

Concerned About Drought? Have No Fear!

After a historically wet season last year, very little precipitation has fallen this year in California during two of the three historically wettest months. In early March, the Sierra snowpack — a critical factor in water availability — climbed to just 39 percent of normal. In February, the Department of Water Resources measured snowpack levels in the Sierra Nevada, 90 miles east of Sacramento. A little over 2 inches was reported in the monthly survey, or about 14 percent of the average for that time of year since 1964.

In early January, the snowpack levels were also gloomy, about 24 percent of normal. On average, snowpack supplies about 30 percent of California’s water needs as it melts in the spring and early summer. The greater the snowpack water content, the greater the likelihood California’s reservoirs will receive enough runoff to meet the state’s water demand in later months.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor for California, as of February 13, 2018, about 80 percent of the state is defined as abnormally dry, or in drought condition. The good news is that California did receive some heavy rains and snow in late March. Still, this lack of steady rain and snow begs this question. Has the drought returned?

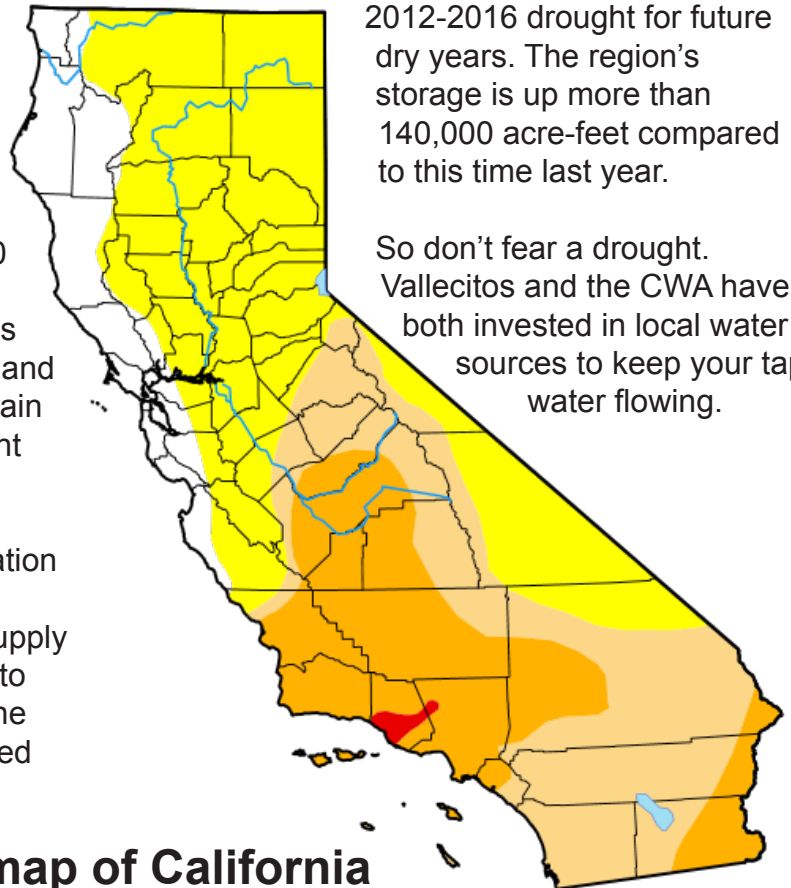
In truth, the U.S. Drought Monitor’s classification of the San Diego region as an area of “Moderate Drought” does not reflect water supply conditions. The San Diego region continues to embrace water-use efficiency even though the region has not been subject to state-mandated

water-use standards since May 2016. Additionally, regional water-use from June 2016 through December 2017 was 15 percent below 2013 levels.

Further, the Claude “Bud” Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant delivers approximately 50 million gallons a day of drought-resilient water supplies for regional use. Vallecitos has a direct connection to the Desalination Plant, which provides about 27 percent of the District’s annual water needs.

The District’s water wholesaler, the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) stored 100,000 acre-feet of conserved water in the San Vicente Reservoir during the 2012-2016 drought for future dry years. The region’s storage is up more than 140,000 acre-feet compared to this time last year.

So don’t fear a drought. Vallecitos and the CWA have both invested in local water sources to keep your tap water flowing.



U.S. Drought Monitor map of California

The California Water Environment Association awards Vallecitos employee Dawn McDougle with “Supervisor of the Year” Award

From her first day on the job at Vallecitos Water District in 1988, Dawn McDougle knew that she wanted to finish her career here. Her dedication, innovation, and commitment to the community have paid off in many ways over the decades — and in January, they brought Dawn to the forefront of the region’s water industry when the California Water Environment Association of San Diego recognized her as “Supervisor of the Year” for a career marked by excellence, safety and protecting the environment.

Dawn started at Vallecitos in 1988 as an Industrial Waste Technician. It was an era when few women performed this work, and that increased her determination to succeed. She advanced her career by taking classes and earning certifications — and she helped others by mentoring and coaching them along the way. In 2002, she was promoted to Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor.

