



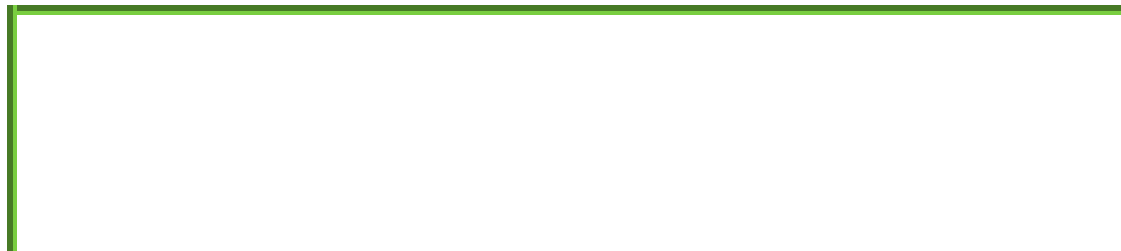
Protecting our rural environment by promoting citizen participation in sustainable land use planning since 2006

The Community Action Project (CAP) administers the Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC), which is comprised of regional and local organizations, community groups, and concerned individuals who promote public participation in land use and resource planning to ensure a healthy human, natural, and economic environment now and in the future.

Learn more at www.calaverascap.com

Don't forget to add us to your address book to keep us out of your spam folder!

Donate





In this edition of the ReCAP...

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Join Us!

Get a glimpse into what CPC membership is like by attending a meeting. There is no commitment, just show up and listen in!

Next Calaveras Planning Coalition Meeting
December 6, 2021 3 P.M. - 5 P.M.
New Members Welcome at CPC Meetings

Organizations, groups, and individuals (known as associate members) may join the Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC). Prospective members may attend two consecutive meetings before making a final decision on membership in the Coalition. The membership form is a pledge to support and advocate for the Coalition's eleven Land Use and Development Principles, which you will find on our website:

www.calaverascap.com.

There is no membership fee. However, members are encouraged to donate to the Community Action Project/Calaveras Planning Coalition. Visitors and prospective members will, by necessity, be excluded from attorney/client privileged discussions.

If you are interested in membership, please email CPC Facilitator Tom Infusino, tomi@volcano.net, to receive a membership form, agenda, and the Zoom meeting connection.

To help prevent the spread of Covid-19 in our county, all CAP and CPC meetings will be held online via Zoom until restrictions are lifted by the Public Health Department.

Happy Holidays

MAKE A DONATION AS A HOLIDAY GIFT

Dear Friend,

When shopping for holiday gifts this season, please keep the Community Action Project (CAP) and the Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC) in mind. There may be people on your list who will truly appreciate having a donation to CAP/CPC made in their name rather than receiving a gift basket or a bottle of wine.

Making a donation to CAP/CPC is a unique way to show friends, family members, and co-workers that you are thinking about them during the holiday season. Whether you make a donation instead of purchasing a traditional gift or make a donation as an add-on, it is a truly thoughtful opportunity to spread a message of community solidarity and hope for a better Calaveras County in the new year.

It's easy to make a charitable gift for the people on your list who will appreciate such an expression of generosity. [Simply visit calaverascap.com to make your donation via PayPal](http://calaverascap.com). If you prefer, send your check to CAP/CPC, P.O. Box 935, San Andreas, CA 95249 along with the recipient's name and address on the attached form so we can send an acknowledgement of your gift. Donations can be made in any amount.

If you are paying via PayPal, please email the gift recipient's information to calaverascap@gmail.com with "gift donation" as the subject. You may also combine multiple gifts in one payment. For example, a donation of \$200 may be given as four \$50 gifts. Just include that instruction in your email or with your check.

Once you have purchased your gift donation, the recipient will receive a "Happy Holidays" certificate (see below) showcasing the donation amount and the recipient's name, and, of course, the certificate will let them know it's from you. All funds raised through holiday gifts will go directly to support the important work of

CAP/CPC in our fight to ensure a healthy human, natural, and economic environment now and in the future. Please make a decision to give today.

