



Shasta Tehama
Watershed Education Coalition
Spring 2021 Newsletter



ATTENTION:
Annual Membership Meeting Rescheduled
Tentatively for July 14, 2021

STWEC members

are encouraged to attend the Annual Board of Directors Meeting:

- Election of the Board of Directors - Two (2) Directors will be elected. There is one nominee for re-election and one open seat. If you are interested in becoming a board member please be prepared to introduce yourself with a brief description. If you are interested in more information please contact us at (530) 527-4208 or info@stwec.org.

The full agenda will be posted the week of the meeting at www.stwec.org

STWEC DMT			Shasta-Tehama Watershed Education Coalition - Data Management Tool	
Shasta-Tehama Watershed Education Coalition Sign in to use the Data Management Tool Enter Username <input type="text"/> Enter Password <input type="password"/> <input type="button" value="Sign In"/> I forgot my username or password	95% INMP Management	Have You Completed Your Annual Reporting? Log in and Report NOW!!		
	95% Farm Evaluation			
Thank you to all those members who have reported!! 95% have completed their Farm Evaluation and Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report.				

Are you READY FOR DROUGHT!!

Prepare you Farm or Ranch before the Drought Strikes: Having a good drought plan in place can help your operation weather even the most severe drought conditions. Your plan should be part of a comprehensive conservation plan that considers the kinds and conditions of all of your resources, and consider how crops, forage, and other resources have reacted to drought in the past. Precipitation is the largest single determinant of drought. Temperature and other climate elements are also important. It is not uncommon for drought periods to be accompanied by higher summer temperatures. Drought planning involves preparing for not only average conditions, but also extremes. Thus, producers should know the extent of their current drought conditions and what the expectations are for the coming week, month and season. A good knowledge of your location's climate will be indispensable in a successful drought mitigation effort. Your plan should help your operation outlast the extremes of climate. Here are some ideas on water, land, and crop management for you to consider while creating your drought plan:

Water Management

- Evaluate all types of irrigation systems appropriate for your operation and choose the one that will help you lose less water to evaporation, percolation, and runoff.
- Look for ways to make your existing irrigation system more efficient and easier to maintain.
- Build a water storage system that holds water for use during irrigation season.
- Store water in ditches along fields.
- Install water measurement devices that keep track of water use.

Land Management Ideas

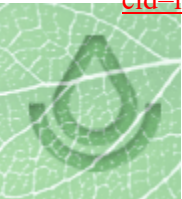
- Use conservation tillage (crop residue left on your field after harvest) to increase soil moisture and reduce evaporation.
- Use conservation practices that reduce runoff and encourage infiltration of water into the soil.
- Closely monitor soil moisture. (Ask your local NRCS office for a complimentary copy of the agency publication "Estimating Soil Moisture by Feel and Appearance.")
- Maintain and establish riparian buffers, filter strips, grassed waterways, and other types of conservation buffers near streams and other sources of water.
- Know your animals' forage needs. Contract early to make sure you will have enough hay during dry times or find alternative feed sources.
- Raise animals that do not consume large quantities of water. Cull herds according to a schedule that will maximize your profits.

Crop Management Ideas

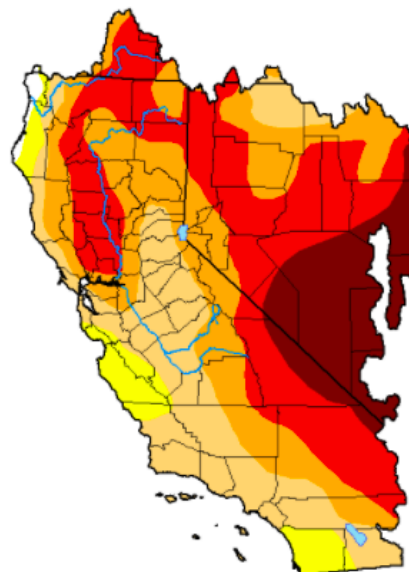
- Plant crops that withstand dryness, hold water, and reduce the need for irrigation.
- Rotate crops in ways that increase the amount of water that enters the soil.
- Shift to cropping systems that are less water dependent than your current system.

