

# State Water Board Updates

## *Sonoma Water Drought Town Hall*

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Division of Water Rights



March 10, 2022

# Drought Proclamation

- April 21, 2021 – Governor Newsom declared a regional drought emergency for the Russian River watershed due to the acutely dry conditions within Mendocino and Sonoma Counties.
- “Modifying requirements for reservoir releases or diversion limitations in that watershed to ensure adequate, minimal water supplies for critical purposes.”
- “Adopting emergency regulations to curtail water diversions when water is not available at water rights holders’ priority of right or to protect releases of stored water.”

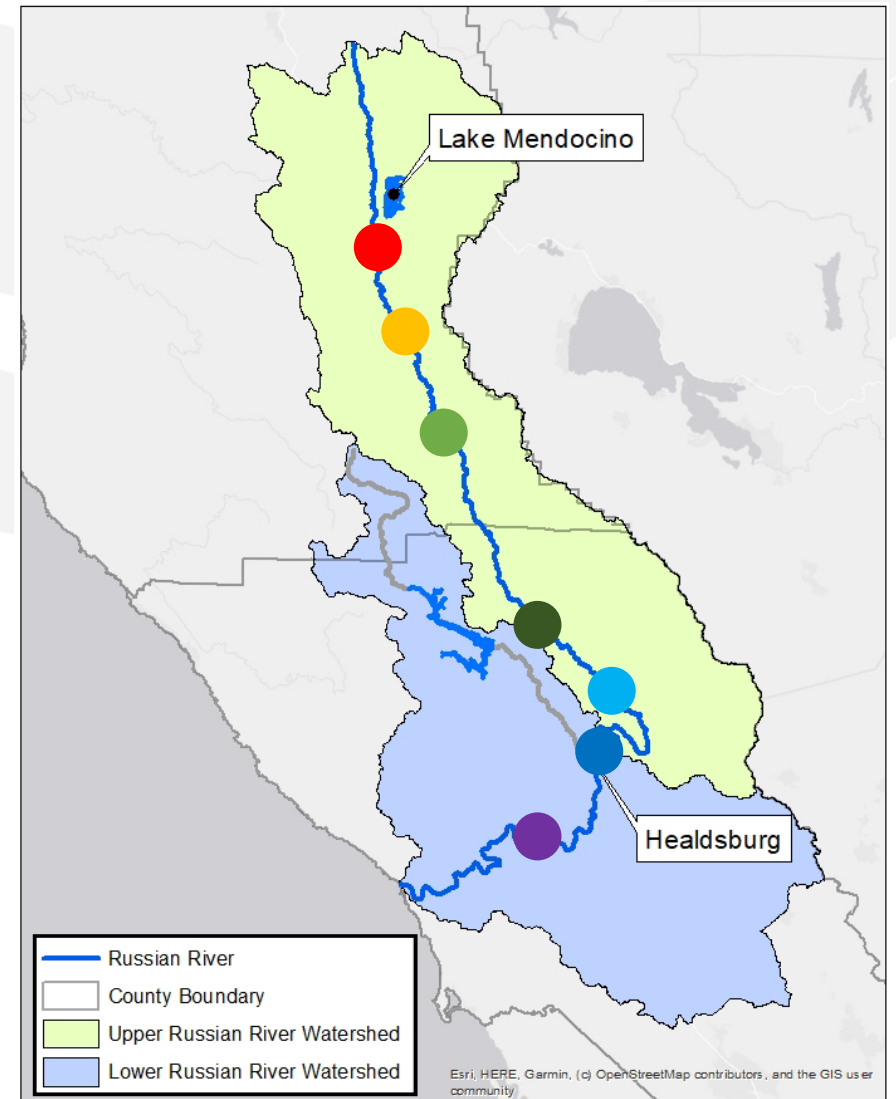


# Summary of Russian River Activities

- Modified reservoir release requirements via orders issued June 14, 2021 and December 10, 2021
- Board adopted emergency regulation on June 15
- Curtailment orders issued in early August once triggers reached
- Curtailments temporarily suspended starting October 23
- Staff continue to monitor conditions – curtailments likely to resume in April

