

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

City Council Meeting

March 14, 2023

Jennifer Burke – Director, Santa Rosa Water

Peter Martin – Deputy Director Water Resources, Santa Rosa Water

# 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

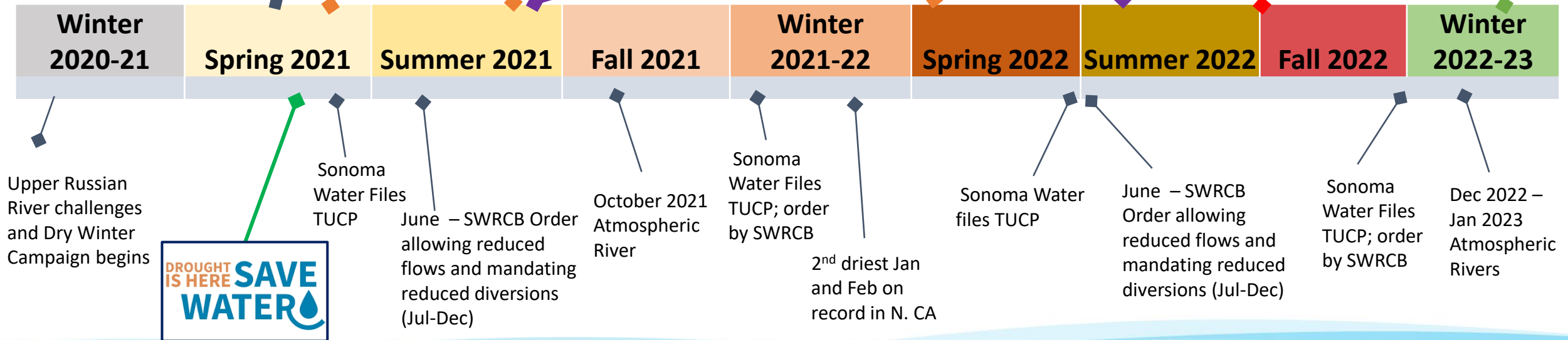
Sonoma Water institutes allocations for contractors



Lake Sonoma falls to lowest levels in operational history

Sonoma Water institutes allocations for contractors

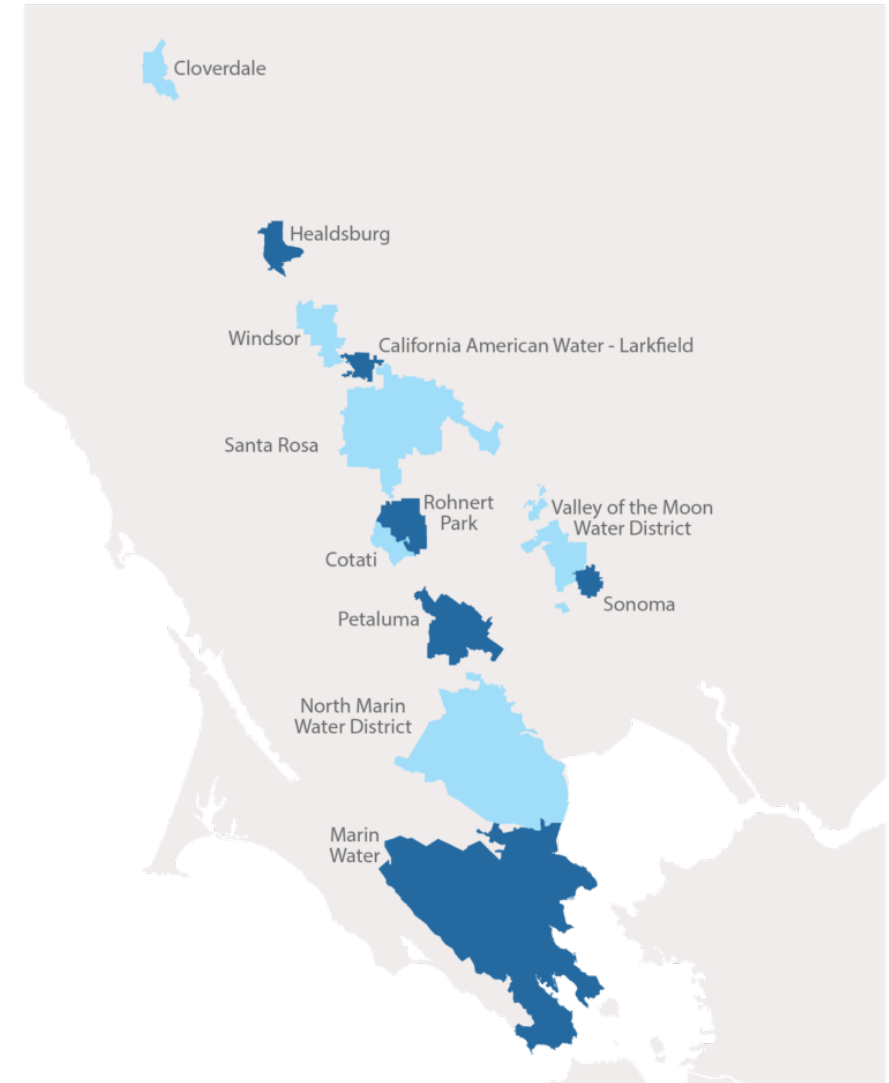
January – Lake Mendocino Operations begin flood control releases & Lake Sonoma gains 145,000+ acre-feet (near 100% full)



# Regional Drought Response

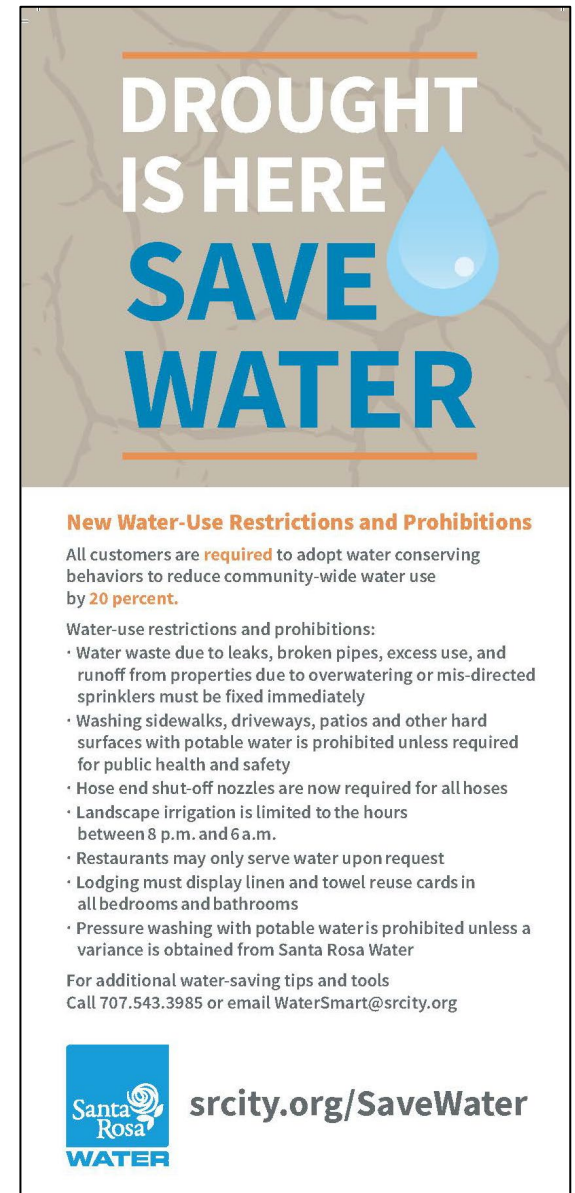


- May 2021, Sonoma Water contractors adopt resolution with target 20% reduction in water-use over 2020
- Since June 2021, the partners implemented water shortage plans to achieve up to 20% savings to meet regional supply shortfall and comply with Russian River specific regulations
- Santa Rosa has been 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 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](mailto:WaterSmart@srcity.org)

 [srcity.org/SaveWater](https://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

