



# 2024-2025 Water Year

# Annual Water Conservation Report

March 5, 2024

Spanish (Español):

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre las restricciones de su Distrito de agua. Por favor lea este informe o comuníquese con alguien que pueda traducir la información.

This report is required by Fresno County Ordinance Code Chapter 14.01

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# Executive Summary

This annual water conservation report is presented to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors under Fresno County Ordinance Code section 14.01.040. The relevant conservation period for this report is the 2024-25 water year (April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025) for each of the county service areas, county service area zones, and county waterworks districts (Districts) where the County of Fresno supplies water for human consumption. The report also presents staff recommendations (listed in the table below) for water conservation stages for each District for the 2024-25 water year.

## District Water Conservation Recommendations:

District	District Name	Supervisor District	Active Connections	Source of Water	Current Conservation	Recommended Conservation
CSA 01	Tamarack	5	38	Groundwater	Stage 1	Stage 1
CSA 05	Wildwood	5	149	Groundwater	Stage 1	Stage 1
CSA 10	Cumorah Knolls	5	47	Groundwater	Stage 1	Stage 1
CSA 10A (W)	Mansionette Estates #3	5	29	Groundwater	Stage 1	Stage 1
CSA 14	Belmont Manor	5	41	Groundwater	Stage 1	Stage 1
CSA 23	Exchequer Heights	5	16	Groundwater	Stage 1	Stage 1
CSA 30	El Porvenir	1	56	Surface water	Stage 4	Stage 4
CSA 32	Cantua Creek	1	79	Surface water	Stage 4	Stage 4
CSA 34	Millerton New Town and its Zones	5	399	Surface Water	Stage 1	Stage 1
CSA 34B	Ventana Hills	5	14	Groundwater	Stage 1	Stage 1
CSA 39AB	Prospect/Beran Way	1	141	City of Fresno	Stage 2/3*	Stage 2/3*
CSA 43W	Raisin City Water	4	68	Groundwater	Stage 1	Stage 1
CSA 44C	River View	5	13	Groundwater	Stage 1	Stage 1
CSA 44D	Monte Verdi	5	124	Groundwater	Stage 1	Stage 1
CSA 47	Quail Lake	5	712	Groundwater	Stage 1	Stage 1
CSA 49	O'Neil's	4	49	Surface water	Stage 4	Stage 4
WWD 37	Mile High	5	47	Groundwater	Stage 1	Stage 1
WWD 38	Millerton Lake Estates	5	60	Groundwater	Stage 1	Stage 1
WWD 40	Shaver Springs	5	70	Groundwater	Stage 4	Stage 4
WWD 41W	Shaver Lake	5	1,000	Groundwater	Stage 1	Stage 1
WWD 42	Alluvial & Fancher	5	104	Groundwater	Stage 1	Stage 1

*\*Staff is recommending CSA 39AB be placed on Stage 2 from May 1, 2024-November 30, 2024, and Stage 3 from April 1, 2024—April 30, 2024 and again from December 1, 2024—March 31, 2025.*

### District Water Conservation Recommendations Table Color Key:

	Normal
	Stage 1
	Stage 2 or Stage 3
	Stage 4

# Definitions

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“**Aquifer**” means an underground layer of water bearing permeable rock, rock fractures or unconsolidated materials from which groundwater can be extracted using water wells.

“**Critical period**” means: (a) for districts with Groundwater Systems, an identified month in which district water usage (or user demand) is below but closest to the capacity, or most in excess of the capacity, of the well pump(s) that provide water to the district; or (b) for districts with Surface Water Systems, the month in which district water usage is highest.

“**CSA**” means a county service area.

“**District**” means a county service area, a county service area zone, or a county waterworks district whose governing body is the Board of Supervisors, where the County supplies water for human consumption. (F.C.O.C. § 14.01.030(E).)

“**GPM**” means gallons per minute.

“**GPP**” means gallons per parcel.

“**Groundwater system**” means a system that is supplied by water underground in the soil or in pores and crevices in rock and brought to the surface through a well.

“**Hard rock well**” means a well that was drilled through hard rocks (for example, granite, greenstone and basalt) to reach groundwater stored in the fractures of these rocks. Usually, hard rock wells are found in mountain and hilly areas of California that are composed primarily of rocks.

