



Rosamond Community Services District

Official Newsletter of Rosamond Community Services District - July 2021

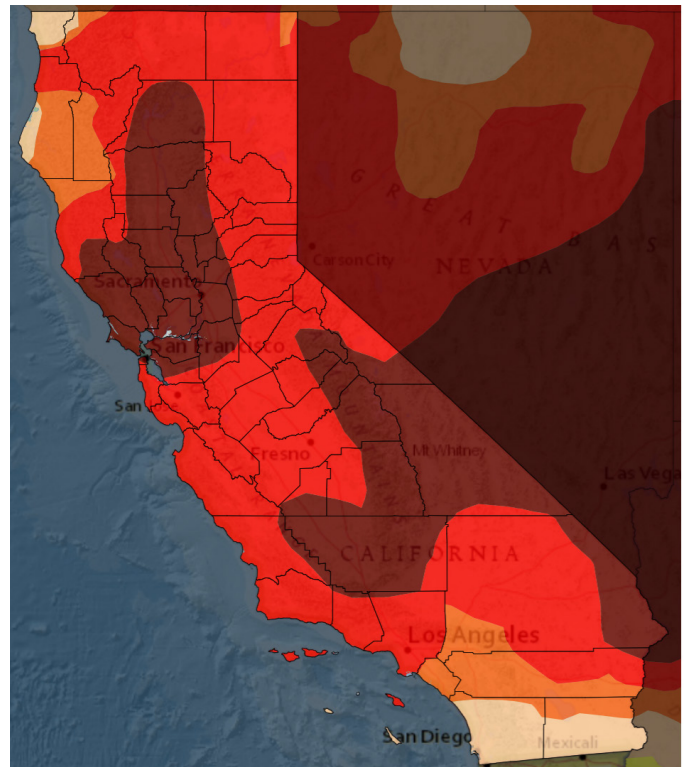
“I call on all Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15 percent from their 2020 levels.”

-GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM, EXECUTIVE ORDER N-10-21, 8 JUL 2021

Governor Calls on California to Reduce Water Use by 15%

California is once again grappling with drought. The National Integrated Drought Information System, a multi-agency partnership that coordinates drought monitoring, forecasting, planning, and information at national, state, and local levels across the country, has declared that all of our state is in some condition of drought, with a full third of California in the driest category, Exceptional Drought. 89.5% of Kern County is in Exceptional Drought.

While it can be easy to dismiss the drought as part of desert life and the California water cycle, the condition of major portions of the state being in exceptional drought is just that--exceptional. While it is not uncommon for small portions of our state to be in



D0 - Abnormally Dry

- Soil is dry; irrigation delivery begins early
- Dryland crop germination is stunted
- Active fire season begins

100.0%
of CA
(D0-D4)



D1 - Moderate Drought

- Dryland pasture growth is stunted; producers give supplemental feed to cattle
- Landscaping and gardens need irrigation earlier; wildlife patterns begin to change
- Stock ponds and creeks are lower than usual

100.0%
of CA
(D1-D4)



D2 - Severe Drought

- Grazing land is inadequate
- Fire season is longer, with high burn intensity, dry fuels, and large fire spatial extent
- Trees are stressed; plants increase reproductive mechanisms; wildlife diseases increase

94.8%
of CA
(D2-D4)



D3 - Extreme Drought

- Livestock need expensive supplemental feed; cattle and horses are sold; little pasture remains; fruit trees bud early; producers begin irrigating in the winter
- Fire season lasts year-round; fires occur in typically wet parts of state; burn bans are implemented
- Water is inadequate for agriculture, wildlife, and urban needs; reservoirs are extremely low; hydropower is restricted

85.7%
of CA
(D3-D4)



D4 - Exceptional Drought

- Fields are left fallow; orchards are removed; vegetable yields are low; honey harvest is small
- Fire season is very costly; number of fires and area burned are extensive
- Fish rescue and relocation begins; pine beetle infestation occurs; forest mortality is high; wetlands dry up; survival of native plants and animals is low; fewer wildflowers bloom; wildlife death is widespread; algae blooms appear

33.3%
of CA
(D4)

Information from National Integrated Drought Information System for 13 July 2021

exceptional drought, only three of the last 20 years have had 20% or more of our state in exceptional drought. Those were 2015, 2016, and 2017, when we were all under mandatory water restrictions.

With this in mind, Governor Gavin Newsom issued an executive order on July 8th calling on all Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 13% compared to 2020 usage levels. It is important to note that this order is currently voluntary. However, as we have seen in the past, these orders can quickly change from voluntary to mandatory if conditions do not improve.

The executive order also lists simple ways Californians can reduce their water use. Most of the suggestions in the executive order were covered in our [June 2021 newsletter](#).

We know that many of our customers are already making efforts to conserve. In the last drought, we saw our community pull together and meet every water use reduction goal the state-imposed on us. We at RCSD remain committed to working with our customers to find the best solutions for our unique community.

Water Shutoffs for Non-payment Resume in October 2021

The California order temporarily preventing water shut-offs on delinquent accounts will end on 30 Sep 2021. RCSD had 15 delinquent accounts owing around \$4,000 before the order, and now has more than 390 delinquent accounts that owe a total of over \$80,000.

Customers who are delinquent are encouraged to contact RCSD customer service to explore options to help get their accounts current again. There are federal assistance programs available, and RCSD

is able to work with customers to find solutions, such as payment plans. Many customers are already working with RCSD to get their accounts paid off, but many are not yet.

The order only postponed service disconnections for non-payment. RCSD has continued billing customers and collecting money to pay those bills.

CHP Seeks Community's Help with Overloaded Trailers

The Mojave station of the California Highway Patrol is focusing on stopping overloaded trailers. These small trailers are a public safety hazard when overloaded to transport water because they often do not have brakes and cannot slow, stop, or maneuver well. The Mojave CHP has responded to many accidents involving overloaded vehicles and trailers hauling water.

The community can help by reporting overloaded trailers to the area CHP non-emergency number: 760-872-5900. Callers will be most helpful if they have the license plate of the vehicle, where it was seen, and what direction it was heading.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off

Rosamond residents looking to get rid of household hazardous waste will again have the opportunity to do so for free this month. Kern County is holding a household hazardous waste drop-off event on August 7th in Tehachapi. Details below.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off

7 Aug 2021, 9am-1pm

Tehachapi Sanitary Landfill

12001 E Tehachapi Blvd, Tehachapi

