

# Planning for a Dry Year in the North State

Water suppliers throughout the North State have planned for dry years in California like 2015.

## 2015 Reduction in Sacramento Valley Water Supplies (in %)

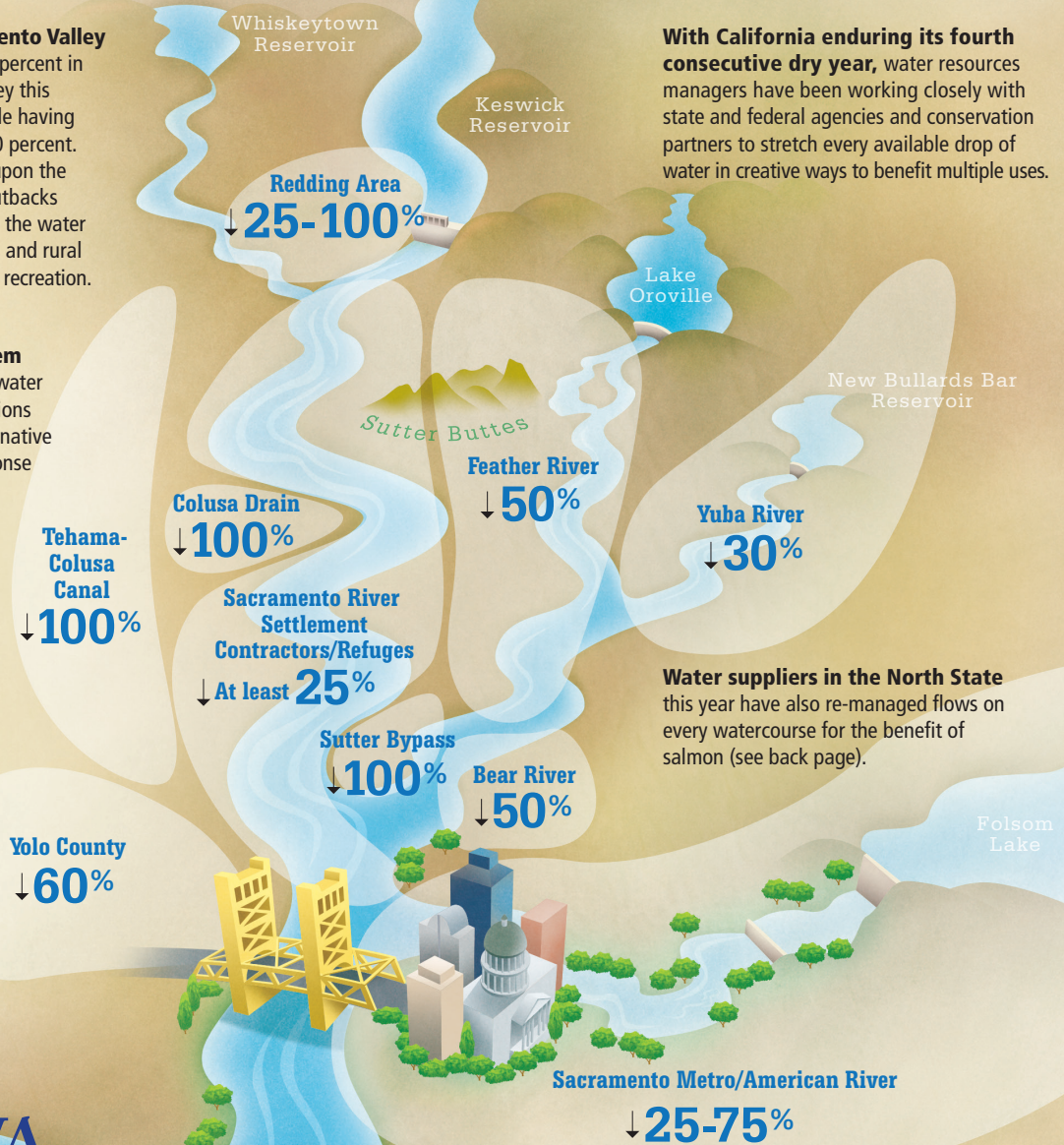
**Water supplies in the Sacramento Valley** have been reduced more than 25 percent in every part of the Sacramento Valley this year—with many areas and people having their surface supplies reduced 100 percent. The severity of the cuts depends upon the water rights or contract. These cutbacks will have a negative impact on all the water uses in the region, including cities and rural communities, farms, fish, birds and recreation.

**California's water right system works**—in a dry year like 2015, water suppliers have planned for reductions and they are able to develop alternative water management plans in response to the lack of surface water.

**Water rights and contracts** are the foundation for water operations throughout California. The orderly implementation of the water rights system provides economic and environmental stability to address the current dry year challenges and prepare for future droughts.

**With California enduring its fourth consecutive dry year**, water resources managers have been working closely with state and federal agencies and conservation partners to stretch every available drop of water in creative ways to benefit multiple uses.

**Water suppliers in the North State** this year have also re-managed flows on every watercourse for the benefit of salmon (see back page).



**NCWA**  
Northern California Water Association

For more details visit <http://www.norcalwater.org>

# Re-managing the Flow

The major rivers and streams of the Sacramento Valley provide essential pathways for spawning salmon and steelhead. Flow agreements to benefit these fish are on every major watercourse in the Sacramento Valley.



**Trinity** and **Shasta Lakes** are important sources of cold water storage. Timing the release of this cold water into the rivers is vital if spawning fish are to thrive.

Trinity Lake

Shasta Lake

Whiskeytown Reservoir

Keswick Reservoir

## Sacramento River Tributaries

Various flow agreements benefit spring run salmon.

## Clear Creek

In May and June, water is pulsed into Clear Creek to attract Spring-run salmon from the Sacramento River. From June through October, water released from Whiskeytown Reservoir keeps water temperatures cool.

## Feather River

A water quality certification adopted in 2010 provides for specific flow and temperature requirements to accommodate spawning salmon and steelhead.

## Sacramento River below Keswick Dam

In 1960, flow objectives were established for the protection of fish and wildlife. In 1990 and 1991 this policy was modified requiring more cold water when warmer temperatures would be harmful to fish.

## Yuba River

In 2008, the Yuba River Accord increased the streamflow requirements over previous levels, which benefits fish while insuring sufficient water supplies for irrigation and municipal uses.

## Sacramento River at Wilkins Slough

The Rivers and Harbors Act of 1935 mandated a specific flow rate at Wilkins Slough be maintained. The primary goals at that time were navigation and flood control. In 1992, Congress made protection of fish and wildlife a secondary goal and this requirement was updated in 2009.

Sutter Buttes

New Bullards Bar Reservoir

Folsom Lake

## American River below Nimbus Dam

In 2000, the Flow Management Standard was developed, which established minimum flow standards to improve the conditions for fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead. Additionally, releases are adjusted to maintain sufficiently low water temperatures for steelhead rearing in summer and Chinook spawning in the fall.

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