Over the past 16 years, Dawn played a major role in the operation and management of the Meadowlark Reclamation Facility, which was recognized in 2009 with an Award of Excellence from the American Society of Civil Engineers and the previous year the District won the Recycled Water Agency of the Year by the WaterReuse Association.

Dawn’s tenure at Meadowlark included the recent completion of a \$30 million expansion to an important part of Vallecitos’ water supply program that reduces demand on imported water supplies for northern San Diego County. The facility produces recycled water for golf courses at La Costa and The Four Seasons Resort Aviara in Carlsbad, as well as several school sites, Legoland and the Carlsbad Flower Fields.

Dawn masterminded the use of new process units that extended the useful life of the Meadowlark plant well beyond 2030. With many constraints along the way, she kept the existing plant operating while constructing a new plant and meeting the plant expansion output goal of 5 million gallons per day.



The Meadowlark facility is visited frequently by students and ratepayers because it provides an excellent opportunity to see how wastewater is converted to a valuable resource. With Dawn’s help, Vallecitos has developed successful outreach programs, including the California Water Environment Association “Wake up to Wastewater” tour and the District’s award-winning “Water Academy” tour.

During the Water Academy tour, Dawn highlights how the District plays an integral role in protecting the environment through water reuse — the perfect role for an industry leader who has spent her career making sure the District’s facilities live up to their promise. Please join us in congratulating Dawn McDougle for her award as “Supervisor of the Year!”

“Dawn implemented several innovative designs at Meadowlark that improved safety, increased efficiencies, and reduced operating costs. She is an extremely dedicated employee to her staff, the District, and the customers we serve.” - Ed Pedrazzi - Operations and Maintenance Manager

Vallecitos Receives Refund Check of \$146,176

At the Vallecitos Water District's Board meeting on March 21, 2018, Andy Sells, Chief Executive Officer, and Bill Knutson, Executive Committee member of the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Agency (ACWA/JPIA) presented Vallecitos with a \$145,176 refund check due to the District's history of low insurance claims. Actions like this demonstrate the commitment of the Vallecitos Board, General Manager, management team and Vallecitos staff, to keep water and sewer rates as low as possible.



ACWA JPIA
P.O. Box 619082
Roseville, CA 95661-9082

CALIFORNIA BANK AND TRUST
SACRAMENTO MAIN OFFICE
1331 BROADWAY, SACRAMENTO CA 95818

CHECK NO. 9082

January 30, 2018

TO THE ORDER OF

Vallecitos Water District

\$145,176

One Hundred Forty Five Thousand One Hundred Seventy Six Dollars

RSF Refund

Walter "Andy" Sells – ACWA JPIA Chief Executive Officer



201 Vallecitos de Oro
San Marcos, CA 92069
(760) 744-0460
www.vwd.org

Board of Directors

Division 1: Betty Evans
Division 2: Jim Hernandez
Division 3: Craig Elitharp
Division 4: Mike Sannella
Division 5: Hal Martin

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Glenn Pruiem, General Manager
Rhondi Emmanuel, Administrative Services Manager
Ed Pedrazzi, Operations and Maintenance Manager
James Gumpel, District Engineer
Wes Owen, Finance Manager



Between the Pipes is a publication of information and interest to Vallecitos water and sewer customers. If you receive water or sewer services from another district, please disregard any information that does not apply to you.

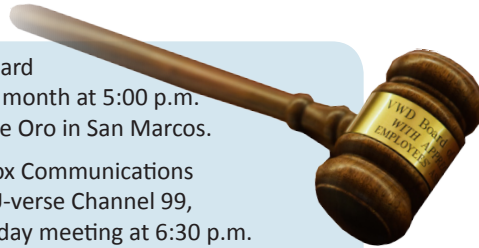
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ECRWSS

The public is welcome to attend the Vallecitos Board Meetings the first and third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in the Administration building—201 Vallecitos de Oro in San Marcos.

Meetings are also aired on San Marcos TV on Cox Communications Channel 19, Time Warner Channel 24 or AT&T U-verse Channel 99, which air on the Monday following the Wednesday meeting at 6:30 p.m. Visit www.san-marcos.net/smtv for programming schedule.



“Like us” on Facebook or follow us on Twitter @vallecitoswater

2017 Water Quality/Consumer Confidence Report

The 2017 Water Quality Report will be available online June 30, 2018 at www.vwd.org/waterquality. The report will list the more than 200 compounds tested for throughout the year and the results. Tested water from Vallecitos consistently meets or exceeds all drinking water standards. To request a hard copy of the report, call us at 760-744-0460.

Speakers Bureau

The wet and wonderful world of water can be slippery to understand, but it doesn't have to be. Get a firm grasp on water, wastewater, and issues related to their services through Vallecitos Water District's Speakers Bureau.

Let a member from the District's knowledgeable staff or Board of Directors enlighten your group, class, club or association on a wide variety of topics. Call 744-0460 Ext. 314 to schedule an event.