Happy Holidays and best wishes to you and your loved ones during this season of love and charity and all year long. Thank you.

Regards,

Joyce Techel, Co-Chair

Community Action Project

Note: The Calaveras Community Action Project is fiscally sponsored by Ebbett's Pass Forest Watch, a federally designated 501c(3) nonprofit organization. Your donation is tax-deductible. Our federal tax ID number is 68-0466959.



Donate

Board of Supervisors December 7 2021

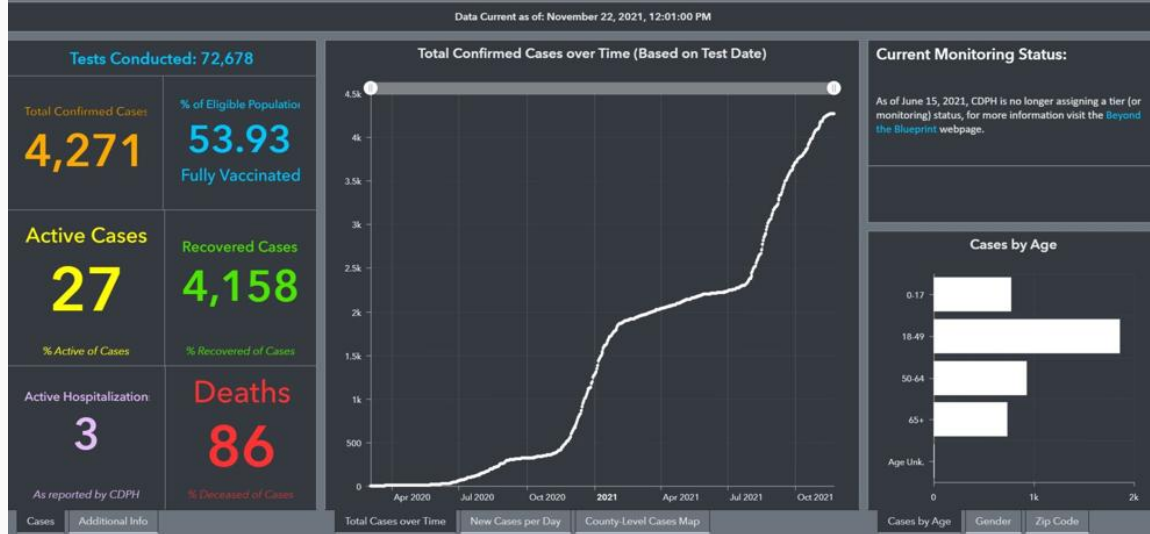
[Agenda](#)

Planning Commission December 9 2021

[Agenda](#)

Local News

Calaveras County health department reports 4 additional COVID-19 deaths, reminds public to stay vigilant during holidays



A graphic shows Calaveras County Public Health Division's data on COVID-19 cases as of Nov. 22.

Courtesy graphic/Calaveras County Public Health Division

Calaveras Enterprise Report / November 23, 2021

Calaveras County Public Health recently added four COVID-19-related fatalities to its numbers, bringing the countywide death toll to 89.

One fatality, a woman in her 50s, was reported on Nov. 22, and three additional deaths—another woman in her 80s, a man in his 70s and second man in his 50s—were reported the following day.

"This tragic outcome is hard to experience and with the holidays upon us, I do pray as a community we find a way to lean in with compassion and hopefulness as we continue to battle this Coronavirus. Please continue to do your part to protect those around us through safe distancing, proper handwashing, masking and vaccination," Calaveras County Health and Human Services Agency Director Cori Allen said in a press release. "We at Public Health all send our condolences to the family and loved ones as they mourn."

As of Nov. 22, there were 27 confirmed active Covid cases in Calaveras County, according to Public Health.

The county's vaccination rate remains below [that of the state](#), with Public Health reporting just under 54% of eligible residents fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

CUSD will uphold mask mandate, nasal swab tests

Marie-Elena Schembri / The Calaveras Enterprise / November 30, 2021

The Calaveras Unified School District (CUSD) board discussed COVID-19 policies at their meeting last Tuesday, deciding to continue with the current COVID-19 protocol, which includes PCR testing for unvaccinated staff and student athletes, and mask-wearing for both staff and students.

