

Overview of Drought Impacts in the Delta Watershed

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Delta Watermaster
March 17, 2022



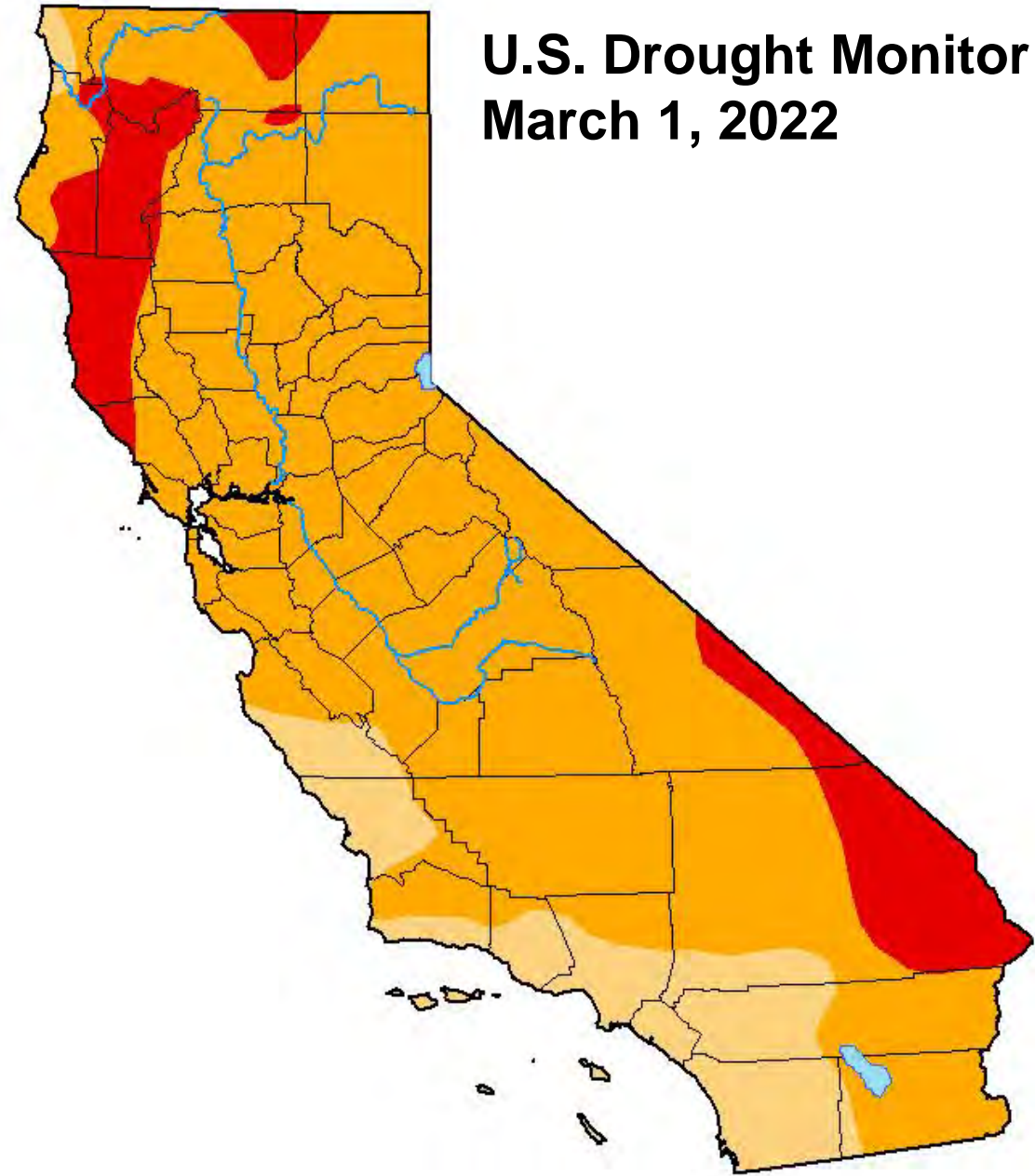
The Statewide Drought Persists



- Two Atmospheric River Events Were Not Enough
- March 1 Snow Water Equivalent Confirms Dry Conditions
- Reservoirs Remain Well Below Historic Averages

