



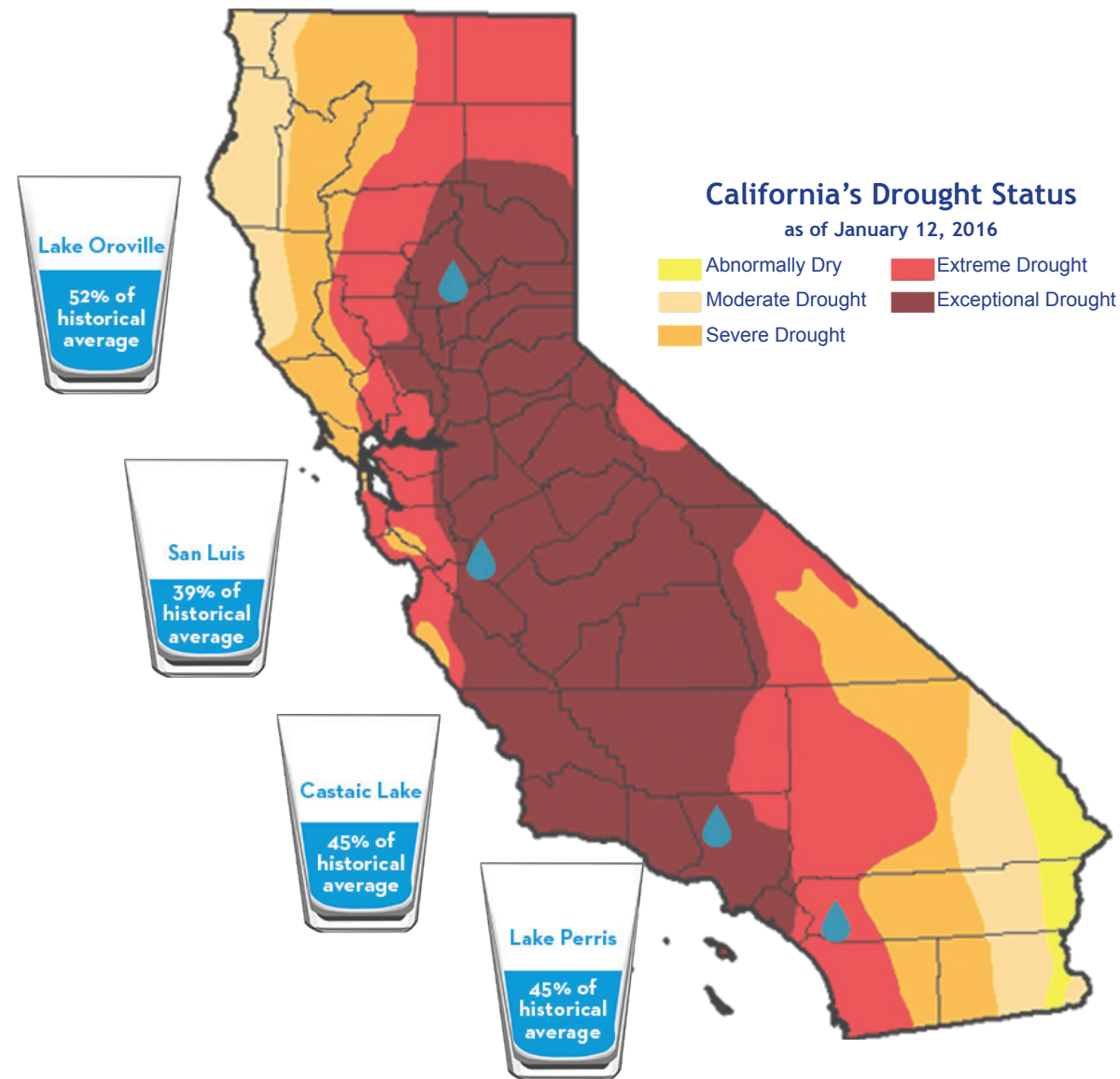
What's the status of California's Drought vs. El Niño?

The winner between these two exceptional weather conditions won't officially be determined until September 30, 2016, which is the last day of the water year, but after four years of drought conditions and extremely low reservoir levels, it would be unlikely for El Niño — even a Godzilla El Niño — to end the California drought's reign over the state's water supplies.

As of January 18, 2016, the state's reservoir levels were averaging at 45 percent of where they should be at this time. If the storms continue to roll in through the winter, California's drought status can certainly be helped, but it won't likely be enough to bring water supplies back to where they should be by the beginning of summer.

If you want to lend El Niño a hand in the battle to improve drought conditions, consider joining the Winter Outdoor Watering Challenge and turn off your outdoor watering system this winter. Please see inside for more information.

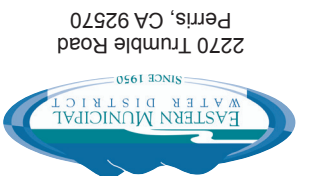
For more details regarding EMWD's drought status, please visit www.emwd.org/drought.



Join Eastern Municipal Water District's Winter Outdoor Watering Challenge



EMWD Drought Status Update
EMWD is now in Stage 4c of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan. See inside for more information.



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This winter is no time to water.

Between El Niño predictions and California reservoir levels still suffering after 4 years of drought, EMWD is asking customers to join the WOW challenge and stop watering outdoors this winter.

See inside for more details.