“**Raw water**” means surface water that has not been treated for human consumption.

“**Surface water system**” means a system that is supplied by water that collects on the ground surface (for example, in a stream, river, or lake) and is provided by an agency that manages the distribution of the water.

“**Well capacity**” generally means, unless specified otherwise, the throughput of the well measured in gallons per minute. The County performs well soundings regularly to check the depth of the water table and would investigate further if that depth were dropping rapidly for a particular well.

“**Water conservation stage**” means one of the water conservation stages provided in Chapter 14.01 of the Fresno County Ordinance Code, other than “normal water conservation.” (F.C.O.C. § 14.01.030(L).)

“**WWD**” means a county waterworks district.

# Background Information

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## **State of California Emergency Drought Regulations:**

On January 4, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board passed Resolution No. 2022-0002 (see Appendix “F”) which adopted the emergency regulations. The regulations became effective on January 18, 2022, and were extended in December 2022 with State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 2022-0054 (see Appendix “G”) to be in effect for one additional year unless the State Water Resources Control Board determines either that it is no longer necessary due to changed conditions or unless regulations are renewed due to continued drought conditions. On March 24, 2023, Governor Newsom signed Executive Order N-5-23 (see Appendix “H”), affirming that continued action by the State is needed to address ongoing consequences of the drought emergency, that next winter’s hydrology is uncertain, and that the most efficient way to preserve the State’s improved surface water supplies is for Californians to continue their ongoing efforts to make conservation a way of life. The Executive Order N-5-23 terminated specific paragraphs from prior issued State of Emergency Proclamations. State of Emergency Proclamation dated October 19, 2021, paragraph 9, which were restrictions most closely aligned with County of Fresno Water Conservation Ordinance Stage 1, was not terminated. On May 26, 2023, the SWRCB adopted Resolution No. 2023-24-EXEC (see Appendix “I”), which recognizes the proclamations and Executive Orders, including Executive Order N-5-23, made by Governor Newsom to urge Californians to reduce their water use.

The State Water Resources Control Board’s Frequently Asked Questions for the emergency regulations states the following: “Local government/agencies retain their discretion in how they use their enforcement resources; nothing in this regulation gives water waste infractions priority over other infractions or requires any specific enforcement. Local government/agencies also may choose to enforce their own drought conservation rules in their discretion, including those in their Water Shortage Contingency Plans (WSCPs), as opposed to the emergency regulation. The emergency regulation gives some local agencies additional options to deal with water waste and can assist them with conservation messaging.”

After review of the drought regulations, Staff from the Department of Public Works and Planning, Resources Division, Special Districts (Staff) is recommending that the County use the authority under its own ordinance to promote water conservation in the districts, instead of using enforcement authority under the statewide regulation. Except for those water systems for which Stage 2 or higher is warranted by local circumstances, staff recommends County of Fresno Water Conservation Ordinance Stage 1 as this stage most closely compares with the restrictions imposed on water users throughout the state by the statewide emergency drought regulations.

## **Projected Water Availability in Groundwater Districts:**

Staff have noticed a decline in the water table in our valley districts but not to the point that it is affecting the ability to provide water for human consumption, sanitation, or fire protection. The exception to this is WWD 40. WWD 40 wells may be unable to continue providing sufficient water capacity if conservation is not in effect. The groundwater levels are monitored monthly by analyzing the well soundings at each groundwater system from water years 2017-18 through 2023-24. Consequently, with the exception of WWD 40, staff does not project significant reduction in the production capabilities of the wells in the groundwater districts.

## **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA):**

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), signed into law in 2014, established a new structure for managing California’s groundwater resources at the local level by local agencies. Its purpose is to ensure better local and regional management of groundwater use and seeks to have a sustainable

groundwater management in California by 2042. SGMA required the formation of locally controlled Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the State's higher priority groundwater basins by June 30, 2017. Each GSA is required to develop and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to meet a sustainability goal of the basin that ensures that it is operated within a sustainable yield without causing undesirable results. Failure to form a GSA and implement a GSP in a groundwater basin could result in the State Water Resources Control Board asserting its power to manage local groundwater resources.