At the school district's last meeting, the board voted unanimously to "not enforce, support, or comply" with the vaccine mandate announced last month by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

This time, the focus was on their COVID-19 testing policy, which currently requires unvaccinated staff and athletes to receive regular Covid testing via nasal swab tests, with the option to receive a saliva-based test if medically necessary. Objections to this and the ongoing mask mandate were brought forward among other concerns at the previous school board meeting.

Superintendent Mark Campbell explained what the cost could be to the district if the board decided to provide saliva-based testing for any of its staff without a note from a doctor.

"We don't pay for the PCR test, the nasal swab test, but the saliva-based tests cost \$90," said Campbell. He estimated that providing the nasal swab tests for staff could cost anywhere from \$36,000 to \$156,000, depending on how many staff members wanted that option over the free nasal swab tests currently available.

Campbell based his calculations on a survey conducted by the school district, which polled 120 staff members about their interest in the saliva-based testing option and received about a 50% response rate. Of the 62 staff members who responded, only 20 indicated they would prefer the saliva-based test, 15 replied "maybe," and 27 were not interested in the option, Campbell reported. If all staff members opted to have the saliva-based test, the cost could be anywhere from \$72,000 to \$126,000, according to Campbell.

Campbell also advised the board that there is not sufficient money set aside to cover these costs, so they would have to either pull funds from "Covid money" or the general fund, which means taking money away from other necessary expenditures.

In addition to the cost, Campbell outlined other factors such as limited supply, time constraints for obtaining the supply, a more complicated testing process, and that it would require the district to "add time to staff or add staff to do so."

He continued, "With all those factors in play, we figured if there was a medically-based reason for somebody to access the saliva test, then we would provide that. That's a countywide protocol at this point."

After discussing these concerns, the board decided to continue with the current policy for now and revisit the issue at the next meeting on Dec. 14. They are hoping to get more information regarding the nasal swab test availability and the difficulty of getting the required medical note.

Some are concerned that it would prove difficult, due to reports of doctors being able to provide a limited number of exemptions for the vaccine mandate. Campbell pointed out that there are no legal limitations

placed on these doctor notes, unlike the vaccine exemptions. It would be at the discretion of the doctor or medical office's policy.

The school board also decided to continue with mask mandates in its schools, even though some mask policies have begun to loosen, though not in California schools.

Board member Christine Noble said of her decision regarding upholding the mask requirements, "This is not a hill I'm willing to die on," a sentiment that was echoed by other board members in the meeting. Noble said it was a "professional decision," not personal. This is in stark contrast to the previous meeting, where board members emotionally voiced their refusal to comply with the vaccine mandate, despite risks to their professional, financial, and legal standing.

Noble said, "I'm hoping what we can all agree on is CUSD's priority is to educate your students.

We do not want distance learning. This is not as effective as in-person learning."

Noble presented a chart, titled "Masks on Campus," which contained bullet points of input gathered from students, staff, and parents, and community members. Noble polled around a dozen students, 10 teachers, and all but one of the district's principals about their feelings regarding mask-wearing at school. She also included comments received by email and in-person conversations with parents.

Students expressed annoyance at wearing the masks, with some wanting them gone but others saying they would continue to wear them. Students and staff stated they believe it should be an individual choice. Some staff members also expressed concerns over masks disrupting learning by impeding on hearing, "classroom management issues," and requiring teachers to monitor proper wearing of the masks. Teachers also provide students "mask breaks" which allow them to go outside and remove their masks, taking away from classroom time. According to Noble, many staff members also reported that they would be very concerned for their health if masks were removed, and some said they will leave their jobs if masks are removed from schools.

Noble's findings were that parents are pretty evenly "split down the middle," with parents on either side of the issue threatening to pull their kids from schools.

Noble referenced the current shortage of substitute teachers, which is putting strain on classrooms and staff already.

