

Emergency Regulation for Urban Water Conservation

Office of Research, Planning, and Performance

January 18, 2017



California Hydrology and Climate Change

- California is a land of extremes

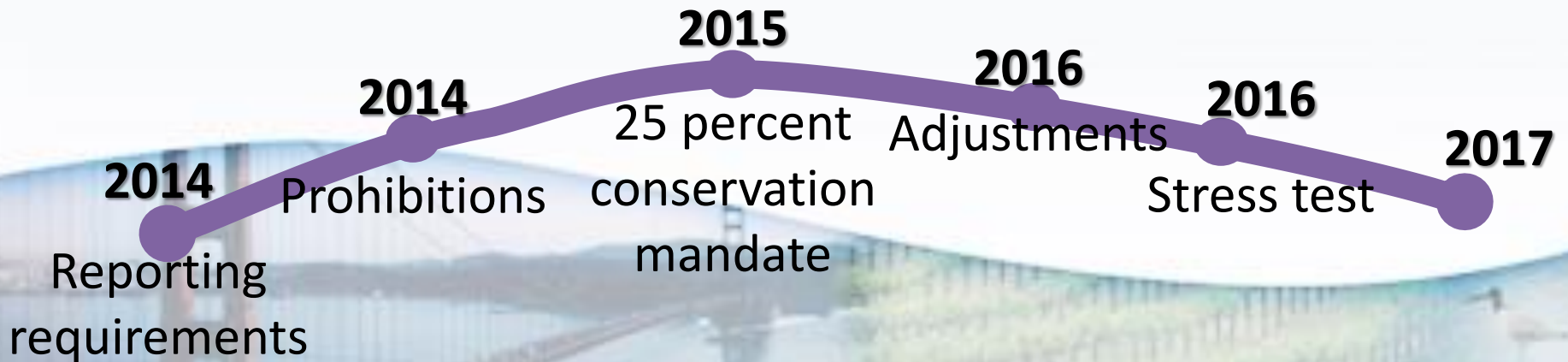


- Climate change is increasing these extremes
- We are up to the challenge:
 - Water Action Plan
 - AB 32 Scoping Plan
 - Safeguarding California



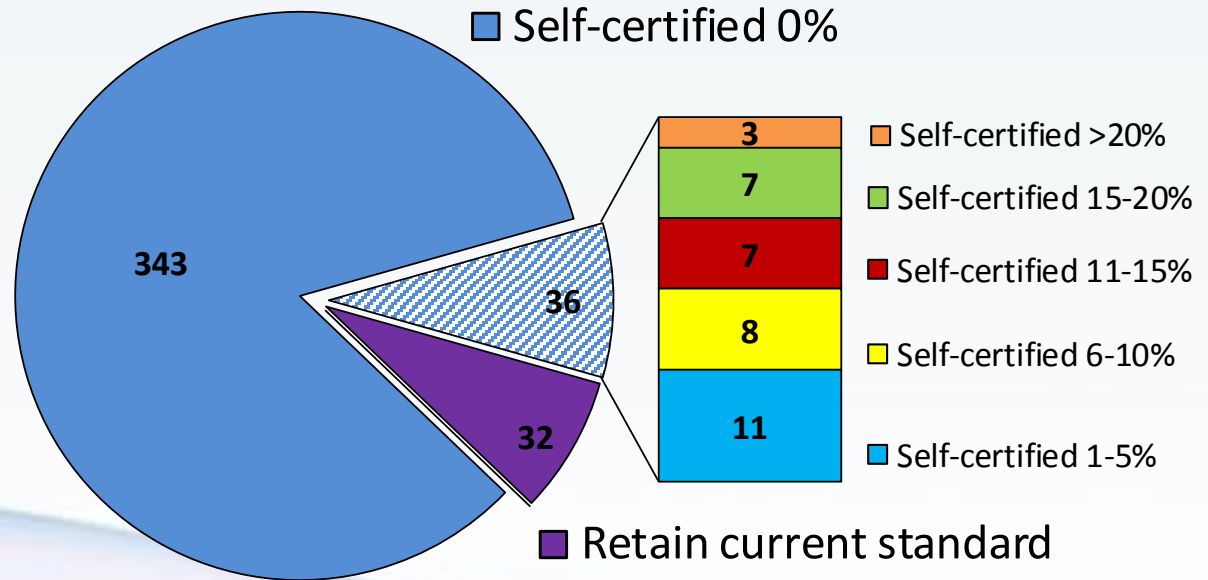
Drought Response

- Multiple actions, including:
 - Emergency drinking water assistance
 - Fire response
 - System operations
 - Emergency conservation regulations
- Emergency conservation regulations have adapted to changing conditions



