

DESERT WATER AGENCY

JANUARY 2, 2019



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING 8:00 A.M. OPERATIONS CENTER - 1200 SOUTH GENE AUTRY TRAIL – PALM SPRINGS – CALIFORNIA

About Desert Water Agency:

Desert Water Agency operates independently of any other local government. Its autonomous elected board members are directly accountable to the people they serve. The Agency is one of the desert's two State Water Contractors and provides water and resource management, including recycling, for a 325-square-mile area of Western Riverside County, encompassing parts of Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, outlying Riverside County and Palm Springs.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

3. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

KRAUS

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS – A. Executive – December 27, 2018

CIOFFI

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Members of the public may comment on any item not listed on the agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the Agency. In addition, members of the public may speak on any item listed on the agenda as that item comes up for consideration. Speakers are requested to keep their comments to no more than three (3) minutes. As provided in the Brown Act, the Board is prohibited from acting on items not listed on the agenda.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. State Water Contractors' Meeting – December 20, 2018

RIDDELL

7. OUTREACH & CONSERVATION

PEÑA

A. Media Information

B. PI Activities

C. Customer Newsletter/Year in Review

8. DIRECTORS COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

9. CLOSED SESSION

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d) (1)

Name of Case: Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians vs. Coachella Valley Water District, et al

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d) (1)

Name of Case: Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians vs. County of Riverside, et al

C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d) (1)

Name of Case: Mission Springs Water District vs. Desert Water Agency

D. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d) (1)

Name of Case: Albrecht et al vs. County of Riverside

E. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d) (1)

Name of Case: Abbey et al vs. County of Riverside

F. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d) (2)

Claim to Compel Elections by Division Pursuant to the California Voting Rights Act

10. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

11. ADJOURN

Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting is asked to contact Desert Water Agency's Assistant Secretary of the Board, at (760) 323-4971, at least 48 working hours prior to the meeting to enable the Agency to make reasonable arrangements. Copies of records provided to Board members which relate to any agenda item to be discussed in open session may be obtained from the Agency at the address indicated on the agenda.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT JANUARY 2, 2019

Damaged Fire Hydrant

On December 14, at approximately at 2:00 a.m. stand-by staff responded to a hit fire hydrant on the northwest corner of E. San Rafael Dr. and N. Sunrise Way. Staff was able to replace the bolts and gasket and place the fire hydrant back in service. The fire hydrant was changed out the next day due to its damaged operating stem. A police report was filed. The water loss was estimated based on a fully open 6-inch fire hydrant bury discharging for approximately 25 minutes.



Stolen Backflow

On December 14, at approximately 3:30 a.m. stand-by staff responded to a stolen backflow at 1201 Bird Center Dr. The water loss was metered. A police report was filed. Construction staff left a message with the property manager and are waiting for a response.



Stolen Backflow

On December 24, at approximately 3:00 a.m. stand-by staff responded to a stolen 1 ½ inch back flow at 3591 N. Indian Canyon Dr. The owner called the Agency the next morning and gave authorization to replace the backflow. Construction staff replaced the backflow and placed it back in service. The water loss was metered. A police report was filed.



2017/2018 Pipeline Replacement Update

The Contractor has completed the installation of pipeline for all areas. Area 3 (Racquet Club Area) paving is currently being completed. Area 4 (Michelle Road and Debby Drive) service tie-over work was completed on December 26. The City of Palm Springs is scheduled to begin their street restoration work in this area after January 1, 2019.

DWA Laboratory Certification Renewal Update

The Agency's laboratory has been going through its certification renewal process with the State Water Resources Control Board ELAP (Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program) department.

In March 2018, a site inspection was performed by an ELAP representative as part of the renewal requirements. The inspector found four minor deficiencies that needed to be addressed.

In August 2018, the Agency submitted certification renewal fees to ELAP.

In October 25, 2018, our lab director, Beth Amheiser, retired and our new director, Paul Monroy, started work on October 31, 2018.

In mid-November 2018, Paul discovered that our application for certification renewal was never received by ELAP. He immediately submitted the application, along with a letter outlining the Agency's action plan to correct the minor issues observed during the site inspection. ELAP received the application and action plan on November 27, 2018; however, it requires 3 to 12 months to process the application.

With the Agency's certification expiring on December 7, 2018, Paul asked for an interim certification while ELAP processes the Agency's application. On December 26, 2018, the Agency received an approved one-year interim certification notification from ELAP. We were able to utilize CVWD's laboratory and Babcock Laboratories to perform our sample testing during the time between December 7 and the interim certification approval.

At this time, ELAP is reviewing our application and the corrective action plan for the minor site deficiencies. We are also in the processes of performing proficiency testing for two separate samples, as required by the certification renewal procedures. We anticipate having the renewal completed and approved by ELAP by March 2019.

Reservoir Inspection Update

On December 17, 2018, Southridge No.1 Reservoir was inspected as part of the Agency's routine reservoir inspection program. Overall the coating was in excellent condition with the exception of about a dozen rust nodules that were observed.

J. Colon Coating was contacted to perform the minor repairs. On December 20, 2018 a repair crew was able to patch the small failures. The reservoir was refilled, isolated, and disinfected and tested on December 26 and 27. It is expected to be returned to service on December 28.



Desert Water Agency Seasonal Population Calculation Update

After reviewing the Agency's 2015 UWMP, DWR determined that the seasonal calculation used by the Agency did not satisfy the ***Methodologies for Calculating Baseline and Compliance Urban Per Capita Water Use*** guidelines set by DWR in 2010. The following is a draft technical memo that was submitted to DWR for review and, if approved, it will be submitted as part of an amended 2015 UWMP to DWR for final approval.

Desert Water Agency Seasonal Population Technical Memo

Summary

The Palm Springs area is known as a destination for visitors and a place where many have second homes. Capturing data on seasonal population figures in our community is a challenging task, especially given that our boundaries do not coincide with a specific census-designated area. Desert Water Agency worked with the Department of Water Resources staff to determine a methodology to appropriately account for the seasonal population within the agency's retail water service area. This memorandum details how the seasonal population was determined.

Methodology

Census data provides us with the number of housing units in each Census block. Using Desert Water Agency's boundaries and 2010 Census data we were able to determine that in 2010 there were 38,332 housing units within our retail water service area, which includes the City of Palm Springs and portions of Cathedral City and unincorporated Riverside County. There is also Census data that notes the number of housing units that are for seasonal, recreational or occasional use – though this data is not available at the block level. Based on the 2010 Census data, 23.4% of the total number of households within Palm Springs were seasonal. Using this same percentage for the Cathedral City and unincorporated areas, the total number of seasonal homes within the Agency's service area for 2010 was 8,512. In order to determine how many people these seasonal homes account for, DWA requested occupancy data from the Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau (GPSCVB). The data provided from the GPSCVB showed a 62% occupancy rate in Palm Springs from July of 2017 to July of 2018. This figure was used to get an idea of how often the seasonal homes are occupied, though water use for those homes is not directly tied to occupancy since irrigation is the largest factor in local water consumption. The seasonal housing total was then converted to a housing equivalent unit by multiplying the seasonal home total by the occupancy rate. 2010 Census data for City of Palm Springs and Cathedral City was used to determine the number of persons per household. These values were then multiplied by the number of equivalent housing units for an estimation of the seasonal population. These findings are displayed in **Table A**. We repeated this process for 2000 and 1990 to determine the seasonal populations during those timeframes, which you can see in **Table B** and **Table C**. In order to determine the estimated 2015 population (since it was not a Census year), we plotted the previous baseline and seasonal populations and used a trend line for the growth. This exercise resulted in an estimated 52,070 baseline population and 11,550 seasonal population for 2015. Both baseline and seasonal populations for years 1990 to 2017 are included in **Table D**.

Table A – 2010 Seasonal Population Determination

	All housing units	Seasonal housing units	Occupancy (62%)	Persons per household	Total estimated seasonal population
DWA in Palm Springs	34,794 housing units (from Census)	8,151 housing units (from Census) (23.4%)	5,054 housing unit equivalents (8,151*62%)	1.93 people (from Census)	9,754 people (5,054*1.93)
DWA in Cathedral City and unincorporated	3,538 housing units (38,332-34,794)	828 housing units (3,538*23.4%)	513 housing unit equivalents (828*62%)	2.99 people (from Census)	1,535 people (513*2.99)
All DWA	38,332 housing units	8,979 housing units	5,567 housing unit equivalents	-	11,289 people

Table B – 2000 Seasonal Population Determination

	All housing units	Seasonal housing units	Occupancy (62%)	Persons per household	Total estimated seasonal population
DWA in Palm Springs	30,823 housing units (from Census)	7,240 housing units (from Census) (23.5%)	4,489 housing unit equivalents (7,240*62%)	2.05 people (from Census)	9,202 people (4,489*2.05)
DWA in Cathedral City and unincorporated	3,577 housing units (30,823-34,400)	841 housing units (3,577*23.5%)	521 housing unit equivalents (841*62%)	3.03 people (from Census)	1,579 people (521*3.03)
All DWA	34,400 housing units	8,081 housing units	5,010 housing unit equivalents	-	10,781 people

Table C – 1990 Seasonal Population Determination

	All housing units	Seasonal housing units	Occupancy (62%)	Persons per household	Total estimated seasonal population
DWA in Palm Springs	30,517 housing units (from Census)	8,331 housing units (from Census) (27.3%)	5,165 housing unit equivalents (8,331*62%)	2.13 people (from Census)	11,001 people (5,165*2.13)
DWA in Cathedral City and unincorporated	4,116 housing units (34,633-30,517)	1,124 housing units (4,116*27.3%)	697 housing unit equivalents (1,124*62%)	2.75 people (from Census)	1,917 people (697*2.75)
All DWA	34,633 housing units	9,455 housing units	5,862 housing unit equivalents	-	12,918 people

Table D – Population Determination (1990 – 2017)

Year	Base Population*	Seasonal Population*	Total
2017	52,250	11,650	63,900
2016	52,160	11,600	63,760
2015	52,070	11,550	63,620
2014	51,980	11,500	63,480
2013	51,880	11,440	63,320
2012	51,790	11,390	63,180
2011	51,700	11,340	63,040
2010	51,600	11,290	62,890
2009	51,520	11,250	62,770
2008	51,420	11,190	62,610
2007	51,330	11,140	62,470
2006	51,240	11,090	62,330
2005	51,150	11,040	62,190
2004	51,060	10,990	62,050
2003	50,960	10,940	61,900
2002	50,870	10,880	61,750
2001	50,780	10,830	61,610
2000	50,690	10,780	61,470
1999	50,260	10,940	61,200
1998	49,830	11,160	60,990
1997	49,400	11,380	60,780
1996	48,980	11,600	60,580
1995	48,550	11,820	60,370
1994	48,120	12,040	60,160
1993	47,700	12,260	59,960
1992	47,270	12,480	59,750
1991	46,840	12,700	59,540
1990	46,410	12,920	59,330

*Rounded to nearest ten

General Manager's Meetings and Activities

Meetings:

12/27/18	Executive Committee Meeting	DWA
01/02/19	Bi-Monthly DWA Board Meeting	DWA

Activities:

- 1) SWP – CWF Voluntary Settlement Agreement Framework
- 2) SWP Contract Extension Amendment
- 3) Well 20 Re-habilitation
- 4) DWA Pilot Remote Meter Reading Fixed Network
- 5) MSWD PRA For Financial Records
- 6) Water Leak At Palm Springs Mall
- 7) Customer Complaint Regarding Shut-Off Notice Verbiage and Policy.
- 8) Outreach Talking Points – KESQ
- 9) Whitewater Hydro – Automatic Re-start
- 10) State and Federal Contractors Water Authority and Delta Specific Project Committee (Standing)
- 11) Security Camera Software Upgrade for all facilities
- 12) Cal OSHA Violation Appeal
- 13) DWA Laboratory ELAP Certification
- 14) Whitewater River Surface Water Recharge
- 15) ACBCI Section 14 Facilities & Easements
- 16) Lake Oroville Spillway Damage
- 17) Replacement Pipelines 2018-2019
- 18) CWF – Finance JPA Committee
- 19) DWA/CVWD/MWD Operations Coordination/Article 21/Pool A/Pool B/Yuba Water
- 20) DWA/CVWD/MWD Agreements Meeting Number 7
- 21) SWP 2018 Water Supply
- 22) ACBCI Lawsuits
- 23) Lake Perris Dam Remediation
- 24) Section 14 Pipeline Easements
- 25) DOI Regulation
- 26) Whitewater Hydro Operations Coordination with Recharge Basin O&M
- 27) SGMA Tribal Stakeholder Meetings
- 28) Whitewater Spreading Basins – BLM Permits
- 29) Lake Perris Dam Seepage Recovery Project Participation
- 30) Cal Waterfix Cost Allocation
- 31) DWA Surface Water Filtration Feasibility Study
- 32) MCSB Delivery Updates
- 33) Well 6 Meaders Cleaners RWQB Meetings
- 34) SGMA – Indio Subbasin Classification
- 35) SGMA – San Geronio Pass Subbasin
- 36) Snow Creek Surface Water Filtration Design
- 37) UWMP Population Calculation Update
- 38) RWQCB Update to the SNMP

Minutes
Executive Committee Meeting
December 27, 2018

Directors Present: Jim Cioffi, Joe Stuart

Staff Present: Mark Krause, Steve Johnson

1. Discussion Items

A. Review Agenda for January 2, 2019 Regular Board Meeting

The proposed agenda for the January 2, 2019 meeting was reviewed.

2. Other - None

3. Adjourn

December 27, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: GENERAL MANAGER AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF DESERT WATER AGENCY

FROM: BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP

RE: DECEMBER 20, 2018 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
STATE WATER CONTRACTORS, INC.

The December 20, 2018 meeting of the Board of Directors of the State Water Contractors (SWC), was conducted at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria in downtown Sacramento.

1. Closed Session. The meeting began with a closed session discussion of pending litigation involving an action to validate the extension of the Water Supply Contracts between the Contractors and DWR. The closed session also included a discussion of three anticipated litigation items. A discussion of these items should not be shared in a memo made available to the public, as it includes discussion of litigation strategies and assessment of legal position.

2. Action Items. The Board of Directors approved a number of action items:

- SWC Sick Leave Policy. The Board approved a revision to SWC's sick leave policy. Under these amendments, sick leave that accrued before December 31, 2018 can be cashed out upon retirement. Future sick leave will continue to accrue but unused leave may only be used to acquire service time from CalPERS.

- Prop. 1 Funding. The Board authorized staff to act as the "applicant" for a Proposition 1-funded project. This project involves work by Cramer Fish Sciences to conduct a study on the relationship of fish behavior, mortality and entrainment relative to State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) operations. DWR had been the initial applicant but was unable to continue doing so due to state contracting requirements. SWC will now

receive the Prop. 1 grant and administer the Cramer agreement. The amount of the grant is \$1,349,309.

- San Luis Transmission Project. The Board approved recommending to DWR that it participate in the San Luis Transmission Project (SLTP) at a 50 MW initial level, subject to further determination as the SLTP develops. The US Bureau of Reclamation is working with a private energy developer to develop and market the 600 MW SLTP. This project will serve the Bureau's and DWR's joint use facilities at San Luis. The private energy developer has proposed that SWP participate in the project at 200 MW for a fixed annual fee of \$9 million plus operations and maintenance charges starting at \$200,000. After thirty years, SWP would only be responsible for its share of operations and maintenance charges. The alternative to not participating is that CAISO is expected to charge SWP \$7,425,000 for annual power charges. This amount would increase annually. Participating in the SLTP avoids these CAISO charges. This is just the first step in the process and will result in the development of a non-binding memorandum of understanding between DWR and the Bureau.

- Budget Committee. The Board appointed Chairman Steve Arakawa, Curtis Creel and Douglas Headrick as its FY 2018-19 Budget Committee.

- Dry Year Water Transfer Program. The Board authorized staff to develop and implement a Dry Year Water Transfer Program for 2019. Interested SWC agencies would be able to participate in the program.

3. Water Operations Report. Molly White from DWR provided a report on SWP water operations. With the exception of Tulare Basin, precipitation levels are below average for this time of year. Specifically, the San Joaquin area is at 86% of average and the Northern Sierras are at 73%. That being said, the Northern Sierras saw significant rain recently, and DWR anticipates seeing greater inflows in the future. The area appears saturated, which should lead to greater inflows to Oroville and similar lakes from future storms.

For storage, reservoir levels are at or above their historical averages for this time of year. This continues the trend seen earlier this year. For example, San Luis Reservoir is at 67% capacity (103% of its historical average for this time of year). This is consistent with Central

Valley Project facilities. For example, Don Pedro Reservoir is at 70% capacity (107% of its historical average). One notable exception is Lake Oroville. It is at 29% capacity, which is only 47% of its historical average. However, as noted above, DWR expects to see greater inflows to Oroville from future storms.

4. Water Quality Report. Tanya Veldhuizen from DWR provided an overview of current water quality conditions. There were no major concerns or noteworthy items.

5. General Manager's Report.

General Manager Jennifer Pierre provided an update on various matters. Of note, Ms. Pierre reported that the Board will be convening its annual workshop shortly to develop objectives. In addition, the DWR Chief Financial Manager position has been listed. SWC member agencies are encouraged to let qualified candidates know. Lastly, staff has completed the transfer of the last remaining SFWCA agreements to SWC.

6. Science Objectives Update.

Darcy Austin provided a presentation on SWC's science program and its 2019 priorities. Ms. Austin noted the importance of distinguishing between a science program and science-based advocacy. While the latter focuses on furthering and protecting SWC's interests, the former must be objective. If SWC science is not considered objective, it has little to no value. Ms. Austin then discussed the mechanics of the science program. One point of emphasis was ensuring that SWC-funded studies are published. This is important as publication is a "currency" of science.

Ms. Austin then outlined her initial short-term, mid-term and long-term goals for the science program. This resulted in a robust discussion with attendees regarding what the goal of the program should be and how its success could be measured. Multiple metrics for determining success were identified, including the number of times studies were published and evaluating the program regularly to confirm that it was asking (and helping to answer) questions that would have direct impacts on SWP operations and the Delta.

Ms. Austin's presentation ended with a discussion of funding priorities for the science program and the importance of coordination within SWC and across other stakeholders. Funding priorities are expected to remain effects of SWP operations, water quality and contaminants, habitat, science innovation and consultant service advisors. Funding levels are expected to remain at \$2 million annually.

JOSH NELSON

**STATE WATER CONTRACTORS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOARD ACTIONS
DRAFT
DECEMBER 20, 2018**

1. Adopt a resolution to amend the SWC Sick Leave Policy as it relates to unused sick leave.
2. Authorize SWC to accept \$1,349,309 in Proposition 1 funding from CDFW and enter into a contract with Cramer Fish Sciences in the amount of \$1,349,309 for a study on the relationship of fish behavior, mortality and entrainment relative to operations of the CVP and SWP export and fish salvage facilities.
3. Authorize the State Water Contractors General Manager to recommend DWR participate in the San Luis Transmission Project (SLTP) at a 50 MW (consistent with the current SWC and DWR joint Business Case) and continue collaboration with DWR to determine the ultimate level of participation.

**REVISED
BOARD ACTION REQUEST
State Water Contractors
Board of Directors
December 20, 2018**

Proposition 1 Contract with Cramer Fish Sciences

Requested Action: Authorize State Water Contractors to accept \$1,349,309 in Proposition 1 funding from CDFW and enter into a contract with Cramer Fish Sciences (Cramer) in the amount of \$1,349,309 for a study on the relationship of fish behavior, mortality and entrainment relative to operations of the CVP and SWP export and fish salvage facilities. This agreement will not require any SWC funding, but will require staff time for contract management and invoice processing.

Background: Staff is seeking SWC Board approval to accept the role of “applicant” for a CDFW Proposition 1 funded project, and to authorize the SWC General Manager to sign a letter certifying SWC’s commitment to the project and deliverables. This study (Interior Delta Exports Effects Study) was awarded to Cramer in 2017 with DWR as the applicant. Eventually DWR determined that they could not serve as the applicant, but that they would still be able to provide in-kind services for the project. Because this project is of high importance for the science community, CDFW approached SWC staff about serving the role as applicant.

The Study: Cramer proposes to conduct a scientific study with the goal of quantifying the effects of water export operations on movement patterns, predation losses, and entrainment of juvenile salmonids. This will be accomplished by targeting data gaps related to export operation effects on juvenile salmonids. The CAMT Salmon Scoping Team and a NMFS Biological Opinion have both identified data gaps in our understanding of salmonid survival and south Delta hydrodynamics as controlled by water operations. This study was developed to fill these specific information gaps to update salmonid loss models, optimize survival for salmonids near the salvage facilities, and support water reliability through enhanced coordinated operations. The proposed work evaluates the link between water project operations and fisheries impacts. The data provided by this study will populate water project operation decision support tools which are consistent with scientific priorities identified by CAMT.

Cost share of \$100,000 was contributed by SFCWA, and SWC, Metropolitan, USBR, and DWR will provide in-kind services. Staff recommends approval to enter into an agreement with CDFW and to contract with Cramer.

BOARD ACTION REQUEST

**State Water Contractors
Board of Directors
December 20, 2018**

State Water Project Participation in San Luis Transmission Project

Requested Action: Authorize the State Water Contractors General Manager to recommend DWR participate in the San Luis Transmission Project (SLTP) at a 50 MW (consistent with the current SWC and DWR joint Business Case) and continue collaboration with DWR to determine the ultimate level of participation.

Background: The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) has requested the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) develop, construct, own and operate the 600 megawatt (MW) SLTP to serve the USBR and DWR San Luis Joint-Use Facilities (JUF). A federal appropriation is not available to fund the project, so USBR has partnered with Duke America Transmission Company (DATC), to market and finance the project. SLTP is projected to be operational in late 2022 or early 2023.

DATC has proposed SWP participate in the transmission project at 200 MW for a fixed annual fee of \$9,000,000 plus escalating O&M charges starting at \$200,000. After 30 years the SWP will continue to have rights to SLTP at only the cost of O&M. Alternatively, under the status quo CAISO is expected to charge DWR and, in turn, the SWP customers \$7,425,000 for transmission service to the JUF in 2022. Thereafter CAISO transmission charges are projected to rise at historical rates before tapering off after 2030.

