

Rescind Drought Stage 3 – Mandatory of the City of Santa Rosa WSCP

City Council Meeting

March 14, 2023

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Outline

- Regional Drought Response 2021 - 2023
- Stage 3 – Mandatory
- Statewide Emergency Drought Regulations
- Local Water Supply Conditions
- Outreach and Resources
- Recommendation

Regional Drought Response Timeline 2021-23



April 21 - Governor declares drought emergency in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties

May 18 - Santa Rosa City Council adopts resolution requesting 20% voluntary water use reduction

June 29 - Santa Rosa City Council adopts resolution declaring emergency, requiring 20% community-wide water use reduction

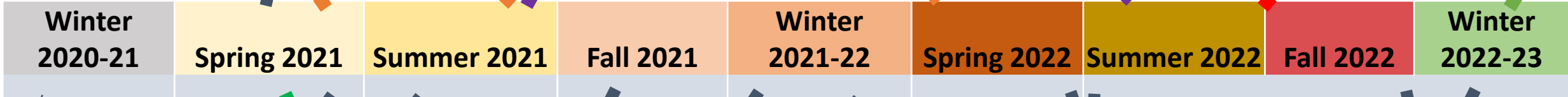
Sonoma Water institutes allocations for contractors

STILL DROUGHT IS HERE SAVE WATER

Lake Sonoma falls to lowest levels in operational history

Sonoma Water institutes allocations for contractors

January – Lake Mendocino Operations begin flood control releases & Lake Sonoma gains 145,000+ acre-feet (near 100% full)



Upper Russian River challenges and Dry Winter Campaign begins

STILL DROUGHT IS HERE SAVE WATER

Sonoma Water Files TUCP

June – SWRCB Order allowing reduced flows and mandating reduced diversions (Jul-Dec)

October 2021 Atmospheric River

Sonoma Water Files TUCP; order by SWRCB

2nd driest Jan and Feb on record in N. CA

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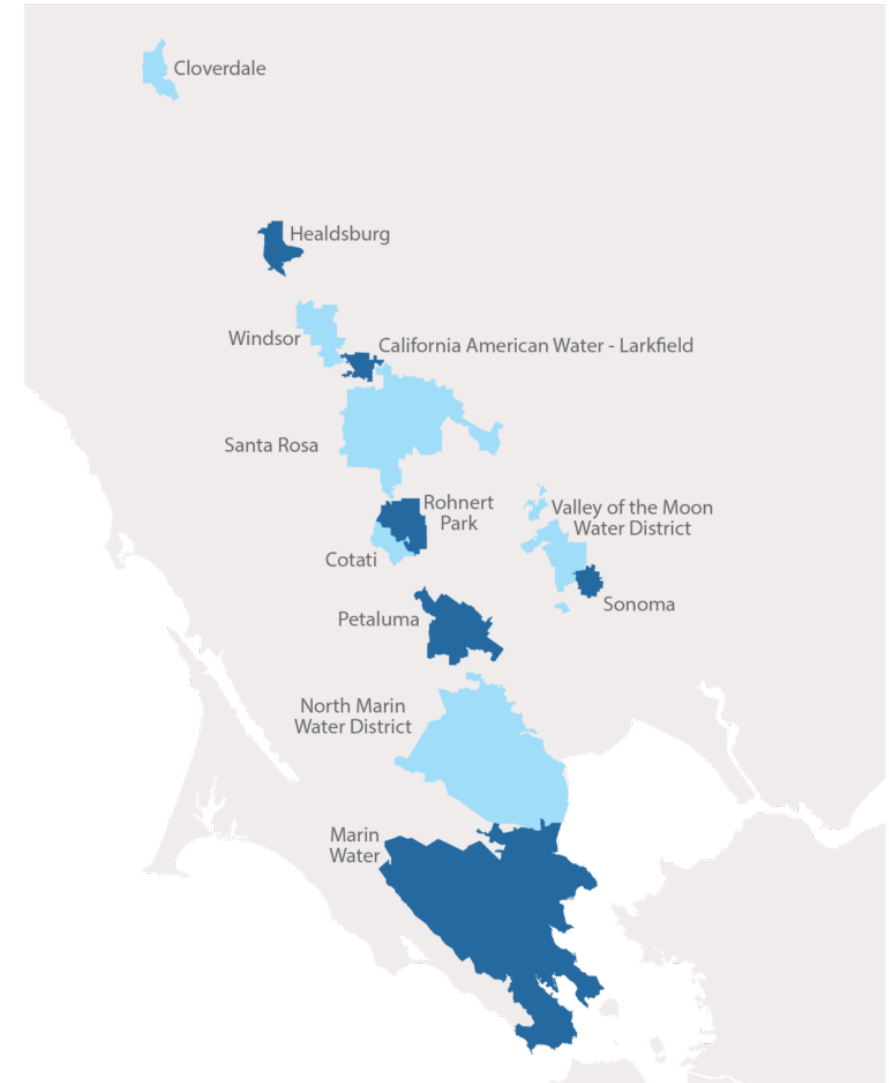
Sonoma Water Files TUCP; order by SWRCB

