

Crescenta Valley Water District

Weekly News Articles

July 31, 2023



Cal Matters

August 1, 2023

CAL MATTERS: Don't call it 'toilet to tap' — California plans to turn sewage into drinking water



Stay up-to-date with free briefings on topics that matter to all Californians. [Subscribe to CalMatters](#) today for nonprofit news in your inbox.

By Rachel Becker, Cal Matters

Californians could drink highly purified sewage water that is piped directly into drinking water supplies for the first time under proposed rules unveiled by state water officials.

The drought-prone state has turned to recycled water for [more than 60 years](#) to bolster its scarce supplies, but the current regulations require it to first make a pit stop in a reservoir or an [aquifer](#) before it can flow to taps.

The new rules, [mandated by state law](#), would require extensive treatment and monitoring before wastewater can be piped to taps or mingled with raw water upstream of a drinking water treatment plant.

“Toilet-to-tap” this is not.



Reverse osmosis, step two in the process, eliminates more than 99% of all impurities at the Pure Water Southern California Demonstration Plant in Carson, on July 28, 2023. On the left is what the water is filtered through, and on the right are samples of the before and after reverse osmosis. Photo by Lauren Justice for CalMatters

Between flush and faucet, a slew of steps are designed to remove chemicals and pathogens that remain in sewage after it has already undergone [traditional primary, secondary and sometimes tertiary treatment](#).

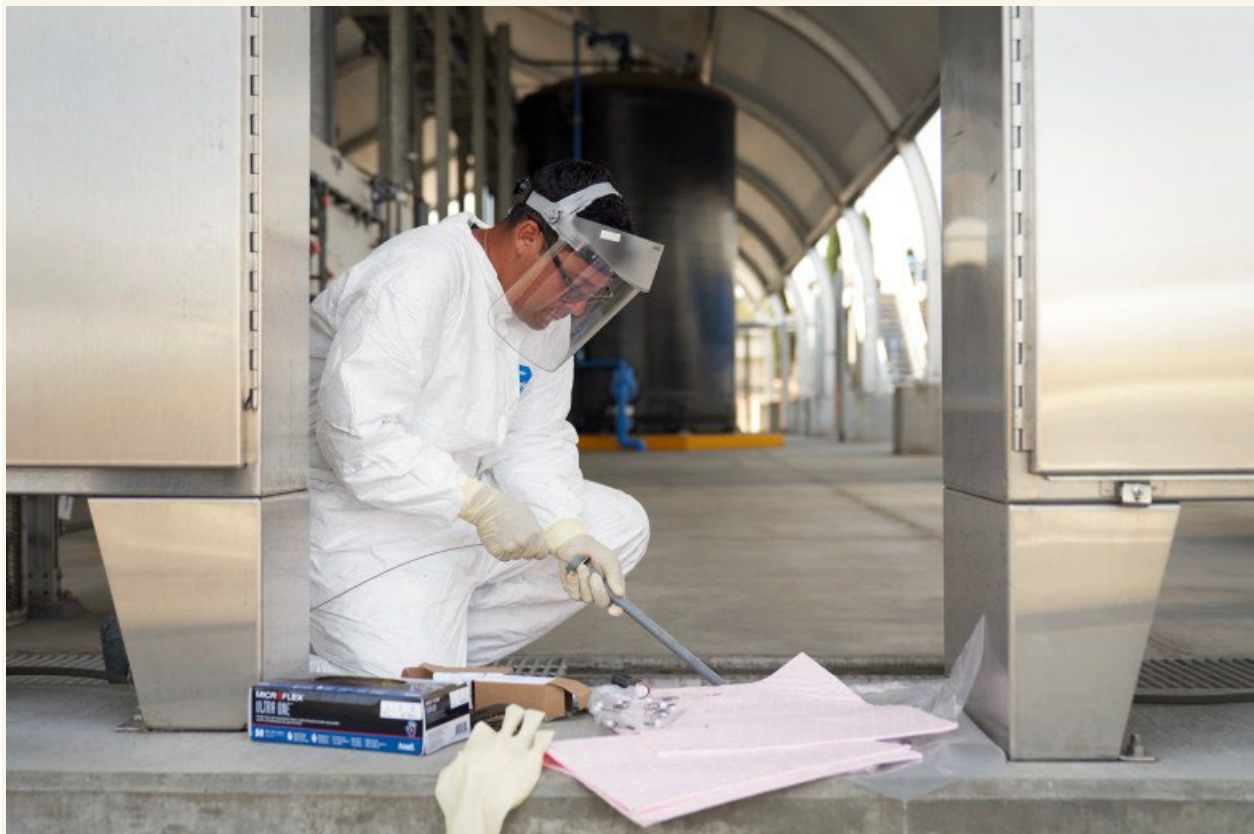
It is bubbled with ozone, chewed by bacteria, filtered through activated carbon, pushed at high pressures through reverse osmosis membranes multiple times, cleansed with an oxidizer like hydrogen peroxide and beamed with high-intensity UV light. Valuable minerals, such as calcium, that were filtered out are restored. And then, finally, the wastewater is subjected to the regular treatment that all drinking water [currently undergoes](#).