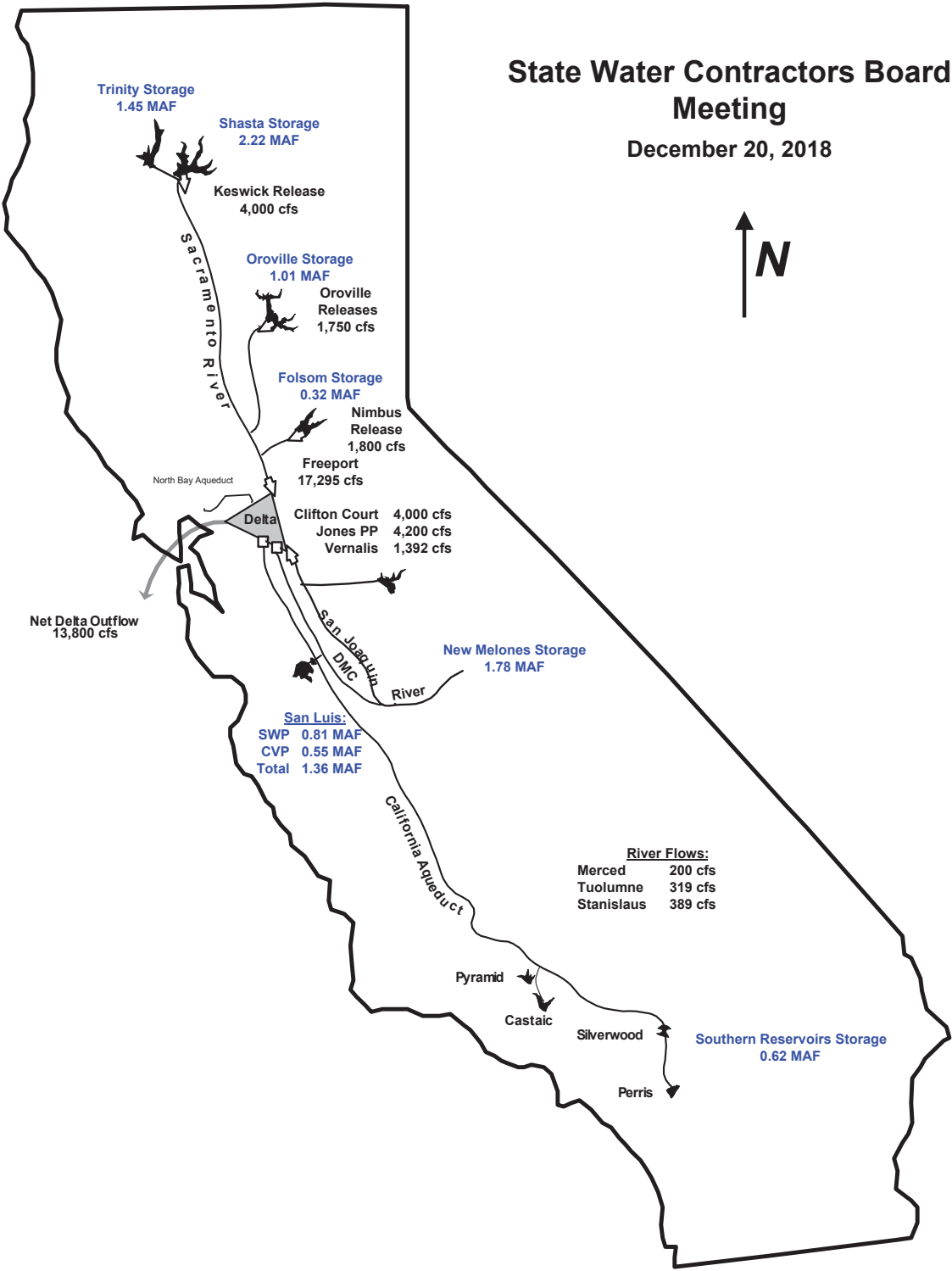
To avoid paying transmission charges to both CAISO and SLTP (pancaked rates), power will need to be delivered to the JUF over the SLTP. DWR and SWC have identified power supplies that avoid pancaked transmission charges that justify a level of participation in SLTP, but below 200 MW. That has been communicated to USBR and DATC by DWR.

Implementing this recommendation is expected to lead to negotiating a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with USBR and its marketing agent DATC. The MOU will be followed with negotiations of definitive contracts and continued due diligence of power supplies that deliver over SLTP.

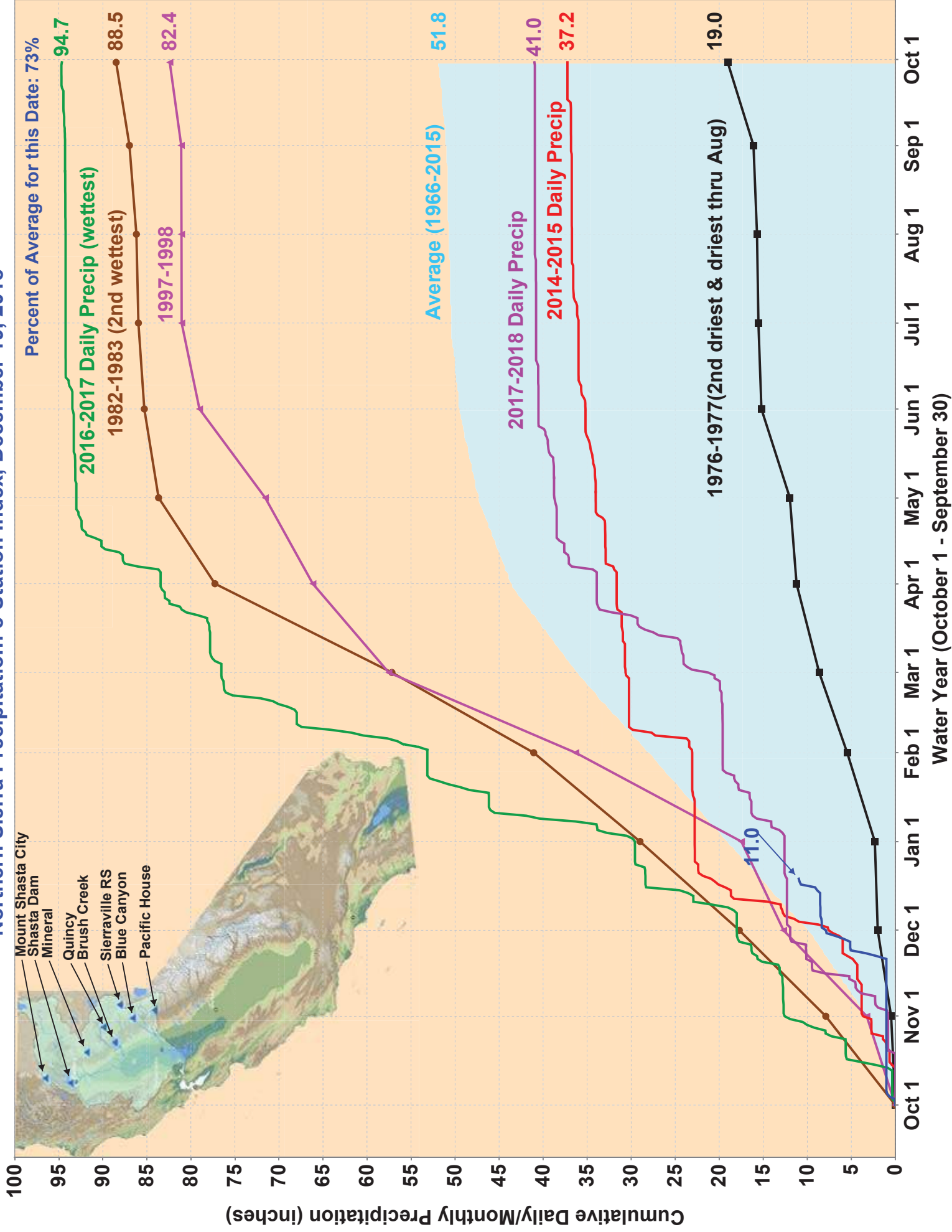
In the course of these negotiations DWR and SWC will obtain additional insight into assumptions and uncertainties that may increase (or decrease) the level of participation. To determine the level of participation and complete the joint Business Cases, SWC will continue to collaborate with DWR during the negotiation and due diligence phase.

The SWC Board Energy Steering Committee will oversee this phase of the project development and remain in close consultation with DWR. The Board will be informed throughout this phase as well.

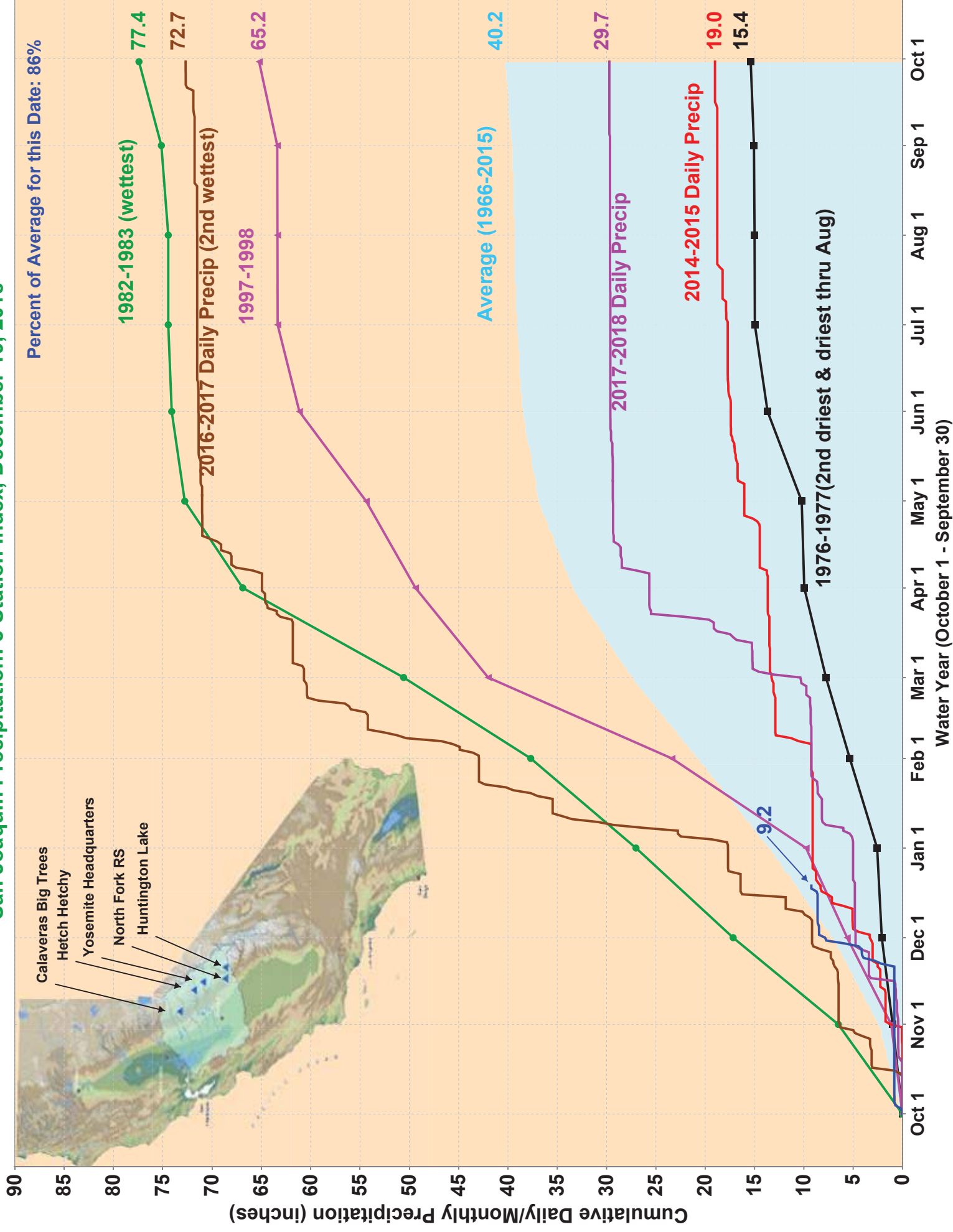
State Water Contractors Board
Meeting
December 20, 2018