Dec 2022 – Jan 2023 Atmospheric Rivers

Regional Drought Response

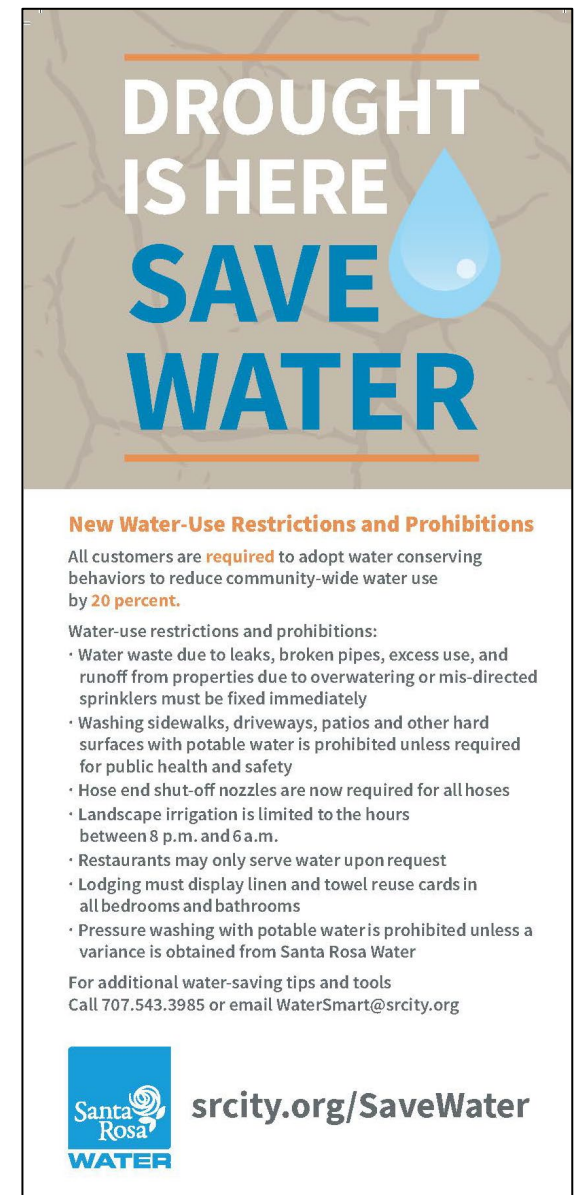


- May 2021, Sonoma Water contractors adopt resolution with target 20% reduction in water-use over 2020
- Since June 2021, the partners implemented water shortage plans to achieve up to 20% savings to meet regional supply shortfall and comply with Russian River specific regulations
- Santa Rosa has been in Stage 3 – Mandatory since June 2021 by action of City Council **achieving 18% community-wide reduction in water use compared to 2020**



Stage 3 – Mandatory Implementation: June 2021

- Community-wide water use reduction target = 20%
- Water Waste Ordinance always in effect
 - Prohibits leaks/breaks in water system
 - Prohibits Overspray and runoff
- Stage 3 – Prohibitions and Restrictions
 - Irrigation limited to 8:00 PM to 6:00 AM
 - Shut-off nozzles for hoses required
 - No washing hard surfaces (unless required for public health)
 - Restaurants only serve water upon request
 - Hotels and Lodging linens upon request messaging
 - No pressure washing with potable water



**DROUGHT
IS HERE
SAVE
WATER**


New Water-Use Restrictions and Prohibitions

All customers are **required** to adopt water conserving behaviors to reduce community-wide water use by **20 percent**.

Water-use restrictions and prohibitions:

- Water waste due to leaks, broken pipes, excess use, and runoff from properties due to overwatering or mis-directed sprinklers must be fixed immediately
- Washing sidewalks, driveways, patios and other hard surfaces with potable water is prohibited unless required for public health and safety
- Hose end shut-off nozzles are now required for all hoses
- Landscape irrigation is limited to the hours between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- Restaurants may only serve water upon request
- Lodging must display linen and towel reuse cards in all bedrooms and bathrooms
- Pressure washing with potable water is prohibited unless a variance is obtained from Santa Rosa Water

For additional water-saving tips and tools
Call 707.543.3985 or email WaterSmart@srcity.org



srcity.org/SaveWater

Enforcement of Prohibitions – Stage 3

- Outreach to customers
- Water Waste Patrols
- Water Waste Reporting
- Automatic Metering Infrastructure monitoring
- Power washing variances for certain health, safety, construction activities



State Water Board Emergency Water Conservation Regulations



- Outdoor watering that creates runoff
- Washing vehicles without an automatic shutoff nozzle
- Washing hard surfaces like driveways or sidewalks
- Street cleaning or construction site preparation
- Filling decorative fountains, lakes, or ponds without a recirculation pump
- Outdoor watering within 48 hours after at least 1/4 inch of rainfall
- Watering decorative grass on public medians

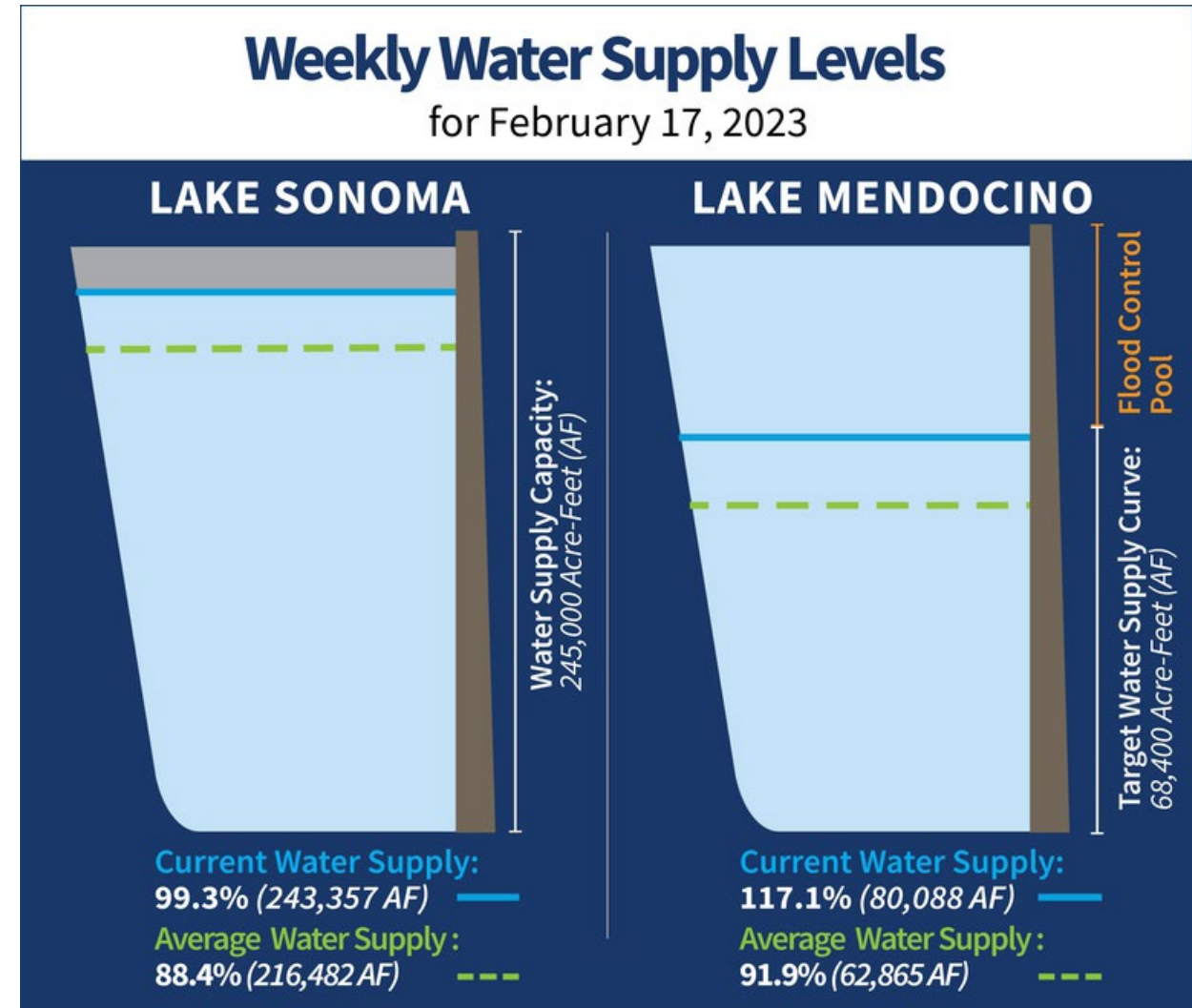
State Water Board Emergency Water Conservation Regulations



- Prohibiting irrigation of nonfunctional turf
 - Applies to Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) properties irrigated by potable water
- Required all water utilities to institute all demand measures consistent with up to 10 – 20%
- Santa Rosa Water has been outreaching to CII and other Customers since 2022

Water Supply Outlook - 2023

- ✓ Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma, have recovered after reaching historically low levels
- ✓ Sonoma Water's existing Temporary Urgency Change Order remains in effect, water year classification is **NORMAL**
- ✓ FIRO and established USACE storage curve deviations may be utilized to store additional water
- ✓ Prior analysis: Lake Sonoma has a 3-4 years of water supply for the region and contractor's demands



Outreach and Resources

- Lots of info on city websites, updates on social media, bill inserts, and radio
- hosting workshops and attending community events
- Water Use Restrictions: srcity.org/savewater
- Water Use Efficiency Programs and Information: srcity.org/watersmart
- Contact: 707-543-3985 or watersmart@srcity.org



Recommendation

The Board of Public Utilities and Santa Rosa Water staff recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution:

- 1) rescinding the June 29, 2021 drought emergency declaration,
- 2) rescinding the implementation of Stage 3 – Mandatory of the City of Santa Rosa Water Shortage Contingency Plan,
- 3) removing the authorization for Water Department to utilize Water Enterprise Catastrophic Reserve funds, and
- 4) direct staff to implement demand reduction measures and other requirements consistent with the statewide emergency water conservation regulations until they are no longer applicable or in effect.

Questions?