May 2016 Emergency Regulation

- Conservation standards based on supply reliability
 - “Stress test” under additional three years of drought
 - Option to maintain state-mandated conservation standard

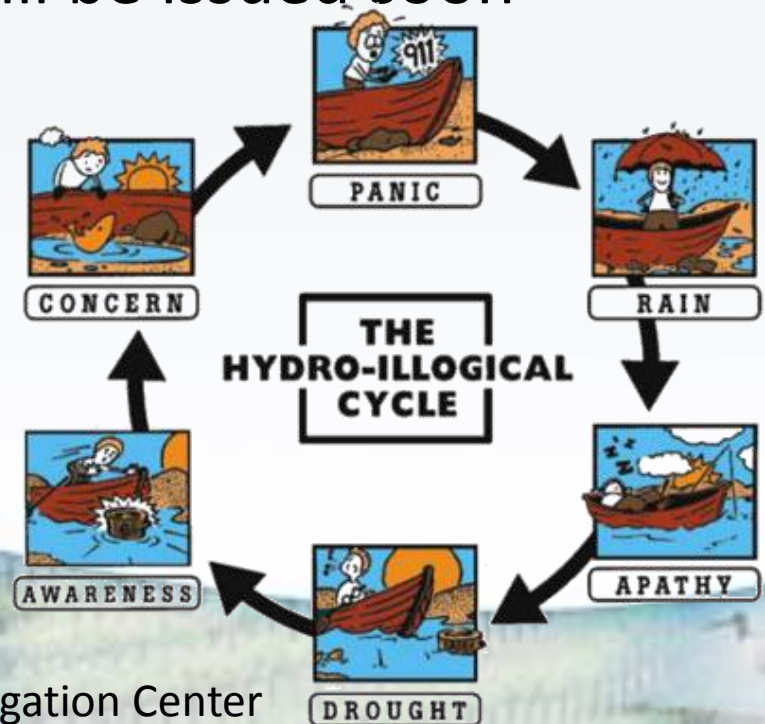


- Expires in February 2017

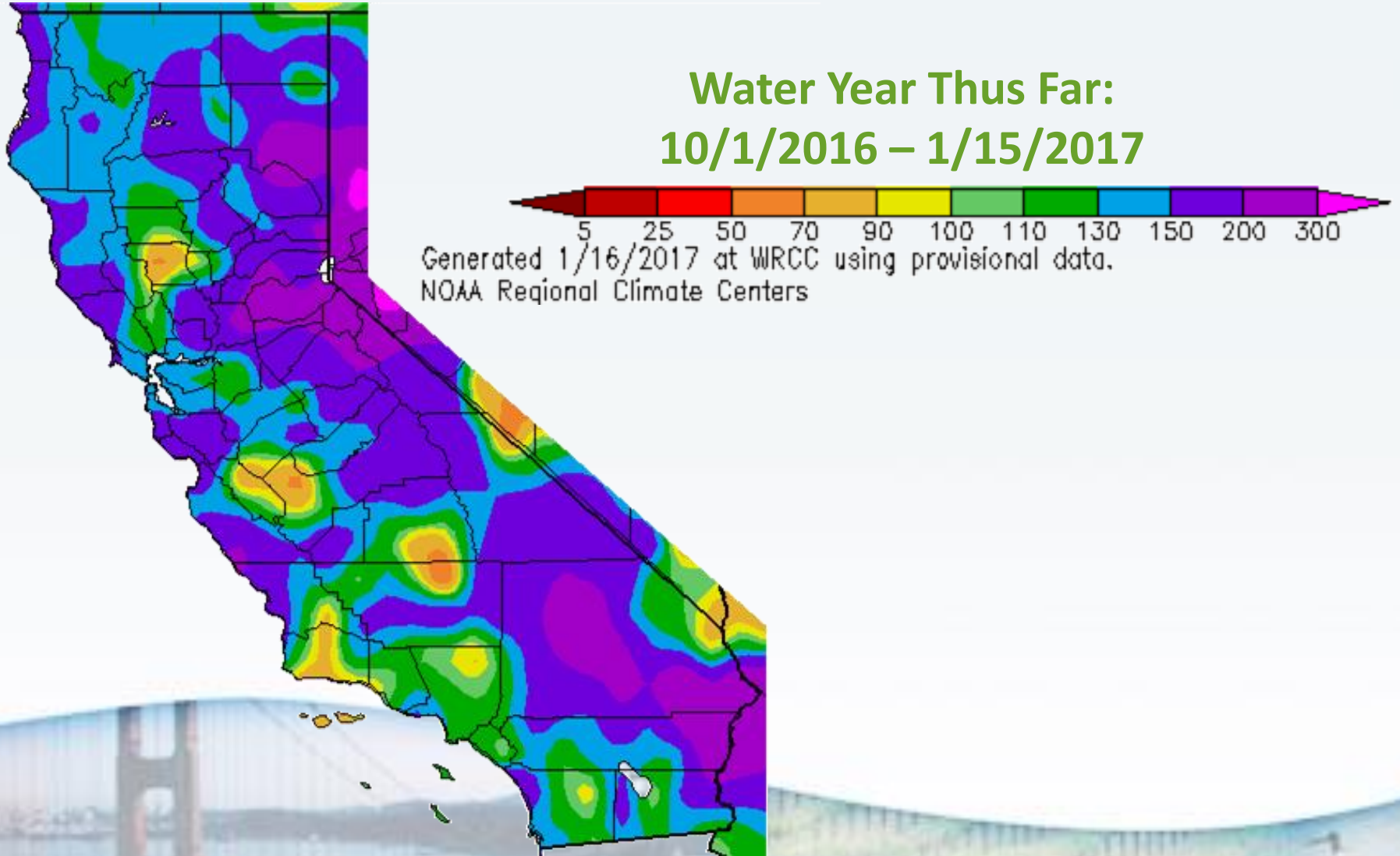
Making Conservation a California Way of Life

- Governor's Executive Orders in 2015 and 2016
 - EO B-37-16 establishes long-term conservation goals and improves drought planning
 - Implementation report will be issued soon