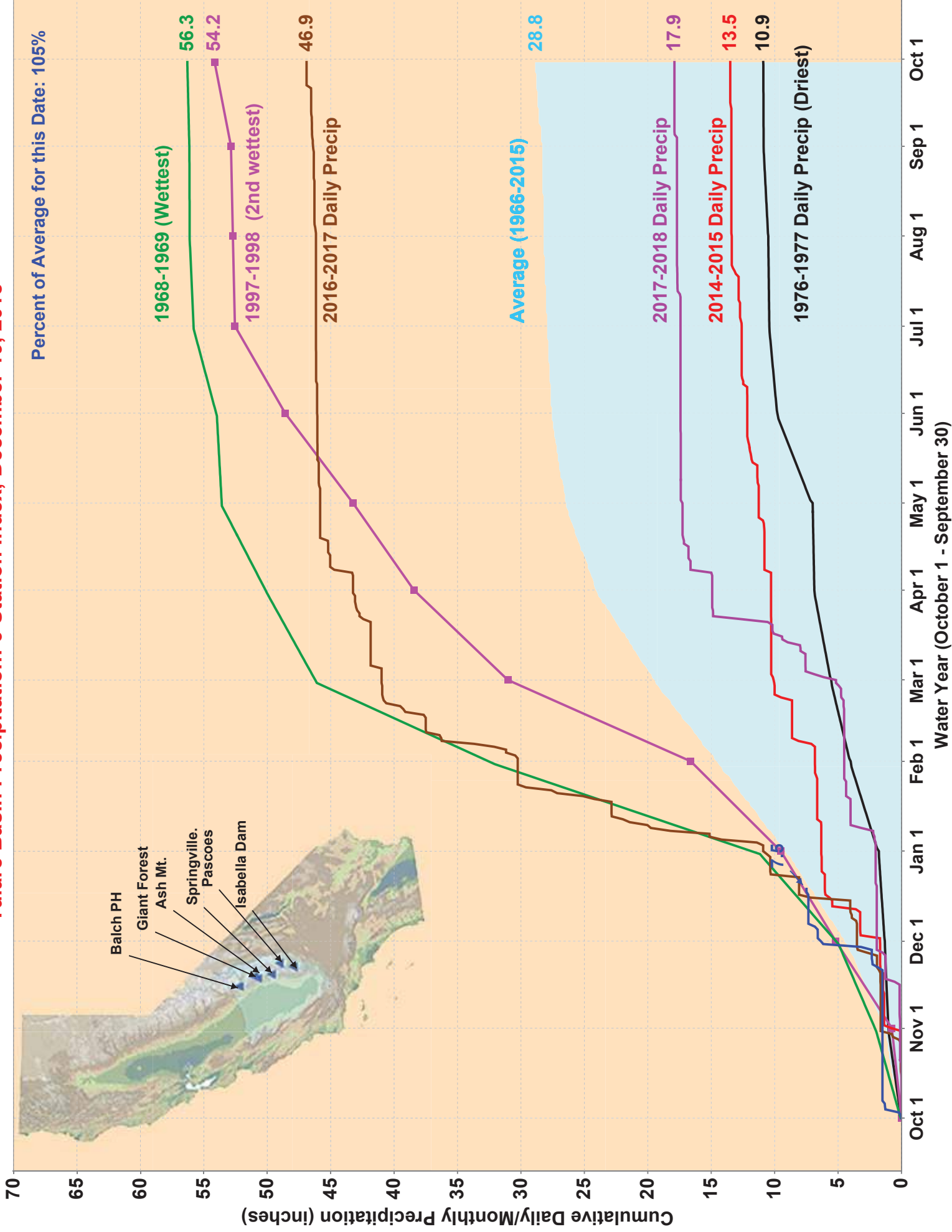
Northern Sierra Precipitation: 8-Station Index, December 19, 2018



San Joaquin Precipitation: 5-Station Index, December 19, 2018

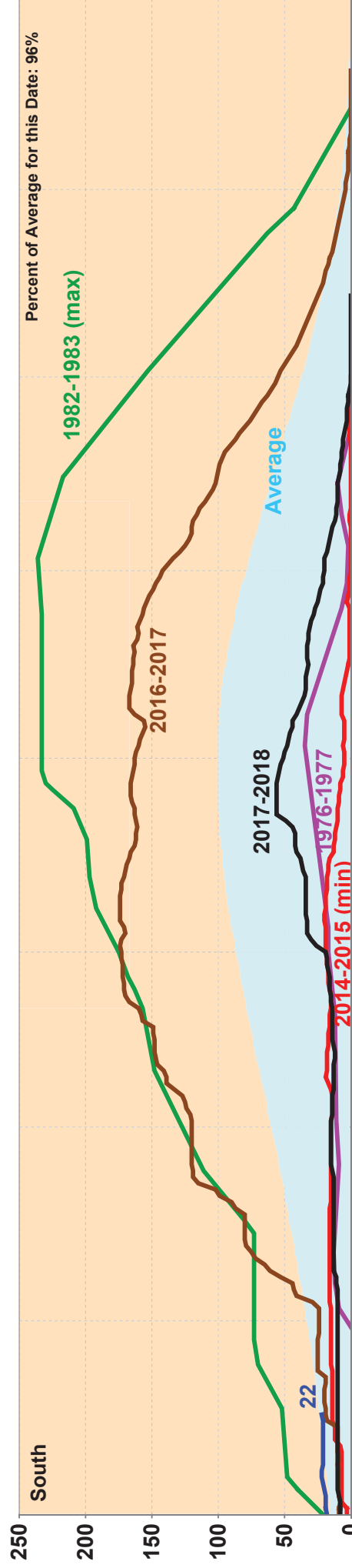
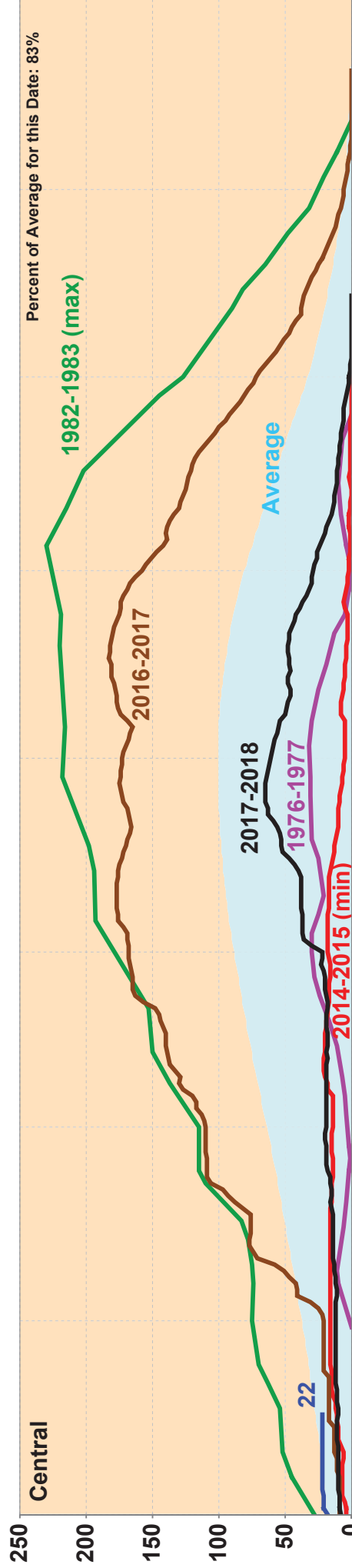
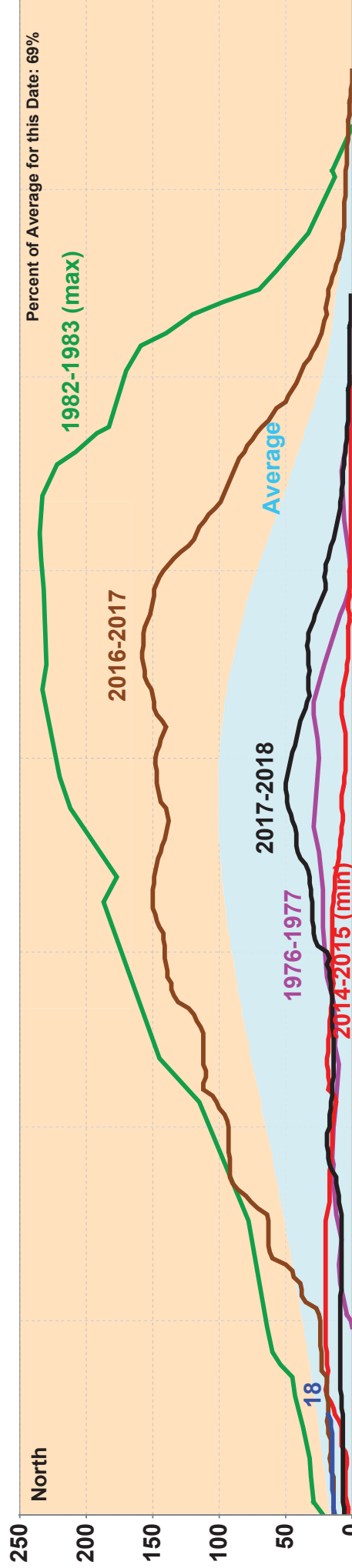


Tulare Basin Precipitation: 6-Station Index, December 19, 2018



Total Water Year Precipitation

California Snow Water Content, December 17, 2018, Percent of April 1 Average



Statewide Percent of April 1: 21%

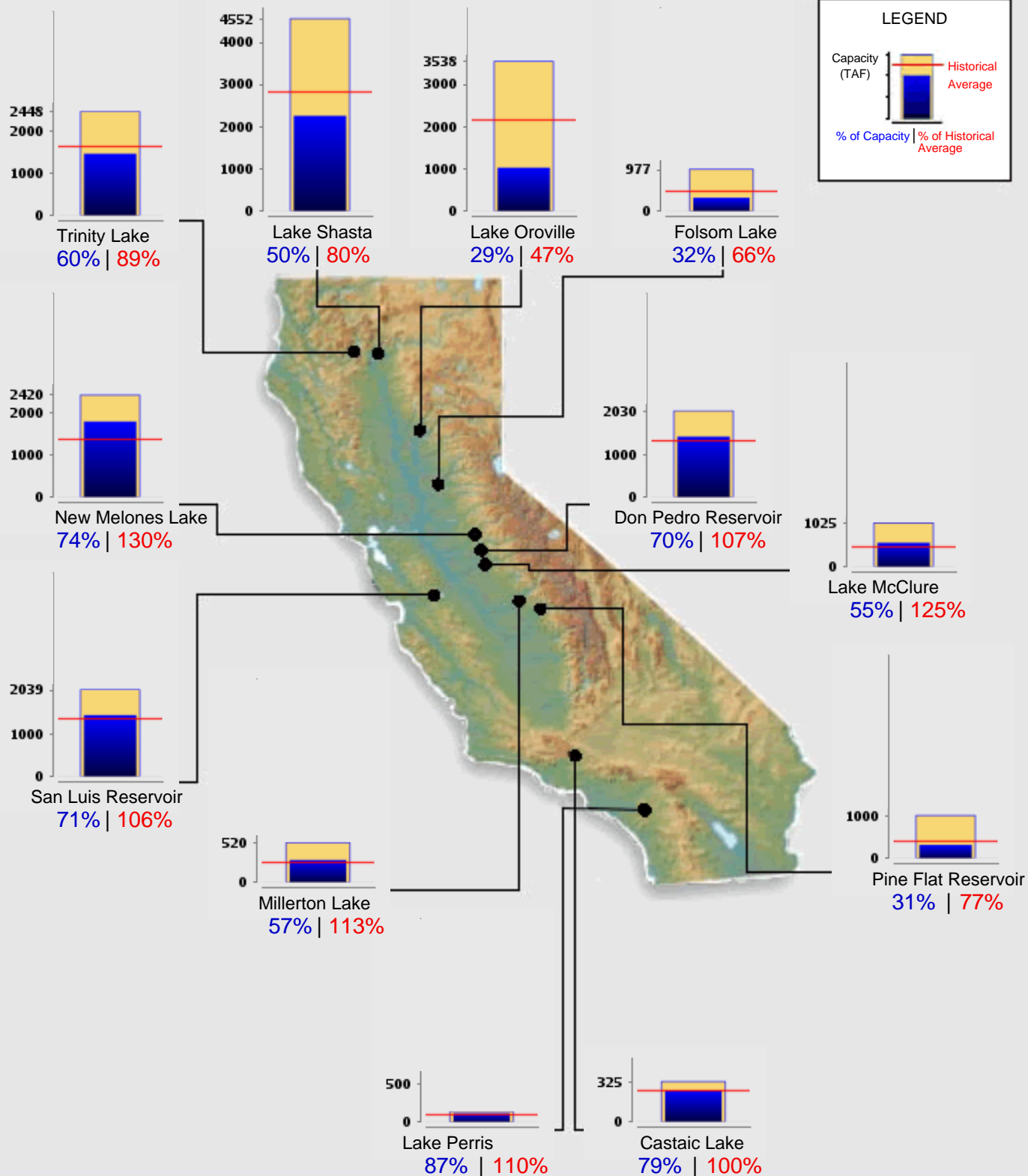
Statewide Percent of Average for Date: 82%



