



External Affairs Management Report

Communication and Legislation Committee

Item 7a

May 10, 2021

Outreach Activity Highlights

- Solar Cup 2021™
- Innovation event with LADWP on water industry research
- Community event on proposed federal infrastructure package
- Virtual tours and events on RRWP, conservation, water supply conditions



Responding to High Media Interest in Drought

Los Angeles Times

Water reserves may spare Southland in drought

[Drought, from A1] case in point.

Lake Oroville, the big Sacramento Valley reservoir that helps supply the area's water, is only 42% full and the Metropolitan Water District can expect a mere 9% of full deliveries from the north this year.

But the agency has more water than ever stored in regional reservoirs and groundwater banks.

"We're not contemplating any difficulty in meeting deliveries," said Brian Coffey, water resources manager for the MWD, which augments supplies from the Colorado River and Northern California.

Los Angeles, which is partially supplied by the MWD, is similarly confident that it will have no problem meeting local demand.

"We're not in any shortage," said Debra Kwan, assistant director of water resources for the U.S. Department of Water and Power.

L.A.'s water use has declined to 87% levels, despite the fact that California's biggest city has nearly a million



JOHN PAASCH, left, Anthony Dardick and Sean de Guzman measure the Sierra snowpack for the Department of Water Resources. It was well below average.

more-trees — more than four times what Los Angeles uses this year.

Those huge contracts, which the Sierra signed when the Central Valley Project completed the Sacramento and San Joaquin, have long been attacked by environmentalists.

In a March letter to the state water board, environmental groups complain that releases from Shasta Lake for senior rights holders will deplete the reservoir's temperatures on the Sacramento River.

They also point out that warmer precipitation is not the only reason Oroville, the State Water Project's largest reservoir, is so low.

In 2018, the state and federal water projects executed a 30-year-old agreement, thus spelled out how they would coordinate operations to meet water quality and environmental standards in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, a distribution hub for both projects.

2018, the agency estimated the new formula would reduce state deliveries by an average of 100,000 acre-feet a year, with that number increasing to 200,000 acre-feet every six years.

Sierra's spokeswoman said the new operating terms have played a role in Oroville's steep drop. But she dismissed most of the decline as what she called "meteorologically dry" conditions in the Feather River watershed that feeds Oroville. She also criticized the 2018 deal, saying that in wet years it allows the state project to slightly increase delta exports to the MWD and other customers.

"It's a trade-off," said Doug Orvik, an environmental attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council. "It's not solving the problem that they've contracted more water than our sustainability allows."

Two years ago, Shasta and Oroville were nearly full, thanks to 2019, the nation's second-wettest year on record; and 2017, the wettest year on record in the north-

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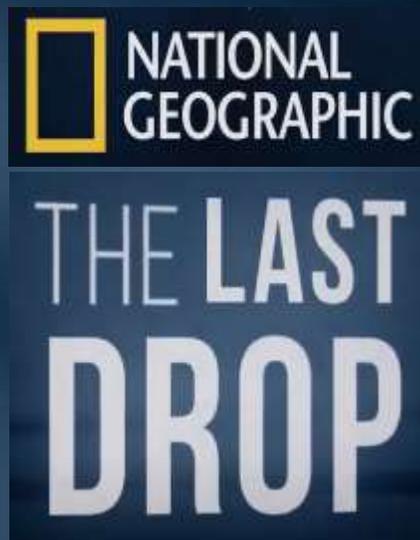
CALIFORNIA
Megadrought: 'Climate change starting to hammer home'

Jeremy P. Jacobs, E&E News reporter • Published: Monday, April 5, 2021

AP Associated Press

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Fact Sheets, Social, Blogs, Digital



- Range of creative assets and messaging produced in-house
- Targeted social media posts for broad audiences, multilingual materials
- Leveraging opportunities for TV, YouTube, podcasts, other platforms

Conservation Activities

- BeWaterWise content updates
- Rebates
- Landscape training - English, Spanish, Mandarin
- Programs to build community support
- Customized California Native planting guides
- Focus on sustainability, lasting change