Severe and Extreme Drought Conditions Persist

U.S. Drought Monitor
March 1, 2022



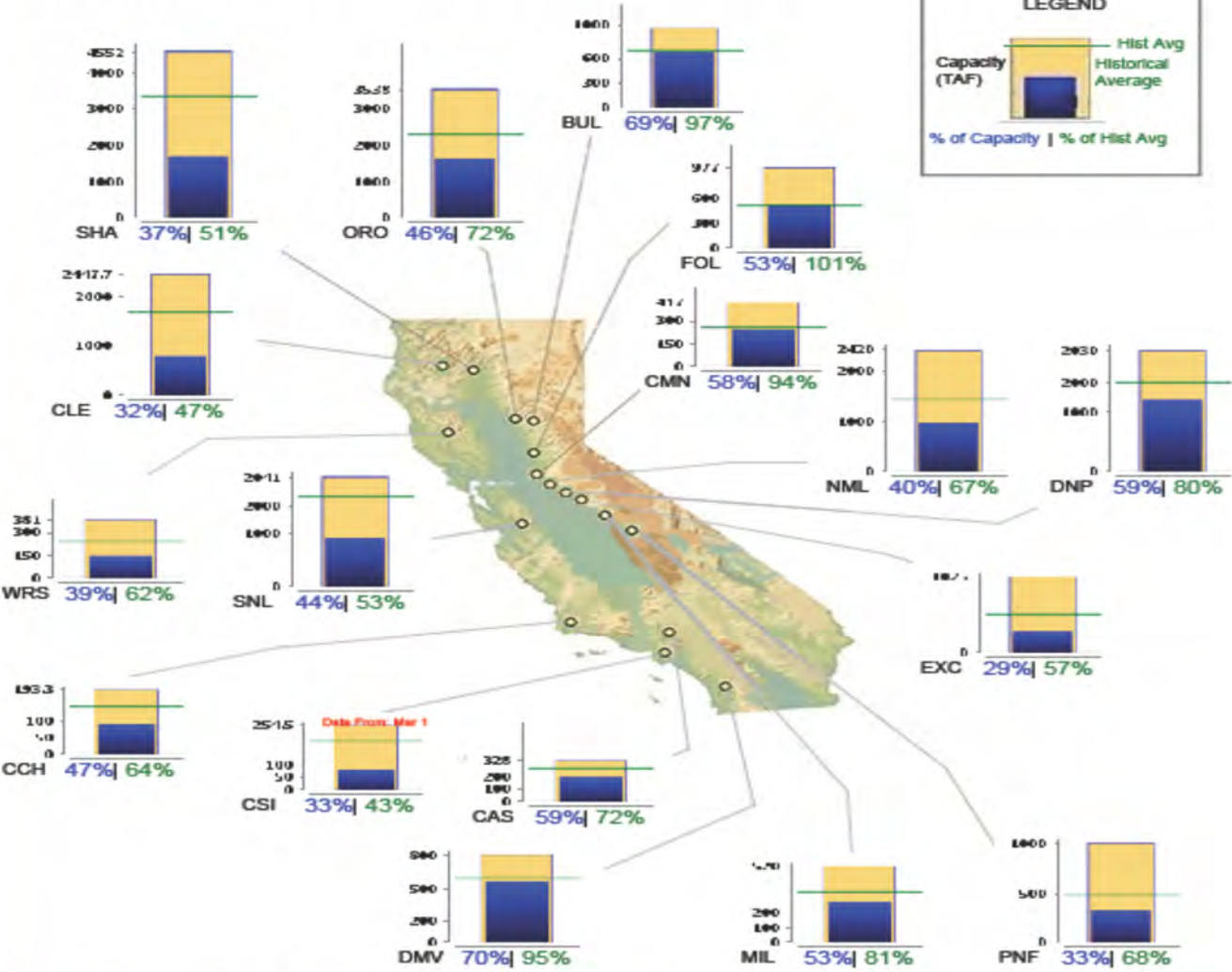
Reservoir Levels are Well Below Historic Average



CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS

CALIFORNIA MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS
CURRENT CONDITIONS

Midnight - March 7, 2022



Updated 03/08/2022 03:48 PM

Expect Statewide Drought Response to be Extended

- Gubernatorial Drought Proclamation May be Extended
- Proclamation Likely Will Extend Emergency Regulation Authority
- State Water Board May Tweak and Extend ERs Adopted in August 2021





Expect Statewide Drought Response to be Extended

- The Division of Water Rights Has Significantly Refined its Methodology
 - Extensive Outreach and Input
 - Modest Curtailments Currently in Place
 - Licenses will be Curtailed if Dry Conditions Persist
 - Expect Pre-1914 Appropriations to be Curtailed According to Priority
 - Limited Exceptions for Human Use and Infrastructure Protection
- Potential for Petitions for Relief from Environmental Requirements?

Drought is Experienced Differently in the Delta

- Not a Water Shortage; Rather a Threat to Quality
- Net Freshwater Flows are Necessary to Hold Salinity at Bay
- Depleted Reservoirs Could be Stressed by Regulatory Demands
 - Protect Water Quality
 - Provide Temperature Management
 - Protect Human Health and System Infrastructure
 - Meet Contract Demands



Other Delta Specific Complexities

- Shortage Allocation is Inconsistent between Riparian and Prior Appropriation Systems
- Salinity Barriers May be Required (and Expanded)
- Water Use Reporting Requires Further Improvement
 - Eliminate Duplicate Reporting
 - Generate Consistent, Credible, Closer to Real-time Information
 - Apply New Satellite Imagery and Data Management Technology
- Evaluate Techniques to Conserve Water (DDRPP)
- Implement the Delta Alternative Compliance Plan