"With county health dictating our quarantine and contact tracing protocols, your student will have a higher percentage of missing school without the masks, and that's just reality," said Noble, adding a disclaimer that "this does not mean that I am up here saying I want everybody in masks. ...If our goal is to educate your students and to keep everybody in the classroom, this is where we're at."

Board member Cory Williams added that with the recent lawsuit in San Diego County and OSHA fining a school in Oregon, there is now legal precedent for upholding the mask mandate in schools, putting the entire district and teachers at risk of losing credentials if they do not comply.

Williams stated her biggest concern, however, is the possibility of athletes being disqualified from competition and playoffs. Students she spoke to at Calaveras High had the same concern, and would rather wear masks than risk losing sports, according to Williams.

Williams echoed Noble's earlier statement, saying "I might die on the vaccine hill, but I am not willing to risk losing my job or my credential over masks."

Other board members agreed that the risks of defying the mandate were greater than the nuisance of keeping kids and staff in masks, especially when it could be the difference between keeping them in schools or going back to distance learning.

For now, CUSD schools will keep the masks and nasal swab tests in their COVID-19 policy. The next CUSD school board meeting will be held virtually, with a public session opening at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 14.

Fire Adapted 50 project protects communities from Caldor Fire

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

On August 14, 2021, the Caldor Fire ignited in a densely forested area of the Central Sierra Nevada. It spread rapidly and, fed by the dry forests, steep terrain, and extreme fire weather of the 2021 fire season, destroyed hundreds of homes and structures as it burned east over the rocky crest of the Sierra Nevada into the Lake Tahoe Basin.

As the Caldor Fire burned toward the Highway 50 corridor near Jenkinson Lake, communities such as Pollock Pines and Sly Park were directly in the fire's path.

Not a single home or structure in the area was destroyed by the fire.

This is largely because of ambitious, collaborative efforts to design, plan, and implement a landscape-level wildfire resilience project called Fire Adapted 50. The work was spearheaded by the El Dorado and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District with state funding support from CAL FIRE and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Large local landowners and managers, like the Eldorado National Forest, the El Dorado Irrigation District, and Sierra Pacific Industries, also contributed significant time and resources. Fire Adapted 50 is an example of the effort necessary to create fire-adapted communities throughout the region.

The Fire Adapted 50 project is located adjacent to the southern edge of the King Fire burn area, which burned nearly 100,000 acres in 2014. The [**never-before-seen behavior of the King Fire**](#) and the subsequent prolonged drought increased awareness in the local area about the vulnerability of rural communities and watersheds to wildfires, leading to this collaborative project to restore resilience to the landscape. One of the many goals of the Fire Adapted 50 project was to provide firefighting crews safer locations to effectively work during events, such as the Caldor Fire.

Collaboration key to Fire Adapted 50's success

In September 2021, with smoke still rising from the charred landscape, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) staff was able to visit completed Fire Adapted 50 projects near Sly Park and Jenkinson Lake.

Standing at the edge of a recent treatment area, SNC and partners saw firsthand the impact and effectiveness of work they helped to initiate and fund.



“Because of all the different values that are associated within this watershed—the hydrological aspects, the forest aspects, the community infrastructure within the Wildland Urban Interface...the design of the projects are vetted through these partnerships, where we say, ‘Here’s this landscape we’re in and here’s a treatment prescription that we can apply in this phase.’”

Mark Egbert—District Manager, El Dorado County Resource Conservation District

The treatments were effective in protecting local watershed resources, critical infrastructure, and nearby residences. The overall success of Phase 1 of Fire Adapted 50 is a testament to what can be accomplished with close collaboration between federal, state, and local governments toward a common goal.

Fuel breaks allowed firefighters to save Pollock Pines and Sly Park

The goals of Fire Adapted 50 work in the Sly Park and Jenkinson Lake area included creating a fuel break that would moderate fire behavior.



"This allowed firefighters to come into a safe area, where they could put fire on the ground, burn back up and prevent that fire from coming at a rapid rate."

Greg Hawkins—Parks and Rec Manager, El Dorado Irrigation District

The fuel break provided a safe and effective starting point for firefighters, which was crucial to protecting Pollock Pines and Sly Park from the Caldor Fire.



