



**DROUGHT**2008

# California's Drought

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**Statewide Drought Coordinator**

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## Why are we in a Drought?

- 2007 was a second dry year statewide
- Water supplies from the state and federal water projects have been restricted by actions to protect Delta Smelt
- The state's reservoirs are at about half the level they should be at this time



## Current Water Conditions

- Statewide driest spring/summer (March-August) on record
    - Only 3.4 inches of rainfall
    - 24% of average
  - Southern California experienced driest year on record last year
  - Statewide average precipitation for the last 2 years – about 70% of average
  - Statewide runoff for the end of this year is forecast to be 57% of average
  - Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers will have a 2 year stream flow in the lowest 10% of historical range at the end of this year
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## Current Reservoir Conditions



- Statewide average reservoir levels are 75% – last year 85%
- By end of this water year Lake Oroville will reach lowest carryover storage since 1977
- By end of this calendar year Lake Oroville will fall to new record low. Previous record low in 1977 was 882 TAF

## 2009 Water Supply Forecast

- Early weather models indicate normal to dry conditions - no indication of wet conditions
  - Because of depleted aquifers and low storage levels it will take more than a normal year to restore depleted water supplies
  - Initial state and federal water allocations forecast in the 10-15% range
  - This could match the lowest initial allocation on record of 10% in 1993
  - Last year's initial allocation was 25%
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## 2008 Drought Agricultural Impacts

- Total estimated 2008 agricultural losses reported are at \$260 million. Largest loss is rangeland \$95 million, followed by cotton \$62 million
- Fresno and Kern counties have experienced the largest losses \$74 and \$70 million respectively
- Almost 80,000 acres unplanted or abandoned. Majority is cotton at 50,000 acres



# 2007 & 2008 Drought Fire Impacts

(CalFIRE jurisdiction only)



## 2 year impacts to date:

- More than 16,000 fires
- More than 800,000 acres burned
- Total firefighting cost of nearly a billion dollars
- Total structures destroyed – more than 4,000

## 2008 Other Drought Impacts

- 12 water agencies around the state have implemented mandatory water rationing
- 33 water agencies around the state have put in place voluntary conservation measures
- Many local governments have prohibited, restricted or delayed new development because of limited water supplies
- Sierra foothill wells are starting to go dry



## 2008 Drought Response

- June 2008 Governor declares statewide drought and drought emergency in nine counties
- DWR appoints statewide drought coordinator and launches comprehensive drought website
- Nearly 100,000 acre feet of water was transferred or made available to help with drought conditions
- \$17 million in drought assistance grants awarded to 53 projects including \$4.5 million to disadvantaged communities
- Increase outreach and technical assistance including updated Urban Drought Guidebook



## 2009 Drought Planning



- 2009 Drought Water Bank
- Increase water conservation
- Update shortage contingency plans
- Financial assistance/water bond
- Technical assistance for small systems and private well owners
- Education, information and outreach

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**Questions?**



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**<http://www.water.ca.gov/drought>**

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