“Quite honestly, it’ll be the cleanest drinking water around,” said Darrin Polhemus, deputy director of the state’s Division of Drinking Water.

The [62 pages of proposed rules](#), more than [a decade in the making](#), are not triggering much, if any, debate among health or water experts. A panel of engineering and water quality scientists [deemed an earlier version of the regulations protective of public health](#), although they raised concerns that the treatment process would be energy-intensive.

“I would have no hesitation drinking this water my whole life,” said [Daniel McCurry](#), an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Southern California.

This water is expected to be more expensive than imported water, but also provide a more renewable and reliable supply for California as climate change continues. Most treated sewage — [about 400 million gallons a day in Los Angeles County](#) alone — is released into rivers, streams and the deep ocean.



Luis Canela, a water quality technician, injects chemicals to chlorinate

water at the Pure Water Southern California Demonstration Plant in Carson. Photo by Lauren Justice for CalMatters

The draft rules, [released on July 21st](#), still face a gauntlet of public comment, a hearing and peer review by another panel of experts before being finalized. The State Water Resources Control Board is required by law to vote on them by the end of December, though they can extend the deadline if necessary. They would likely go into effect next April and it will take many years to reach people's taps.

Heather Collins, water treatment manager for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, said the regulations will give the district more certainty about how to design a massive, multi-billion dollar water recycling project with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts. The district imports water that is provided to 19 million Southern Californians.

The joint effort, called [Pure Water Southern California](#), [has already received \\$80 million](#) from the state. The first phase of the project, which could be completed by 2032, is expected to produce about 115 million gallons of recycled water a day, enough for 385,000 Southern California households.

Most is planned to go towards recharging local water agencies' groundwater stores, but about 20% could be added to drinking water supplies upstream of Metropolitan's existing treatment plant for imported water.

"We're excited," Collins said. "It helps better inform us on what our project needs to include, so that we can have a climate-resistant supply for our agencies in Southern California."

The new rules come as endless cycles of drought leave California's water [suppliers scrambling for new sources of water](#), like purified sewage. In 2021, Californians used about [732,000 acre feet of recycled water](#), equivalent to the amount used by roughly 2.6 million households, though much of it goes to non-drinking purposes, like irrigating landscapes, golf courses and crops.

Last year, Gov. Gavin Newsom called for increasing recycled water use in California [roughly 9% by 2030](#) and more than doubling it by 2040.

“Water recycling is about finding new water, not just accepting the scarcity mindset — being more resourceful in terms of our approach,” Newsom said last [May in front of Metropolitan’s Pure Water Southern California](#) demonstration plant. Some recycled water is already used to refill underground stores that provide drinking water, a process called indirect potable reuse, employed beginning in [the 1960s in Los Angeles](#) and Orange counties. But a water agency must have a clean and convenient place to store the expensive, highly-purified water. “You don’t want to inject this recycled wastewater that you’ve spent all this effort cleaning into a dirty, polluted aquifer just to ruin it again,” McCurry said.

To expand these uses, [state lawmakers in 2010 tasked the water board](#) with investigating the possibility of adding recycled water either directly into a public water system or just upstream of a water treatment plant. [In 2017, they set a deadline](#) to develop the regulations by the end of 2023.

California won’t be the first; Colorado [already has regulations](#) and the nation’s first direct potable reuse plant [was built in Texas in 2013](#). [Florida](#) and [Arizona](#) have rules in the works.

