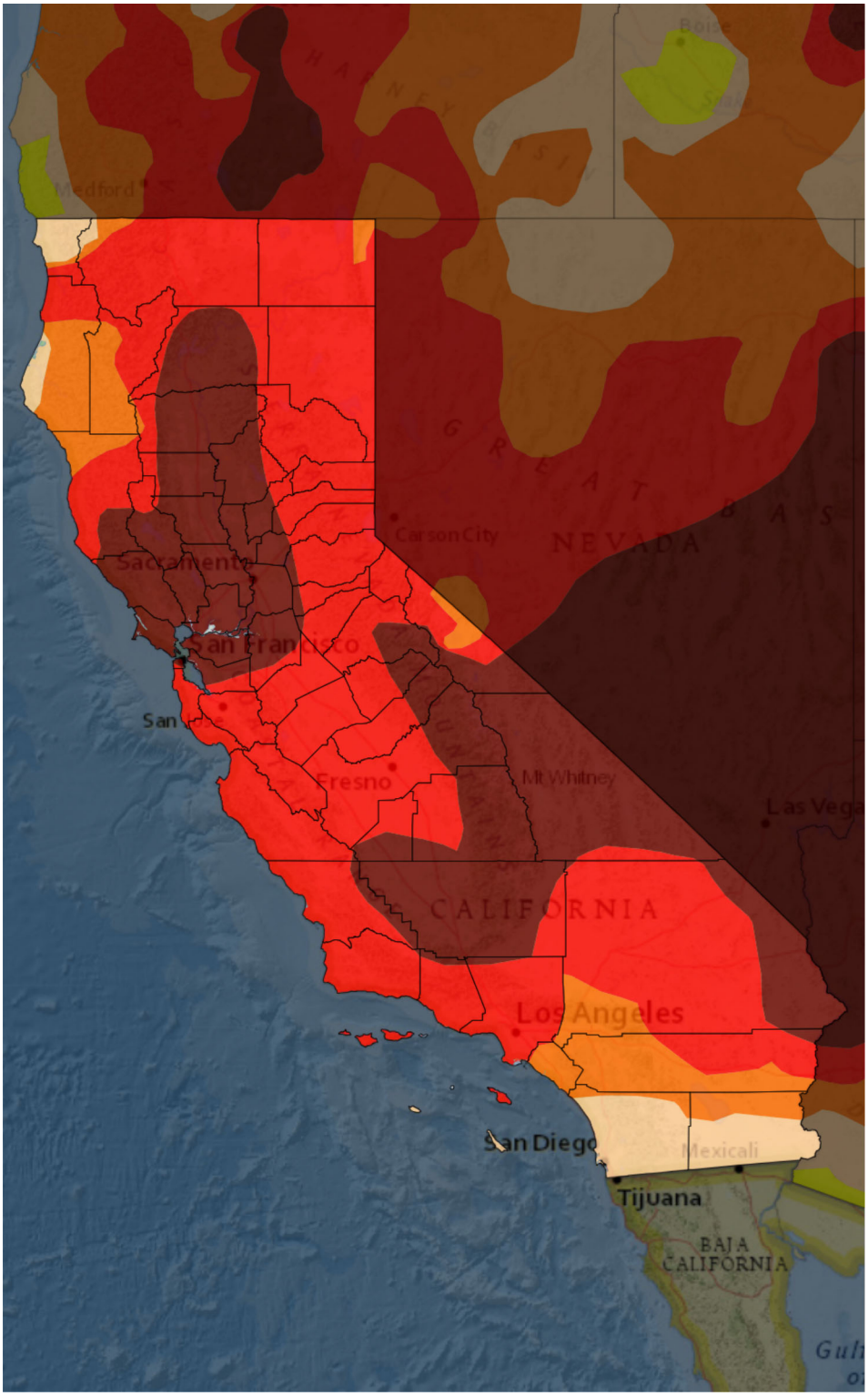
Drought.gov
National Integrated Drought Information System

BY LOCATION | STATES

California

Current U.S. Drought Monitor Conditions for California

Current



The U.S. Drought Monitor(USDM) is updated each Thursday to show the location and intensity of drought across the country. This map shows drought conditions across California using a five-category system, from Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions to Exceptional Drought (D4). The USDM is a joint effort of the National Drought Mitigation Center, USDA, and NOAA. Learn more (/data-maps-tools/us-drought-monitor).

The following state-specific drought impacts were compiled by the National Drought Mitigation Center (https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Data/StateImpacts.aspx). While these impacts are not exhaustive, they can help provide a clearer picture of drought in California.