“What these types of fuel breaks do is they provide us that starting point, but they also let firefighters know that they don’t have to worry about this spot. Because they knew when a spot (fire) would land here it wasn’t necessarily going to take off. There’s no doubt in my mind that this work saved the community of Pollock Pines, and the folks off of Sly Park here.”

Scot Rogers—District Ranger, Eldorado National Forest
Fire-adaptation urgent for Sierra Nevada communities

These project areas offer reasons for hope in a landscape forever changed by the Caldor Fire. And they remind us of the urgency of protecting the thousands of other communities scattered throughout the Sierra Nevada.

The work needed to restore wildfire resilience to the Sierra Nevada may look different across the Region, but the ingredients of effective project design should look familiar. Together, land managers and stakeholders are developing landscape restoration plans informed not just by state and federal goals, but by local expertise, priorities, and values.

<https://youtu.be/2doy1JGmF5Y>





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Regional News

A 'no snow' California could come sooner than you think

Hayley Smith / LA Times / December 3, 2021

It was 55 degrees and sunny Thursday at Sugar Bowl Resort, where the opening day of the 2021 ski season — already delayed because of warm weather — was still listed as “[TBD](#).”

“Winter hasn’t quite arrived in Tahoe yet,” officials wrote in a note about the postponement. “The team will be working nightly and ready to flip the switch when Mother Nature cooperates.”

But the mountain isn’t the only place feeling the pinch from lack of snow. A new study led by researchers at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory found that dwindling snowpack across California and the

western United States could shrink dramatically more — or in some cases disappear — before the end of the century.

The study, published recently in the journal [Nature Reviews Earth and Environment](#), paints a worrisome picture of the “potentially catastrophic consequences” of a future with less snow, including the massive implications it holds for California’s water supply, as well as rippling effects on soil, plants, wildlife and even the increased frequency of wildfire.

Should greenhouse gas emissions continue unabated, the study found, winters of low snow, or even no snow, could become a regular occurrence in as little as 35 years.

The projections “are a little bit shocking,” said Alan Rhoades, a hydroclimate research scientist and co-author of the study. “As a kid who grew up in the Sierra, it’s kind of hard to fathom a low- to no-snow future.”

In many ways, the changes have already begun. California this year experienced its [hottest summer on record](#), while Los Angeles and San Diego both just saw their [driest Novembers](#) in decades. The entire state is also under a [drought emergency](#).

But the paper is the first to synthesize “any and every available study” of future snowpack projections to construct a more confident timeline, said Erica Siirila-Woodburn, a research scientist at the Berkeley Lab and another co-author of the study.

Many of the worst effects will be felt in California, she said, where snowpack in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade ranges could decline 45% by 2050, compared with about 25% in other western ranges such as the Rockies and the Wasatch-Uinta.

Jeffrey Mount, a water scientist at the Public Policy Institute of California who did not work on the study, said that level of snow loss could fundamentally alter life in the Golden State, where mountains have historically served as a critical resource for regional water supplies by capturing, storing and releasing moisture downstream.

“Believe me, we all read it,” Mount said of the study, noting that California has “built an entire water supply system around the reliable appearance of snowpack in our mountains.”

Crucially, he said, the steady, slow melting of snow each spring and summer has long acted like a time-release that provides more water at a moment when precipitation tends to stop and demand begins to surge.

Snowpack on April 1, when it is typically its deepest, was only [60% of its average](#) this year, according to the California Department of Water Resources.

“If the snow is not going to melt off in the spring like it used to, we’ve got some major challenges for how we operate our reservoirs,” Mount said, “because it’s all built around them. Everything’s built around them.”

But snow loss won’t affect only water supplies. The researchers described a “cascade of implications” that could shift the state’s soil, plants and wildlife and also negatively affect forest productivity and ecological health. It could also increase the risk for flash floods and debris flows, as well as the prevalence and severity of wildfires, they said.

“It’s hard to disentangle this really interconnected system, in terms of all these different places where water hooks to different parts of the environment,” Siirila-Woodburn said. “It’s really this holistic system that we have to think about jointly.”