January 2016

Dear EMWD Customer,

Thank you for your efforts to save water during this exceptional drought. Your efforts have contributed to EMWD achieving a cumulative water savings of 19 percent compared to 2013 water use. Unfortunately, we are still short of the 28 percent water reduction goal by February 2016 which was set by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in May 2015.

What happens now?

In order to avoid incurring penalties from the SWRCB that would be passed on to our customers, EMWD moved into Stage 4c of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan effective January 6, 2016.

Under Stage 4c, all outdoor water budgets are reduced 70 percent from what they would be under non-drought conditions. Outdoor water budgets were previously reduced by 30 percent in September 2015, so Stage 4c reduced outdoor water budgets an additional 40 percent. These changes will be reflected on bills beginning February 1, 2016.

EMWD's rate structure provides a direct incentive for customers to conserve and those who further reduce usage may see their bills go down. EMWD has not placed drought surcharges on customers, as some neighboring agencies have.

To help stay within reduced budgets, and to help EMWD get closer to our water savings target, we are encouraging all customers to join our Winter Outdoor Watering (WOW) Challenge and stop watering outdoors this winter. In fact, given the El Niño conditions and season predictions in early January, along with cooler temperatures and shorter days in winter, your landscape may not need watering! Please see the next page for more details.

EMWD will be working with commercial, industrial and institutional customers to make further water use reductions, as we believe there is significant savings to be achieved by these larger landscape customers.

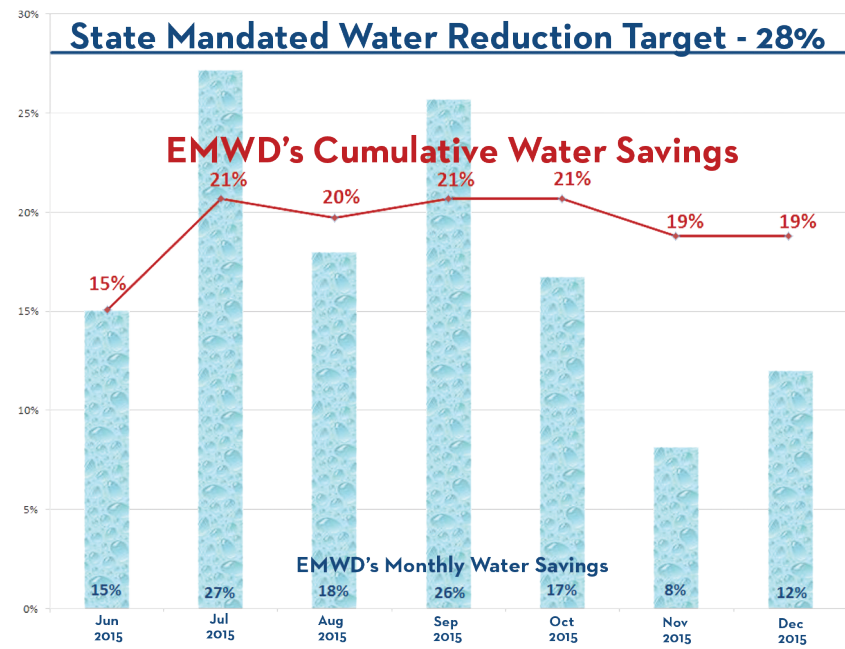
What happens next?

In February 2016, the SWRCB is expected to continue the current drought regulations until October 2016. EMWD will reevaluate the current drought stage based on our water savings status in Spring 2016.

EMWD is also reevaluating the current rate structure to better incorporate drought management costs as well as revenue impacts. As part of this process, EMWD is completing a comprehensive cost of service study to examine the entire rate structure and update it to reflect cost-of-service-based rates for residential and commercial customers. Please look for more information about this process in upcoming newsletters and mailings.

Thank you again for your efforts to save water. We look forward to continuing to provide you with safe, reliable, economical and environmentally sustainable water, wastewater and recycled water services.

Sincerely,
Eastern Municipal Water District



Join EMWD's 2016 Winter Outdoor Watering Challenge!

Winter is no time to water. Shorter days with less intense sunlight mixed with colder nights and more moisture in the air means your landscape doesn't need very much water in the winter months. Plus, for every 1/4" of rain, you can stop watering outdoors for at least one week.

So let Mother Nature do the work for you this winter and turn off your outdoor watering system today! You'll save water – which may lower your water bill – and help us meet our water reduction target.

You can track your landscape's status during the challenge with a moisture meter! Visit www.emwd.org/moisturemeter for more information.



Ten ways to cut down your outdoor watering all year long!

1. Reduce or remove grass and replace it with Water Saving Garden Friendly landscaping that uses up to 50 percent less water than grass! Visit www.watersavinggardenfriendly.com for more information.
2. Make your existing lawn more water wise! Visit www.emwd.org/waterwiselawn for more information.
3. Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
4. Minimize evaporation by watering between 9 pm and 6 am.
5. Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.
6. Collect and use rain water in rain barrels for your garden, shrubs, and trees.
7. Use drip irrigation for shrubs and trees to apply water directly to the roots where it's needed most.
8. Install a rain shut-off device on your automatic sprinklers to eliminate unnecessary watering.
9. Water your plants deeply but less frequently to create healthier and stronger landscapes.
10. Use a screwdriver as a soil moisture meter. If the screwdriver goes into the ground easily and the soil is moist, you probably do not need to water. For more information on moisture meters, please visit www.emwd.org/moisturemeter.



Get more water-saving information and ideas at www.usewaterwisely.org.