addington, executive director of the Oregon Farm Bureau. Supporters countered that worries about SB 1153 immobilizing transfers were overblown, particularly since the types of transactions subject to environmental reviews was limited under the most recent version of the proposal. "In the 21st Century, knowing what we know now, it is reasonable for us to be looking at the impacts of proposed transfers," said Caylin Barter, water policy director for the Wild Salmon Center nonprofit and a representative of the Oregon Water Partnership, a coalition of conservation groups. Several bills affecting water rights transfers were introduced during the 2025 session, including Senate Bill 427, which would have prohibited upstream transfers that reduced stream flows, and House Bill 3501, which meant to preserve the status quo by banning public interest reviews of transfers. Ultimately, most of the discussion centered on SB 1153, which had the backing of Gov. Tina Kotek and whose scope was amended after months of negotiations. In the latest version considered by lawmakers, SB 1153 would have required environmental reviews of transfers that shift a point of diversion upstream or move a well within a quarter-mile of a waterway, which have the potential to reduce stream flows. Reviews under the amended bill would focus on sensitive and protected fish, rather than aquatic species more generally, and exempt transfers that change the place of use, among other provisions. Tribal governments would have also been allowed to review the effects of transfers in certain areas under SB 1153. Critics of the bill, including the state's major agriculture organizations, claimed the proposal was a solution in search of a problem. "There was not a single example of how a transfer had caused harm to the environment," said April Snell, executive director of the Oregon Water Resources Congress, which represents irrigation districts. By introducing additional reviews, the bill would also create new opportunities for such transactions to be challenged at a time when the Oregon Water Resources Department already faces a backlog of water rights transactions and administrative challenges, according to critics. "It creates a whole lot of work for the department, which can't get its core functions done anyway," said Jeff Stone, executive director of the Oregon Association of Nurseries. Due to the amendment, city governments were exempted from having their transfers reviewed by the agency, eliminating one of the main blocks of opposition to the bill. Before their objections were neutralized, however, the concerns raised by cities likely made some lawmakers hesitant to support the proposal, said Addington of the Farm Bureau. "Even when they were excluded, legislators knew there were problems with this bill," he said. The exemption for municipalities also seemed driven by "political expediency," since irrigators are also subject to federal and state environmental regulations when working

within waterways, Addington said. "That just didn't ring true for our folks," he said. Barter of the Oregon Water Partnership said it's "disingenuous" to claim that transfers have not caused environmental problems, since that potential is entirely unexamined under existing transfer regulations. Concerns about transfers, which have existed for decades, are justified by the known constraints on Oregon's water supplies, she said. "It is incumbent we modernize these transfer statutes to ensure we are not making things worse." It was never the intent of SB 1153 to increase litigation and it's unlikely that's how the bill would have played out in reality, since environmental groups are not responsible for most existing disputes over water rights transactions, she said. "The vast majority of challenges are not brought by public interest groups, but by the applicant or a neighbor," Barter said. Furthermore, the latest version of the proposal was written in a way that would've encouraged OWRD and applicants to negotiate and prevent a "tiny subset" of transfers from harming stream flows, she said. "That was built into the amendment, that process for evaluating potentially problematic applications," she said. Despite the significant narrowing of the bill's scope, there was never a "commensurate reduction" in the political "temperature" surrounding the proposal, said James Fraser, Oregon policy director for the Trout Unlimited nonprofit.
Original Article: Capital Press by Matuesz Perkowski

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation invests over $33M in drought resiliency projects in the West

The Bureau of Reclamation is announcing $33.5 million for 14 projects to improve drought resiliency through water treatment, new or improved infrastructure, and implementation of new water management tools and technology. The projects are located in California, Nebraska, Utah and Washington.
"These investments represent the continued commitment by the Department of the Interior to help build drought resilient communities throughout the West," said Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Scott Cameron. "We are empowering these local water management agencies to take the steps necessary to develop alternate water sources, transport water to areas in need, or treat previously unusable water to supplement their supplies."
The investments are empowering local water management agencies to take the steps necessary to develop alternate water sources, transport water to areas in need, or treat previously unusable water to supplement their supplies
The funding is made available through annual appropriations through the WaterSMART Drought Response program. The program provides a framework for federal leadership and assistance to stretch and secure water supplies for future generations in support of the Department's priorities.

“Through WaterSMART, we are able to leverage federal and non-federal funding and work with states, tribes and other water management entities to plan and implement projects to increase the stability of their water supply,” said Acting Commissioner David Palumbo. “Clean, reliable water supply development continues to be a priority.”

This funding opportunity, which closed in October of 2024, invited eligible applicants to submit proposals for project to increase water management flexibility and reliability to help entities prepare for and address impacts of drought and water supply shortages. A full list of selected projects can be found here.

Original Article: Smart Water Magazine/ USBR

U.S.-Mexico Water Dispute Escalates: Climate change strains 80-year-old Rio Grande treaty

A decades-old treaty governing water sharing of the Rio Grande is under severe strain as climate change brings harsher droughts. Communities in Mexico face severe water shortages while political and industrial pressures escalate tensions with the U.S. Our Correspondent Alasdair Baverstock reports from the northern Mexican border.