Reservoir Conditions

Ending At Midnight - December 26, 2018

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS



**DESERT WATER AGENCY
MEDIA INFORMATION
NOVEMBER 2018**

DATE	PACKET PAGE	MEDIA SOURCE	ARTICLE
11/29/18	1-2	THE DESERT SUN	Imperial Valley Judge Warns Fight Over Water Rights Could Head To congress Or The U.S. Supreme Court
11/29/18	3-4	THE DESERT SUN	Judge: Water Fight Could Go Higher
12/05/18	5-6	THE DESERT SUN	Lawsuit Claims CVWD Taxes Illegally
12/10/18	7-8	PRESS ENTERPRISE	Drought California, Other States To Miss Deadline For Colorado River Plan
12/11/18	9-11	THE DESERT SUN	IID Oks Drought Measure
12/11/18	12-13	LOS ANGELES TIMES	Heavy Snow Raises Hopes For State's Water Supply
12/12/18	14-15	LOS ANGELES TIMES	Southland Agency Oks Water Plan In Event Of Shortage

Imperial Valley judge warns fight over water rights could head to Congress or the U.S. Supreme Court

Janet Wilson, The Desert SunPublished, Nov. 29, 2018

The full story of Mike Abatti's enormous influence — over the desert's Colorado River water, agriculture and energy — has never been told. Until now. Palm Springs Desert Sun

A group of powerful Imperial Valley farmers and their irrigation district need to work together for the benefit of the region, according to Superior Court Judge L. Brooks Anderholt. He warned a fight between the two sides over rights to Colorado River water and the need to address a prolonged drought across the Southwest could spur action by Congress, or end up in the U.S. Supreme Court.

"I think the parties ought to try to work together. We are a very small place with a lot of water that a lot of other people want. ... I would advise the parties to be careful," he said. "None of those people live here and none of them understand life here, so I just urge caution."

Anderholt made his remarks during a hearing Wednesday on a motion by third-generation grower Michael Abatti, who is seeking an injunction to bar the Imperial Irrigation District from signing onto a federal emergency drought plan for the fast-dwindling river system.

Federal officials say the agreement, dubbed the Lower Colorado Drought Contingency Plan, is critical to the American Southwest and parts of Mexico.

Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman has urged seven states to act on plans by year's end to ensure "prompt and coordinated action" to keep Lake Mead and Lake Powell elevations high enough to meet demand.

The river and its tributaries have provided water for about 40 million people and more than 5 million acres of farmland, from Wyoming to California. After years of drought, exacerbated by overuse and climate change, Lake Mead has sunk to 38 percent capacity, and is nearing a point that would trigger cutbacks in water deliveries, first to Arizona and Nevada, then to other California water users.

But one of Abatti's attorneys, Cheryl Orr from Los Angeles, said in court that the contingency plan being considered by IID would require them to give up as much as 250,000 acre-feet of water first, before any other water users.

"This is an unheard-of violation of law," she said. "You could have crops in the ground and the Bureau of Reclamation could cut off our water."

Abatti's attorneys argued that he and other valley ranchers have unequivocal rights to obtain water first from the river system, no matter how low levels drop. They noted that Anderholt had ruled in their favor in 2017, saying that the growers had a constitutionally protected, private property right to their share of the water first. The ruling bars IID from signing any new contracts that would "unduly harm" the "status quo," namely their senior water rights.

Lawyers for the irrigation district say the draft contingency plan honors the farmers' rights, and in exchange for allowing a single return of up to 250,000 acre-feet of surplus water, would actually garner them an extra half million acre-feet of water for seven years, offering a common-sense solution. They also argue the case involves federal, not state law, and that trying to superimpose the drought plan onto Anderholt's earlier decision could backfire on Abatti and other farmers. They and senior district staff noted that the plan is a draft, not a signed contract.

"They essentially want the court to go through the draft and say, 'this paragraph is in, this one is out,'" said Robert Bailey, a Pasadena-based attorney who represented IID in court on Wednesday.

"I don't think the court is going to do that," replied Anderholt.

"Exactly," said Bailey.

He also said if Abatti believed the judge's order had been violated, he should ask for a showing of contempt, not an injunction to stop something that might not end up occurring. But Orr said under state law, the judge could act to prevent harm.

Anderholt wondered whether an injunction would make any difference. He compared the request to cases he has decided involving neighbors warring over one throwing garbage into another's yard. "If one neighbor is standing next to his garbage can waving a piece of paper, does that mean he's going to throw garbage?"

But most of his questions centered on whether he has jurisdiction as a California judge to order a ban of a contract that extends beyond state lines.

"If the Bureau of Reclamation says IID is not getting as much water this year, I can't tell the Bureau of Reclamation not to do that," he said.

Orr shot back: "The Bureau of Reclamation has no right to control the water we receive...that's been the Law of the River since 1928. The federal government must respect our rights. But as now contemplated, this plan authorizes the bureau to reduce water to IID."

"Would you agree Congress could change that?" the judge asked.

"No, because western water law is established," Orr said.

"So Congress can't change a law?" Anderholt said in mild disbelief. He then urged both sides to try to work together to protect the valley's rights, rather than having the issue potentially appealed all the way to the Supreme Court.

Anderholt said he would issue a ruling by week's end.

Judge: Water fight could go higher

Congress, Supreme Court might have to get involved, official warns

Janet Wilson, November 29, 2018

A group of powerful Imperial Valley farmers and their irrigation district need to work together for the benefit of the region, according to Superior Court Judge L. Brooks Anderholt. He warned a fight between the two sides over rights to Colorado River water and the need to address a prolonged drought across the Southwest could spur action by Congress, or end up in the U.S. Supreme Court.

"I think the parties ought to try to work together. We are a very small place with a lot of water that a lot of other people want. ... I would advise the parties to be careful," he said. "None of those people live here and none of them understand life here, so I just urge caution."

Anderholt made his remarks during a hearing Wednesday on a motion by third-generation grower Michael Abatti, who is seeking an injunction to bar the Imperial Irrigation District from signing onto a federal emergency drought plan for the fast-dwindling river system.

Federal officials say the agreement, dubbed the Lower Colorado Drought Contingency Plan, is critical to the American Southwest and parts of Mexico.

Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman has urged seven states to act on plans by year's end to ensure "prompt and coordinated action" to keep Lake Mead and Lake Powell elevations high enough to meet demand.

The river and its tributaries have provided water for about 40 million people and more than 5 million acres of farmland, from Wyoming to California. After years of drought, exacerbated by overuse and climate change, Lake Mead has sunk to 38 percent capacity, and is nearing a point that would trigger cutbacks in water deliveries, first to Arizona and Nevada, then to other California water users.

But one of Abatti's attorneys, Cheryl Orr from Los Angeles, said in court that the contingency plan being considered by IID would require them to give up as much as 250,000 acre-feet of water first, before any other water users.

"This is an unheard-of violation of law," she said. "You could have crops in the ground and the Bureau of Reclamation could cut off our water."

Abatti's attorneys argued that he and other valley ranchers have unequivocal rights to obtain water first from the river system, no matter how low levels drop. They noted that Anderholt had ruled in their favor in 2017, saying that the growers had a constitutionally protected, private property right to their share of the water first. The ruling bars IID from signing any new contracts that would "unduly harm" the "status quo," namely their senior water rights.

Lawyers for the irrigation district say the draft contingency plan honors the farmers' rights, and in exchange for allowing a single return of up to 250,000 acre-feet of surplus water, would actually

garner them an extra half million acre-feet of water for seven years, offering a common-sense solution. They also argue the case involves federal, not state law, and that trying to superimpose the drought plan onto Anderholt's earlier decision could backfire on Abatti and other farmers. They and senior district staff noted that the plan is a draft, not a signed contract.

"They essentially want the court to go through the draft and say, 'this paragraph is in, this one is out,'" said Robert Bailey, a Pasadena-based attorney who represented IID in court on Wednesday. "I don't think the court is going to do that," replied Anderholt.

"Exactly," said Bailey.

He also said if Abatti believed the judge's order had been violated, he should ask for a showing of contempt, not an injunction to stop something that might not end up occurring. But Orr said under state law, the judge could act to prevent harm.

Anderholt wondered whether an injunction would make any difference. He compared the request to cases he has decided involving neighbors warring over one throwing garbage into another's yard. "If one neighbor is standing next to his garbage can waving a piece of paper, does that mean he's going to throw garbage?"

But most of his questions centered on whether he has jurisdiction as a California judge to order a ban of a contract that extends beyond state lines.

"If the Bureau of Reclamation says IID is not getting as much water this year, I can't tell the Bureau of Reclamation not to do that," he said.

Orr shot back: "The Bureau of Reclamation has no right to control the water we receive...that's been the Law of the River since 1928. The federal government must respect our rights. But as now contemplated, this plan authorizes the bureau to reduce water to IID."

"Would you agree Congress could change that?" the judge asked.

"No, because western water law is established," Orr said.

"So Congress can't change a law?" Anderholt said in mild disbelief. He then urged both sides to try to work together to protect the valley's rights, rather than having the issue potentially appealed all the way to the Supreme Court.

Anderholt said he would issue a ruling by week's end.

Lawsuit claims CVWD taxes illegally

Money benefits farmers over residents, says Palm Desert man

Janet Wilson, December 5, 2018

Palm Desert resident Randy Roberts filed a class-action lawsuit against the Coachella Valley Water District on Monday, claiming the cash-rich agency is illegally taxing non-agricultural homeowners and businesses and has diverted more than \$60 million to fund projects that often benefit large farmers.

Three of the district's five-member board are farmers, including president John Powell.

"In the Coachella Valley, you have a case where 100 large agricultural producers control the water use, future and rates for more than 400,000 people, including winter renters," Roberts said in an interview Tuesday. "Those on the board of directors with agricultural ties have enriched themselves by millions of dollars at the expense of taxpayers."