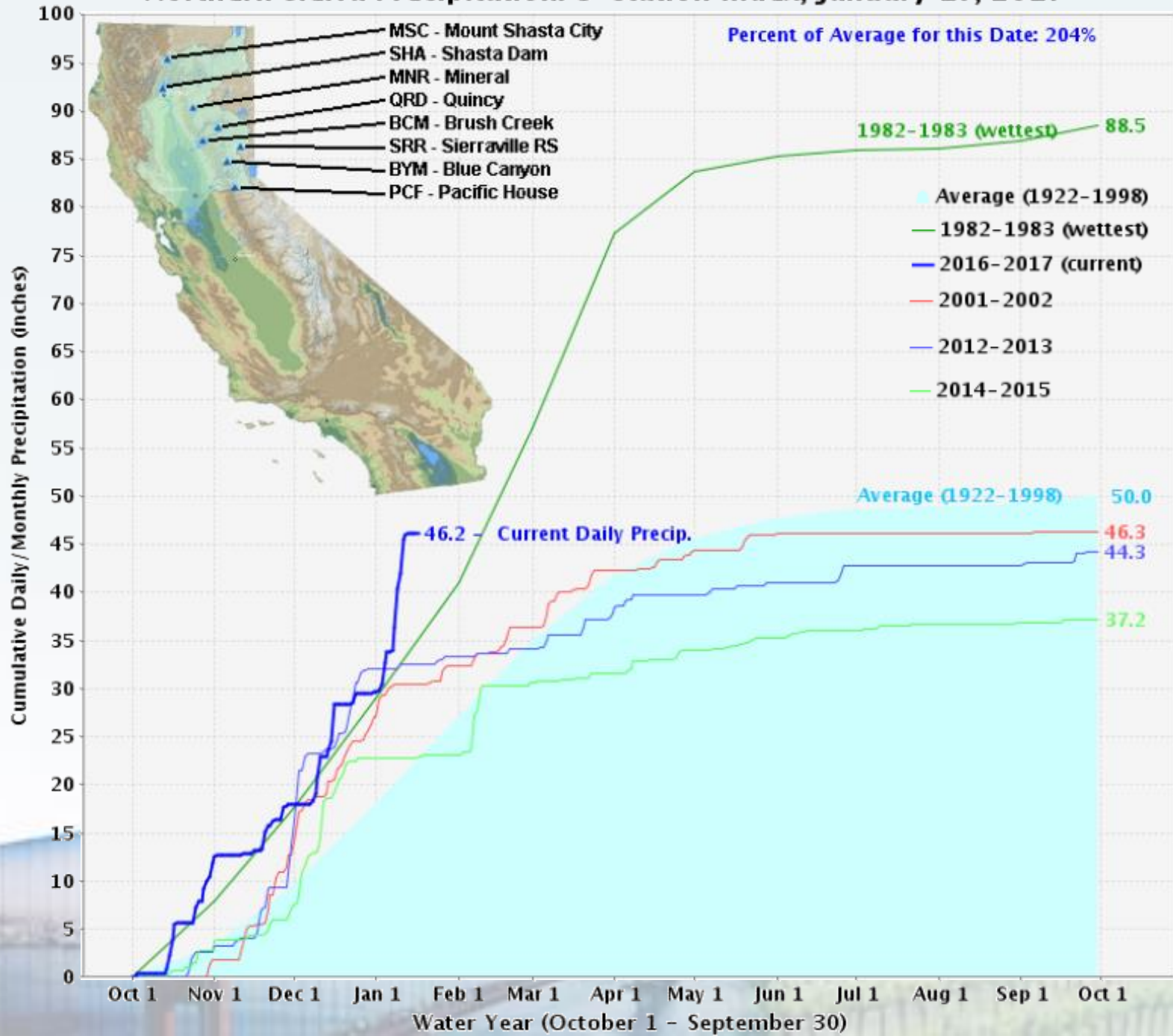
- Breaking the reactive cycle



Percent of Average Precipitation



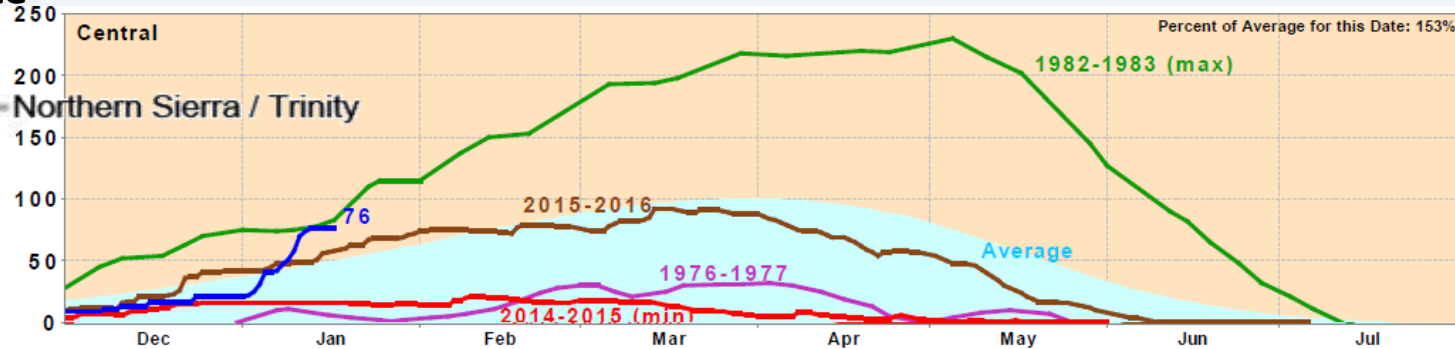
