Planning for a Dry Year in the North State

Water suppliers throughout the North State have planned for dry years in California like 2021.

2021 Reduction in Sacramento Valley Surface Water Supplies (in %)

Water suppliers in the Sacramento Valley have been reduced more than 25 percent in every part of the Sacramento Valley this year—with many areas and people having their surface supplies reduced 100 percent. The severity of the cuts depends upon the water rights or contract. These cutbacks will have a negative impact on all the water uses in the region, including cities and rural communities, farms, fish, birds and recreation. In many areas, groundwater can be pumped to offset surface supplies.

California’s water right system works—in a dry year like 2021, water suppliers have planned for reductions and they are able to develop alternative water management plans in response to the lack of surface water.

Water rights and contracts are the foundation for water operations throughout California. The orderly implementation of the water rights system provides economic and environmental stability to address the current dry year challenges and prepare for future droughts.

As the dry year has emerged, water resources managers have been working closely with state and federal agencies and conservation partners to stretch every available drop of water in creative ways to benefit multiple uses.

Water suppliers in the North State this year have also re-managed flows on every watercourse for the benefit of salmon.

For more details visit http://www.norcalwater.org
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2021 Available Surface Water Supplies in the Sacramento Valley (in %)

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