

## Winter Storms Have Helped, But Many Parts Of California Remain Dry

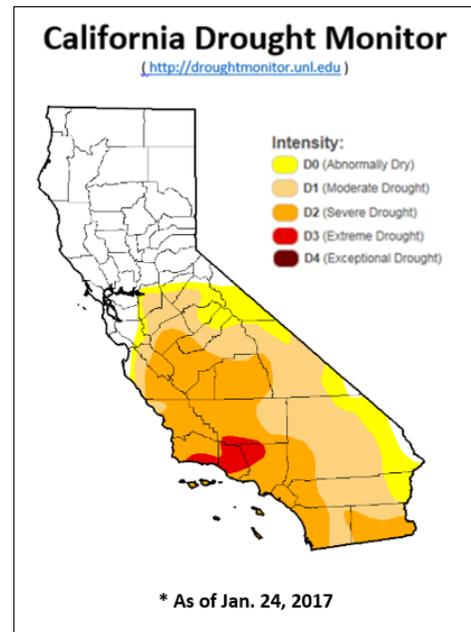
*Golden State Water encourages you to make conservation a way of life*

By Edwin DeLeon, Water-Use Efficiency Manager for Golden State Water Company

For five consecutive years, California suffered through abnormally dry conditions that depleted our state's water resources and forced residents to re-evaluate how we use water.

Thankfully, a good portion of the state has received relief this winter in the form of steady rain and significant snowfall. This wet winter is exactly what California needed; however, water officials are not ready to declare victory and are encouraging residents to resist slipping back toward our old water-use behaviors.

On February 8, 2017, the state re-adopted and extended emergency drought regulations for another 270 days (into November 2017), or until the Governor rescinds or modifies the drought declaration. Later this month, California is expected to release its plan for long-term conservation.



Some regions in our sprawling state are still experiencing "extreme drought" conditions. In particular, coastal communities like Nipomo, Cypress Ridge, Edna Valley and Ojai entered 2017 in worse shape than a year ago.

A Drought Monitor [report](#) issued on January 24, 2017 shows that more than a quarter of California is still classified in "severe drought" or worse.

Recent weather conditions have been helpful to replenish water supplies, but alleviating the drought cannot be accomplished in one year, and there are no guarantees we will see similar rain and snow patterns next winter. The future is unpredictable, especially since California has been prone to long stretches of drought.

Golden State Water customers have done a tremendous job reducing water use. In December alone, our customers statewide saved more than 610 million gallons of water compared to December 2013. That's enough to provide 50,000 households with water for a month<sup>1</sup>.

We encourage customers to remain vigilant with conservation, focusing on daily habits to make responsible water use a way of life. Viewing conservation as a way of life, and not just a short-term fix, will help keep the state on the path to full drought recovery.

Learn more about water-use efficiency by clicking these links to review our [Conservation Tips](#) and [Conservation Rebates & Programs](#) available in your community. [Click here](#) to review your community's outdoor irrigation restrictions and California's potable water waste rules.

Golden State Water is proud to be your water provider and partner in conservation.

<sup>1</sup> Based on figures from the [United States Environmental Protection Agency](#) that show the normal household of four uses 400 gallons of water per day.