



*To advance the economic, social and environmental sustainability of Northern California
by enhancing and preserving the water rights, supplies and water quality.*

DRY YEAR CHALLENGES IN CALIFORNIA

January 2014

As we are now seeing throughout the state, 2013 was the driest year on record for California. The convergence of low carryover storage in reservoirs and the minimal inflow into these reservoirs has water resources managers in the Sacramento Valley concerned with their ability to serve water for cities and rural communities, farms, birds, fish and recreation. Unfortunately, dry years seem to be challenging California's water supplies on a more frequent basis.

Almost a year ago, the water leaders in the Sacramento Valley convened in Richvale to evaluate the current challenges facing our water supplies and to plan for the dry year we are currently experiencing. While the impact of the dry year is significant, the actions of water management professionals at the local and state level, as well as considerable efficient water management investments that have been implemented over the past couple of decades, are helping us as we face another dry year.

The attached documents, which were developed this past summer, describe how water resources managers in the Sacramento Valley are working on a collaborative, regional effort to address the dry conditions in the Sacramento Valley and throughout the state. As you will see, we are committed to meet the water supply needs in the Sacramento Valley for cities and rural communities, farms, birds, fish and recreation; while, to the extent possible, also helping to meet water supply needs in other parts of the state suffering from shortages.

Please call David Guy or Todd Manley at (916) 442-8333 if you have any questions. More details are available in the drought planning assessment section of the website (direct link... <http://www.norcalwater.org/efficient-water-management/drought-assessment-planning/>).