Drought

This water year is tracking to be the third driest on record. It follows two previous years of below-normal and dry conditions. As the state's rainy season nears its end, much of California has received only about half of normal precipitation for the season.

The drought could result in impacts to the municipal water supplies, wells, agriculture (plants and livestock) and firefighting capabilities for several months.*

DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation are working in close coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife to capture and store storm runoff to the extent possible within regulations designed to protect water quality and protected species of fish and Wildlife.

*DWR and other State agencies are currently assessing drought impacts as we manage drought operations in real-time, for 2014 and planning for 2015 – the degree of impacts has yet to be determined – and will be done so through reporting and data collection, among other methods.

January 18, 2013

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