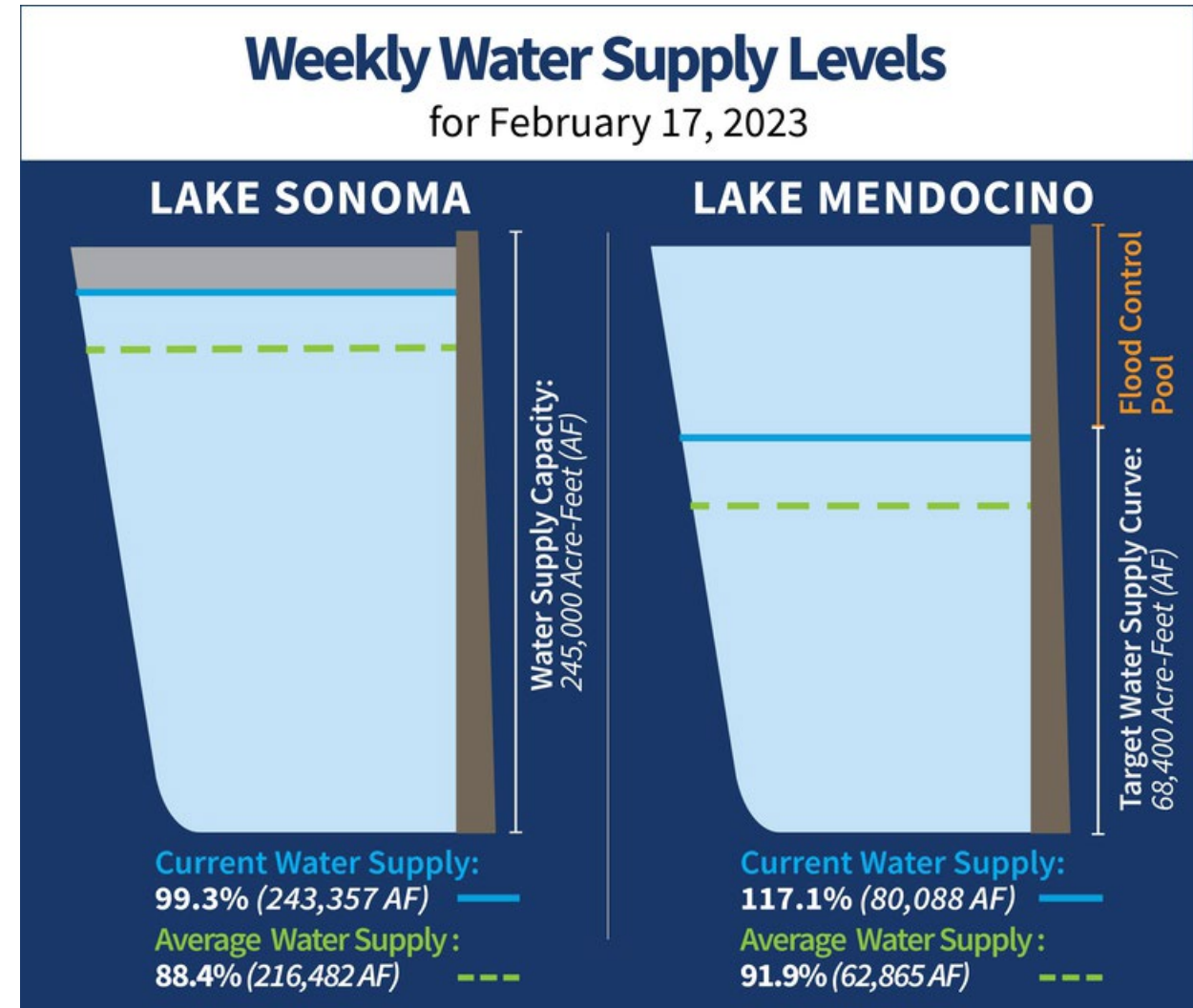


- Prohibiting irrigation of nonfunctional turf
  - Applies to Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) properties irrigated by potable water
- Required all water utilities to institute all demand measures consistent with up to 10 – 20%
- Santa Rosa Water has been outreaching to CII and other Customers 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](http://srcity.org/savewater)
- Water Use Efficiency Programs and Information: [srcity.org/watersmart](http://srcity.org/watersmart)
- Contact: 707-543-3985 or [watersmart@srcity.org](mailto: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?