water tracker
REPORT | SANTA CLARA COUNTY

April 2009

The Water Tracker is a monthly report that monitors water supply trends and conditions, water use, and conservation.

Water Supply Outlook

While the storms in late February and early March helped our local reservoirs and Sierra snowpack, little rain or snow has fallen since then. With the rainiest months behind us, 2009 is likely to be yet another below-average rain year. With dire conditions statewide, the state and federal water projects are expected to deliver only one third of Santa Clara County's full contract amounts.

To make up for shortfalls, the Santa Clara Valley Water District will have to draw on reserves from the groundwater subbasins, local reservoirs, and water banked outside the county.

Recognizing the severity of the current drought, the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors declared a water shortage alert and called for 15 percent mandatory water conservation for the remainder of 2009. With this action, local governments and water providers will be implementing more stringent water conservation plans and measures over the next few weeks. Consumers should look to their water provider for guidance on how this declaration will be implemented in their service area.

As supplies become less reliable, it becomes increasingly important for everyone to use water wisely. In May, the water district will launch an expanded media campaign to urge consumers to conserve water. The district offers more than 20 programs and services to help residents, businesses and agricultural water users conserve water.

Countywide water use is down **8.5 percent** compared to 2004 base year water use and adjusted for population.

Key Indicators

LOCAL RAINFALL

From July 1* to March 31, downtown San Jose rainfall was 9.8 inches, **76 percent** of historic average for this period. It is too early in the season to predict local rainfall conditions for 2009; however, with the three main rainfall months behind us, January-March 2009 total rainfall was only 7 percent higher than the total rainfall received in January-March of last year.

*The local rainfall season begins July 1 similar to the fiscal year cycle.

Continued…

Contact Us

For questions, contact **Tracy Ligon**, Senior Project Manager, at **(408) 265-2607, ext. 2569.**

Santa Clara Valley Water District

STATEWIDE CONDITIONS AND IMPORTED WATER SUPPLIES

With Lake Oroville leading the recovery, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) reports improvement in supplies from last month for the reservoirs below. Nevertheless, DWR reports an average of 10 percent **less** reservoir water storage than a year ago to date and statewide snowpack water content of 81 percent of average.

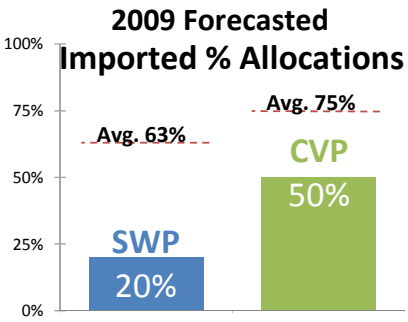
Change in reservoir storage as March 31, 2009	% of 1 yr ago	% of Avg.
Lake Shasta	-4%	79%
Lake Oroville	+16%	74%
New Melones	-13%	87%
San Luis	-40%	55%

Snowpack* water content, percent of average, as of April 1, 2009	
Northern	87%
Central Sierra	80%
Southern	77%
Statewide	**81%**

*Results from fourth snow survey (with one remaining for the season)

Feb.3, 2009 – Lake Oroville (South Fork of Feather River)

DWR reports current cumulative rainfall for the Northen Sierra (8-station Index) now exceeds that of last year's total for the year; however, this is only 88 percent of historical average rainfall as of March 31, 2009 (http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/current/PLOT_ESI.pdf).



The preliminary forecast for the 2009 State Water Project (SWP) allocation moved up slightly to **20 percent** or 20,000 acre-feet (AF). The federal Central Valley Project (CVP) allocations remain at **50 percent** for municipal and industrial contractors and **0 percent** for South of Delta agricultural service contractors. Typically, allocations are updated and adjusted on a monthly basis through the winter and early spring months. Staff is currently developing options for supplemental imported water supplies, including transfer water from the governor's Drought Water Bank. The statewide demand for the bank's limited water is expected to be high in 2009, resulting in high prices and diminished supplies available to the district.

LOCAL RESERVES

Local reserves trended downward by 34,600 AF from January 2008 to January 2009. According to the district's 2005 Urban Water Management Plan, when local groundwater storage falls to between 270,000 and 320,000 AF, the shortage response guidelines call for at least 50,000 AF of actions. The district can take a number of different actions to make up for the shortfall. This spring, the district called for 15 percent mandatory conservation (which could save approximately 60,000 AF) and still plans to bring in 10,000 AF from the Semitropic Banking program account to augment supplies.

Current Storage (AF)	January 2009	January 2008
Groundwater storage	284,200	308,200
Surface water storage*	75,430	86,030
Total	**359,630**	**394,230**

*Local reserves were managed to maintain higher levels than normal to buffer against the San Luis Reservoir low-point condition and for more secure carryover storage in case of a dry year in 2009.

SEMITROPIC BANKING PROGRAM

The district had no activity in the Semitropic Banking Program for the month of January 2009.

Current Storage (AF)	January 2009	January 2008	% Change
Semitropic Banking Program*	**261,500**	**265,530**	**-1.5%**

*In a critical dry year, only 31,500 AF of water is available for use from the Semitropic Banking Program.

Preliminary Water Balance Summary January 2009

This table shows the inflows and outflows of water in Santa Clara County.

Month-to-Month Santa Clara County Current Water Supply and Use (AF) as of the End of January 2009

		Water Type	January 2009
SUPPLY	Imports	Central Valley Project	12,310
		State Water Project	400
		Hetch-Hetchy	3,570
	Local	SCVWD Supplies*	1,680
		San Jose Water Company Surface Water	20
		Recycled Water*	890
	Totals		**18,870**
USE		SCVWD Treated Water	7,210
		Groundwater Pumped**	8,420
		Surface Water Irrigation	190
		Recycled Water*	890
		Hetch-Hetchy	3,570
		San Jose Water Company Surface Water	20
	Totals		**20,300**

CHANGE	Reservoir Storage	-1,030
	Groundwater Storage*	-400
	Totals	**-1,430**

Notes:

1. * Estimated.
2. ** Data provided by retailers, and Santa Clara Valley Water District estimates for other groundwater pumped.
3. Negative storage values mean storage is declining.
4. SFPUC, SJWC, and recycled water are both a use and supply.
5. Updates will follow in subsequent monthly reports as verified data becomes available.
6. Figures rounded to the nearest 10 AF.
7. State Water Project includes Semitropic, carry-over, transfers, etc.

RETAILER WATER SAVINGS SUMMARY

This table shows the year-to-date percent savings achieved in water demand reduction as of the end of January 2009 per retailer service area. The savings are relative to calendar year 2004 water demands and adjusted for population factors.

Percent Water Savings* thru January 2009

Retailer	January 2009 Percent Savings
Palo Alto	19.0%
Milpitas	8.5%
Mountain View	3.5%
Sunnyvale	N/A
City of Santa Clara	16.0%
Morgan Hill	-5.5%
Gilroy	-6.0%
San Jose Water Company	7.0%
San José Municipal Water	12.5%
Stanford University	N/A
Purissima Hills Water District	-4.0%
Great Oaks Water Company	2.0%
California Water Service Company	7.0%
Total county savings	**8.5%**

*Contributing data sources to the above table include records from retailers, US Census, Santa Clara Valley Water District, and Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency. N/A = Not Available. Negative values reflect net increase water use rather than reductions.