California’s statewide rules, however, are expected to be the most stringent, said Andrew Salveson, water reuse chief technologist at Carollo Engineers, an environmental engineering consulting firm that specializes in water treatment.

“They are more conservative than anywhere else,” he said. “And I’m not being critical. In the state of California, because we’re in the early days of (direct potable reuse) implementation, they’re taking measured and conservative steps.”

Removing viruses and chemicals

The water that flushes down toilets, whirls down sinks, runs from industrial facilities and flows off agricultural fields is teeming with viruses, parasites and other pathogens that can make people sick.

Chemicals also contaminate this sewage, everything from industrial [perfluorinated “forever chemicals”](#) to [drugs excreted in urine](#). Bypassing groundwater stores or reservoirs to funnel purified sewage directly into pipes means [that there’s less room for error](#).

The new regulations would ramp up restrictions on pathogens, calling for scrubbing away more than 99.9999% of diarrhea-causing viruses and certain parasites. Also a series of treatments are designed to break down chemical contaminants like anti-seizure drugs, pain relievers, antidepressants and other pharmaceuticals. [Medications can bypass traditional sewage treatment](#) so they are found in low concentrations in recycled sewage and groundwater.



Water makes its way to the first step of the water purification process, membrane bioreactors, at the demonstration plant in Carson. Photo by Lauren Justice for CalMatters

The added technologies are good at washing away pharmaceuticals, McCurry said, so having them “back-to-back introduces a ton of redundancy,” he said. “Any pharmaceutical you could think of, if you

tried to measure it in the product water of one of these plants, is going to be below the detection limit.”

The new rules call for extensive monitoring to ensure the treatment is working. Some harmful chemicals, such as lead and nitrates, which are dangerous to babies and young children, will be tested for weekly; others, monthly. And water providers must also monitor the sewage itself before it even reaches treatment for any chemical spikes that could indicate illegal dumping or spills.

“We think we’ve got the chemical classes covered in the treatment processes, so that we’re removing materials that we don’t even know are there,” the water board’s Polhemus said.

Jennifer West, managing director of WaterReuse California, a trade association for water recycling, said she was happy to finally see California’s regulations, though she hopes the state will build in more flexibility for water providers to alter the suite of treatments as technologies change.

Can California recycle 1.8 million acre-feet of water by 2040?

Gov. Gavin Newsom set a goal of 1.8 million acre-feet of water recycled in California by 2040. **That** is more than double the **amount** recycled in 2021.

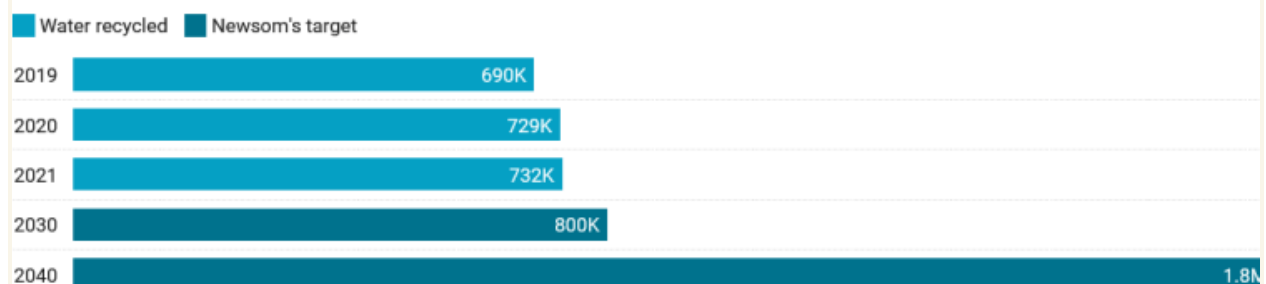


Chart: John Osborn D'Agostino. CalMatters • Source: California State Water Resources Control Board • Created with Datawrapper

[Richard Gersberg](#), San Diego State University professor emeritus of environmental health, said he supports using highly treated waste for drinking water. But he suggests that the state fund long-term studies comparing health effects in people who drink it to those whose drinking water comes from another source, such as rivers, “which might end up being worse. Probably is,” he said.

Given the vast and changing cocktail of chemicals constantly in use, “we don’t know what we don’t know,” Gersberg said. “If this becomes huge in California, and it will, I believe ... we should at least spend a little money.”

