



**WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES
NEWS**

January 2022

**Friday, January 14, 2022 - 1:30 to 3:30
Chowchilla Subbasin GSP
Advisory Committee Meeting**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88074694692?pwd=L3hXUHBtWTlSSzZGTFl2bzArL2l1QT09>

Meeting ID: 880 7469 4692

Passcode: 878356

Or Dial:

1-669-900-9128

Meeting ID: 880 7469 4692

Passcode: 878356

Atmospheric River

Atmospheric rivers are relatively long, narrow regions in the atmosphere – like rivers in the sky – that transport most of the water vapor outside of the tropics. These columns of vapor move with the weather, carrying an amount of water vapor roughly equivalent to the average flow of water at the mouth of the Mississippi River. When the atmospheric rivers make landfall, they often release this water vapor in the form of rain or snow.

To Learn More About Atmospheric Rivers - [Click Here](#)

The science behind atmospheric rivers

An atmospheric river (AR) is a flowing column of condensed water vapor in the atmosphere responsible for producing significant levels of rain and snow, especially in the Western United States. When ARs move inland and sweep over the mountains, the water vapor rises and cools to create heavy precipitation. Though many ARs are weak systems that simply provide beneficial rain or snow, some of the larger, more powerful ARs can create extreme rainfall and floods capable of disrupting travel, inducing mudslides and causing catastrophic damage to life and property. Visit www.research.noaa.gov to learn more.

A strong AR transports an amount of water vapor roughly equivalent to 7.5–15 times the average flow of water at the mouth of the Mississippi River.

ARs are a primary feature in the entire global water cycle and are tied closely to both water supply and flood risks, particularly in the Western U.S.

On average, about 30-50% of annual precipitation on the West Coast occurs in just a few AR events and contributes to the water supply — and flooding risk.

ARs move with the weather and are present somewhere on Earth at any given time.

ARs are approximately 250–375 miles wide on average.

Scientists' improved understanding of ARs has come from roughly a decade of scientific studies that use observations from satellites, radar and aircraft as well as the latest numerical weather models. More studies are underway, including a 2015 scientific mission that added data from instruments aboard a NOAA ship.

Image not to scale.

2015
NOAA



U.S. Drought Monitor Conditions | January 4, 2021

California-Nevada

The U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) is updated each Thursday to show the location and intensity of drought across the country. Drought categories show experts' assessments of conditions related to dryness and drought including observations of how much water is available in streams, lakes, and soils compared to usual for the same time of year.

California/Nevada conditions as of January 4, 2022:

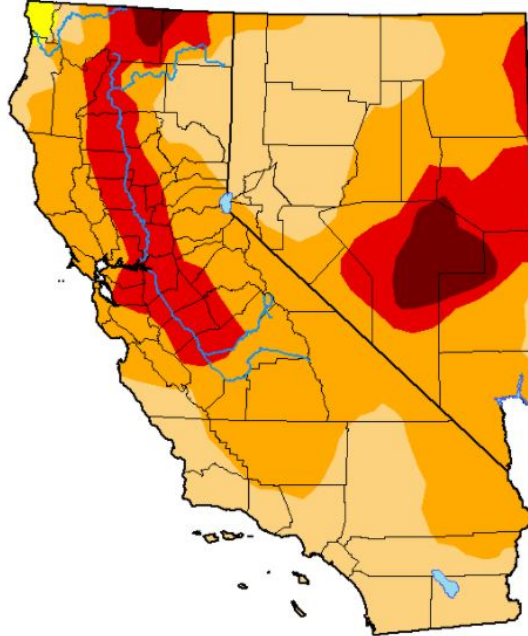
- **99.3%** of California is experiencing Moderate (D1) to Exceptional (D4) Drought (**15.76%** in D3, **0.84%** in D4)
- California population in drought: **37,223,546**
- **100%** of Nevada is experiencing Moderate (D1) to Exceptional (D4) Drought (**16.71%** in D3, **7.5%** in D4)
- Nevada population in drought: **2,700,551**

U.S. Drought Monitor Categories

-  D0 - Abnormally Dry
-  D1 - Moderate Drought
-  D2 - Severe Drought
-  D3 - Extreme Drought
-  D4 - Exceptional Drought

Source(s): [NDMC](#), [NOAA](#), [USDA](#)

Last Updated - 01/04/22



No, California's Drought isn't Over. Here's Why -

Although snowpack is 150% of average today, climatologists predict dry conditions for the rest of the season. And conservation still lags.

In a clear sign that the drought persists, California [adopted new emergency regulations](#) aimed at stopping residents from wasting the state's precious water. The rules [ban practices](#) such as hosing down sidewalks and driveways with drinking water, washing cars without a shutoff nozzle on the hose and irrigating lawns and gardens too soon after rain.

Approved unanimously by the State Water Resources Control Board, the mandates could take effect as soon as Jan. 15 and have a one-year expiration date unless extended. Fines can reach as high as \$500, but enforcement will be spotty: Local governments and water agencies are allowed to enforce them at their discretion, and they will largely be complaint-based.

To read the complete article - [Click Here](#)

If You Need Us

The Water & Natural Resources office is located on the third floor of the County Government Center. Water and Natural Resource staff can be reached at 559-662-8015 or you can visit us on-line at - maderacountywater.com.



Snow day on Deadwood heading to Oakhurst.

Upcoming Events and/or Meetings

Please check the website through the links below for meeting announcements and schedules or for telephone numbers to call and check on meeting times and locations with the agencies.

[Chowchilla Subbasin](#)

[Chowchilla Water District GSA](#)

[Clayton Water District](#)

[Coarsegold Resource Conservation District](#)

[Delta-Mendota Subbasin](#)

[Gravelly Ford GSA](#)

[Madera Ag Water Association](#)

[Madera/Chowchilla Resource Conservation District](#)

[Madera Irrigation District GSA](#)

[Madera Regional Water Management Group](#)

[Madera Subbasin](#)

[Madera Subbasin](#)

[Madera Water District GSA](#)

[Merced County GSA](#)

[Merced Subbasin GSA](#)

[Root Creek GSA](#)

[Triangle T GSA](#)

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