In 2016, the Department of Public Works and Planning worked to coordinate and collaborate with over 50 local agencies within the County who qualified under SGMA to form a GSA with the goal of ensuring all areas subject to SGMA were covered and in compliance. In 2017, nineteen (19) separate GSAs were established by agencies within the three high-priority basins within Fresno County and work began on the preparation of the required GSPs. During 2018, GSAs continued compiling necessary data and information, in addition to conducting public outreach, to facilitate completion of the GSPs for submittal to the State of California, Department of Water Resources (DWR) by January 31, 2020. Completed GSPs were submitted to the DWR by all GSAs prior to the January 31, 2020 deadline. On August 4, 2023, both the Kings Subbasin GSAs and the Westside GSAs received an official approval determination from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for their revised Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs). GSP approval is a significant milestone in the journey toward groundwater sustainability as it means the Kings Subbasin and Westside Subbasin can continue to locally carry out sustainability efforts.

Each GSP include projects and management actions (mitigations) that are determined necessary to reach sustainability within the boundaries of each of the GSAs and the subbasin as a whole. **These mitigations may require a reduction in groundwater pumping and changes to the current water use practices utilized by residents of those areas.** Fresno County staff will continue working in coordination with the various GSAs to develop strategies and options to achieve the required sustainability goals and will inform the Board of Supervisors, as appropriate, as the strategies and options are finalized.

**Regulations of Other Agencies Supplying Water to Some Districts:**

For CSAs 30, 32, and 49, the County supplies raw water that is purchased from Westlands Water District (Westlands). Westlands experienced drastic reductions in water allocations from the Central Valley Project for the last three years. Those reductions are expected to continue through the next two years. Due to the recurring annual low water allocations, Westlands has imposed strict water use regulations on its customers, including no outdoor watering. Westlands water regulations are expected to continue through the 2024-25 water year.

For CSA 39AB, the County supplies potable water that is purchased from the City of Fresno (City) and is subject to the City's water conservation regulations.

# County Service Area 1

**Recommendation for 2024-25 Water Year: Stage 1 Water Conservation**

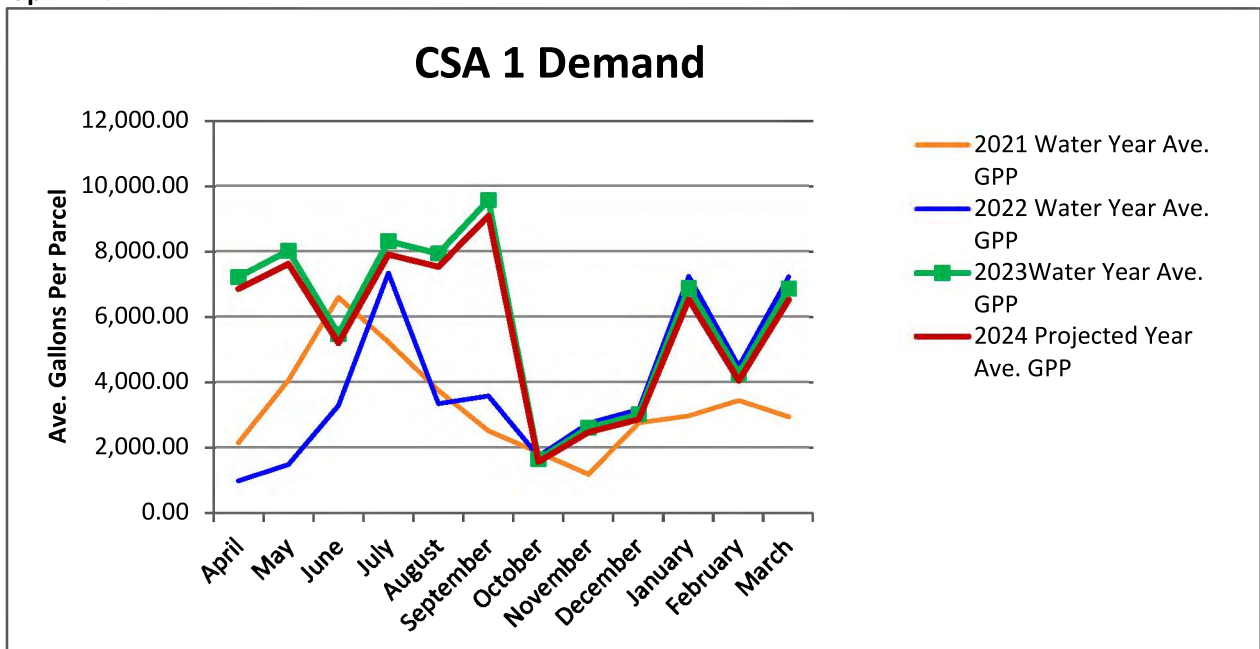
**Implemented Conservation for 2023-24 Water Year: Stage 1 Water Conservation**