Who will be first?

All this treatment and monitoring is likely to be pricey, which is why Polhemus expects to see it largely limited to large urban areas that produce a lot of wastewater, such as Los Angeles County. The Metropolitan Water District’s [\\$3.4 billion estimate for building the project](#) dates back to 2018, and has likely increased since then, according to spokesperson Rebecca Kimitch.

For small and medium communities, Polhemus said, “it doesn’t pencil in a small scale type of arrangement.”

The Orange County Water District, which has long been a leader in purifying recycled water, has concluded that piping it directly to customers doesn’t pencil out for them, either, because they’ve already invested so heavily in refilling their carefully tended aquifer.

It would “require adding more treatment processes and increasing operating expenses,” board president Cathy Green said in a statement. “Local water agencies are currently well-equipped to continue to supply drinking water to customers in our service area at a low cost using the Orange County Groundwater Basin.”

For other regions like Silicon Valley, though, the costs may be worth it as climate change continues to shrink state supplies.

“At this point, it’s more expensive than water we might import during a drought. But who knows what will happen in the future,” said Kirsten Struve, assistant officer in the water supply division at the Santa Clara Valley Water District, which serves approximately 2 million people.

“That’s why we need to get prepared.”



The Pure Water Southern California Demonstration Plant showcases technology that may provide drinking water to Southern Californians by 2032. Photo by Lauren Justice for CalMatters

The Santa Clara water agency, known as Valley Water, is planning a \$1.2 billion project in Palo Alto to produce about 10 million gallons a day of water for [groundwater recharge](#), but Struve said she hopes the plant also will be used for direct potable reuse in the future.

The timing of the regulations has butted up against the realities of planning for Monterey One Water on the Monterey Peninsula as well. The utility has been injecting purified wastewater into the seaside aquifer for three years, producing about a third of the local supply, said General Manager Paul Sciuto. It is working on expanding the project by 2025, Sciuto said.

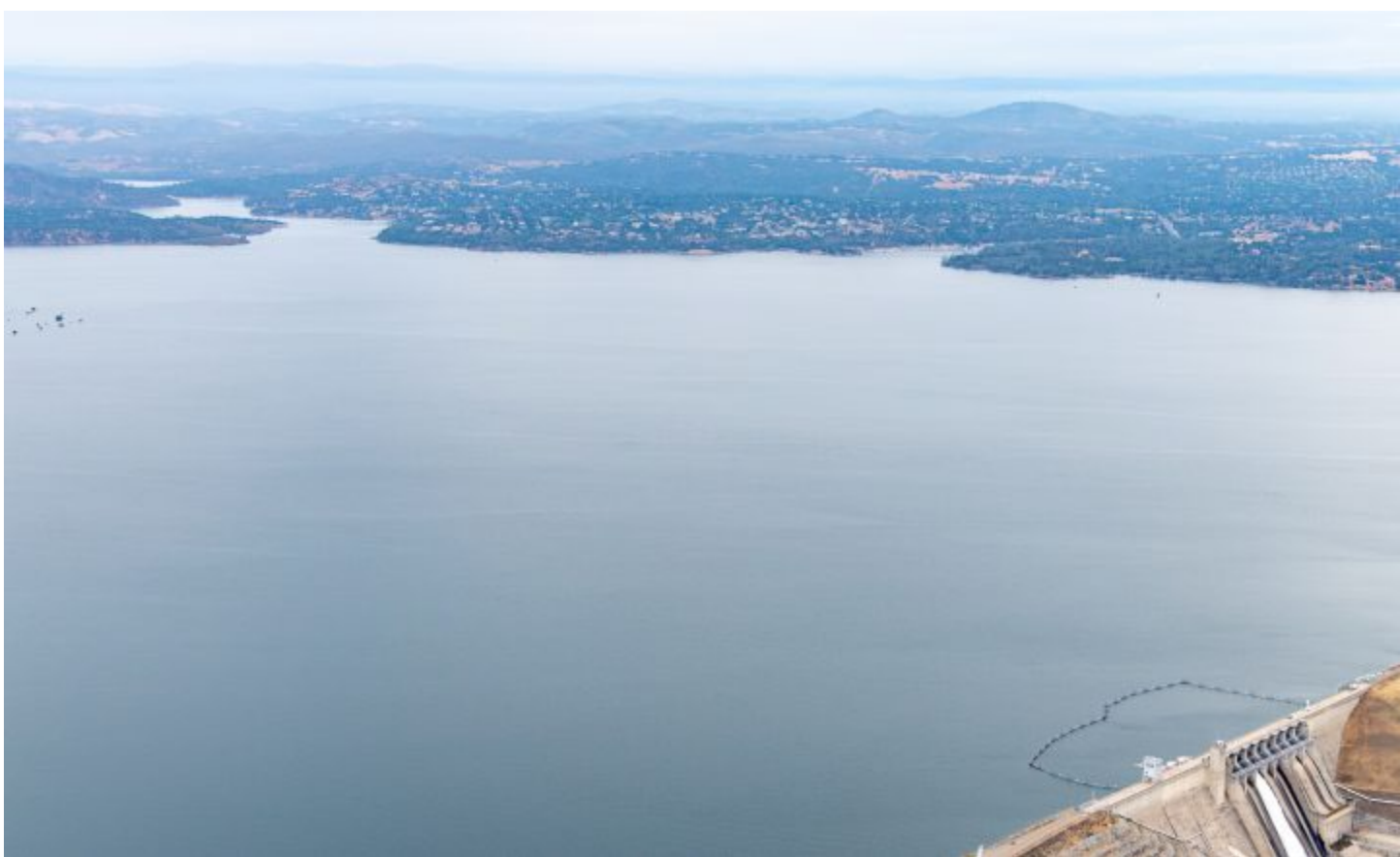
“I get that question of, ‘This water is so pure, why do you put it in the ground? Why can’t you just serve it?’ ” he said. “And I always fall back on, well, there’s no regulations that allow us to do that at this point.”