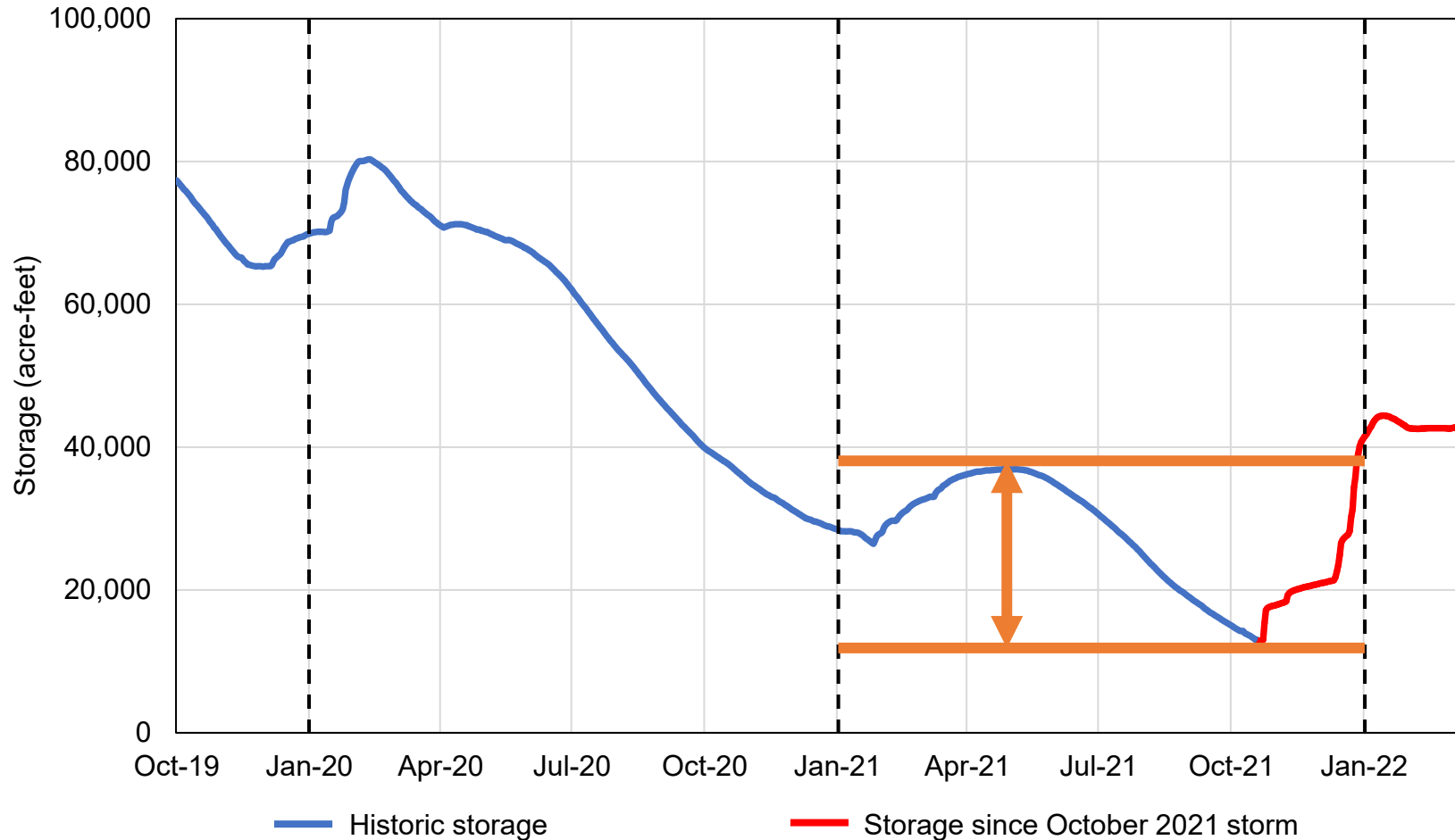
# Russian River Flows

	8/2/2021 Flow (cfs)	3/8/2022 Flow (cfs)
● Talmage	90	<b>69</b>
● Hopland	81	<b>59</b>
● Cloverdale	71	<b>90</b>
● Geyserville	51	<b>116</b>
● Jimtown	39	<b>119</b>
● Healdsburg	27	<b>118</b>
● Hacienda Bridge	42	<b>211</b>