ARMANDO DIAZ Mexican Farmer "Someone told me 40 years ago, the next global war will be over water. They weren't wrong. Without water, we are nothing. And whoever controls the water, will be the one who has control over others. Water is life. Water is vital, and we are not taking care of it."`

Lake Amistad, on the Texas border with Mexico. For more than eighty years the U.S. and Mexico have shared this reservoir, yet today, at the dam marking the international border, levels on the Mexican side are now significantly lower.

ALEJANDRO BRAVO Acuña Resident "I've never seen the reservoir so empty. It's because the U.S. president has been pressuring the Mexican president to deliver the water we owe, but we don't have any water to give to the United States."

Since 1944 the U.S. and Mexico have had a water sharing treaty.

ROSARIO SANCHEZ Water Scientist "The treaty states that the Rio Colorado provides water to Mexico, and the seven states in the U.S., and the Rio Grande provides water to the U.S., in this case, Texas."

Under the agreement, Mexico must deliver two billion cubic meters of water to Texas from its side of the Rio Grande basin every five years. But the worsening impacts of climate change have left those water resources scarce.

ALASDAIR BAVERSTOCK Coahuila, Mexico "In order for Mexico to deliver the volumes stipulated by the U.S. water sharing treaty, it depends on resources from across its side of the Rio Grande basin. However a prolonged period of drought has left many of those tributary rivers completely dry."

ROSARIO SANCHEZ Water Scientist "The problem here lies in the way that the provision of 'extraordinary drought' is described in the treaty, because it's not defined what 'extraordinary drought' is. So it's basically up to the upstream country to decide when to use it and when not."

For a long time now, a situation of extreme drought has ravaged northern Mexico.

ARMANDO DIAZ Mexican Farmer "In my childhood, the worst summer we ever lived through reached 40 degrees centigrade, and that was for only four or five days. But today, we see those temperatures during spring. How is climate change not going to have an impact, even if the U.S. president denies it is a reality?"

Despite the water scarcity, Donald Trump insisted Mexico keep up its water deliveries – threatening to cut off the water supply to Tijuana – unless Mexico complied.

"Mexico has been stealing water from Texas farmers." the U.S. President stormed on social media and we will keep escalating consequences, including tariffs and, maybe even sanctions, until Mexico honors the treaty.

The post caused concern in drought-ravaged northern Mexico, where Lenin Perez is a former federal congressman.

LENIN PEREZ Former Federal Congressman "At the moment, the water resources available to us are for human consumption. There is not enough water to water crops on Mexican fields, or in Texas. President Trump is demanding these water deliveries, but there is no way we can pay them."

Fearing to defer, Mexico's federal government drained its side of the Amistad Reservoir. Now, the disregard for the needs of the Mexican people is beginning to bite.

Nueva Rosita, a town dependent on the Rio Grande reservoirs, and now facing water rationing.

JUANA CANTERA Nueva Rosita Resident "We used to have water 24 hours a day, now it comes for three or four hours. And there are times when there's no water at all. What can we do without water?"

CANDELARIO GARCIA Nueva Rosita Resident "We wish they hadn't sent all that water to the United States. It may be politics, but it's the people who suffer."

Armando Diaz is a local farmers' union leader, who says the once productive lands around his city are now facing real difficulties.

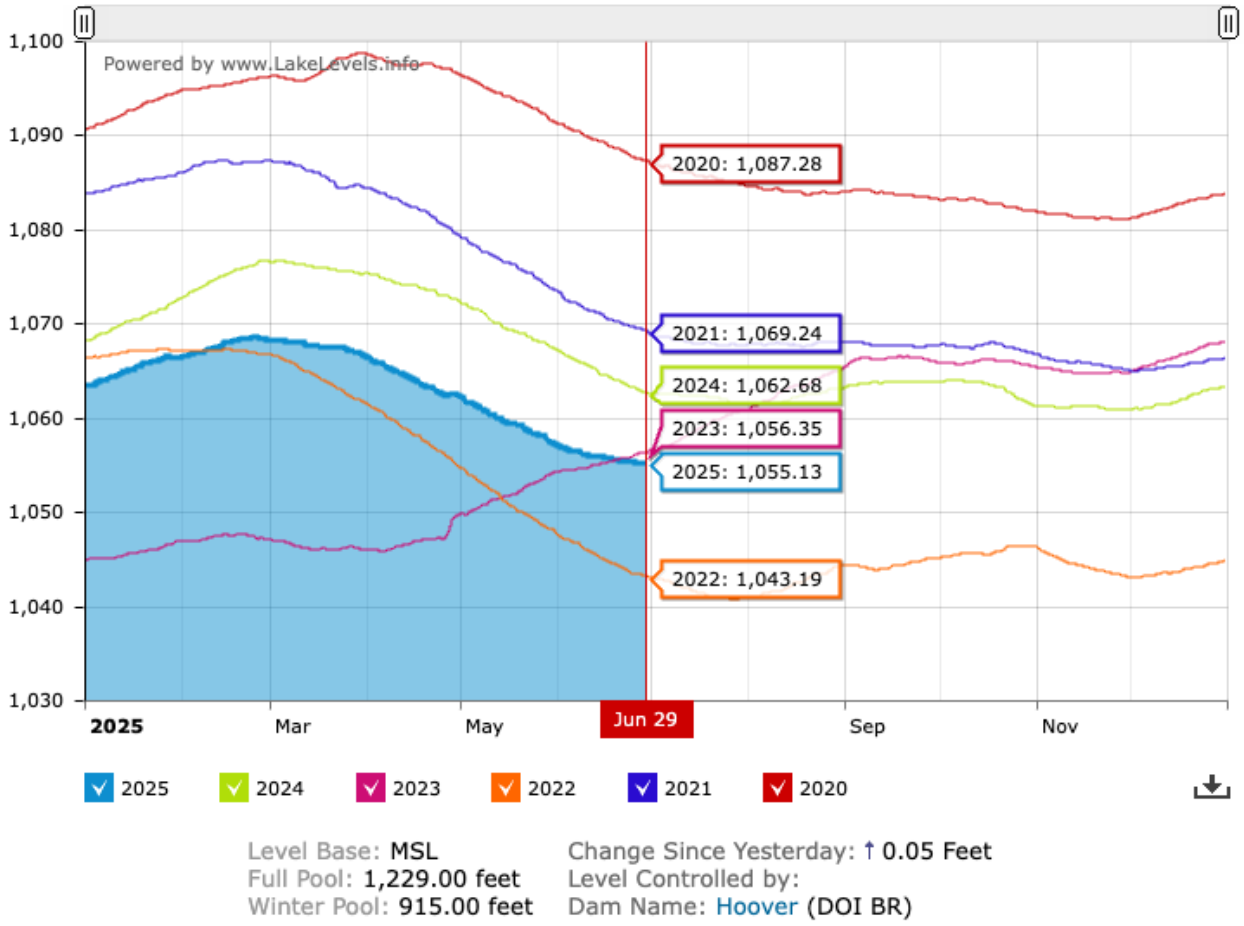
ARMANDO DIAZ Farmer "If there's no water, there's no life. Climate change has impacted us here. Since 2010 it has not rained like it should. What's more, the fields have no water due to problems with water administration and distribution."