The researchers defined “low snow” as when the snowpack (or snow water equivalent) falls below the 30th percentile of the historical peak. “No snow” is when that number falls below the 10th percentile.

California has already seen bouts of both, such as when snowpack in the Sierra dropped to an [unprecedented 5% of normal](#) in 2015. But the state could start to experience “episodic periods” — or five consecutive years — of low to no snow as soon as the late 2040s, researchers said.

Persistent periods, or 10 consecutive years, of low-to-no snow could arrive in California by the 2060s. In other parts of the western U.S., persistent periods don’t emerge until the 2070s.

“We can maybe manage around two years, three years of low- to no-snow,” Rhoades said, “but when you start to get five years ... or that persistent 10 years, I think that starts to undermine some of the historical management strategies that have been used.”

[The](#) reasons for snow loss are myriad, but most are tied to climate change. Warming temperatures mean more precipitation is falling as rain instead of snow — and rain has less water storage potential than its colder counterpart, Rhoades said.

What’s more, many of the storms that do bring moisture to California come across the warm Pacific, while other ranges such as the Rockies get colder storms that move in from the northern Arctic. And with a lower average elevation than some other western ranges, the Sierra also have a harder time maintaining snow levels.

The researchers hoped their findings could be a “call to action” that will spur residents, policymakers and innovators to elevate snow loss to the level of other climate hazards like [sea level rise](#) and wildfires, which tend to make more headlines, they said.

“This isn’t some hypothetical make-believe future,” Siirila-Woodburn said, noting that snowpack in the region has already decreased by about 20% since 1950 — the equivalent of the storage capacity of [Lake Mead](#), the nation’s largest reservoir. “This is something that’s already happening now.”

One high-emission climate model used in the study found that as few as 8% of the years between 1950 and 2000 would be classified as having low to no snow in the western United States. Between 2050 and 2099, that number could soar as high as 94%.

But there are solutions, including water conservation, infrastructure investments, [desalination](#) and, crucially, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the researchers said. Aggressive [forest management](#) will also play a key role because less dense forests allow for deeper snowpack.

John Andrew, deputy director of climate resilience at the California Department of Water Resource, said via email that it will require an “all of the above” approach to slow the trend.

“With a state as diverse as California, there is simply no ‘one-size-fits-all’ solution — it will take a portfolio of diverse strategies, implemented primarily at the regional level,” Andrew said.

“That said, there is obviously a high priority currently on [responding to the drought](#), with a particular emphasis on assisting small, rural communities that do not have access to safe and affordable drinking water,” he added.

Also of critical importance are adaptation strategies, including techniques to store excess surface water underground for later use, the researchers said.

Forecast-informed reservoir operations, which use weather and water forecasts to inform decisions about retaining or releasing water from reservoirs, also show promising signs of increasing water storage in California.

Yet there is still much to be done. In September, Gov. Gavin Newsom allocated more than \$5 billion of his [\\$15-billion climate package](#) toward drought response and water resilience — but in the same month, Californians [backslid in their efforts](#) to conserve water.

“Decreasing snowpack is one of several challenges facing California water managers, including aging infrastructure and declining ecosystem health,” Andrew said, adding that “water conservation should be a way of life in California.”

Still, the researchers said they hoped their study would inspire less “doom and gloom” and more discussion of solutions — particularly since their findings were primarily based on a high-emission scenario that is not yet inevitable.

Water managers and policymakers have already reached out about incorporating the study’s findings into their work, they said.

But though budgets, infrastructure, legislation and conservation can all be improved upon, the necessary conditions for that Sierra snow Rhoades played in as a kid are admittedly harder to come by in a warming world.

Unfortunately, he said, “the freezing point of water is non-negotiable.”

[California water districts to get 0% of requested supplies in unprecedented decision](#)

The Guardian / December 2, 2021

Only water required for health and safety will be allowed as drought continues to grip the state

Water agencies in drought-stricken California that serve 27 million residents and 750,000 acres of farmland won’t get any of the water they have requested from the state heading into 2022 other than what’s needed for critical health and safety, state officials announced on Wednesday.