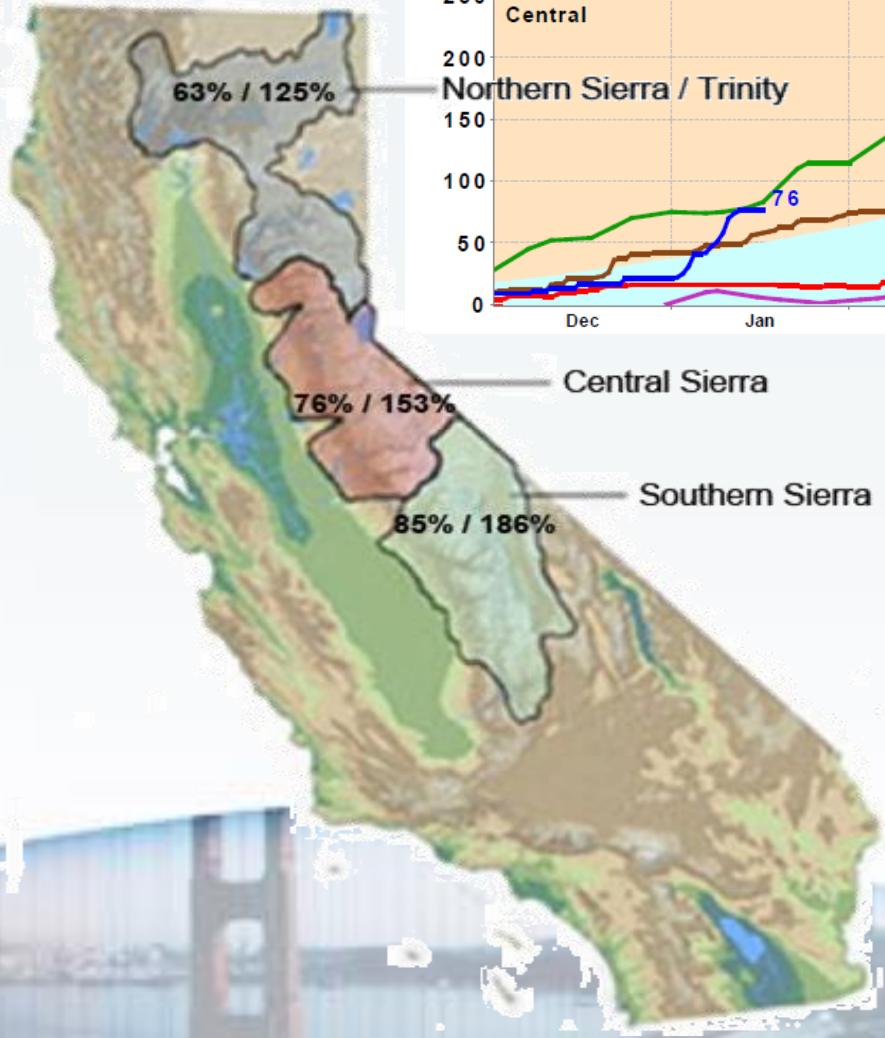
Northern Sierra Precipitation: 8-Station Index, January 17, 2017



Regional Snowpack

(January 17, 2017)