A longtime critic of the water district, Roberts charges that the agency has violated state voter-approved laws, including Prop. 13 and Prop. 218, and the constitution.

He says CVWD has continually raised property taxes for its State Water Project reserve fund without determining first if it has sufficient funds from regular water bills, as required under Prop. 218.

As a result, this action has led to sizable increases in property tax bills that many might not be aware of, he said. For instance, he pays \$20 a month on his regular water bill, but \$120 a month on the fine-print Coachella Valley Water District portion of his property tax bill.

"It's a hidden tax," he said.

Roberts is seeking refunds and damages for himself and all other nonagricultural water users in the district.

Overall, the district's 213,000 residential and non-agricultural customers rely on water from the state project's infrastructure to augment dwindling groundwater supplies.

The growers rely on cheaper Colorado River water and their own wells.

Roberts' class action lawsuit claims that not only are property taxes being raised illegally, but that millions are being transferred to projects that benefit the much smaller group of farmers, including the East Whitewater Replenishment Fund, the Groundwater Replenishment Fund and other services.

Water district spokeswoman Katie Evans said CVWD hadn't been served with the lawsuit yet and could not comment on specifics. She said the agency is familiar with and follows the state regulatory structure in setting rates and taxes.

The district's total budget in fiscal year 2019 will be \$408 million, up 10.6 percent over this year, including capital improvement projects of \$121 million.

The district also will have nearly \$500 million in reserves from a variety of sources, including State Water Project property taxes of \$66.3 million, up from \$60 million in 2018.

Riverside County is also named in the suit, because the county assessor sends out the tax bills with the water portion included.

County spokesman Ray Smith said he did not believe officials there had been served. In any case, he said because the county had not had time to review the allegations, he could not comment. Powell and fellow board member Anthony Bianco, another grower, have denied Roberts' claims of conflicts of interest in the past.

A court hearing has been set for Jan. 29.

DROUGHT California, other states to miss deadline for Colorado River plan

By Ken Ritter December 10, 2018

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS- With drought entering a second decade and reservoirs continuing to shrink, seven Southwestern U.S. states that depend on the overtaxed Colorado River for crop irrigation and drinking water had been expected to ink a crucial share-the-pain contingency plan by the end of 2018.

They're not going to make it, at least not in time for upcoming meetings in Las Vegas involving representatives from Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and the U.S. government, officials say

Arizona has been the holdout, with farmers, cities, Indian tribes and lawmakers in the state set to be the first to feel the pinch still negotiating how to deal with water cutbacks when a shortage is declared, probably in 2020.

"There will be cuts. We all know the clock is ticking. That's what a lot of the difficult negotiations have been around," said Kim Mitchell, Western Resource Advocates water policy adviser and a delegate to ongoing meetings involving the Arizona Department of Water Resources, Central Arizona Project, agricultural, industrial and business interests, the governor, state lawmakers and cities that include Tucson and Phoenix.

In Arizona, unlike other states, a final drought contingency plan must pass the state Legislature when it convenes in January.

Federal water managers wanted a deal to sign at the annual Colorado River Water Users Association conference beginning Wednesday in Las Vegas, and threatened earlier this year to impose unspecified measures from Washington if a voluntary drought contingency plan wasn't reached.

However, Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman is signaling that the agency that controls the levers on the river is willing to wait. She is scheduled to talk to the conference on Thursday.

"Reclamation remains cautiously optimistic that the parties will find a path forward," the bureau said in a statement on Friday, "because finding a consensus deal recognizing the risks of continuing drought and the benefits of a drought contingency plan is in each state's best interest." Colorado River water supports about 40 million people and millions of acres of farmland in the U.S. and Mexico.

After 19 years of drought and increasing demand, federal water managers project a 52 percent chance that the river's biggest reservoir, Lake Mead behind Hoover Dam, will fall low enough to trigger cutbacks under agreements governing the system.

The seven states saw this coming years ago and used Colorado River Water Users Association meetings in December 2007 to sign a 20-year “guidelines” plan to share the burden of a shortage. Contingency agreements would update that pact, running through 2026. They call for voluntarily using less to keep more water in the system’s two main reservoirs, lakes Powell and Mead.

Lake Powell upstream of the Grand Canyon is at 43 percent capacity; Lake Mead, downstream, is at 38 percent.

Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, the river’s Upper Basin states, aim to keep the surface of Lake Powell above a target level to continue water deliveries to irrigation districts and cities and also keep hydroelectric turbines humming at Glen Canyon Dam.

The Lower Basin states of California, Arizona and Nevada aim to keep Lake Mead above a shortage declaration trigger point by using less water than they’re legally entitled to.

If Lake Mead falls below that level, Arizona will face a 9 percent reduction in water supply, Nevada a 3 percent cut and California up to 8 percent. Mexico’s share of river water would also be reduced.

Water officials in most states — from the Southern Nevada Water Authority in Las Vegas to the Colorado River Water Conservation District in Glenwood Springs, Colorado — have signed off on plans in recent weeks.

In Arizona, the board governing the Central Arizona Project irrigation system approved the Lower Basin plan on Thursday.

In California, the sprawling Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which serves some 19 million people, is set to approve it Tuesday.

According to a board briefing, the Bureau of Reclamation, seven basin states and water contractors will begin negotiating again beginning no later than 2020.

IID OKs drought measures

But the board reserves the right to final vote on 7-state deal

Janet Wilson and Ian James, December 11, 2018

The Imperial Irrigation District, which holds some of the oldest and largest rights to Colorado River water, on Monday tentatively agreed to a onetime contribution of up to 250,000 acre-feet of surplus water if needed to stave off shortages in Lake Mead. But they tacked on several last-minute conditions aimed at easing farmers' fears of permanently losing water, and to force federal and state officials to guarantee funding for clean-up of the Salton Sea.

The board reserved the right to finalize the agreements and any companion legislation submitted to Congress after all other water districts that rely on the river have signed on.

"I know every other district in California ... and across seven states who rely on this water is watching us," said board president Jim Hanks. "We want them to know our position, and we also want a chance to see the cards they play before we say yes."

No federal or state officials could be reached late Monday for comment on IID's conditions. Federal officials and water experts say the agreements, dubbed the Drought Contingency Plans, are critical to the American Southwest and parts of Mexico. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman has urged Colorado River Basin states to act on the plans this month to ensure "prompt and coordinated action" to keep Lake Mead and Lake Powell elevations high enough to meet demand.

The river and its tributaries have provided water for about 40 million people and more than 5 million acres of farmland, from Wyoming to California. After years of drought exacerbated by overuse and climate change, Lake Mead has sunk to 38 percent of capacity. If it falls beyond certain trigger points, mandatory cuts to water delivery could be ordered.

The IID board acted after hearing impassioned pleas from third and fourth generation farmers who said they feel their rights are being chipped away in agreement after agreement with larger, more urban agencies. Monday's vote tentatively approves an intrastate agreement with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which serves greater Los Angeles. The IID board voted 4-1, with director Bruce Kuhn, who said he still has "grave concerns" about the details of the plan as proposed. The district has already weathered one legal challenge but could face new litigation. The water IID would yield is surplus created through agricultural conservation measures, officials said, and is already in Lake Mead. The water district has already paid \$18 million to transfer it.

In exchange for agreeing to the deal, the district would also be allowed to store another 100,000 acre-feet of water. The local farm bureau and others praised the measure and it passed the board unanimously.

California's other involved water districts are inching closer to finalizing key pieces of the Lower Basin drought contingency plan. The Coachella Valley Water District is expected to approve a

resolution on Tuesday saying in principle that they will contribute their fair share, about 8% of California's allocation.

Metropolitan is scheduled to consider adopting a set of agreements to take part in the overall Drought Contingency Plan, including IID, Palo Verde and Needles water agencies.

"I think we've all concluded that what we're gaining is more than what we're giving up," said Bill Hasencamp, Metropolitan's manager of Colorado River resources.

He said all of the water districts gain greater certainty that the reservoirs "aren't going to crash or hit critically low levels between now and 2026" – by which time the states will need to have negotiated new guidelines for managing the river's water supplies.

"It's really a short-term deal. It's not a long-term solution to the river by any means. It's a bridge solution," Hasencamp said. "We'll have a difficult, more difficult set of negotiations on a longer-term deal." Under the proposed three-state lower basin plan, water agencies in California would start to make contributions sooner than required under the existing rules. The trigger point would come if Lake Mead drops to the elevation 1,045 feet – about 34 feet below the current level. Even though IID holds senior water rights, the district would contribute their portion first, by leaving the 250,000 feet of surplus in the reservoir.

Hasencamp said Metropolitan has examined hydrological modeling and found a 50-50 chance that Lake Mead will fall below 1,045 feet by 2026. If it rains enough, California would not need to contribute any water. But a dry scenario would force the state to come up with roughly one million acre-feet between 2021 and 2026.

"It's quite a high stakes poker game," he said.

Under agreements that Metropolitan negotiated with the other California agencies in recent weeks, IID would be responsible for 250,000 acre-feet, CVWD for 70,000 acre-feet and the Palo Verde Irrigation District for 80,000 acre-feet. Metropolitan would be responsible for contributing the remaining 600,000 acre-feet to Lake Mead – about 12.5 percent of its Colorado River water supplies over the five-year period.

The contributions by each agency would be held in storage in the reservoir and could be recouped in later years if Lake Mead recovers.

"We realize that we might never get it back if Lake Mead stays low, but we also know it's a possibility we might get it back," Hasencamp said.

He said it was important for Metropolitan, which holds the junior priority, to partner with other agencies.

"Without any agreements, we would have to come up with the entire million acre-feet," Hasencamp said.

Peter Nelson, chairman of the California Colorado River Board and a director on the Coachella Valley water district board, said he was heartened by this week's votes.

"There is a definite chance of success, that California will be able to address this drought contingency plan and the poor hydrology of the Colorado River: the lack of rain, the warming temperatures and

the overuse," Nelson said. "I think that IID and MWD have been working very hard ... and they're going to come up with a good deal for California."

Nelson said since IID's portion is already in the lake, he thinks it's a reasonable deal for them. "Met is junior priority in California and it seems to me like they're taking on a fair amount of risk," Nelson said. "They don't have much of a choice."

But the agreement also brings Metropolitan greater flexibility by allowing the district to get water even in dry years.

"We got through the last two droughts in California by taking water out of our storage account in Lake Mead. ... in a shortage, those tools go away under existing rules," Hasencamp said. "Under this DCP, the same flexibility that we have in non-shortage years would apply to shortage years, and that's very important to us," he said.

Los Angeles Times

Heavy snow raises hopes for state's water supply

But despite recent storms, it's too early to predict whether it will be a good year, experts say.

By Alejandra Reyes-Velarde, December 11, 2018

In a good sign for California's water supply, the Sierra Nevada has been blanketed by heavy snow thanks to a series of recent storms.

The snowpack measured 106% of average, according to the state's snow survey taken late last week. That's more than double the 47% of average measured on the same day last year.

The Sierra Nevada is a key source of water for California, which is still recovering from years of drought conditions.

Two storms beginning on Thanksgiving brought up to 2 feet of snow in parts of the northern Sierra, said Emily Heller, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

In the southern Sierra, the snowpack was recorded as high as 125% of average. Some areas northeast of Bakersfield reached up to 200% of average levels.

The Sierra Nevada is likely to be on the drier side for the next few days, the weather service said, but a storm toward the end of this weekend may bring 6 to 15 inches of snow.

Despite the promising start, it's too early to predict whether it'll be a good snow year, said Chris Orrock, a spokesman for the California Department of Water Resources.