It’s the earliest date the department of water resources has issued a 0% water allocation, a milestone that

reflects the dire conditions in California as drought continues to grip the nation's most populous state and reservoirs have dropped to historically low levels.

State water officials said mandatory water restrictions could be coming and major water districts urged consumers to conserve.

"If conditions continue [to be] this dry, we will see mandatory cutbacks," Karla Nemeth, director of DWR, told reporters.

The low allocation, while unprecedented, doesn't mean Californians are at risk of losing water for drinking or bathing. The State Water Project is just one source of water for the 29 districts it supplies; others include the Colorado River and local storage projects.

The state will provide a small amount of water for health and safety needs to some of the districts that asked for it. But they won't get water for any other purpose, such as irrigation, landscaping and gardening, which consume significant amounts of water.

The State Water Project is a complex system of reservoirs, canals and dams that works alongside the federal Central Valley Project to supply water up and down the state of nearly 40 million people. Lake Oroville, its largest reservoir, is only 30% full, about half of what it normally is this time of year.

Districts that rely on the state have a maximum amount they can request each year and the allocation represents how much the state can give based on available supplies.

The percentage may be adjusted in early winter and spring depending on how much snow and rainfall the state receives. Last year, the state's second-driest on record, districts' allocation went from 10% in December down to 5% by March. The only other time since 1996 that districts have been granted nothing was in January 2014, during the last drought.

The metropolitan water district of southern California is the state's largest customer and it supplies water to about 19 million people. A third of its supply comes from the state. The district declared a drought emergency in November and mandated that people conserve water, a message its leaders emphasized on Wednesday. It will get some water for health and safety purposes.

"The dramatic reduction of our northern California supplies means we all must step up our conservation efforts," Adel Hagekhalil, the district's general manager, said in a statement. "Reduce the amount you are watering outside by a day, or two. Take shorter showers. Fix leaks. If we all do our part, we'll get through this together."

While the district as a whole has access to water from other sources, like the Colorado River, some of its member agencies in Los Angeles and Ventura counties rely almost exclusively on state supplies. Three of those districts issued a joint statement calling on residents to reduce the water they use on outdoor projects like landscaping.

"This certainly isn't what anyone wanted to hear," said Jay Lewitt, president of the Las Virgenes municipal

water district, which provides water for 75,000 people.