% April 1st Average /
% Average for the Date

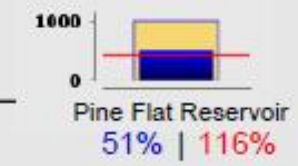
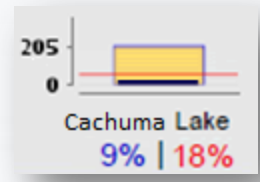
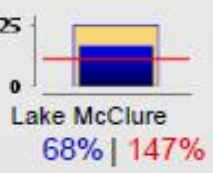
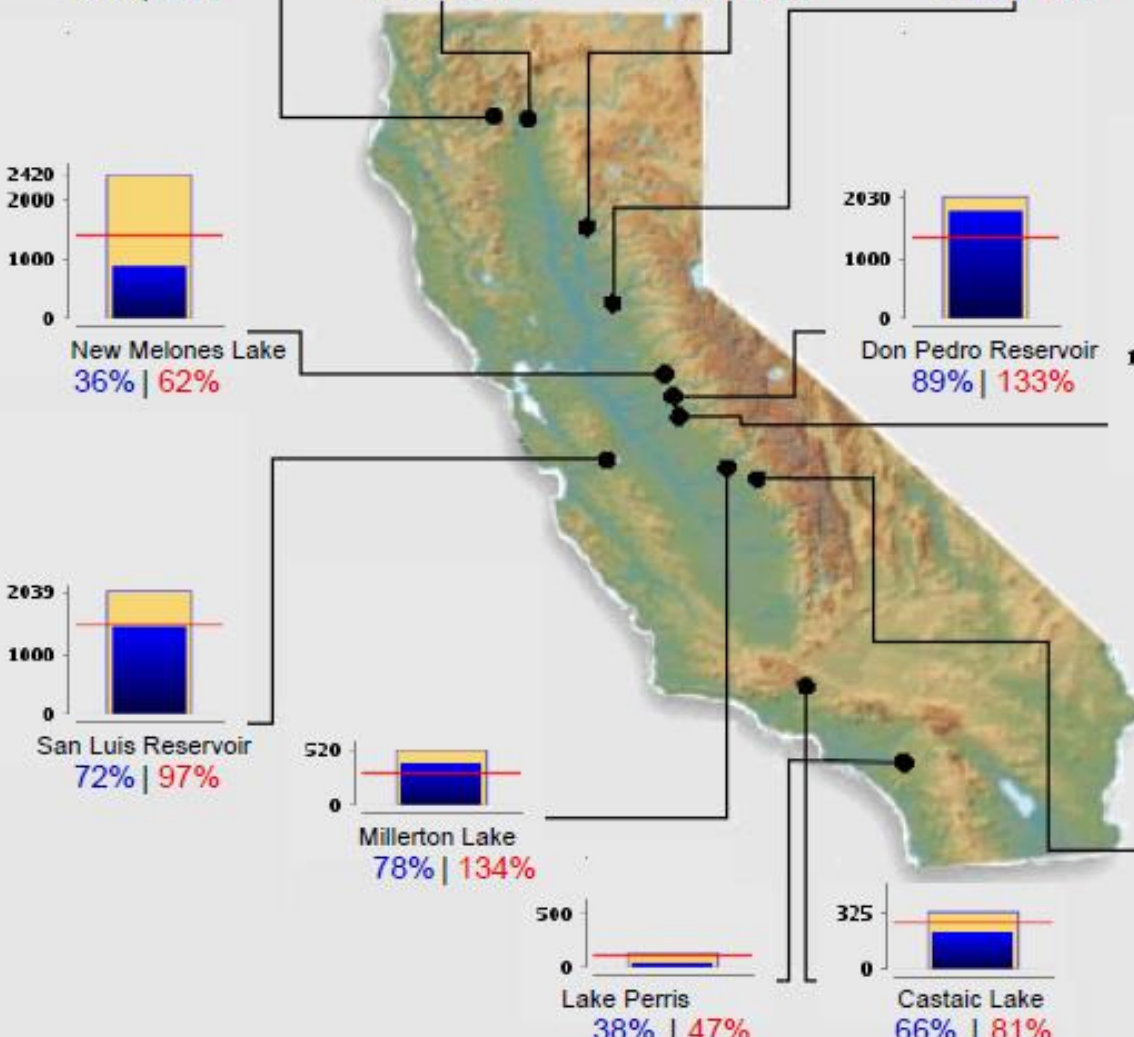
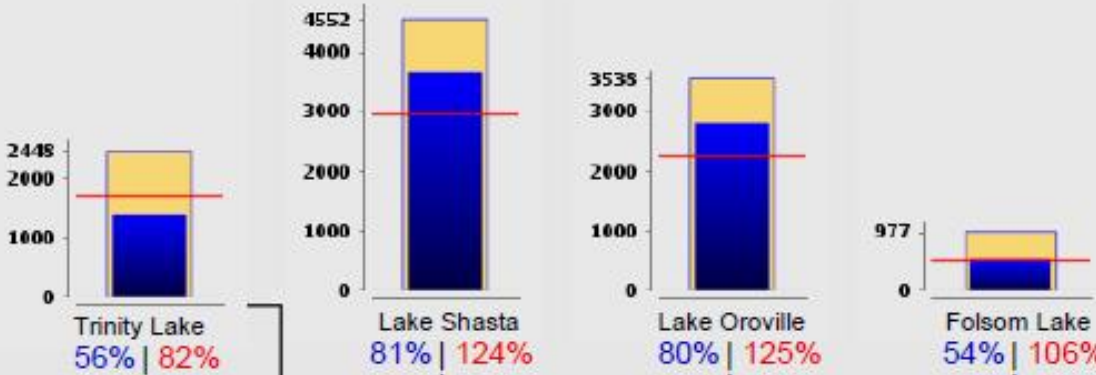
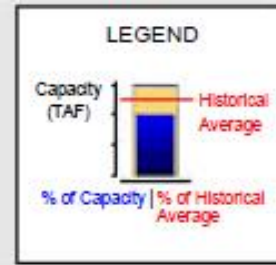


