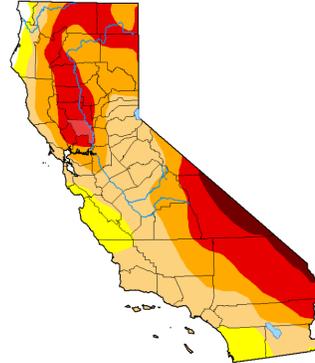
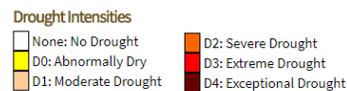


Is It Time to Use The “D” Word Again?

For nearly five years from 2011-16, California suffered through a historic drought that strained our state’s water supply and forced us all to re-evaluate our water-use behaviors. Fortunately, relief came in the form of La Nina, a weather phenomenon which provided California an average 30.81 inches of precipitation during the winter/spring of 2016-17, the highest average in more than a century of recorded data (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). With the Sierra Nevada snowpack restored to more than quadruple its previous level, then-Governor Jerry Brown lifted the drought emergency in April 2017.



This triumph was short-lived. In fact, all signs suggest that drought has returned to our state. A March 4, 2021, report from the U.S. Drought Monitor indicates that more than 90% of California is experiencing “moderate drought” conditions with many of our southern and northern-most counties falling into the more worrisome categories of “severe drought” and “extreme drought.” For additional information on the drought intensity spectrum, please visit <https://www.drought.gov/states/california>.



Golden State Water Company (Golden State Water) customers throughout California did a tremendous job reducing water-use during the 2011-16 drought emergency and deserve praise for making conservation a way of life. As we enter the spring and summer seasons that will likely heat up most parts of the state, here are some tips to help ensure you continue using water responsibly:

Here’s how you can help:

1. Convert to a drought-tolerant landscape and/or limit the amount of water you use for your lawn. Outdoor irrigation accounts for more than 50% (on average) of residential water use in California¹. Check out our helpful flyer for tips on how to build and maintain a drought tolerant landscape. If you prefer to keep your lawn, don’t overwater. Chances are you can significantly cut back your watering and still maintain your curb appeal.
2. Invest in water-smart appliances. When upgrading your home or business, look for WaterSense labeled products, which are backed by independent, third-party certification and meet EPA’s specifications for water efficiency and performance. Check your [Golden State Water community page](#) for available rebates before purchasing a new appliance or product.
3. Survey your property for leaks on a quarterly basis, or when your bill is unusually high. According to the EPA, the average household leak accounts for more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted each year. Watch our [High Bill Investigation Video](#) for tips on how to inspect your property for leaks.
4. Follow Golden State Water on Facebook and Twitter @GoldenStateH2O. We share weekly conservation tips to help customers embrace smart water use in and around their homes.

Golden State Water is proud to be your water provider and partner in conservation. Learn more about water-use efficiency by visiting our [conservation webpage](#) and reviewing available rebates and programs available in your community.

¹ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2015/pr020315_rgcpd_dec.pdf