The snow season starts in December and ends on the first day of April, when experts trek to the mountains to take a final measurement of the snowpack, which determines decisions made by water departments across the state.

"Right now, we're looking good, but that could change tomorrow," Orrock said. "There's been years we've gotten a lot of snow earlier in the season and then we don't get any for the rest of the year."

Other years, the Sierra Nevada is dry several months into the winter season but then gets a storm toward the end that makes up for the deficit, he said. The state will need more consistent storms this winter for snowpack levels to remain near or above normal by the end of the season, said Julie Malingowski, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

The odds of at least normal levels of snowfall are good for the next couple of months, she said.

Southern California is always significantly drier than Northern California. But even the Southland has received a good amount of rain in the last few weeks.

Mt. Baldy got 15 inches of snow and Mountain High received 10 to 13 inches, the National Weather Service said. Other areas, such as Wrightwood and Lockwood Valley, got 6 to 8 inches of snow.

Since the start of the water year on Oct. 1, downtown Los Angeles has received more than 4 inches of rain — more than the average amount for this time of year and significantly more than last year, when about a tenth of an inch of rain fell.

The last water year, which started Oct. 1, 2017, was the third-driest in downtown L.A. since records began in 1877, dropping just 4.72 inches — about 32% of the average rainfall of 14.93 inches.

But there is no pattern, Orrock warned, and weather experts can't predict snowfall more than a couple of weeks ahead of time.

Climatologist Bill Patzert said it's difficult to predict how wet this season will be, because of competing natural phenomena.

There's a "wannabe" El Niño in the Pacific Ocean along the equator, a weather phenomenon that can cause a series of subtropical storms to hit California, Patzert said. And in the northeastern Pacific Ocean, there's a "blob" of warm water that in years past has reinforced a drought-worsening ridge of high pressure that diverts storms away from the West Coast and into the central United States.

"It's a rematch of the blob versus El Niño," Patzert said. "Most forecasters are being cautious about January, February and March, which are usually our wettest months."

Still, researchers are predicting a climate pattern is emerging: one of extreme highs and extreme lows, or "whiplash events," said Neil Berg, a climate scientist at UCLA's Center for Climate Science.

California already has gotten a taste of this. When state snow survey chief Frank Gehrke made the cold hike through the Sierra Nevada earlier this year, he measured the snow at 94 inches deep — a stark contrast from just two years prior, when the same spot was a bare field of dirt and weeds.

The 2016-17 winter created one of the largest snowpacks in the state's history and loaded California reservoirs and rivers for months, even to the point of flooding some communities. Overall, the snowpack was 163% of average, which, when it melts, equals 46 inches of rain.

That record relieved some water deficits the state had been suffering during a years-long drought. Then, after last season, the snowpack went back to below-average levels.

"I'm always particularly happy when we see these average years because I think those will become increasingly uncommon," Berg said.

"That oscillation between dry and wet extremes is actually a phenomenon we are projecting will increase," he said.

Los Angeles Times

Southland agency OKs water plan in event of shortage

The vote advances a deal for states to share burden of Colorado River basin drought.

By Bettina Boxall, December 12, 2018

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California on Tuesday approved a plan for sharing Colorado River delivery cuts if a shortage is declared on the drought-depleted river.

The vote by the district, which imports water to the Southland, represents another step in a years-long attempt to forge a shortage agreement among the seven states that depend on the Colorado for drinking and irrigation supplies.

Several other agencies, as well as the state of Arizona, still have to adopt the plan, making it unlikely that the pact will be finalized this year.

Under the proposal, Metropolitan and other California districts would reduce their diversions earlier in a shortage than they would if the lower-basin states strictly followed established water rights.

California's share of the Colorado is the largest among all seven basin states — 4.4 million acre-feet, or more than a quarter of the river's average annual flow.

Most of the state's diversions go to the Imperial Irrigation District and other farm districts in California's southeast corner, which have yet to take final votes on the proposal.

Metropolitan has been importing river water since the 1940s, and the Colorado remains an important source for urban Southern California.

For decades Metropolitan benefited from river surpluses that allowed the agency to use far more than its base allocation of 550,000 acre-feet. When the surpluses dried up, it struck a series of deals with farm districts that fallow cropland and sell unused supplies to Metropolitan.

Under the proposed drought contingency plan, Arizona and Nevada would absorb the first cuts and California would reduce its withdrawals from Lake Mead when the reservoir's elevation drops to 1,045 feet.

Metropolitan would essentially be banking some of its allocation in Mead to avert more severe rationing if the huge reservoir declined to dangerous levels.

The nearly two-decade drought in the Colorado basin has cut total river storage roughly in half. Federal water managers have warned since the early 2000s that they may have to formally declare a shortage, triggering mandatory cuts.

Even without the drought, states have to deal with the fact that the river is over-allocated.

The river's flows were divvied up in the early 20th century, an unusually wet period that presented a misleading picture of what the Colorado could produce year in and year out.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has said a shortage could be declared in 2020. But if this turns out to be a snowy winter in the upper basin, the West could once again win a reprieve.

Federal officials have pressured the states to wrap up the drought plan this year. But disputes among Arizona agencies about how that state would carry out the cuts have slowed approvals. "Arizona is the one that is still negotiating," said Jeffrey Kightlinger, Metropolitan's general manager.

Along with Imperial, two smaller districts in California have to take final action.

Because the plan calls for changes in reservoir operations, Kightlinger said, the states will also seek congressional approval.

"There are things we have never done before," he said of the proposed shortage terms.

DESERT WATER AGENCY OUTREACH & CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

December 2018

Activities:

DATE	ACTIVITY
12/06	Xochitl Peña was on a live segment with KESQ regarding the health and conservation benefits of using tap water.
12/08	Vicki Petek staffed a table and provided water and information at the Palm Springs Farmer's Market.
12/12	Vicki Petek completed 2 turf buy back post inspections.
12/13	Xochitl Peña was on a live segment with KESQ regarding holiday cooking and the importance of keeping fats, oil and grease out of the drain.
12/19	Xochitl Peña attended and DWA hosted the monthly Coachella Valley Water Counts meeting of all valley water agencies.
12/20	Xochitl Peña was on a live segment with KESQ regarding DWA at the Santa Paws 5K run/walk benefitting Guide Dogs of the Desert.
12/21	Xochitl Peña was interviewed on the Joey English radio show and talked about DWA conservation efforts and rebate programs.
12/22	Xochitl Peña staffed a table and DWA provided the water trailer, water coolers, cups and bottles for Santa Paws 5K run/walk.
12/27	Xochitl Peña was on a live segment with KESQ regarding conservation efforts and rebate programs.

Public Information Releases/eBlasts/Customer notifications:

December 11: We informed customers about a hit fire hydrant at North Indian Canyon and Via Escuela and let them know DWA crews were on scene - Nextdoor.

Upcoming Events

January 5, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – DWA at Palm Springs Farmer's Market @ Palm Springs Cultural Center (Camelot Theatre) parking lot.

January 26, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. – DWA water trailer and Outreach & Conservation team members at Palm Springs Health Run & Fitness Expo at Ruth Hardy Park.

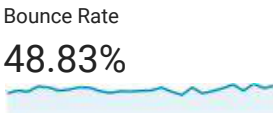
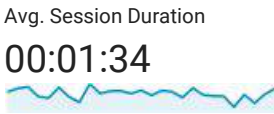
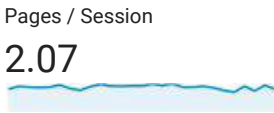
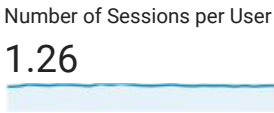
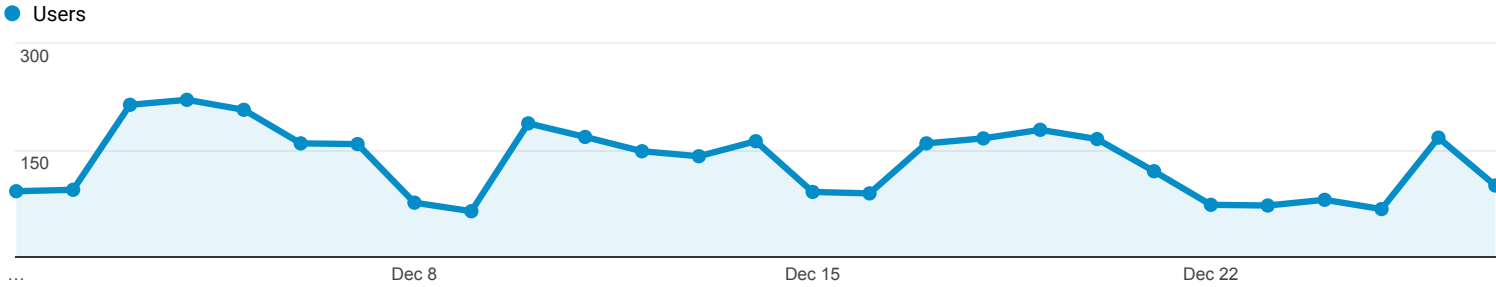


Audience Overview

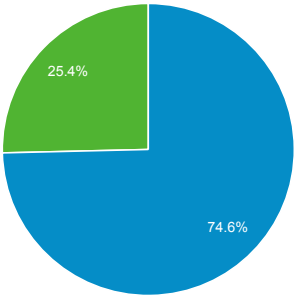
All Users
100.00% Users

Dec 1, 2018 - Dec 27, 2018

Overview



■ New Visitor ■ Returning Visitor



Language		Users	% Users
1.	en-us	2,879	93.17%
2.	en-ca	55	1.78%
3.	en-gb	37	1.20%
4.	en	18	0.58%
5.	pt-br	15	0.49%
6.	zh-cn	8	0.26%
7.	ko	7	0.23%
8.	fr-fr	6	0.19%
9.	es-419	5	0.16%
10.	es-xl	5	0.16%

Desert Water Agency Facebook Analytics December 2018



Results from Nov 29, 2018 - Dec 26, 2018

Note: Does not include today's data. Insights activity is reported in the Pacific time zone. Ads activity is reported in the time zone of your ad account.

Organic Paid

Actions on Page

November 29 - December 26

3

Total Actions on Page ▲50%



Page Views

November 29 - December 26

73

Total Page Views ▼30%



Page Previews

November 29 - December 26

4

Page Previews ▲33%



Page Likes

November 29 - December 26

2

Page Likes ▼60%



Post Reach

November 29 - December 26

654

People Reached ▼51%



Recommendations

November 29 - December 26



We have insufficient data to show for the selected time period.