Now that the state is closer to finalizing them, he said, “there’s a point on the horizon to shoot for.”

<https://mavensnotebook.com/2023/08/01/cal-matters-dont-call-it-toilet-to-tap-california-plans-to-turn-sewage-into-drinking-water/>

August 2, 2023

Finding room for cost-effective water storage: Roseville and neighboring communities are tapping into groundwater as a long-term solution



Even at high water levels--as seen here in June, 2023--Folsom Reservoir stores less water than what can be stored as ground water. Photo by Ken James, California Department of Water Resources

BY: [DEBBIE ARRINGTON](#) AUGUST 1, 2023

A great place to store water may be under your feet.

The potential for local groundwater storage is twice as much as Folsom Reservoir's capacity—with no new dams necessary.

Groundwater supplies about a third of the Sacramento region's water needs. An important resource for Roseville and other local cities, it provides water supply reliability in times of drought or abundance.

"It's the most cost-effective approach (to water storage)," says Ryan Ojakian, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Program Manager for the Regional Water Authority (RWA).

The RWA is the umbrella organization that coordinates the efforts of 22 local water providers (including the City of Roseville) that serve more than 2.1 million residents.

"It's also the most sensible approach from a variety of perspectives," Ojakian adds. "We're trying to manage water in a more environmentally sound way. In a lot of ways, it's what water would do if left to its own devices."

Historically, local groundwater has been used mostly for agriculture, but urban areas are increasingly tapping into that important resource, too.

"Groundwater all started as surface water," explains Trevor Joseph, Manager of Technical Services for RWA and the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA), which manages the groundwater basin under Sacramento County and north of the American River.

Water can percolate into the ground naturally or be injected into the ground via wells. Under the surface, groundwater accumulates in "basins," natural geological formations that line the subsurface under California. Our state's 515 groundwater basins have been mapped by California's Department of Water Resources with most being managed by hundreds of different local public agencies.

Groundwater can be hard to visualize; it's not contained in underground tanks or lakes. Instead, it accumulates in unconsolidated material (gravel, sand, silt etc.) known as aquifers.

"Think of sand at the beach," says Joseph, who worked for the City of Roseville's Environmental Utilities department before joining the RWA and SGA earlier this year. "There's dry sand on top, but dig down and you'll find wet sand underneath. That's groundwater. The water table is all the saturated sand below that depth."

Groundwater fills the pores—the little air spaces—around soil particles contained in the aquifers in each basin.