STATE	
Data as of January 17, 2017	
Number of Stations Reporting	104
Average snow water equivalent (Inches)	20.9
Percent of April 1 Average (%)	75
Percent of normal for this date (%)	154

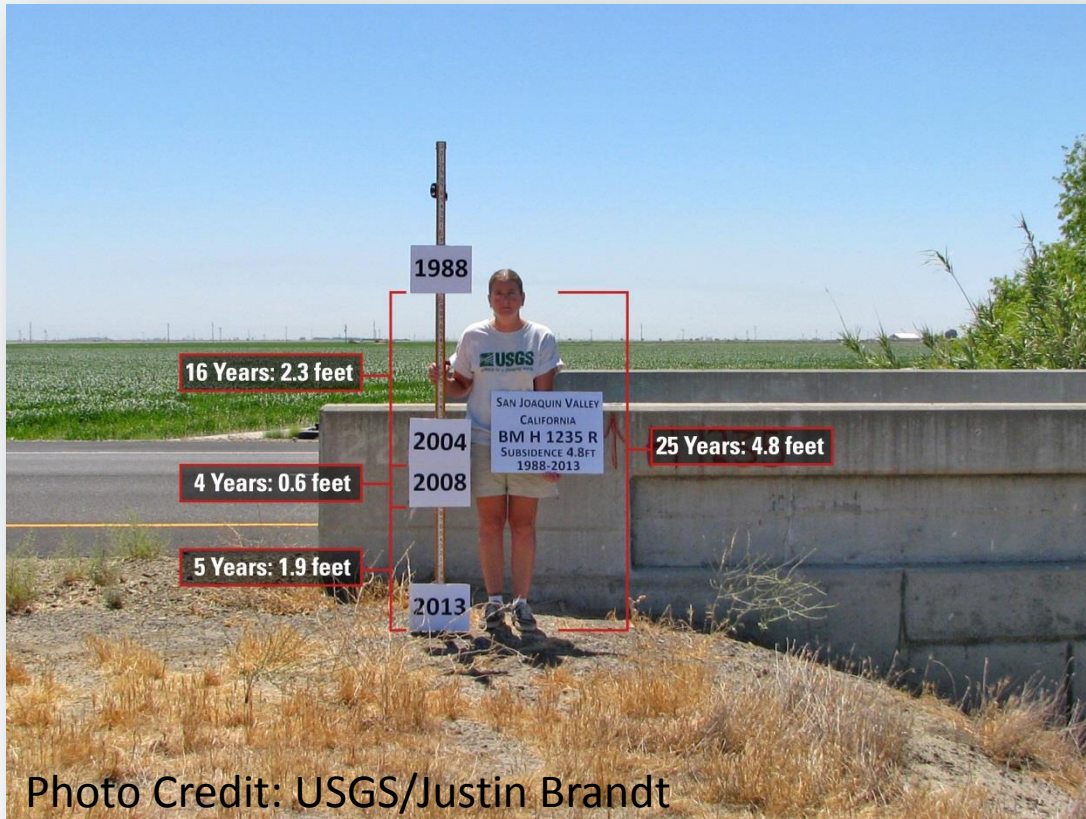
Data source: cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecapp/snowapp/sweq.action

Reservoir Storage

(As of January 17, 2017)



Groundwater



- Groundwater levels will take time to recover
- Regions that have pumped more groundwater than is replenished have work to do

Workshop Questions

- What elements of the existing May 2016 Emergency Regulation, if any, should be modified and how so?
- How should the State Water Board account for regional differences in precipitation and lingering drought impacts differently than under current regulation?
- How to build off the mandatory 25 percent reduction and lessons learned? Demand-based conservation standards? Set a conservation floor, individually or cumulatively?



Staff Recommendation

- Extend current regulation with an opportunity to update 'stress test' in response to changing conditions
- Next Steps:
 - Review workshop and public comments
 - Release draft regulatory language
 - State Water Board adoption hearing – Feb 7

