

# Drought 2021 - How Bad Is It? - Part II

*Jan Hovey / The Valley Springs News / July 9, 2021*

New Hogan Lake, which supplies irrigation and drinking water to the Calaveras County Water District and Stockton East Water District, is at 38 percent of capacity with 121,518 acre-feet of water. At this time last year, the man-made reservoir was at 54.8 percent of capacity. [photo of New Hogan]

Gov. Gavin Newsom on May 10, 2021, declared a drought emergency for most counties in California, including Calaveras County. The News asked the Calaveras County Water District to give some insight on the conditions in Calaveras and what we can expect this summer.

"Most of the reservoirs in Calaveras County are currently well below average for this time of year," said Jessica Self, external affairs manager for CCWD. "As of June 15, the State Water resources Control Board issued notices to all post-1914 water right holders in California informing them water is unavailable under those water rights."

"CCWD is fortunate in that most of our water rights are backed up by storage, but the notice of unavailability was certainly a sign that this is a severe drought and we can expect conservation mandates from the state at some point," she added. "As for current water conditions in Calaveras County, CCWD have a water data packet that is updated daily with all the latest precipitation amounts, average river flows and reservoir levels. You can download the water data packets at [www.ccwd.org/water-resources/public-data-packet/](http://www.ccwd.org/water-resources/public-data-packet/).

"Calaveras County only reached 55 to 60 percent of long-term precipitation and snowpack estimates this year," said Self. "Please see the most recent water data packet for more precise information."

As for possible water conservation mandates, Self said, "No conservation mandates are being enacted at this time, but CCWD is encouraging customers to conserve water and prepare for extended dry conditions. CCWD is actively partnering with local and statewide entities to promote water conservation given the current drought conditions. This includes partnering with water agencies in the county as we relaunch our Calaveras Conserves partnership program for the current drought. The Calaveras County community will start seeing water conservation outreach efforts on behalf of CCWD and Calaveras Conserves."

"We encourage customers to visit our website at [www.ccwd.org](http://www.ccwd.org) which includes recommendations on how our customers can save water both indoors and outdoors," Self added. "In addition, we highly recommend anyone who is interested in ideas on how to conserve water to visit [www.saveourwater.com](http://www.saveourwater.com). Save Our Water is a water conservation program created by the Association of California Water Agencies and the California Department of Water Resources. Their site provides numerous useful tips and aims to help Californians make water conservation a daily habit."

For more information, contact the Calaveras County Water District at (209) 754-3543.