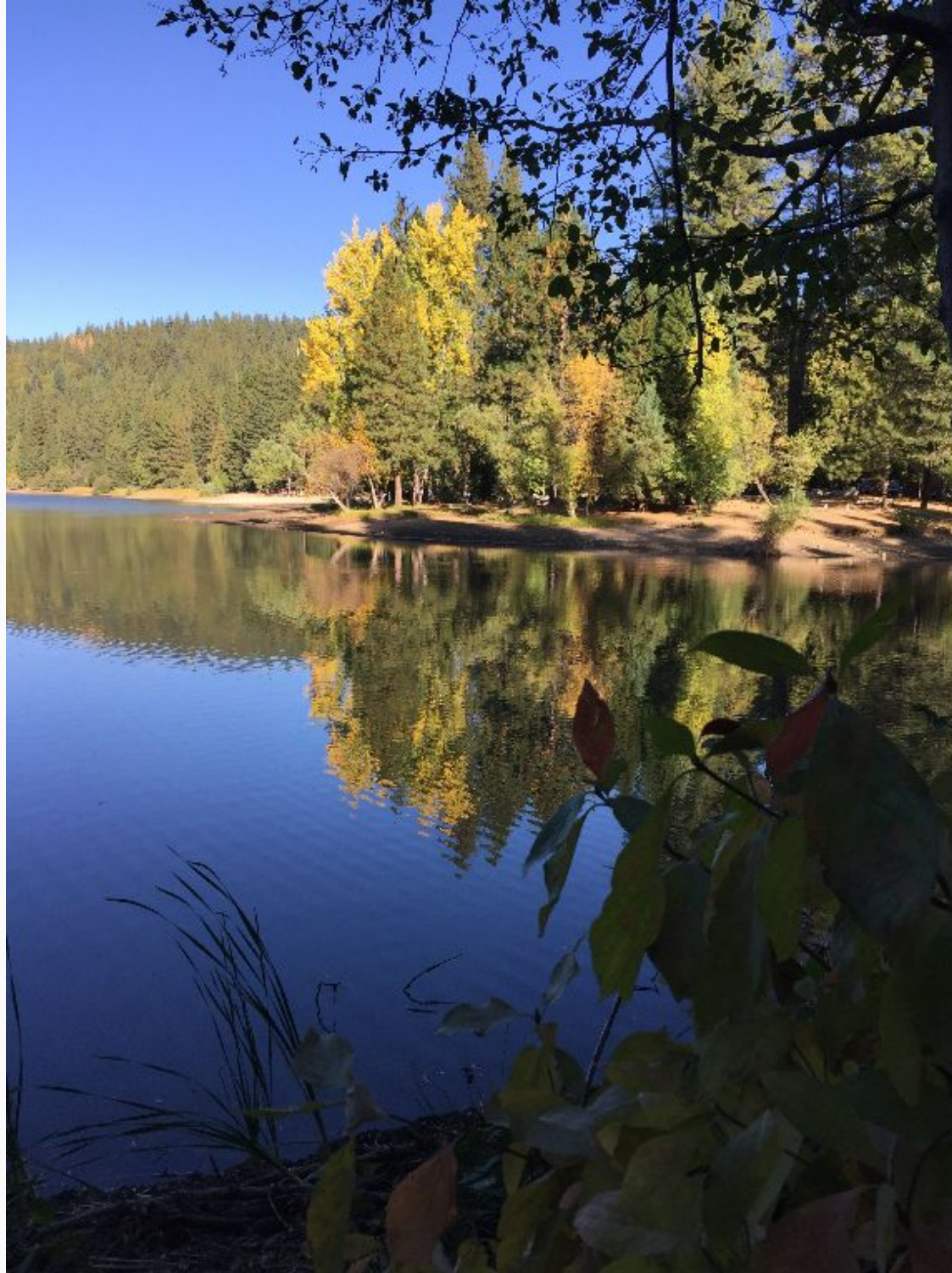
The state water allocation typically, but not always, goes up from the first December estimate to May, after winter storms that replenish snowpack water supplies have ended. But state water officials warned that dry times will probably continue, creating a tough year ahead. The state has so far failed to meet a goal California's governor, Gavin Newsom, set in July of a voluntary 15% reduction in water use.

Nemeth, the DWR director, said the state could set mandatory restrictions if local districts don't set their own and if the voluntary efforts still fail to meet the goal. The state water resources control board recently proposed emergency regulations that would ban certain "wasteful" practices such as watering lawns when it's raining or washing cars with nozzles that don't automatically shut off.

**[Sierra Nevada
Conservancy
Funding
Opportunities
Newsletter
for November/D
ecember](#)**



This is an electronic newsletter published every two months containing information on upcoming grant and funding opportunities for the Sierra Nevada region. The newsletter includes federal, state, and private foundation funders as well as additional resources and information related to grant funding. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy provides the Funding Opportunities Newsletter as a free resource under its Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program.



What Was Once the Largest Shopping Center in

Northern Ohio Was Built Where There Had Been a Pond I Used to Visit Every Summer Afternoon

by Mary Oliver

Loving the earth, seeing what has been close to it,
I grow sharp, I grow cold.
Where will the trilliums go to continue living
their simple penniless lives, lifting
their faces of gold?
Impossible to believe we need so much
as the world wants to buy.
I have more clothes, lamps, dishes, paper clips
than I could possibly use before I die.
Oh, I would like to live in an empty house,
with vines for walls, and a carpet of grass.
No planks, no plastic, no fiberglass.
And I suppose sometime I will.
Old and cold I will lie apart
from all this buying and selling, with only
the beautiful earth in my heart.

From *Why I Wake Early* ©2004 by Mary Oliver, Beacon Press

[Poetry for Open Spaces](#)

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