# Lake Mendocino Storage

October 2019 to March 2022



Flows as of 3/9/2022

*Calpella Flow*

56 cfs

*Lake Mendocino Outflow*

31 cfs

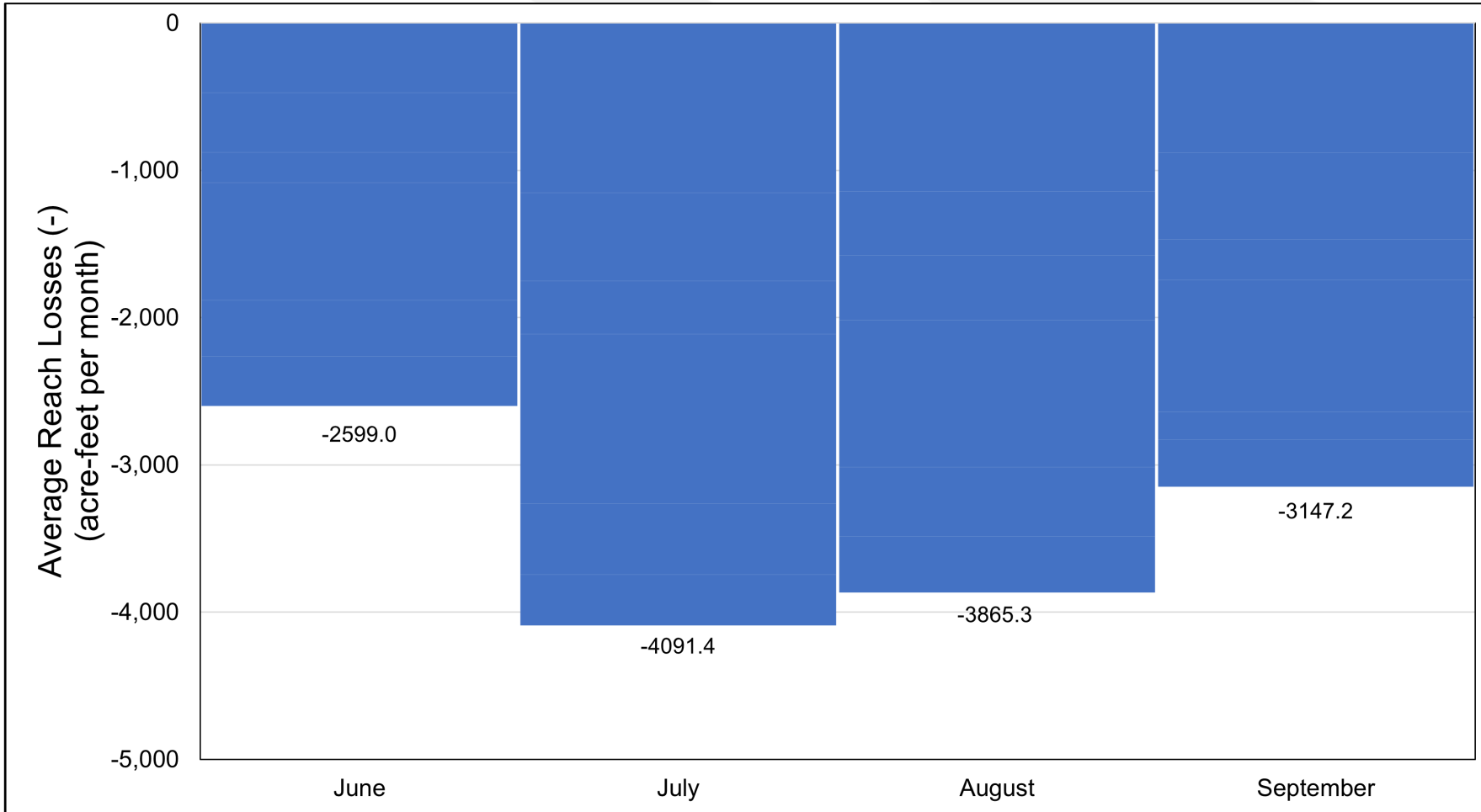
*Healdsburg Flow*

108 cfs

*Lake Mendocino Storage*

42,891 acre-feet

# Losses along the Upper River



Significant reach losses, even after curtailing all surface water diverters in the Upper Russian

