



Lake Oroville, the start of the State Water Project system,
is at record lows this year because of ongoing drought conditions.

Inside this Issue

EMWD ANSWERS YOUR DROUGHT QUESTIONS

From development to reservoirs, we answer your most-asked questions

BIRD TOURS RESUME IN FEBRUARY

The popular tours return and a new 24/7 Wetlands Webcam will soon debut

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND INFORMATION

Be sure to visit www.emwd.org to get the latest info on regional, state water supply conditions

CALIFORNIA'S DROUGHT: V

Even with recent rains, it would take many more

As dry conditions persist, EMWD a

What is the Latest on the Drought?

California has issued an anticipated zero percent allocation for the State Water Project (SWP) system in 2022. This means agencies such as EMWD that typically rely on the SWP for all or part of their water supplies are unlikely to receive water imported from Northern California if conditions do not change. That is why investments in a diversified water supply portfolio, such as EMWD's, are so important.



What are EMWD's Current Regulations

EMWD in November moved to Stage 3a of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan, which eliminates variances for new landscapes, new swimming pools, and is designed to limit water waste. EMWD is asking customers to remain within their water budgets – something that more than 80 percent of our customers already do.

How Much has Climate Change Led to This Drought?

Dry conditions are cyclical in nature and part of living in an arid climate such as Southern California. Climate change has resulted in longer dry stretches, more severe but less frequent storms, and decreases in runoff into reservoirs and watersheds. Because of how different these new climate patterns are, it is important that future infrastructure – such as EMWD's Water Banking program – can adapt to this new normal.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

major winter storms to end California's drought.
answers your most asked questions.

What About New Developments Being Built?

EMWD is not a land use agency, but we do have systems in place to help us equitably meet the needs of the development approved by our local cities and the County of Riverside.

EMWD has a sophisticated system in place in which new homes and businesses fund new water supply sources to meet their own needs. When new homes or businesses are constructed, they pay Financial Participation Charges (FPC) that pay for infrastructure expansion. This includes projects such as our new Perris II Desalination complex (photo, right), Mountain Avenue West Groundwater Replenishment facility, Perris North Groundwater Program, and our Purified Water Replenishment project.



All of these projects, funded in-part by FPC's, help us create new local water supply sources so new development is not "taking" from existing homes and businesses, but helping to expand our supplies.

Is California Building More Water Storage?

California voters approved funding in the 2014 Water Bond for more storage facilities, including the Sites Reservoir project. But it takes years to complete those projects and more storage is not the only solution. Investments in local supplies, such as what EMWD is doing, are just as important.

EMWD REPORTS

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EMWD BIRDING EXPERIENCES TAKE FLIGHT IN PERSON, ONLINE

EMWD's popular birding tours will resume in February 2022, but everyone will soon be able to check out the Wetlands from the comfort of their own homes, too!

EMWD's bird walks, which have been on hiatus due to the pandemic, will resume from February through April at 8 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month at the San Jacinto Wetlands, located at 770 N. Sanderson Ave., San Jacinto, CA. Visit www.emwd.org/bird-walks for more details.

This year, EMWD will be launching a new Wetlands Webcam on www.emwd.org, allowing you to view the more than 120 species of birds that call the Wetlands home 24/7/365!

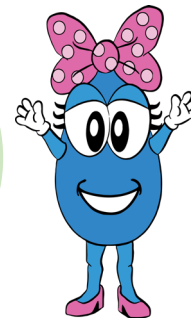
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