The distribution of water is also a major issue. Between Nueva Rosita and the Texas border stands the world's largest brewery. Owned and operated by U.S. company Constellation Brands, it consumes some 50 million liters of water a day to make Corona beer, all of it for export to the U.S.

LENIN PEREZ Former Federal Congressman "All of the beer it produces goes for export, it's not even a beer that we Mexicans can drink. And it has been draining our water resources."
As water resources become more scare in North America, the conflict over who has priority threatens to worsen.
LENIN PEREZ Former Federal Congressman "Trump needs to change his idea that we have to pay for these volumes of water, when there is no more water available. We need to talk about how we can consume less water, keep our agricultural sectors productive, and forget the idea of uncontrolled exploitation of our water resources."
ROSARIO SANCHEZ Water Scientist "It's not like Mexico is going to invent water out of nothing, and it's not like Mexico doesn't want to comply with the treaty. It wants to comply. We don't need a new treaty, we just need new minutes, to evolve to the new conditions that were not identified or expected in the 1940s."
As global warming and international politics combine at the U.S.-Mexico border, what may be a political game to the Trump administration in Washington DC, is a matter of life and death for those living on the sharp edge of climate change in the deserts of North America.
Original Article: CGTN

Lake Mead drops 2 more feet this month as drought spreads

Lake Mead has dropped about 2 feet since the beginning of June as drought conditions continue to worsen across Nevada.
On the first of the month, the elevation was 1,057 ft and as of June 29, it's now at 1,055.13 ft. Currently, the elevation higher than it's record-breaking low year in 2022.
However, the reservoir is sitting lower than where it was in 2020, 2021, 2023, and 2024.
Check out what June 29 looked like the past six years:

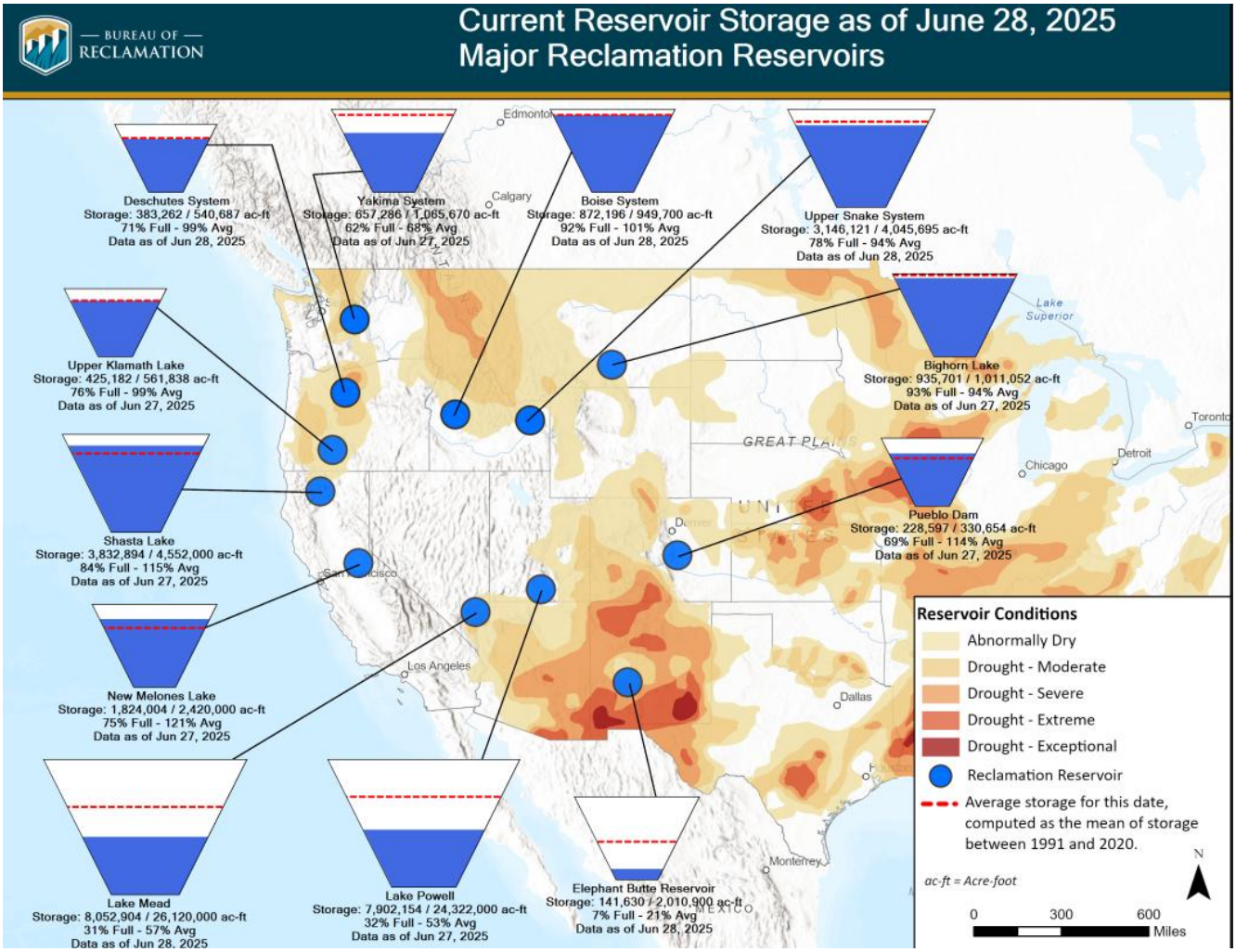


The reservoir is currently at 31% capacity, while Lake Powell sits at 32% capacity, according to the latest teacup diagrams from Bureau of Reclamation (BOR).

The current unregulated inflow of water from the Colorado River to Lake Powell is estimated to be 45% of average through July, according to the latest 24-month Most Probable Study for the Upper and Lower Colorado Basin Regions from BOR.

While seasonal dips are normal this time of year, in my latest May update, Lake Mead was sitting at 32% capacity.

Here's a look at the current reservoirs across the West:



Bureau of Reclamation

This past winter did not do the system much favor, with below average snowfall in the Colorado Rockies.

This update comes as dry conditions are exacerbating in Nevada.

As of June 24, nearly the entirety of the Silver State is experiencing abnormally dry to exceptional drought conditions as of this weekend.

Original Article: KTNV by Geneva Zoltek

Utah's monsoon season is about to start at a helpful time for the state

Utah's drought has intensified in recent weeks, but help could soon be on the way.

A "light" monsoonal system is forecast for the middle of this week, thanks to a pair of storms near Utah that should rotate moisture in the state, said KSL meteorologist Matt Johnson. A high-pressure system near the Four Corners is helping push water vapor from the Gulf of Mexico, also referred to as the Gulf of America, toward Utah, while a low-pressure system off the California coast may do the same from the Pacific Ocean.

"It's not the deepest tap of monsoonal moisture, but it is something, and it's going to increase our rain chances as we head through midweek," he said. "We'll see some showers out of it."

A few small showers popped up on Monday, but more scattered showers are expected across the state beginning Tuesday afternoon. Thunderstorms and microbursts are possible, including a "marginal" risk of severe storms near the West Desert, according to the National Weather Service.

The storm probability increases again on Wednesday and Thursday as more rain from the two systems ends up in Utah, Johnson added. Drier conditions are expected to return by the Fourth of July and the holiday weekend.

Precipitation totals will vary across the state, depending on where a storm pops up. Monsoonal storms can often dump heavy totals in localized areas, leading to flooding potential, but they also leave some communities without much precipitation.

The National Weather Service advises people to use caution in slot canyons, normally dry washes and near recent wildfire burn scars in central and southern Utah on Wednesday and Thursday, as there are some elevated flash flooding risks.

Although KSL Weather models indicate that the incoming moisture could be relatively small, Johnson pointed out that this week could be the start of more summer monsoon moisture to come. Utah has a slight probability for above-normal moisture through the first half of July, with greater chances in southern Utah, per the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center.

The center updated its outlook for July on Monday, listing all of Utah as having "equal chances." That means there is no clear signal whether July will be wetter or drier than normal, or close to normal. It snaps a streak of months where outlooks have favored drier conditions, which have come to fruition.

Utah ended May on pace for its 16th driest water year since 1895, according to National Centers for Environmental Information data. Precipitation in places like Salt Lake City remains nearly 4 inches below normal for this point in the water year, which began on Oct. 1.

That, mixed with poor snowpack collections in central and southern Utah, has left most of the state in drought. Over 90% of Utah is now in moderate or severe drought, while the rest of the state is "abnormally dry," the U.S. Drought Monitor reported. Gov. Spencer Cox called for a "statewide day of prayer and fasting for rain" that happened on Sunday, as conditions have worsened this summer.

The Beehive State also increased its outdoor fire restrictions, implementing them on all state and unincorporated lands. It matches similar restrictions on many federal lands in the state.

Over 400 fires have started in Utah this year, which have burned more than 52,000 acres of land. The largest of these is the France Canyon Fire near Bryce Canyon, At over 33,000 acres, it is now the largest in Utah since 2020.
The Forsyth Fire has been the most destructive this year, burning 18 structures in the Pine Valley area of Washington County.
Original Article: KSL by Carter Williams

Gov. Hochul Announces $325 Million in Grants for Clean Water Infrastructure Projects

Governor Kathy Hochul announced that $325 million in new funding is available for the next round of the Water Infrastructure Improvement and Intermunicipal Water Infrastructure Grants program.
This significant investment will help municipalities across the state repair, upgrade and modernize the drinking water and sewer systems, directly safeguarding public health, improving water quality, and driving economic growth. This funding underscores Gov. Hochul's ongoing commitment to clean water, public health, and affordability.
By improving infrastructure, the State is not only protecting drinking water and the environment, but also creating good paying jobs in manufacturing, engineering and construction–all while providing crucial financial relief to New Yorkers.
"New Yorkers deserve clean water, and we're delivering," Gov. Hochul said. "This $325 million investment is about action, not promises. We're modernizing our critical infrastructure, tackling PFAS contamination head-on, and giving communities the tools they need to build strong, safe, modern water systems, while keeping utility rates affordable for hardworking families. This is how we protect public health, cut costs, and lay the foundation for lasting progress in New York."
The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) will open the grant round on June 20, when applications, guidance and webinar information will be posted to efc.ny.gov**.** EFC's website can also connect applicants to the Community Assistance Teams, who can help local governments address their water infrastructure needs and provide tips for submitting competitive applications. **Applications will be due Sept. 12.**
This grant round advances Gov. Hochul's comprehensive clean water and affordability agendas by continuing enhanced grant awards for projects that address some of New York's most urgent water quality needs:
PFAS Treatment: Eligible projects that address water systems with emerging contaminants above the State determined maximum contaminant level (MCL) will be awarded 70 percent of net eligible project costs. Water systems with emerging contaminant levels between the federal proposed level and the state level will also get enhanced scoring. For all other projects, including those addressing federal MCLs but below the state's maximum allowed level, a municipality can receive $5 million or now

up to 70 percent of eligible project costs, whichever is less. These improvements to the State's program are designed to help communities be better prepared to comply with future federal standards and proactively safeguard public health.

Small and Rural Sewer Projects: Even with substantial state support for water infrastructure, many small municipalities still face financial barriers. To address this, Governor Hochul is once again directing EFC to double grants from 25 percent to 50 percent of the net eligible project costs for small struggling communities. This enhanced funding will significantly reduce the financial strain on local ratepayers. Further, EFC's Community Assistance Teams will continue their dedicated work on helping small and rural communities access state and federal investments to address their water infrastructure needs.

Additionally, municipalities are encouraged to submit applications for other eligible projects including:

- Wastewater treatment plant construction or upgrades
- Sewer system extensions or rehabilitations
- Disinfection and advanced treatment technologies to improve water quality
- Installation or improvement of drinking water treatment systems
- Replacement or rehabilitation of aging water mains and service lines
- Replacement of lead service lines

Collaborative projects between municipalities to share services or infrastructure
Cost-effective regional approaches to water and sewer infrastructure challenges

"New York is leading the nation in a comprehensive approach to protect public health and the environment," said New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Amanda Lefton. "This investment of an additional $325 million to improve clean water infrastructure and address emerging containments is a reflection of our steadfast commitment to delivering clean water to New Yorkers. This investment in local communities highlights Governor Hochul's dedication to advancing water infrastructure improvements to enhance water quality while keeping costs down for New Yorkers."

New York State continues to increase its nation-leading investments in water infrastructure, including more than $2.2 billion in financial assistance from EFC for local water infrastructure projects in State Fiscal Year 2024 alone.

With $500 million allocated for clean water infrastructure in the FY26 Enacted Budget announced by Gov. Hochul, New York has invested a total of $6 billion in water infrastructure since 2017.

Original Article: Adirondack Almanack

Legislature Approves $20 Billion for Water Infrastructure: Is Texas Finally Taking Water Seriously?

With a booming population and water-guzzling industries like petrochemical plants and data centers expanding across the state, demand for water in Texas is rising fast. At the same time, our water supplies are becoming more uncertain. Longer, more intense droughts, worsened by climate change, are taking a toll. Just last month, the Edwards Aquifer hit a record low, triggering Stage 5 restrictions that slash water pumping by 44%. The Texas State Water Plan estimates water demand will rise by 9% by 2050, while the water available during a drought could drop by 18%. That's why the Texas Legislature's recent passage of Senate Bill 7, which could funnel more than $20 billion into water infrastructure through 2047, is a big – and mostly welcome – development.

If voters approve the funding this November, Texas will be better positioned to secure its long-term water future. But the way those dollars are spent could determine whether we solve our water problems *sustainably* – or make them worse.

Up to 30% of the water used in sprinkler irrigation is lost to evaporation.

Where Will All This Water Go?

According to the State Water Plan, municipal use will drive the largest increase in demand. Over the next 50 years, the state's population is expected to grow by 21.8 million people, with an additional 10 billion gallons of water needed annually to meet their needs.

But here's the catch: while that sounds like a lot of drinking and showering, nearly half of all municipal water goes toward landscaping – lawns and golf courses – not drinking fountains.

Next in line is manufacturing, with industries expected to need an extra 200,000 acre-feet by 2030 – equivalent to 500 billion bottles of water. Some of that is already creating tension: plans to divert 31 billion gallons per year from the Lavaca River for petrochemical production could threaten aquatic species and fisheries.

What Water Projects Will Get Funded?

In 2023, lawmakers created the Texas Water Fund, a special treasury account to support water infrastructure for the long haul. It's managed by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and funnels money into both traditional programs and a new initiative: the New Water Supply for Texas Fund.

The New Water Supply for Texas Fund includes proposals like:

- Desalination (including costly, energy-intensive ocean desal)
- Treatment of oil and gas wastewater
- Water acquisition from other states
- Aquifer storage and recovery (ASR)

Some of these strategies, like ASR, are promising. Others, like ocean desalination and long-distance pipelines, raise serious environmental red flags.

A Win for Conservation: Key Improvements to SB 7

When first introduced, Senate Bill 7 proposed steering 80% of new investments to the New Water Supply Fund. Fortunately, the final version – thanks to smart amendments – reduced that to 50%, included water plan projects under the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) program, and expanded the definition of "new water supply" to include water reuse projects.

Even better: the other 50% can now be used for conservation and resilience efforts, such as:

- Fixing leaky pipes
- Supporting flood infrastructure
- Funding the Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP)
- Investing in agricultural conservation
- Expanding water reuse
- Funding for wastewater infrastructure

This flexibility gives the Texas Water Development Board more power to fund impactful, environmentally sound projects.

The Unseen Leaks: Water Loss Mitigation

Texas's aging water infrastructure is literally leaking away our future. Some systems are over 60 years old. In Houston alone, 36 billion gallons were lost in just 18 months, despite tens of millions spent on repairs.

That's why it's exciting that the TWDB's 2024 implementation plan (from SB 30's $1B appropriation) allocates $450 million to address water loss through the Rural Water Assistance Fund (RWAF) and Water Loss Assistance Fund (WLAF). If SB 7's implementation follows this roadmap, we'll be much closer to reaching the Board's goal of saving 104 billion gallons by 2070.

Water-Wise Agriculture

Agriculture still accounts for about half of Texas's total water demand. In the Rio Grande Valley, up to 40% of irrigation water is lost through unlined canals. Concrete lining of these canals, like projects in El Paso, is already proving successful, with projected savings of hundreds of acre-feet per year.

Smarter Reuse

Cities like Austin are leading the way in purple pipe systems, which deliver recycled water for non-drinking uses like irrigation and industrial cooling. Austin projects that by 2040, it could save 16 million gallons per day – that's over 1,000 swimming pools worth of water conserved every single day.

What to Watch: Problematic Strategies Still on the Table

Despite the progress, there's reason for caution. Some strategies included in the New Water Supply Fund, like ocean desal, treated oil & gas wastewater injection, and a statewide water pipeline grid, could be environmentally damaging or financially wasteful.

And while Aquifer Storage and Recovery is a great tool, the Legislature nearly passed a bill this session to block Austin from developing an ASR project in Bastrop County, raising questions about how seriously the state supports it.

What's Next?

House Joint Resolution 7, by Rep. Cody Harris, would lock in $1 billion annually through 2047 for a total of $20 billion, pending voter approval on Proposition 4 this November. Given the landslide support for Proposition 6 in 2023 (approved by 77% of voters), things look promising.

The Bottom Line

This is a huge investment in Texas's water future. While it's not perfect and some proposals could cause harm, the changes to SB 7 significantly improve the outlook. More money is now on the table for conservation, efficiency, and resilience, not just costly supply-side projects.

Original Article: Environment Texas

GLOBAL WATER NEWS

SW (Finance) I secures £1.2 billion equity package for Southern Water

Southern Water has secured an equity support package totaling up to £1.2 billion to fund its 2025-30 investment program, according to a press release issued Tuesday by SW (Finance) I PLC.

The package includes an initial £655 million in binding equity commitments from a consortium led by funds managed by Macquarie Asset Management (MAM), with up to an additional £545 million expected to be committed by December 2025.

The company also announced a refinancing of holding company debt that will reduce debt levels by over 50 percent, from approximately £865 million to £415 million, while extending maturities to at least September 2030.

Southern Water CEO Lawrence Gosden said the equity will support "the largest growth investment programme in the sector relative to its size" and follows £1.65 billion of equity already invested by Macquarie since 2021.

The initial equity commitment is subject to several conditions, including MAM's acquisition of Southern Water (Greensands) Financing plc and Greensands Junior Finance Limited, maintenance of investment grade ratings, and implementation of certain changes to finance documents.

As part of the refinancing, the borrower will have the option to capitalize rather than cash pay interest on the remaining debt facilities, and potentially extend maturities to December 2031 under certain circumstances.
Southern Water is currently awaiting the Competition and Markets Authority's review of Ofwat's Final Determination, with provisional determinations expected in September 2025 and final determinations in December 2025 or January 2026.
The company noted that the initial equity commitment is not conditional on the outcome of the CMA redetermination, which it described as reflecting MAM's confidence in Southern Water's case.
Southern Water expects to provide further updates on amendments to its finance documents by July 11, 2025, when it publishes its annual audited financial statements.
Original Article: Investing.com

India readies another water shock for Pakistan

In the wake of the Pakistan-sponsored terrorist attack in Pahalgam, India intensified its strategic response, not only diplomatically and militarily but also hydrologically -- by suspending the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) which governs sharing of water flowing to Pakistan from the Indus river system. Pakistan, which depends largely on water flowing from India for its agricultural production, has warned that India blocking the water flowing to Pakistan will be considered an act of war. However, undeterred by Pakistan's threats, India is preparing another water shock for Pakistan.

The Indian government is set to revive the long-stalled Tulbul Navigation Project in Jammu & Kashmir, PTI has reported based on information from sources. A detailed project report (DPR) for the Tulbul project is being prepared and is expected to take about a year to complete. This move, which comes amid the suspension of the IWT, underscores a significant policy shift: leveraging water resources as a means of strategic assertion.

What is the Tulbul Navigation Project?

The Tulbul Navigation Project (TNP) is a controlled storage facility on the Jhelum River near Sopore in the Kashmir Valley. Originally conceived in 1984, the project aimed to construct a 439-foot long and 40-foot wide navigation lock-cum-control structure at the mouth of the Wular Lake, one of the largest freshwater lakes in Asia.

The purpose of the project was to ensure navigability of the Jhelum River during lean seasons by regulating outflows from the Wular Lake. By storing around 300,000 acre-feet of water, the project was designed to maintain a minimum draught of 4.5 feet, enabling barge traffic between Baramulla and Srinagar. This would not only facilitate

inland water transport, but also improve irrigation and generate potential for hydropower optimization downstream.

The Central government had started work on this project in 1984, but stopped it a year later following Pakistan's strong objections. Pakistan in 1986 took the issue to the Indus Waters Commission, following which the project was abandoned in 1987.

The work was restarted in 2010, with the then irrigation minister of J&K, Taj Mohideen, stating that Article 9 of IWT permitted such projects meant for non-consumptive use. In 2012, unidentified terrorists lobbed a grenade towards a bund raised by the workers for the project. In 2016, Taj claimed that the Omar-led NC-Congress (2008-2014) govt had completed almost 80 per cent of the project after redesigning it with a total estimated cost of Rs 50 crore, in contrast to the original project designed in 1980s at Rs 500 crore. He accused the PDP-BJP (2015-2018) govt of abandoning the project. Taj argued that water storage in the Wullar barrage would significantly benefit the downstream power projects by sustaining electricity generation during the winter months, when they see a sharp decline in output.

How Tulbul project can benefit India, and why Pakistan opposes it

Under the IWT, India was allocated the eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas and Sutlej), while the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum and Chenab) were allocated to Pakistan, with limited rights for India. India is allowed to use water from the western rivers for non-consumptive purposes like navigation, power generation and limited storage. The Tulbul Project aligns with these permissible uses. By regulating flows, India can maximize its share of water under the treaty, avoiding wastage of its rights while improving water availability during lean periods.

In the context of cross-border terrorism and Pakistan's continued hostility, the project serves as a pressure point. Water, historically viewed as a cooperative resource, is now being reconsidered as a tool of strategic diplomacy. The resumption of Tulbul sends a strong signal that India will no longer remain passive while its treaty rights are undermined or while Pakistan continues to support non-state actors across the border.

The Jhelum river route was historically a vital trade artery. Reviving this navigation route will boost local commerce, create jobs and improve connectivity in the Kashmir Valley. Given the government's broader push for inland waterways, this project fits into a national strategy of reducing dependence on road transport and improving logistics efficiency. Though Tulbul itself is not a hydropower project, its ability to regulate water flow can support downstream hydropower generation at projects like Uri-I and Uri-II. It

can help stabilize water flow, enhance efficiency and reduce flood damage risks in the valley.

Pakistan has consistently objected to the Tulbul Navigation Project since its inception, and construction was halted in 1987 due to Islamabad's protests. The core of Pakistan's opposition lies in the perceived violation of the IWT provisions. Pakistan argues that the storage capacity of 300,000 acre-feet gives India the ability to manipulate water flows during critical periods, especially during the sowing season in Pakistan's Punjab province. While India views the project as permissible under the IWT (which allows non-consumptive use including navigation), Pakistan sees it as an attempt to store water in violation of the treaty's constraints on India's use of the western rivers.

India's revival of the Tulbul Project can be seen in light of a broader reassessment of the IWT, which has long been criticized within India for being overly generous. In suspending the treaty after the Pahalgam attack, India is signaling a willingness to challenge long-standing conventions that no longer serve its security or developmental interests. This policy shift is also likely influenced by China's assertive use of water in the Brahmaputra basin. India now seems to be shedding its past restraint and adopting a more realist doctrine on transboundary rivers.

However, this move also raises the stakes in the ongoing India-Pakistan tensions. Pakistan has already warned that any attempt to block or manipulate water flows would be considered an "act of war".

The Kashmir politics over Tulbul

The Tulbul project has been a contentious issue in J&K. After suspension of the IWT, local politics is simmering over the Tulbul project. In May, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and former CM Mehbooba Mufti engaged in a war of words over reinstating the Tulbul Navigation Project. The argument started after Abdullah suggested a possible resumption of construction at the Tulbul Navigation Barrage on Wullar Lake, considering the suspension of the IWT. "The Wular lake in North Kashmir. The civil works you see in the video is the Tulbul Navigation Barrage. It was started in the early 1980s but had to be abandoned under pressure from Pakistan citing the Indus Water Treaty. Now that the IWT has been 'temporarily suspended' I wonder if we will be able to resume the project," Abdullah posted on his personal X handle.

Taking to X, Mufti replied to Abdullah's post: "At a time when both nations have just stepped back from the brink of war—with Jammu and Kashmir once again paying the highest price through loss of innocent lives, destruction, and suffering—such

provocative statements are deeply irresponsible." She stressed that J&K residents need tranquillity and constancy, rather than political actions that could heighten tensions. "Weaponizing water—a source of life—is not only inhumane, but it also threatens to internationalize an issue that must remain strictly bilateral," she noted.

Replying to Mufti's remarks, Abdullah wrote, "Actually what is unfortunate is that with your blind lust to try to score cheap publicity points & please some people sitting across the border, you refuse to acknowledge that the IWT has been one of the biggest historic betrayals of the interests of the people of J&K. I have always opposed this treaty & I will continue to do so. Opposing a blatantly unfair treaty is in no way, shape, size or form warmongering, it's about correcting a historic injustice that denied the people of J&K the right to use our water for ourselves."
Original Article: The Economic Times India

EBRD and EU finance renovation of Sarajevo water supply network

Work on **Sarajevo's water distribution network**, which is being financed with a **€25 million loan from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)**, has received an additional boost from a **€3.8 million European Union (EU) investment grant.**

The outdated water distribution network in the capital city of Bosnia and Herzegovina is undergoing extensive reconstruction and optimisation work, which will help improve the water supply.

The EBRD has committed to disbursing the third tranche of its project loan, worth €5 million.

The project has been running for several years and is now entering its final phase. Some **1,119 kilometres of water distribution network will have been reconstructed by the time the project is completed**. The rehabilitation measures should make dramatic improvements to the network, which suffers from staggering 70 per cent water losses. The investment includes the comprehensive replacement or overhaul of ageing pipelines, pumping stations and wells, which will allow the connection of about 4,000 new households to the network.

Alongside Sarajevo, the EBRD has supported the cities of Banja Luka, Gradačac and Brčko in improving their water distribution networks.

Elena Gordeeva, Director of the EBRD's Infra Europe department, said: "Helping to improve the water supply is an important part of our work in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are grateful to the EU for co-financing this investment which will help Sarajevo Canton solve one of its most urgent problems."

"By **improving energy efficiency in public facilities and ensuring reliable access to clean water, we are helping communities live healthier, more sustainable lives**. This is a

tangible sign of the EU's commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina's European path.
The European Union is continuing its long-standing support for improving infrastructure in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the good of the country's citizens. The European Union is not only the largest donor in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also its most reliable partner. Through initiatives like these, we are working hand in hand with institutions at all levels to improve everyday life, create jobs, and support the transition toward a green, modern and integrated economy. Our vision is clear: a stable and prosperous Bosnia and Herzegovina with a future in the European Union" said Ambassador Luigi Soreca.
In addition to the investment grant funded by the EU, bilateral donors to the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) have also provided a €3 million investment and technical assistance grant, while Sweden has contributed further funds for technical assistance through its Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).
The investment is part of the EBRD's Green Cities framework. The programme supports governments, municipalities, municipal-owned and private companies in dealing with environmental problems in urban areas.
Sarajevo Canton, which joined the programme in 2017, has so far carried out six investment projects under the Green Cities programme, some of which have been successfully completed and others which are ongoing. In addition to the water network, the EBRD programme has supported the city in upgrading public transport and improving energy efficiency in public buildings.
Original Article: Smart Water Magazine

Super sewer project becomes first UK company to issue Blue Bonds

Tideway, the company behind London's super sewer, has become the first corporate to issue a 'Blue Bond' in Sterling.

Blue Bonds, a subset of the better-known Green Bonds, are designated to denote specific investor benefits to seas and marine environments.
Tideway has issued 18 Green Bonds to date, and the 'blue' label of the latest issuance showcases the progress on the project with the tunnel now in use and delivering its core benefit of cleaning the river.

Tideway CFO Mathew Duncan said:

"Tideway was one of the first to issue Green Bonds as the project was getting underway, and so it's great to be building on that legacy with this latest issuance.

"With the super sewer now protecting the tidal Thames, including therefore the Thames Estuary and the North Sea, it's wonderful to be able to offer Blue Bonds in the UK for the very first time.

"Blue Bonds emphasise the importance of the sustainable use and protection of water resources, highlighting the main purpose of the company – cleaning the river."

The Tideway project is designed to intercept the tens of millions of tonnes of sewage pollution that has historically spilled into the Thames each year.
To date, the Thames Tideway Tunnel, as the super sewer is formally known, has captured more than seven million tonnes of sewage pollution that would otherwise have spilled into the River Thames.
Since the tunnel was fully connected in February 2025, there have been zero sewage discharges from the spill points to which Tideway connected the new infrastructure.
The proceeds from this £250 million 8-year blue bond provide Tideway with additional liquidity for the project system acceptance period, which is due to be complete in 2027.
Original Article: Water Magazine

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