



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Doug LaMalfa

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U.S. Representative Doug LaMalfa's Drought Update Combating California's Drought and Water Restrictions

After years of less than normal rainfall and terrible management by the State of California and the federal government, water has been cut off to many Northern California water agencies and farms.

Most farmers were forced to severely restrict planting, and many will not have a crop at all. Worse, the federal government is cutting off available water mid-season from farmers in the Klamath Basin. This comes after the investment was made to plow, apply fertilizer, seed, herbicides, and pay for what little water that they did receive. Those farmers invested in a potential crop either from bank loans or their own savings. Now, without water due to an unexpected midseason water grab, these crops will die and the investment will fail. I spoke to President Biden briefly after the State of the Union speech about this very prospect. It's crippling to farmers in this position and a giant waste of all the efforts they made to plant this year. This reduces the supply of food in a time when the President said he anticipated food shortages along with the already high grocery prices.

Water shutoffs are also an environmental disaster as the western shorebird and waterfowl migration starts and unplanted farms severely curtail the normal habitat for them.

The Biden and Newsom administrations' policies have resulted in poor water management and their primary focus on water temperature in the rivers for fish only makes things worse.

I led an effort to have the Bureau of Reclamation store more winter storm water in Lake Shasta, and to have the State DWR do the same in Lake Oroville. They ignored my warnings and that of the many other public officials across the state that joined my effort in Congress, and we now see the results. By failing to store the water when it was raining and during early snowmelt runoff, all of California has a needlessly low 2022 water supply. This resulted in major cuts to agriculture and water rationing for people in cities. Meanwhile, environmental water flows through the Bay Delta and other users are barely curtailed or even increased. 2021/22 was not the worst water year in modern history, but it has been one of the worst for water management by government entities.

Domestic home wells and farm wells are going dry, in part due to no water in our canals to help recharge the groundwater table. Without agriculture bolstering our economy, as well as the environmental benefits ag water brings to the many species, the negative effects are piling up. Just take a drive through the fallow fields adjacent to the Sacramento River up and down the Sacramento Valley or down I-5 and Hwy 99 through the San Joaquin Valley.

The lack of action to build additional water storage and proper management of what water we do have is costing us jobs. It's costing families their livelihoods and the worst part about is, this could have all been avoided.

Doug LaMalfa

U.S. Representative Doug LaMalfa, California's 1st Congressional District



Rep. LaMalfa holding a press conference at Lake Oroville to call attention to failures of federal and state water policy

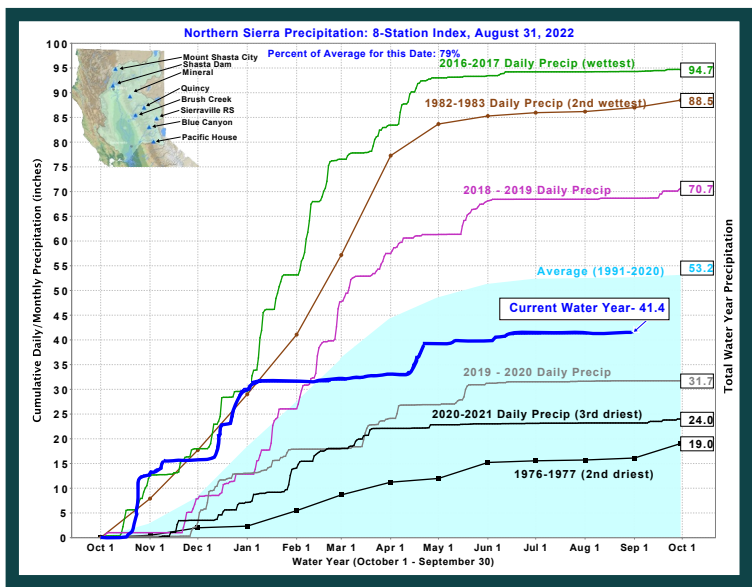


Protecting the North State way of life by adding water storage and improving water management and delivery

For years, the promise of an off-stream water storage facility that protects our towns, local farms and helps the environment has been an important goal. Congressman LaMalfa passed legislation to federally authorize the construction of Sites Reservoir.

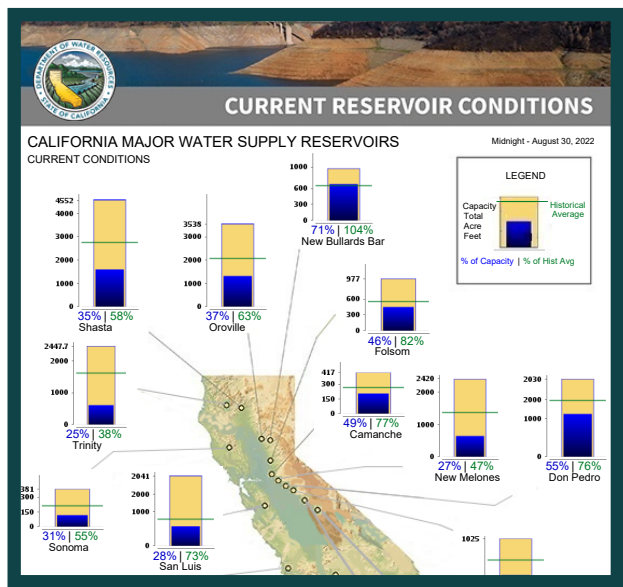
Building the Sites Reservoir Securing Additional Water Storage and Delivery Systems

- ◆ U.S. Representative Doug LaMalfa secured \$2.2 billion in funding in the form of low-cost loans to start construction of Sites Reservoir.
- ◆ Worked with Congressional Leaders to successfully maintain \$134 million in annual funding for California water storage and the largest appropriation for Sites Reservoir ever.
- ◆ Led an effort with every California Republican member to maximize winter water storage to fill Shasta, Oroville and other Northern California reservoirs every year before summer water delivery season.
- ◆ Working to force the State and Federal Regulators to use actual science to update water management rules and maximize water storage.
- ◆ U.S. Representative Doug LaMalfa is leading the effort to improve ground water supply by using winter storm water to recharge ground water instead of letting the water flush to the ocean. This would certainly help stop domestic wells from going dry.



While below average the 2021/22 water year was not as bad as past years and could have been managed much better.

Source: California Department of Water Resources



Current reservoir conditions are far below average because of poor planning by federal and state regulators.

Source: California Department of Water Resources

My office is ready to help. Whether you need assistance dealing with a government agency or information, please contact us through one of our district offices.

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CONGRESSMAN
DOUG LAMALFA
SERVING CALIFORNIA'S 1ST DISTRICT