"The basin acts like a giant sponge," Joseph adds. "Over millennia, groundwater filled up all the porous spaces between grains of sediment. Then, humans came in and with the development of engineered wells and pumps, this allowed for more significant volumes of groundwater to be extracted out of our basins."

During prolonged droughts, in many groundwater basins, Californians pumped out far more water than was naturally recharged back into the ground. Wells were dug deeper and deeper as water tables receded further underground.

That caused major issues.

“Water tables just kept going down; it was unsustainable,” Joseph says. “Levels dropped for four decades. In other basins, it could cause subsidence.”

Subsidence—the gradual sinking of land—can cause roads, buildings and other structures built on the surface to crumble. It has serious consequences underground, too. Once depleted of water, the layers of certain types of clay soil can’t be re-saturated, and permanently collapsed.

Through careful water management, local groundwater levels have not only stabilized but actually increased.

Our very wet winter allowed regional water managers to aid Mother Nature’s natural recharge through artificial recharge, thereby adding to their groundwater resources. It’s banking water for non-rainy days.

“There are different artificial recharge methods. What the City of Roseville is able to accomplish is when extra surface water is available, they can inject the water—recharge extra surface water down the well—into the aquifer,” Joseph says. “That water then can be extracted in dry years with no special treatment. It’s really environmentally friendly.”

Another plus for groundwater storage: There’s room—without expensive construction.

“The ability to recharge using different methods can greatly exceed any surface storage tanks you could construct,” Joseph notes. “Our available groundwater storage space in the greater Sacramento regional area is approximately 1.8 million acre feet—or about double Folsom Reservoir; that’s a tremendous amount of space for the future storage of water.”

Folsom Reservoir holds 975,000 acre feet at full capacity.

Besides injecting water via wells, groundwater gets a big boost from snow melt.

“We’ve had an exceptional year of rain and snow,” Joseph adds. “Snow melt naturally percolates into the ground, and it’s making a huge difference. We’ve seen an increase on average of more than 10 feet in monitored wells. We are seeing the benefits of natural groundwater recharge.”

<https://sacramento.newsreview.com/spotlight/finding-room-for-cost-effective-water-storage-roseville-and-neighboring-communities-are-tapping-into-groundwater-as-a-long-term-solutions>

August 3, 2023

LADWP Crews Successfully Manage Over 325 billion gallons of Water Flowing from Historic Eastern Sierra Snowpack



LADWP developed a detailed water operation plan to maximize the beneficial use of the runoff water for its operations, customers, and environmental responsibilities, and reduce impacts to public and private property throughout the Owens Valley region.

LOS ANGELES (August 3, 2023) – On April 1, 2023, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) announced a record snowpack of 296% of normal for the Eastern Sierra making 2023 one of – if not the largest – snowpack year on record in California, eclipsing other big water years like 1952, 1983, 2017, and surpassing the Department’s 1969 record that measured at an estimated 270% of normal.

In wet years, there is more than four times as much water along the LA Aqueduct than in dry years. This year's record snowmelt translates into managing 1 million acre-feet of water along the LA Aqueduct which is equivalent to filling about 493,617 Olympic-sized pools with water.

The peak of the runoff season—the period in which temperatures rise and the snow melts—usually lasts from May to June. This year's impressive snowpack and the volume of water that it translates into pushed the season to August and possibly into early September.

“In light of lessons learned during the 2017 and 2019 wet year events, LADWP took immediate steps to prepare for the decidedly high runoff this year,” said Anselmo Collins LADWP Senior Assistant General Manager of Water System. “LADWP was able to successfully maximize aqueduct flows and water spreading throughout the Owens Valley, strategically manage reservoir levels, and expeditiously protect Owens Lake dust mitigation infrastructure, all while performing day-to-day operations, prioritizing human health and safety, and maintaining its environmental responsibilities.”

The dramatic winter storms brought heavy amounts of precipitation to the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Southern California. During the extreme March rain-on-snow event, an uncovered concrete section of the [LA Aqueduct near Olancho was breached requiring the expertise of about 75 LADWP personnel working around the clock to make repairs](#). The LA Aqueduct breach and subsequent damage from the storms expedited LADWP runoff work.

Crews repaired diversion structures to better ready spreading grounds (an area that holds surface water long enough to let it sink into the soil); restored and cleaned ditches that receive runoff water by removing vegetation and blockages; and shored up areas of Owens Lake to minimize the expected damage rising water levels pose to dust mitigation infrastructure.

In anticipation of the high runoff and in preparation for a worst-case scenario, LADWP Aqueduct Operations also readied all spreading grounds for use. During a normal water year, LADWP utilizes only productive

spreading grounds for a brief period of time during peak runoff – this year both non-productive and productive spreading grounds were used.

The Laws and Big Pine spreading grounds, which are the most productive, were in use by early spring. The second most productive spreading grounds off of the creeks from Tinemaha Reservoir to the Haiwee Reservoir complex, just South of Lone Pine, needed extensive preparation work by personnel as they also suffered damage during the March flooding event.



Laws spreading grounds near Upper McNally Canal.



The Tinemaha Reservoir spilled substantially in 1969, so LADWP Water Operations installed a siphon system in May 2023 to increase the capacity of outflow water from Tinemaha Dam and prevent spilling the reservoir.

During the peak of runoff in wet water years, the LA Aqueduct system and all spreading operations combined are completely maximized and excess water is then released to Owens Lake.

The historic nature of the 2023 winter storms and likely massive runoff prompted Mayor Karen Bass of the City of Los Angeles to issue [an Emergency Declaration](#) to allow LADWP to take immediate steps to protect infrastructure and aid in managing flood waters.

Taking lessons learned from 2017, LADWP personnel installed temporary and permanent defensive measures at and near Owens Lake to manage any rush of flood water onto the dry lakebed and to best protect the environment and existing investments in dust mitigation infrastructure.

“From March through July only 100,000 acre-feet of runoff of the projected 180,000 acre-feet has made its way to Owens Lake, resulting in the lake level rising by 3 feet,” said Collins. “As a result of our effective preparation work and extraordinary efforts, we are past the peak runoff period and the Aqueduct system has held up seeing minimal damage, and with the majority of Owens Lake flood protection measures installed this year now providing permanent protection for the future.”

Examples of protective measures taken at Owens Lake:

- Placement of additional riprap (large stones) armor on approximately 14.5 miles of berm slopes that are adjacent to the brine pools to help strengthen the berms and prevent erosion due to wave and wind action.
- Repaired roads and performed general earthwork.
- Removed critical electrical equipment in low-elevation areas, and installed temporary protection measures for key electrical and mechanical facilities by placing temporary barriers, gravel, and sandbags.
- Installation of seven monitoring stations and cameras to track flood water in real-time.



LADWP placed additional gravel armor on approximately 14.5 miles of berm slopes that are adjacent to the brine pool to help strengthen the berms and prevent erosion.

The LADWP Water Operations Aqueduct Division effectively calculated how to lower reservoir elevations to create more storage space for runoff water. The staff also figured out to efficiently move water through almost 2,000 miles of canals and open ditches adjacent to the Owens River to replenish local groundwater aquifers while supplying LA with Aqueduct water in place of purchased water and pumped water wherever possible.

Also as a result of the unprecedented water year, LADWP hydrographers scheduled additional snow surveys in June and July for the first time in the Department's recorded history to better understand the rate of snowmelt to inform runoff conditions.

"The hot temperatures in the Owens Valley since the 4th of July holiday weekend increased the flows in the creeks and waterways along the Eastern Sierra," said Adam Perez, LADWP LA Aqueduct Manager.

“Fortunately much of the region experienced a long cool spring and a cooler than expected beginning of summer, which delayed the arrival of the runoff and allowed our crews additional time to prepare the Aqueduct system,” Perez added.

LADWP’s Communications and Corporate Strategy Division and Water Operations Division worked together to produce a dedicated runoff webpage and waterway safety messaging in both print and digital media throughout the summer months. To help provide guidance and a big-picture view of the anticipated severity of the runoff, officials from Inyo County and LADWP hosted a preparedness meeting for the community in early spring, and LADWP communications staff actively participated in the Inyo County joint incident command communications group.

LADWP, Inyo County, Mono County, Inyo Sheriff, Southern California Edison, Caltrans and other land agencies worked together to share public messages on waterway and recreation safety during the runoff season.

Even though many of the creeks and streams have passed their peak flows, the expectation is that water will continue to flow fast into the late summer. LADWP still recommends avoiding recreation next to swift-moving waterways and suggests enjoying one of the many lakes and ponds that are located along the Eastern Sierra such as Buckley Ponds in Bishop or Klondike Lake.

“The flows have been manageable and associated damage resulting from the runoff has been minor, however, we are not 100 percent out of the woods in addressing the record-breaking snowpack and resulting runoff, but Mother Nature has been kind to the community along the Eastern Sierra,” said Perez.

LADWP personnel will continue to actively work through September managing the high flows and sediment build-up in the waterways from this year’s extremely wet year.

LADWP manages approximately 315,000 acres of City-owned land in the Eastern Sierra for the primary purpose of providing water and power supply for the City of Los Angeles and the towns in Inyo and Mono Counties. LADWP in the Eastern Sierra is utilizing leading technologies in

water, environmental, and cultural resource management to support a water supply vision that is ‘water strong’, resilient, sustainable, reliable, and equitable well into the next century.

PEAK RUNOFF BY THE NUMBERS

Acres of Land Patrolled	314,000
Miles of Canals, Waterways Cleaned/Maintained	200
Rock Delivered to Owens Lake (metric tons)	200,000
Sand Bailed from Waterways (cubic yards)	300,000
Average # of Daily Personnel	200
Weeks of 24/7 Shifts	6
Excavators	86
Dump Trucks	54
Highest Flow in the Owens River (cubic feet per second)	1,500
Sandbags Deployed	15,000
Media Posts and Bulletins	65
Snow Surveys	33

Drought returns to California county for first time in months as state braces for more heat

California

By Brianna Taylor

August 03, 2023 1:38 PM

Meteorologists forecast that the remainder of the summer and the beginning of fall will bring above-normal temperatures to California, which could exacerbate the state's steadily increasing drought.

Del Norte County — which has been drought-free for months — now faces some moderate conditions.

According to the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), there's between 33% and 50% chance weather in California will lean above normal for this time of year. NOAA outlooks show “equal” chances of above-normal, near-normal or below-normal rainfall for August and September.

Meaning, according to the [National Weather Service](#), there is no clear indication of how much rain the state could receive.

Dangerous heat in California

Heat waves have baked California all summer — and while some regions slowly move away from triple-digit temperatures — others brace for another round of sweltering conditions.

The National Weather Service warned of a “[widespread moderate heat risk](#)” this weekend across the Central Valley and foothills.

An [excessive heat watch](#) will go into effect from Saturday to Monday for portions of Southern California. The area is preparing for “dangerously hot” temperatures between a high of 108 and 117 degrees.

[In Sacramento, temperatures](#) will steadily increase throughout the week until the area reaches a high of 105 degrees this weekend.

“Heat can exacerbate drought, and hot, dry conditions can, in turn, create wildfire conditions,” the [Center for Climate and Energy Solutions](#) wrote on its website. This season, the heightened risk of fires [is in lower-elevation grasslands](#), as moisture from winter storms is drying up faster than in the mountains, which saw record snow this year.

More vegetation in these areas can be fuel for flames.

Is California still in a drought?

Nearly 903,000 people remain living in drought areas, according to a [Thursday update from the U.S. Drought Monitor](#) — an increase over roughly 892,000 people in July and approximately 704,800 people in June.

In May, about 736,000 people lived in drought-stricken areas.

According to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#), California is roughly 93% drought-free. The [state is free of “severe,” “extreme,” and “exceptional” drought conditions](#) for 17 weeks in a row.

As of Thursday, portions of four out of 58 counties, or roughly 6.5% of the state, are in “moderate” drought. In July, parts of three counties or approximately 6.3% remained in drought.

The majority of the desert region and Northern California is drought-free except for “moderate” conditions in parts of Inyo, Riverside and San Bernardino. Del Norte County, in the far northwest part of the state, reentered drought conditions this week, with nearly 37% of the county in the “moderate” stage. It had been [drought-free since January](#).

Whether the drought is over depends on where you are and the status of your water agency’s supply.

Roughly 25% of the state remains abnormally dry for the third week in a row.

The information used in this interactive map, collected from the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#), was updated Thursday with data through Aug. 1. Here are the drought conditions in California:

What do you want to know about life in Sacramento? Ask our service journalism team your top-of-mind questions in the module below or email servicejournalists@sacbee.com.

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/california/article277923418.html>