Evaporation is part of issue, but the majority is lost to groundwater

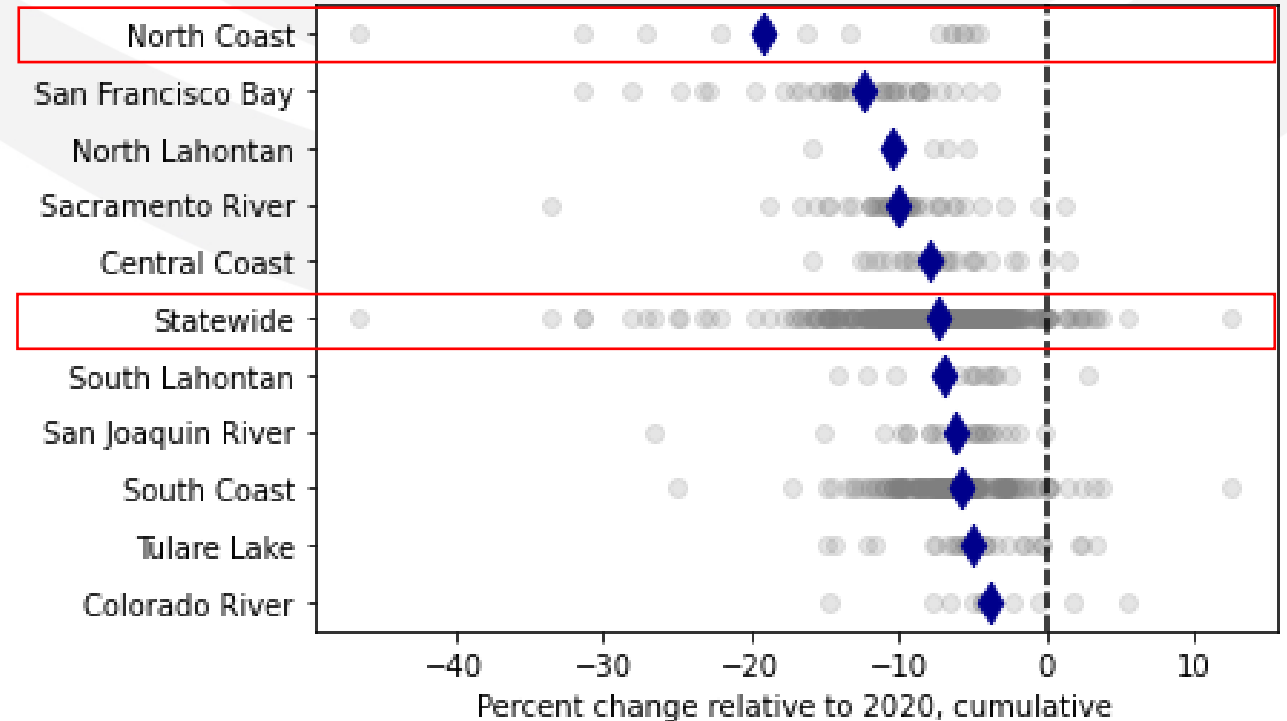
# Looking ahead...

- Staff preparing revised regulation
- Draft will propose:
  - Refining supply v. demand analysis
  - Including wells nears the mainstem
  - Protecting flows added to creeks for fish
  - Option for local agreement
- Potential May 10 re-adoption of curtailment regulation
- Preliminary forecasts indicate zero natural flow this summer



# Need to continue conservation

- As of December 2021, North Coast region had saved a cumulative 19% relative to 2020
  - Biggest savings in Healdsburg (46%), Cloverdale (31%), Windsor (27%) and Santa Rosa (22%)
  - Statewide average was 7.4% savings from July to December





# Emergency Conservation Regulation

## **Wasteful water uses now prohibited statewide**

- Turn off decorative water fountains
- Turn off your irrigation system when it's raining & 2 days after rain
- Use an automatic shutoff nozzle on your water hose
- Use a broom, not water, to clean sidewalks and driveways
- Give trees just what they need: avoid overwatering

## **For more information:**

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/conservation\\_portal/regs/emergency\\_regulation.html](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/regs/emergency_regulation.html)

# State Water Board Information Resources

- [Russian River Drought Website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/russian_river/)
  - [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/russian\\_river/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/russian_river/)
- [Subscribe to the Russian River Drought Email List or Contact Us](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/russian_river/#stay_informed)
  - [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/russian\\_river/#stay\\_informed](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/russian_river/#stay_informed)
- [Check your Curtailment Status](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/russian_river/#tableau)
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