D0 - Abnormally Dry

- Soil is dry; irrigation delivery begins early
- Dryland crop germination is stunted
- Active fire season begins

100.0%
of CA
(D0–D4)

D1 - Moderate Drought

- Dryland pasture growth is stunted; producers give supplemental feed to cattle
- Landscaping and gardens need irrigation earlier; wildlife patterns begin to change
- Stock ponds and creeks are lower than usual

100.0% of CA (D1–D4)

D2 - Severe Drought

- Grazing land is inadequate
- Fire season is longer, with high burn intensity, dry fuels, and large fire spatial extent
- Trees are stressed; plants increase reproductive mechanisms; wildlife diseases increase

94.8% of CA (D2–D4)

D3 - Extreme Drought

- Livestock need expensive supplemental feed; cattle and horses are sold; little pasture remains; fruit trees bud early; producers begin irrigating in the winter
- Fire season lasts year-round; fires occur in typically wet parts of state; burn bans are implemented
- Water is inadequate for agriculture, wildlife, and urban needs; reservoirs are extremely low; hydropower is restricted

85.4% of CA (D3–D4)

D4 - Exceptional Drought

- Fields are left fallow; orchards are removed; vegetable yields are low; honey harvest is small
- Fire season is very costly; number of fires and area burned are extensive
- Fish rescue and relocation begins; pine beetle infestation occurs; forest mortality is high; wetlands dry up; survival of native plants and animals is low; fewer wildflowers bloom; wildlife death is widespread; algae blooms appear

33.3% of CA (D4)

Source(s): NDMC (/about/partners/national-drought-mitigation-center-ndmc), NOAA (/about/partners/national-oceanic-and-atmospheric-administration-noaa), USDA (/about/partners/us-department-agriculture-usda)

Updates Weekly - 06/15/21

The National Weather Service has issued drought information statements for these locations: Eureka, CA, Hanford, CA, Los Angeles/Oxnard, CA, San Francisco, CA.

Explore Drought Conditions by City and County

View up-to-date drought conditions down to the city and county level, including temperature, and precipitation conditions, key drought indicators, outlooks, historical conditions, and water supply, agriculture, and public health maps.

View Conditions by City:

Enter City or Zip Code

View Conditions by County

Select a County

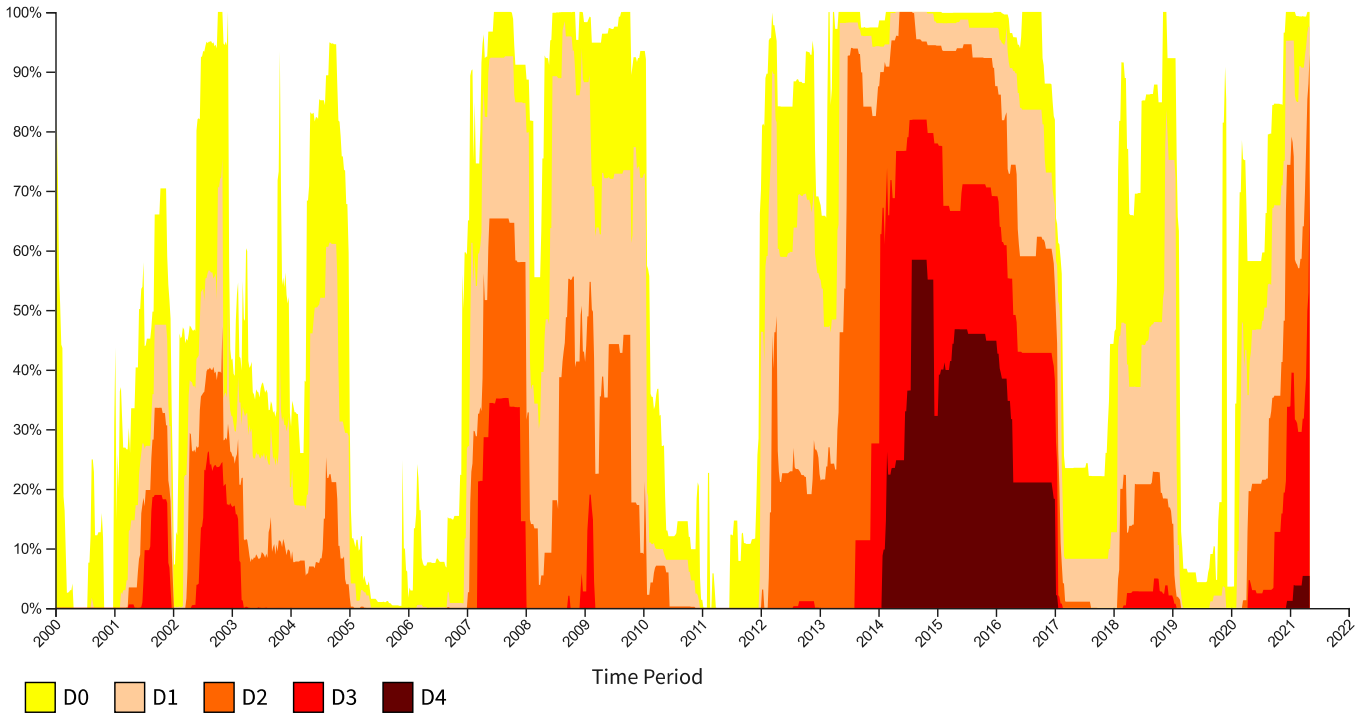
Drought in California from 2000–Present

The U.S. Drought Monitor started in 2000. Since 2000, the longest duration of drought (D1–D4) in California lasted 376 weeks beginning on December 27, 2011, and ending on March 5th, 2019. The most intense period of drought occurred the week of July 29, 2014, where D4 affected 58.41% of California land.

2000 - Present (Weekly) 1895 - Present (Monthly) 0 - 2017 (Yearly)

Explore Historical Drought Maps

The U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) is a national map released every Thursday, showing parts of the U.S. that are currently in drought. The USDM relies on drought experts to synthesize the best available data and work with local observers to interpret the information. The USDM also incorporates ground truthing and information about how drought is affecting people, via a network of more than 450 observers across the country, including state climatologists, National Weather Service staff, Extension agents, and hydrologists. Learn more.



Click or hover on legend boxes to interact with the graph.

Events

Jul 26 2021 — California-Nevada Drought & Climate Outlook Webinar

Sep 27 2021 — California-Nevada Drought & Climate Outlook Webinar

Nov 22 2021 — California-Nevada Drought & Climate Outlook Webinar

Documents

May 2021
Southwest and California Drought Status Update: May 2021

April 2021
Tackling Challenges of a Drier, Hotter, More Fire-Prone Future

March 2021
Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook for the Western Region - March 2021

View all documents ›

Web Resources for California

State-Level Resources

California Data Exchange Center (https://cdec.water.ca.gov/)

California Department of Water Resources (https://water.ca.gov/Water-Basics/Drought)

2010 California Drought Contingency Plan (https://drought.unl.edu/archive/plans/Drought/state/CA_2010.pdf)

California State Climatologist (https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Flood-Management/Flood-Data/Climatology-and-Meteorology)

CoCoRaHS | California (https://www.cocorahs.org/state.aspx?state=ca)

University of California | Rangeland Drought Hub (https://rangelands.ucdavis.edu/drought/)

University of California | Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (https://ucanr.edu/sites/ucanr/News/Drought/Drought_tips/)

NDMC | California Drought Planning Resources (https://drought.unl.edu/droughtplanning/StatePlanning.aspx?st=CA)

USDA Farm Service Agency | California (https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/California/index)

National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office | EKA - Eureka, CA (https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/eka/)

National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office | HNX - San Joaquin Valley/Hanford,CA (https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/hnx/)

National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office | LOX - Los Angeles/Oxnard (https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/lox/)

National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office | MFR - Medford, OR (https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mfr/)

National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office | MTR - San Francisco Bay Area (https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/)

National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office | PSR - Phoenix, AZ (https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/psr/)

National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office | REV - Reno, NV (https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/rev/)

National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office | SGX - San Diego, CA (https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sgx/)

National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office | STO - Sacramento, CA (https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sto/)

National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office | VEF - Las Vegas, NV (https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/vef/)

Regional Partners

Western Regional Climate Center (https://wrcc.dri.edu/)

USDA | California Climate Hub (https://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/hubs/california)

Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (https://www.swcsc.arizona.edu/)

California Nevada Application Program (CNAP, a NOAA RISA team) (https://scripps.ucsd.edu/programs/cnap/)

National Weather Service | California Nevada River Forecast Center (CNRFC) (https://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/)

National Weather Service | Colorado Basin River Forecast Center (CBRFC) (https://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/)

National Weather Service | Western Region Headquarters (https://www.weather.gov/wrh/)