For technical assistance to put these ideas into action, contact your local NRCS office Check out this article and much more at

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/features/?cid=nrcs143_023350



U.S. Drought Monitor California Nevada RFC



March 16, 2021

(Released Thursday, Mar. 18, 2021)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.51	99.49	94.08	72.17	45.33	13.94
Last Week 03-09-2021	0.49	99.51	94.25	72.17	45.33	13.94
3 Months Ago 12-15-2020	0.00	100.00	96.94	81.43	48.05	5.39
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	0.00	100.00	96.94	81.43	48.05	5.39
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	9.72	90.28	79.50	53.46	26.97	1.24
One Year Ago 03-15-2020	20.76	79.24	36.70	1.94	0.00	0.00

Intensity

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Brad Pugh
CPC/NOAA



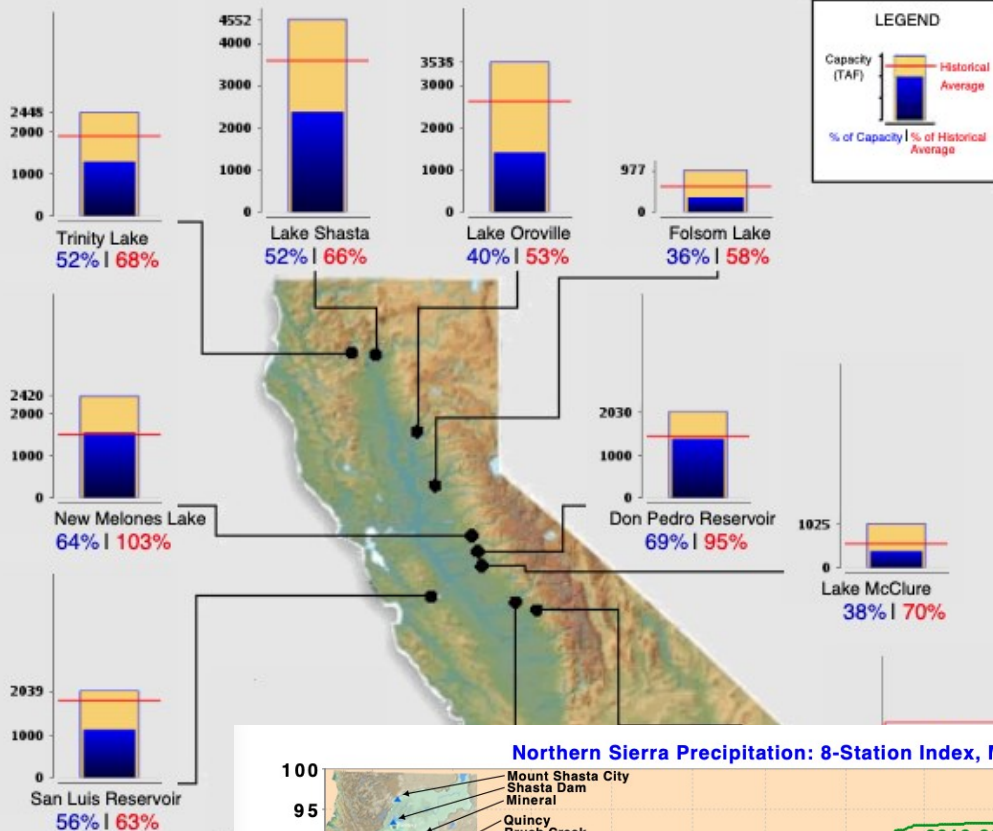
droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Reservoir Conditions

Ending At Midnight - March 23, 2021

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS



Graph Updated 03/24/2021 02



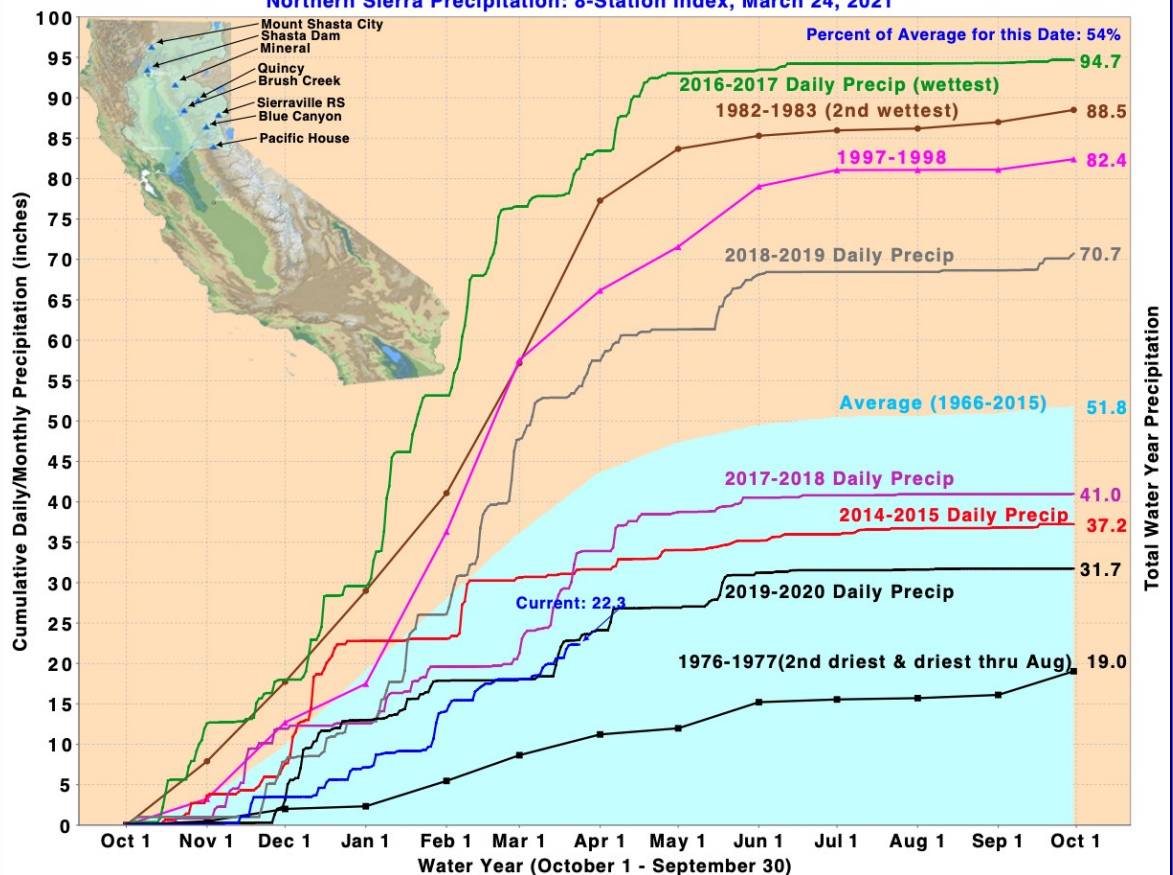
Find these maps and more at the Tehama County SGMA eNewsletter Spring 2021

<https://us17.campaign-archive.com/?u=c83e914eeeb494613b1eb1eb&id=c8be15b6a4>

For more information attend an upcoming groundwater commission meeting

Special Meeting
April 28 & May 6 at 6:00 pm Board Chambers, 727 Oak Street Red Bluff CA 96080

Northern Sierra Precipitation: 8-Station Index, March 24, 2021



Happy Spring to all our STWEC members,

I hope you all had a good winter and were able to get those winter maintenance projects and crop preparation chores accomplished. Not wanting to

use the "D" word, it appears to be a challenging summer ahead with a very low snowpack, shortened water allocations, low groundwater levels and low stream diversions for all of us. We can only hope (and pray) for a summer with monsoonal moisture storms that bring a little summer rain to northern California and ease the wildfire threat we face each season. It is our personal responsibility to protect our properties with defensible space so our firefighters can fight fire and not be weighted down with structure protection.

There is some significant good news to pass on to you. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board will be recommending to the California State Water Resources Control Board a total exemption from the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program for the Goose Lake sub-coalition for irrigated pasture and hay operations. A very large amount of scientific research and presentations from UC Davis Agriculture and Cooperative Extension, input from the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (Bruce Houdashelt) and sub-coalitions participants helped convince the Regional Water Board to consider the zero or low threat to water quality and inequitable net profit per acre verses cost per acre for this type of agriculture production. The plan is expected to include other areas with similar operations in the future. It is exciting to see a reduction in regulation being considered by a government agency. All sub-coalitions, including STWEC will need to evaluate the effect of possibly losing a number of exempted members and/or acreage in which may affect sub-coalition operating and management costs.

Now that it appears that the devastating effect of Covid-19 has hopefully subsided within our communities, our lives can return to some kind of normalcy and we can again resume in-person meetings and gatherings. To tell you the truth, I am ZOOMED OUT! Your STWEC Board is planning to discuss whether we can have our Annual Member's Meeting in July or again postpone it for a future time. I once again, wish to extend a very deep thank you and appreciation to your STWEC Board members and the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County (our staff) for all the hard work they do to contain membership costs as we comply with regulatory demands from the state. Please consider helping with this effort by becoming a board member in the future. It is a very rewarding educational endeavor.

As always, I thank you, our members for proving that agriculture can be a very limited threat to our environment and that we are all good stewards of our agricultural lands.

Sincerely,



Ron Keown,
President STWEC Board of Directors



Shasta Tehama Watershed Education Coalition

PO Box 933
Red Bluff CA 96080

Phone: 530-527-4208

Up Coming Board Meeting:

Bi-Monthly Meeting –Held by teleconference (call in# 339-209-4637) and in person. Please follow COVID 19 Guidelines Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 8 am | 2 Sutter St Red Bluff CA 96080