Post Engagements

November 29 - December 26

153

Post Engagement ▼48%



Videos

November 29 - December 26

98

Total Video Views ▼23%



Page Followers

November 29 - December 26

2

Page Followers ▼50%



Facebook Analytics continued



Published	Post	Type	Targeting	Reach	Engagement	Promote
12/25/2018 2:35 PM	 May your day be filled with family, fun and love!			106 	6 3 	Boost Post
12/23/2018 9:00 AM	 Try a new one-pot recipe. Cutting down on extra dishes saves water			93 	0 1 	Boost Post
12/22/2018 9:21 AM	 We're at the Santa Paws 5K walk/run near downtown Palm Spring			105 	10 5 	Boost Post
12/22/2018 8:58 AM	 We're at the Santa Paws 5K walk/run near downtown Palm Spring			170 	3 10 	Boost Post
12/21/2018 8:00 AM	 Run or walk for a good cause and don't forget to hydrate. We'll have			69 	0 1 	Boost Post
12/17/2018 9:00 AM	 Boost your efficiency - put plants together that have similar water			82 	0 2 	Boost Post
12/14/2018 2:42 PM	 Happy Holidays from DWA! It was Ugly Christmas Sweater Day at the			195 	29 20 	Boost Post
12/12/2018 12:31 PM	 Way to go! Our customers used 12 % less water last month than in			98 	6 6 	Boost Post
12/10/2018 9:00 AM	 Use the same glass for water through the day so you aren't washing			83 	0 2 	Boost Post
12/07/2018 9:00 AM	 Stop by the Farmers' Market in Palm Springs from 8 a.m. to noon on			69 	1 2 	Boost Post
12/05/2018 3:03 PM	 Rain alert! Don't forget to turn off your sprinklers and let mother nature			251 	6 10 	Boost Post
12/03/2018 9:00 AM	 Go to a car wash that uses recycled water. We have coupons to save you			67 	0 1 	Boost Post
12/02/2018 12:00 PM	 Wishing you a Happy Hanukkah!			73 	0 0 	Boost Post

Facebook Analytics continued



Total Page Likes as of Today: 1,149

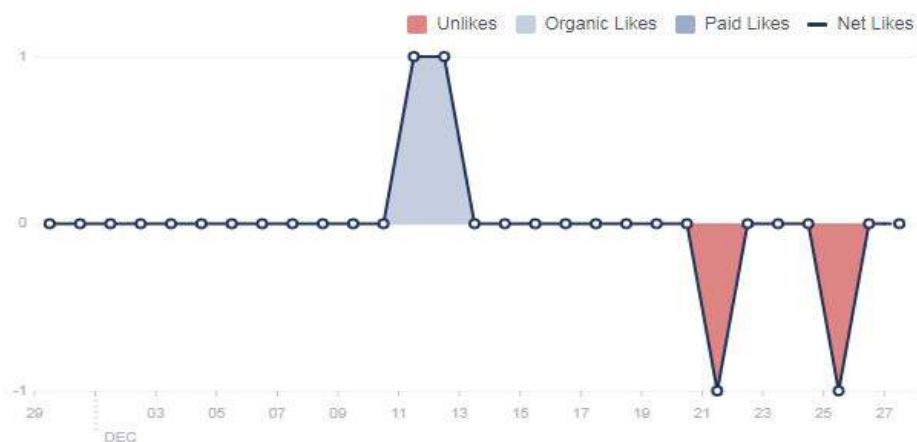


BENCHMARK
Compare your average performance over time.

Total Page Likes

Net Likes

Net likes shows the number of new likes minus the number of unlikes.



BENCHMARK
Compare your average performance over time.

Unlikes

Organic Likes

Paid Likes

Net Likes

WANT MORE LIKES?
Create an ad to get more people to like your Page.

[Promote Page](#)

Instagram December 2018



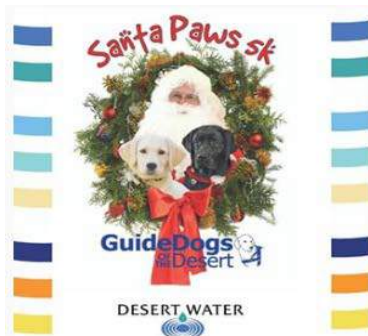
14 likes



11 likes



35 likes, 3 comments



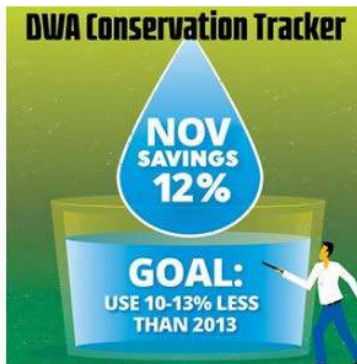
11 likes



20 likes, 2 comments



56 likes, 3 comments



12 likes



23 likes



Desert Water Agency

1200 S Gene Autry Trl, Palm Springs



Desert Water Agency

15,563 members

[Invite](#)

26% of 43,687 households

106 neighborhoods



Outreach Specialist Xochitl Pena, Desert Water Agency **AGENCY**

Hit fire hydrant

We urge residents to stay away from the area of North Indian Canyon and Via Escuela in Palm Springs.

A fire hydrant was hit and there is lots of water in the area. Desert Water Agency crews and the fire department are on scene to remedy the situation.

Try to avoid that area if possible and find an alternate route.

11 Dec · Subscribers of Desert Water Agency

 [Reply](#)


 17  3 · 4815 Impressions



Darron D., Four Seasons · 11 Dec

An interesting drive home. Geyser started as I crossed Escuela, going north on Indian Canyon.



 2 Thanks



Edward S., Palm Springs Oasis · 12 Dec

Thank you for keeping us in formed!!

 1 Thank



Outreach Specialist Xochitl Pena · 12 Dec

You're welcome. Great photo!

1 Thank

Desert Water Agency Twitter Analytics December 2018



Dec 2018 • 26 days so far...

TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

Top Tweet earned 2,437 impressions

Boost your efficiency - put plants together that have similar water needs.

[#watersavingtips](#)

pic.twitter.com/hm4WuiNBfq



🔗 2 ❤️ 2

[View Tweet activity](#)

[View all Tweet activity](#)

Top media Tweet earned 385 impressions

Way to go! Our customers used 12 % less water last month than in November 2013. Saving water is important for sustainability. Want to do more to save water? Go to dwa.org/rebates. [#waterconservation](#)
pic.twitter.com/txhcbkyGHq



🔗 1

[View Tweet activity](#)

[View all Tweet activity](#)

ADVERTISE ON TWITTER

Get your Tweets in front of more people

Promoted Tweets and content open up your reach on Twitter to more people.

[Get started](#)

DEC 2018 SUMMARY

Tweets	Tweet impressions
12	7,987
Profile visits	Mentions
132	1
New followers	
2	

DWA News

Let's make every drop count!

DESERT WATER WINTER 2019

RETURN OF THE BUTTERFLIES

The second annual Butterfly Block Party featuring fun for the entire family, returns on **March 9**. The event takes place outside our main office on Gene Autry Trail in our public pollinator garden and includes live music, children's activities, garden tours, snacks, refreshments and the perfect spot for a selfie.

The pollinator garden was planted by members of the Palm Springs High School Garden Club and attracts butterflies and bees.

The wall art features vibrant butterflies and flowers and a welcoming doorway that gives way to the San Jacinto Mountains. It was designed by two Palm Springs High School students and brought to life by the PSHS art department.

The event is open to the public and sure to be just as fun and memorable as last year's was. For more details, check our website at dwa.org closer to the date. Hope to see you there!



Community members gather during the inaugural Butterfly Block Party.



GO BEHIND THE SCENE WITH DWA

Desert Water Agency is offering its next tour in late February. The behind-the-scenes tour is open to the public and provides an up close and educational journey into water delivery and management in the desert. The tour kicks off at our main facility on Gene Autry Trail and includes stops at various facilities where experts explain how each facility operates. If you're interested, get on our tour interest list at www.dwa.org/tours or send a request to vicki@dwa.org.



Tour participants at the DWA recycling plant on Gene Autry Trail.

Tour stops may include:

- Snow Creek Hydroelectric Plant near Snow Creek village
- A groundwater well site
- Two solar fields
- Water recycling plant

YEAR IN REVIEW

Happy 2019! We'd like to thank our customers for their conservation efforts. We live in a desert and conservation is a way of life here. The new year gives us an opportunity to reflect over the past year and see just how much the community has taken advantage of DWA's various conservation opportunities. These measures and many others are important in helping the agency reach its conservation goals.

Here's a rebate recap:

- **Grass to desert landscape:** Residential and commercial customers have transformed 112,866 square feet of grass to water efficient landscape over the past year. For residential turf removal we offer \$1 per square foot for visible areas with a maximum of \$1,500. For HOA and commercial property turf removal we offer \$2 per square foot with a maximum rebate of \$40,000.
- **Smart controllers:** Our customers have installed 121 weather-based irrigation controllers. We provide residents up to \$150 for eligible devices and up to \$100 for professional installation. For HOA's and commercial we offer up to \$2,500 for devices and up to \$750 for install.
- **Efficient nozzles:** Our customers have installed 952 precision nozzles or fixed bubbler heads. We provide \$5 per nozzle plus up to \$2 for professional installation.
- **Toilets:** Our customers have installed 490 high efficiency models that use 1.28 gallons per flush or less. We offer \$100 per toilet with a limit of two toilets for homes and 100 for businesses.

Limited funding is still available. If you'd like to do your part in helping preserve our precious resource, check out our rebate offerings at www.dwa.org/rebates and apply soon.



FAQ

Why does my water smell like chlorine?

We are lucky to have a high-quality groundwater basin. The slight chlorine we add is to help disinfect the pipeline system. What helps eliminate any odor or taste of chlorine is putting the water in the refrigerator for a few minutes and letting it chill before you drink.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

DWA is plugged into various events. Here's how our winter is shaping up:

- Jan. 5 - Farmers Market, Palm Springs Cultural Center
- Jan. 26 - Palm Springs Health Run & Expo, Ruth Hardy Park
- Feb. 13 & 14 - PSUSD science fair
- Late February - DWA tour
- March 9 - Butterfly Block Party
- March 23 - One-PS Annual Picnic, Ruth Hardy Park.

YEARNING FOR SOME LEARNING? APPLY NOW

Desert Water Agency and its CV Water Counts partners will host their annual Water Counts Academy starting Jan. 29. The program welcomes anyone interested in learning about water conservation, sustainability and infrastructure. The academy is held at UCR-Palm Desert over the course of four weeks. It concludes on Feb. 23 with a tour that features Desert Water Agency facilities and a graduation ceremony. DWA General Manager Mark Krause will be presenting on State Water Project supplies during the Feb. 12 class. There is no tuition or fee to participate. Food and refreshments will be provided. Last year the program received 80 applications for 35 spots. This year about 40 spots will be available. Program completion requires students attend the four evening classes from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and the Saturday tour from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Here's the schedule of classes:

- Jan. 29 - Welcome, water conservation in the Coachella Valley
- Feb. 5 - Water quality, groundwater and long term sustainability
- Feb. 12 - Imported water supplies, agriculture and water-efficiency
- Feb. 19 - Golf & recycled water, economics of water rates
- Feb. 23 - Valleywide water infrastructure tour and graduation ceremony

To apply go to cwwatercounts.com/academy/.



CV Water Counts Academy graduating class of 2018.

HELPFUL SINK SIGNAGE



If you've been to the Palm Springs International Airport and washed your hands lately, you've probably noticed these new signs posted above the sink. It's one way we help spread the word about conversation. After all, we do live in a desert and "saving water is our way of life."

FIND US ON INSTAGRAM!



Filtration Plant planned for Snow Creek

A new filtration system will be installed this year at Snow Creek so the Agency can continue to deliver clean, quality water to customers in Snow Creek Village. The agency has proposed \$2.3 million in the 2018/19 budget for the filtration system. The system will also incorporate water from Falls Creek where it meets up with Snow Creek and allow DWA to capture more acre feet per year of creek water.



WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DOING?

The public is always welcome at our board meetings on the first and third Tuesday of every month, beginning at 8 a.m., at Desert Water Agency, 1200 S. Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs. To see an up-to-date schedule of all our meetings, please visit our website: www.dwa.org.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- James Cioffi
- Joseph K. Stuart
- Kristin Bloomer
- Patricia G. Oygar
- Craig Ewing

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please contact: DWA Outreach & Conservation Manager Ashley Metzger at 760-323-4971 ext. 184, or Ashley@dwa.org. For more information on DWA's conservation programs, please visit: www.dwa.org/rebates.



PRINTED ON RECYCLED STOCK