**Summary:** County Service Area 1 (CSA 1) provides water to 38 connections in the Tamarack Estates subdivision, located nine miles south of Huntington Lake. At full build-out, CSA 1 will have 45 connections. The median parcel size for the District is 0.23 acre. The number of connections is projected to remain the same for the 2024-25 water year as no building permits have been issued. CSA 1 provides groundwater from two hard rock wells. The high peak usage period for CSA 1 during the 2023-24 water year was in the month of September (illustrated on Graph 1-1). During the high peak usage period, user demand averaged approximately 9,500 gallons per month per parcel. During the 2023-24 water year there were no adverse effects on the system’s ability to provide water for human consumption, sanitation, or fire protection.

The State Water Resources Control Board adopted statewide emergency drought regulations in January 2022 and extended those regulations in December 2022 to be effective until December 2023. On March 24, 2023, Governor Newsom signed Executive Order N-5-23, ordering that State agencies shall continue to implement all directions from prior Proclamations and Orders. State of Emergency Proclamation dated October 19, 2021, paragraph 9, which were restrictions most closely aligned with County of Fresno Water Conservation Ordinance Stage 1, shall continue to be implemented. Staff recommends County of Fresno Water Conservation Ordinance Stage 1 as it most closely compares with the restrictions imposed on water users throughout the state by the statewide emergency drought regulations. Stage 1 would also help CSA 1 to preserve the limited water supply to best serve human consumption, sanitation, and fire protection needs.

For all the reasons stated in this report, staff recommends **Stage 1 Water Conservation for CSA 1 in the 2024-25 water year.**

**Graph 1-1:**



# County Service Area 5

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**Recommendation for 2024-25 Water Year: Stage 1 Water Conservation**

**Implemented Conservation for 2023-24 Water Year: Stage 1 Water Conservation**

**Summary:** County Service Area 5 (CSA 5) provides water to 149 connections located in the subdivision of Wildwood Island. At full build-out, CSA 5 will have 151 connections, which includes two out-of-district users. The median parcel size for the District is 0.50 acre. CSA 5 provides groundwater from two wells. The high peak usage period for CSA 5 during the 2023-24 water year were the months of July and August (illustrated on Graph 5-1). During the high peak usage period, user demand averaged approximately 50,000 gallons per month per parcel. During the 2023-24 water year, there were no adverse effects on the system's ability to provide water for human consumption, sanitation, or fire protection.

CSA 5 is located within the Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency (KREGSA), a Joint Powers Authority responsible for managing groundwater resources within a portion of the Kings Subbasin. State law requires the KREGSA to manage groundwater resources within its boundary in a sustainable manner through the implementation of a groundwater sustainability plan. The aquifer underlying the KREGSA, which is the source of water for CSA 5, is currently in a regional condition of overdraft. This condition has been exacerbated by the current multi-year drought and is expected to remain as such until the hydrologic conditions improve.

The State Water Resources Control Board adopted statewide emergency drought regulations in January 2022 and extended those regulations in December 2022 to be effective until December 2023. On March 24, 2023, Governor Newsom signed Executive Order N-5-23, ordering that State agencies shall continue to implement all directions from prior Proclamations and Orders. State of Emergency Proclamation dated October 19, 2021, paragraph 9, which were restrictions most closely aligned with County of Fresno Water Conservation Ordinance Stage 1, shall continue to be implemented. Staff recommends County of Fresno Water Conservation Ordinance Stage 1 as it most closely compares with the restrictions imposed on water users throughout the state by the statewide emergency drought regulations. Stage 1 would also help CSA 5 to preserve the limited water supply to best serve human consumption, sanitation, and fire protection needs.

For all the reasons stated in this report, staff recommends **Stage 1 Water Conservation for CSA 5 in the 2024-25 water year.**



Graph 5-1:

