



# Update on Water Surplus and Drought Management

Water Planning and Stewardship Committee

Item 6a

November 8, 2021

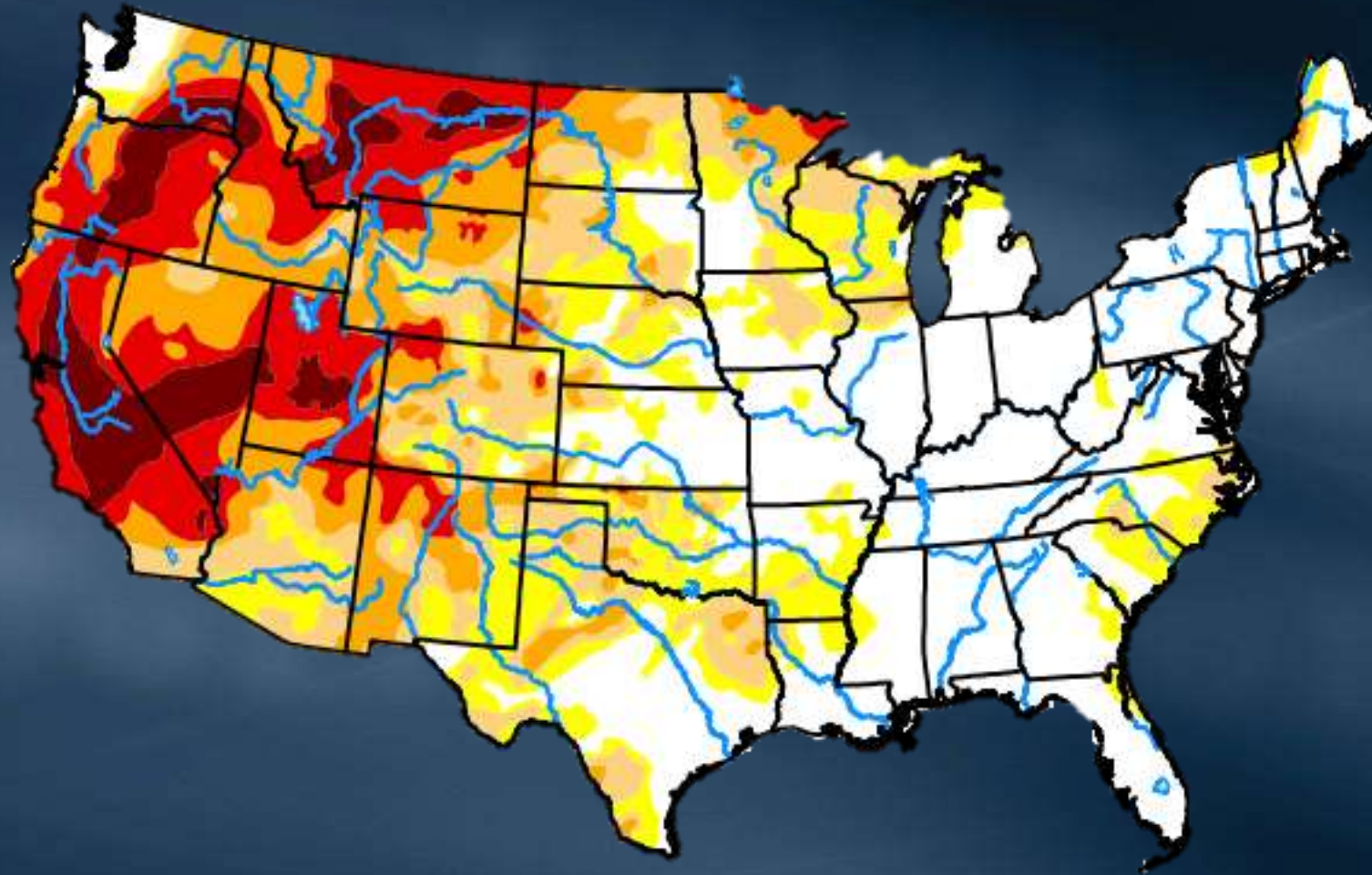
# Outline

- Current Conditions
- Outlook for 2022

# Governor Newsom Expands Drought Emergency to Include All of California

- Urges Californians to step up their water conservation efforts
- Enables Water Board to ban wasteful water practices like using potable water for:
  - Washing sidewalks
  - Irrigating turf during and within 48 hours after rainfall
  - Filling or topping-off fountains, lakes, or ponds
- Directs local water suppliers to execute their water shortage contingency plans at a level appropriate to local conditions that take into account the possibility of a third consecutive dry year

# The Western U.S. Remains Stuck in Drought



## Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

## Author:

Richard Heim  
NCEI/NOAA



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

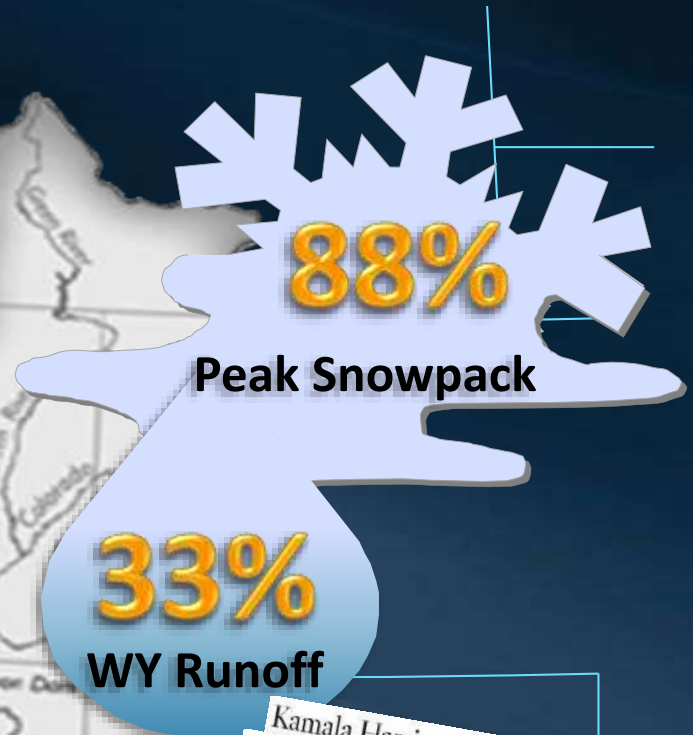
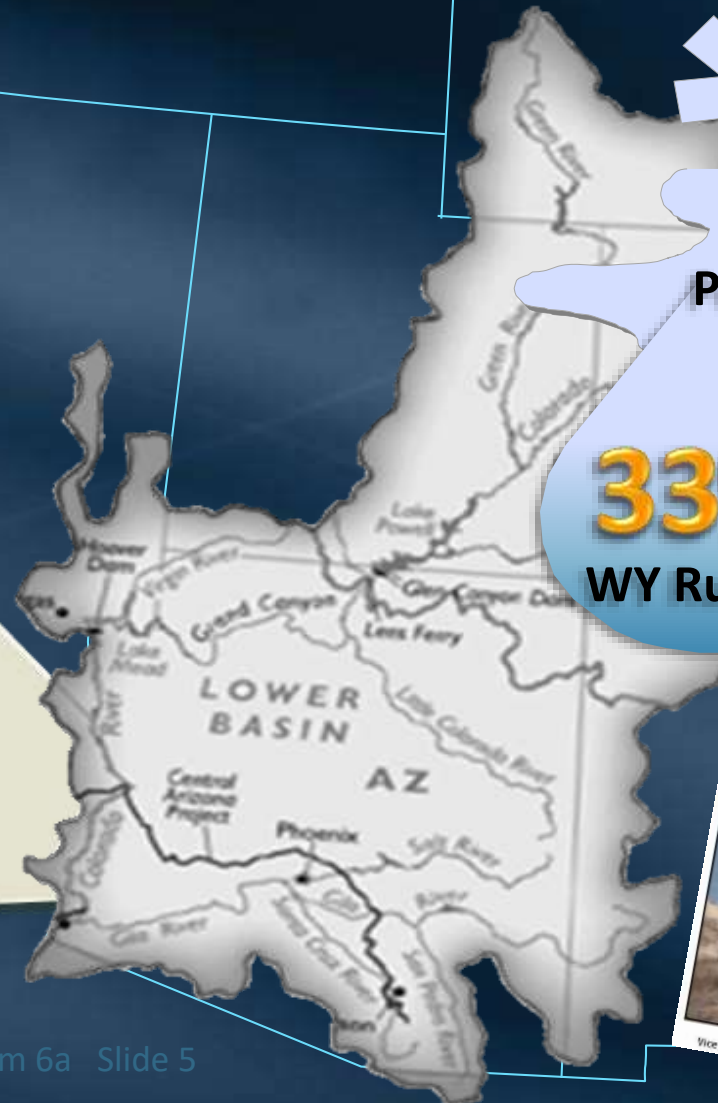
**November 2, 2021**

*(Released Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021)*

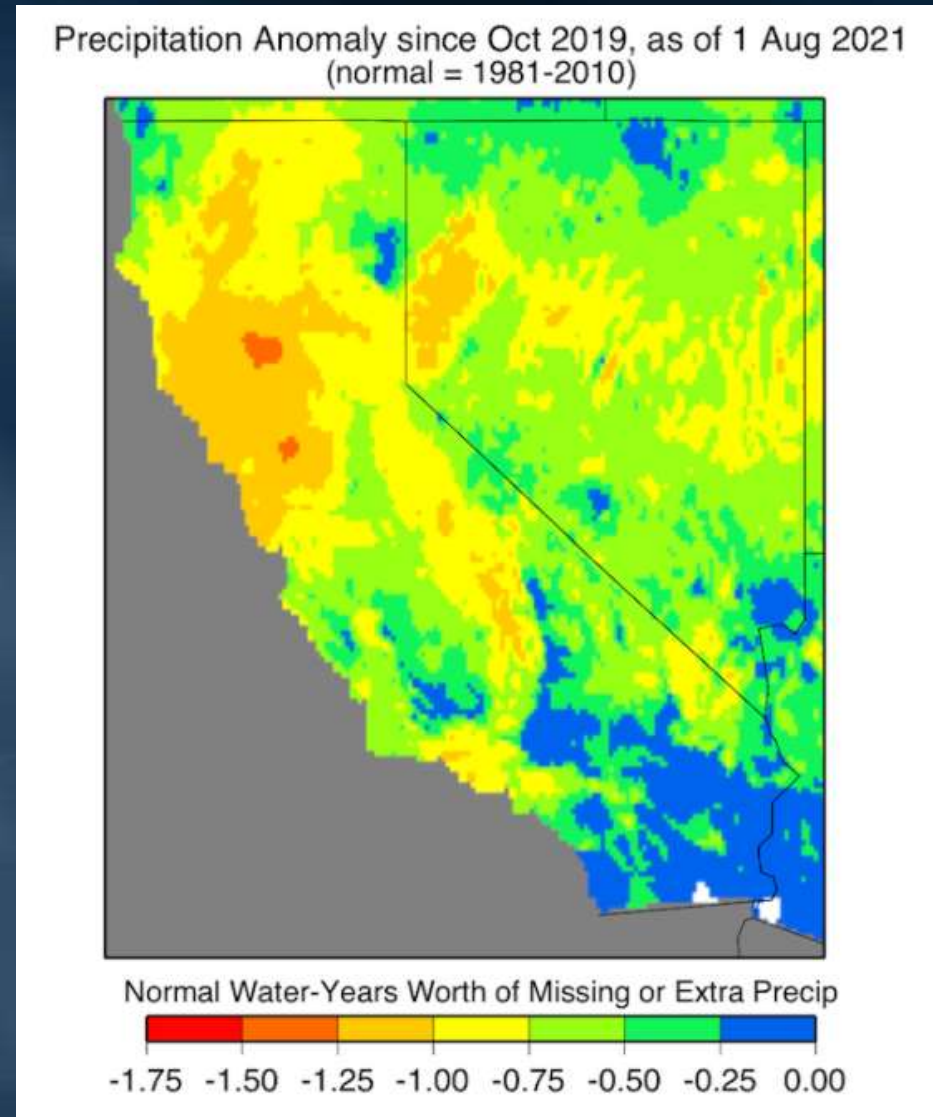
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



# Hot and Dry Shrank the Runoff



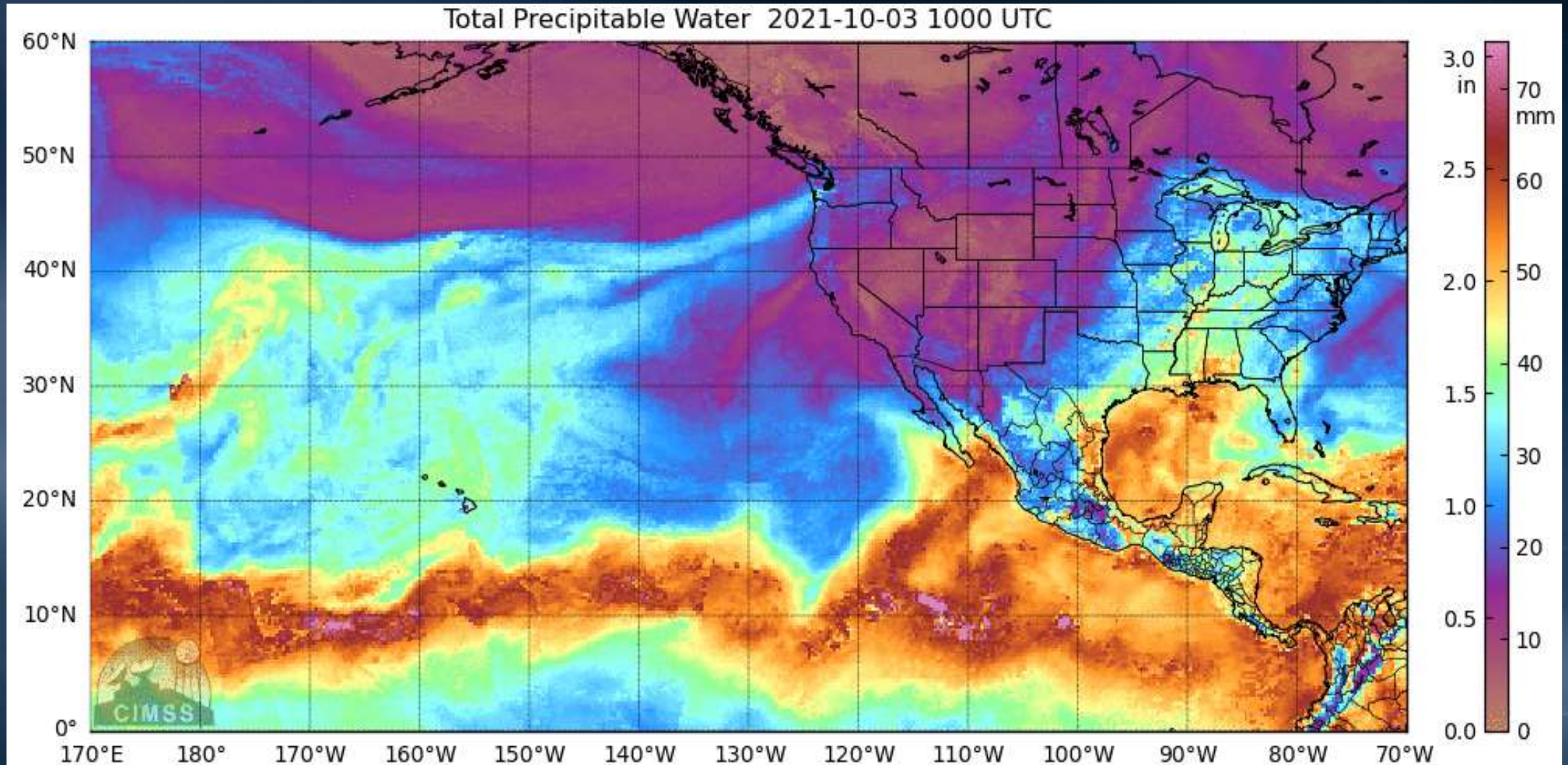
# Precipitation Deficits



Source: M. Dettinger, CNAP and PPIC

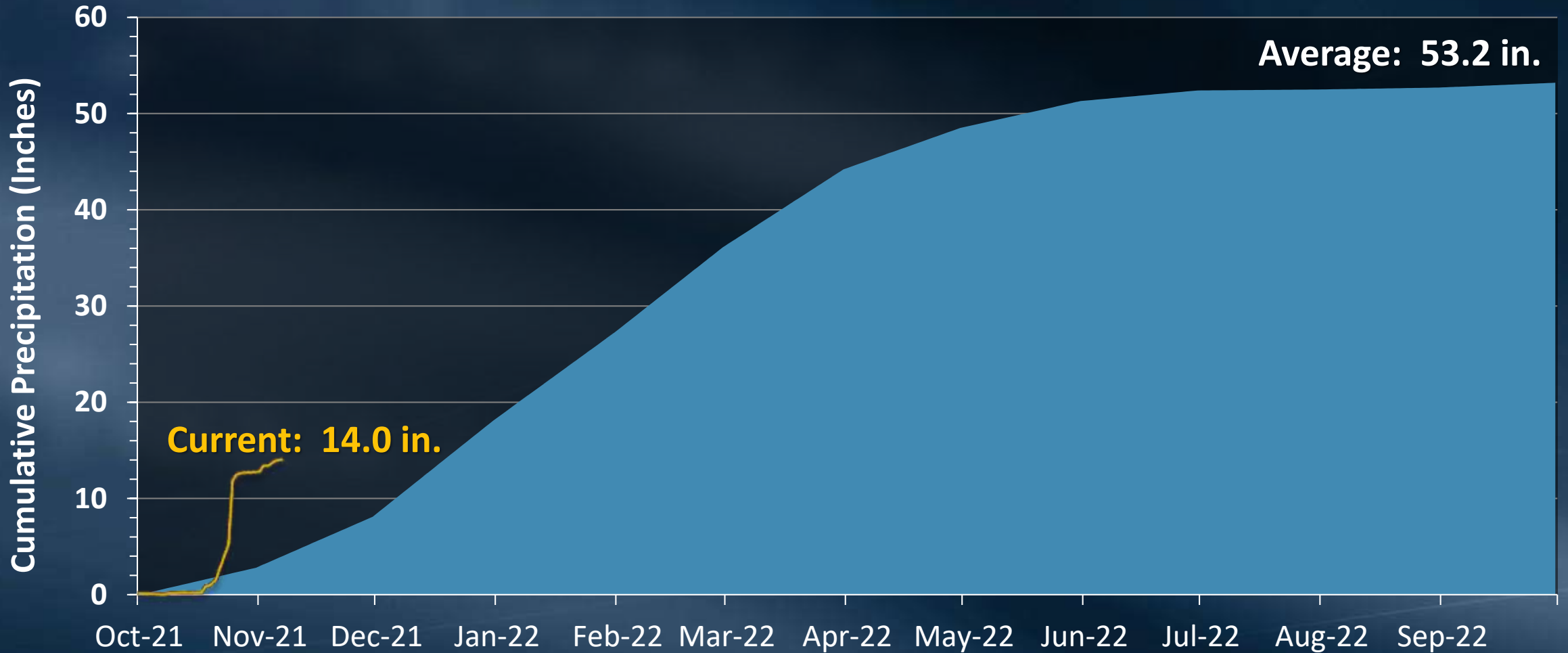


# A Good Start to the Water Year...



# Northern Sierra Precipitation: 8-Station Index

As of 11/7/2021





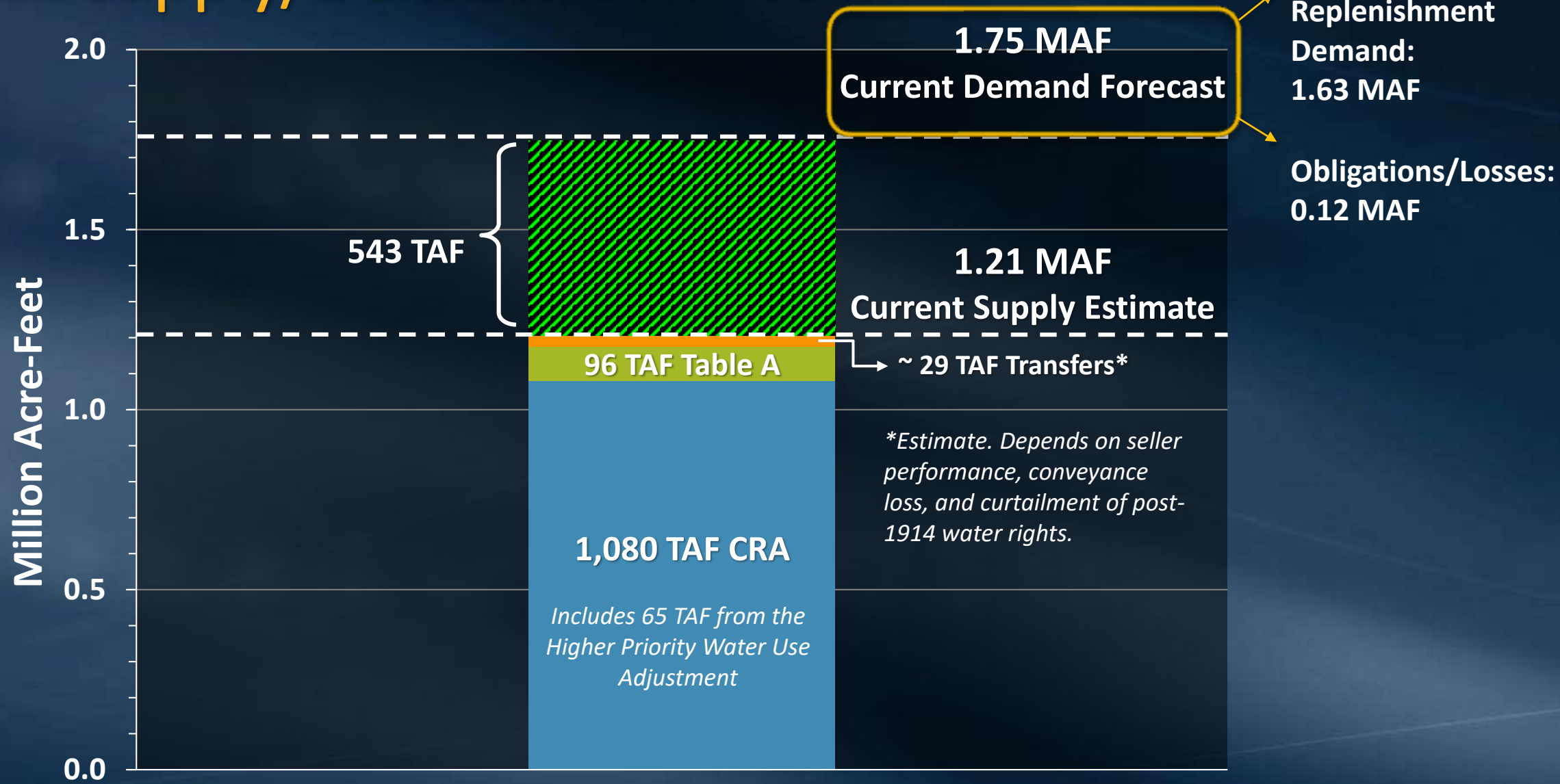
# ...But More is Needed



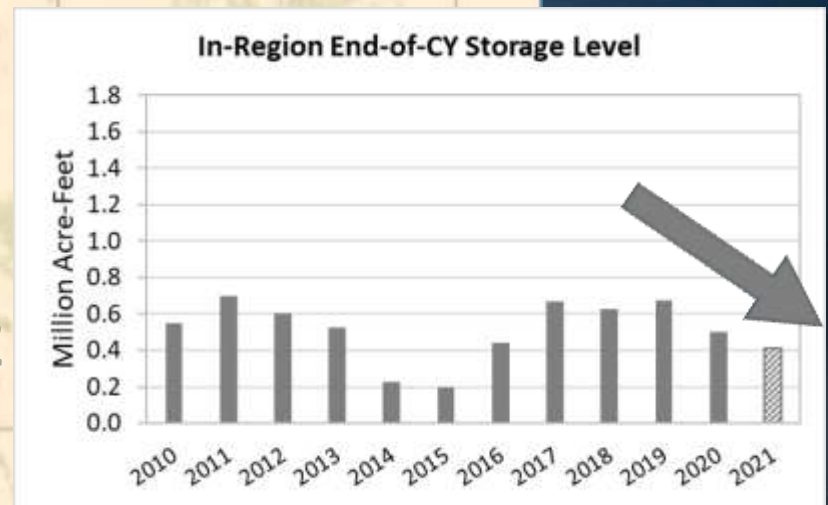
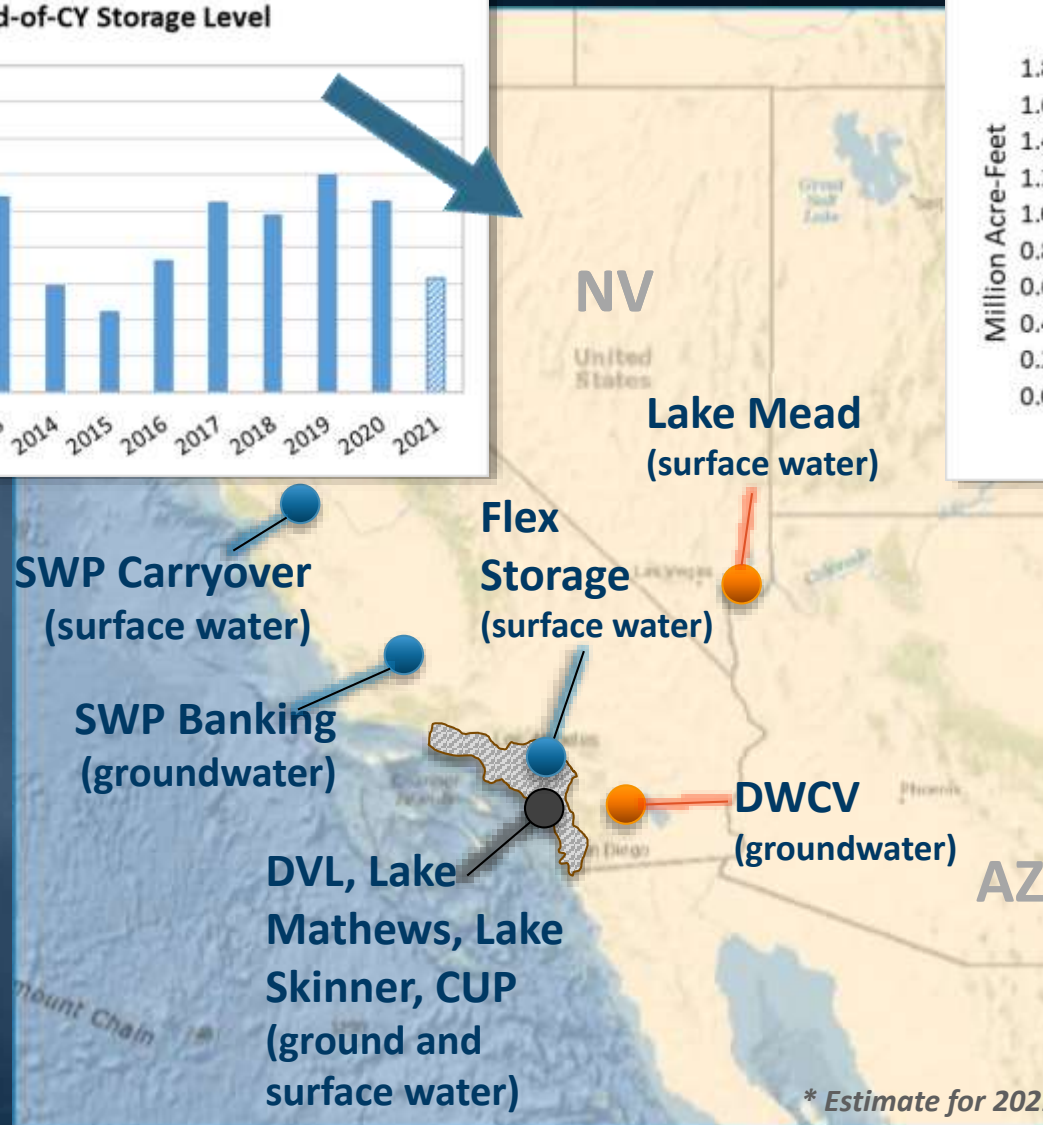
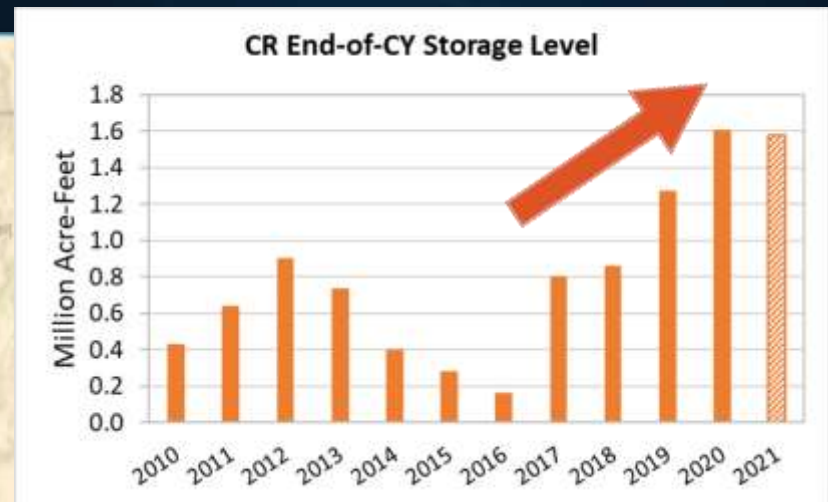
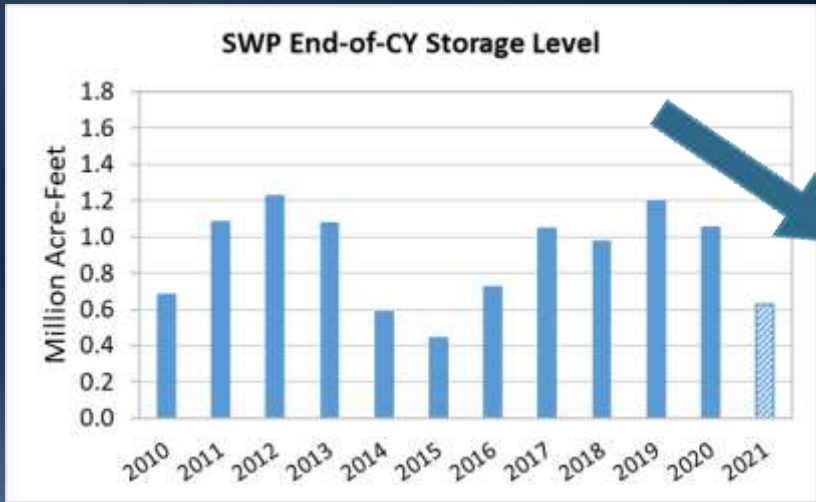
Photos taken Oct. 27, 2021

- Despite gaining ~192 TAF (~32 ft elevation gain), Oroville needs ~604 TAF more before supplies in the reservoir are available towards a SWP allocation

# 2021 Supply/Demand Balance



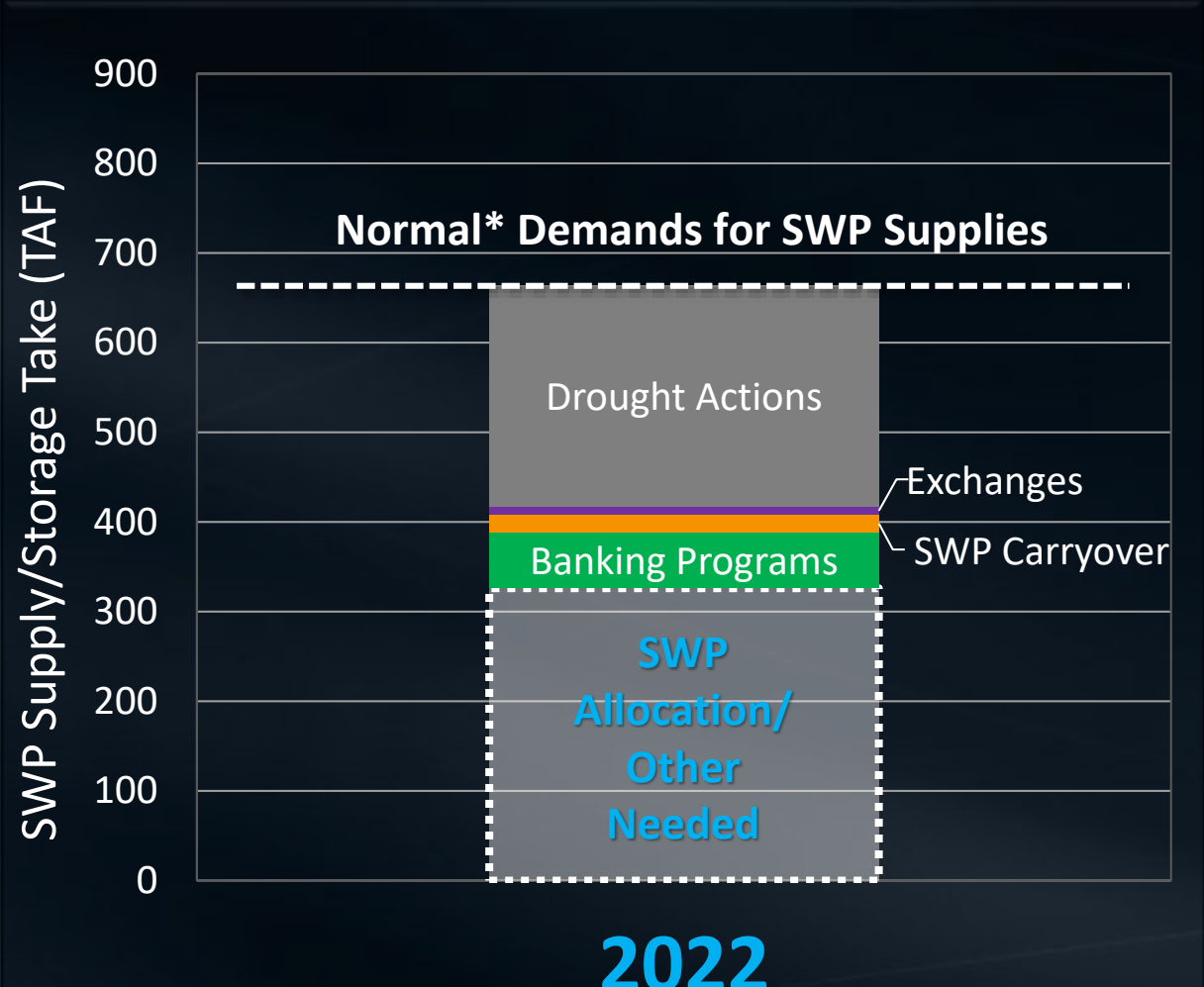
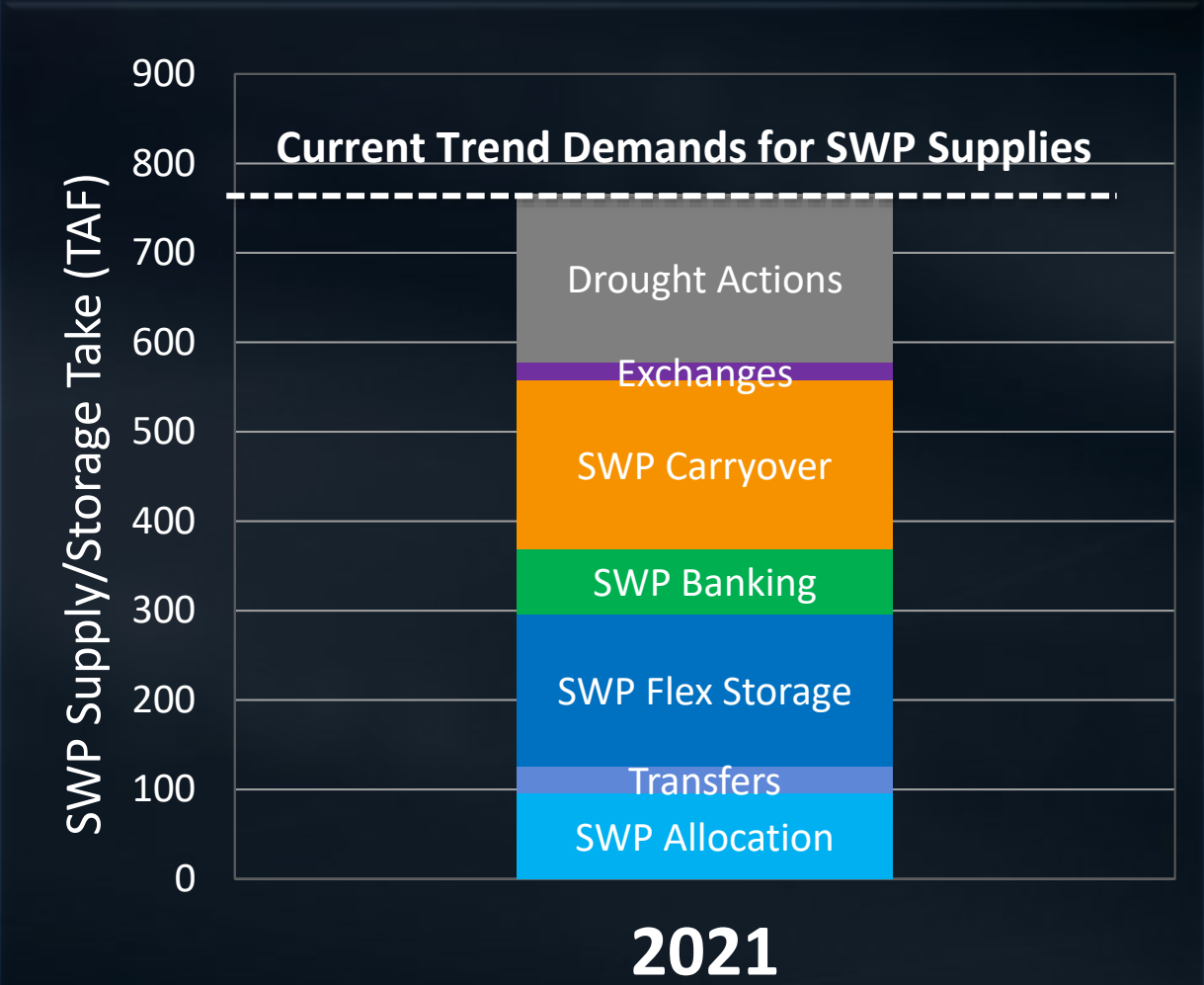
# SWP Storage Drafted Since 2019



\* Estimate for 2021. Does not include emergency storage.



# Plausible Near-Term Planning Scenario for Metropolitan's SWP Dependent Area



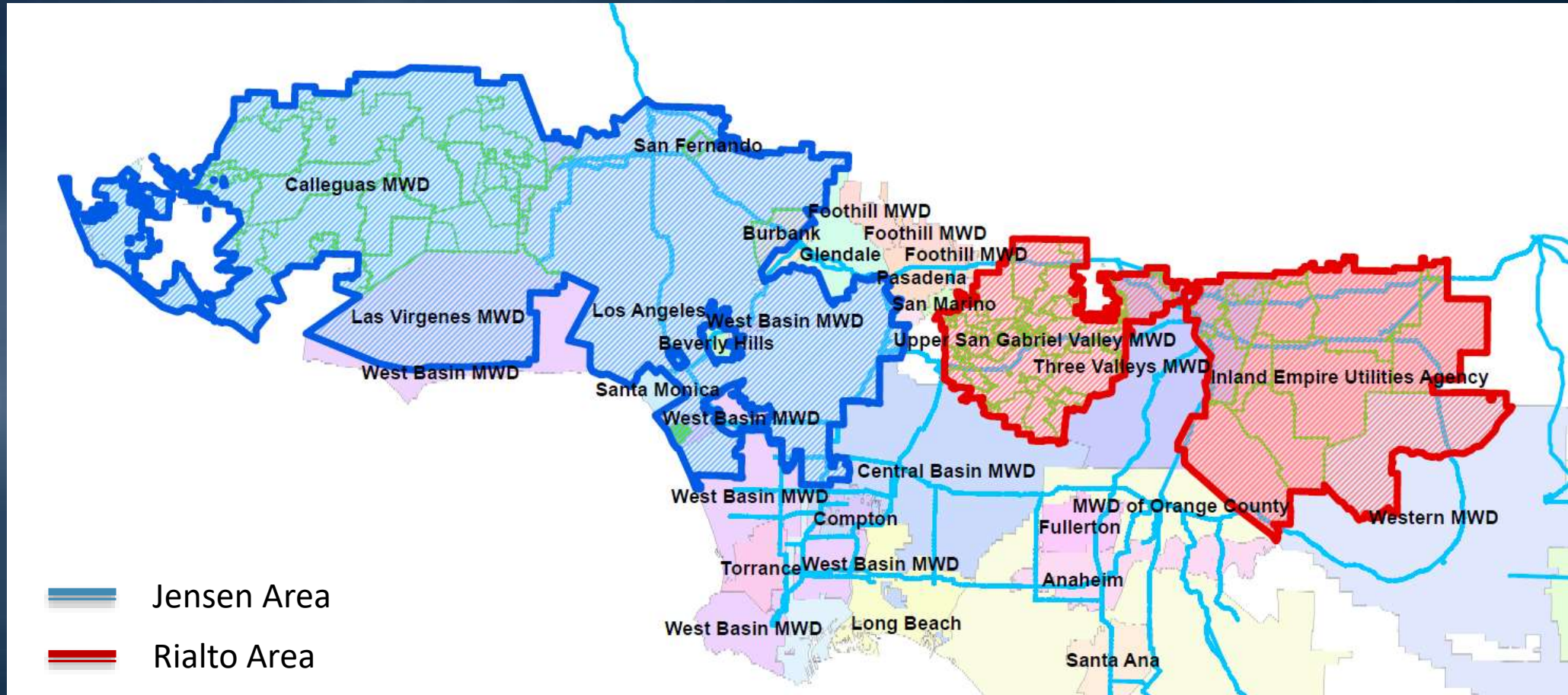
\*Normal: average precipitation with demands adjusted for antecedent dry conditions

# Outlook for 2022 SWP Table A Allocation

- Anticipating a zero percent initial SWP allocation
- DWR latest study indicates roughly even chance for the SWP final allocation to be 25 percent or greater
- The SWP Dependent areas most vulnerable to low SWP allocations

Reducing demands in the SWP Dependent areas now will preserve SWP supplies and help manage through low SWP allocations next year

# Metropolitan Has Assessed Its Health and Safety Needs for the SWP Dependent Areas





# Update on DWR's Health and Safety Needs Request

- Metropolitan submitted the assessment for the SWP Dependent areas in October
- Metropolitan's interpretation of this minimum demand includes the following components:



*Drinking Water*



*Sanitation*



*Fire Suppression*



*Essential CII\*  
Water Use*



*Outdoor Watering*

**Excludes**

- DWR requested SWP contractors to resubmit assessments without essential CII needs
  - **Metropolitan actively promoting need for critical CII**

*\* Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional*

# Additional Actions are Needed

- Severe drought conditions are impacting imported water supplies
- Drought emergency exists in all counties within Metropolitan's service area
- SWP supplies have been curtailed and a zero percent initial allocation is anticipated
- There are insufficient supplies to meet potable demands in the SWP Dependent areas under a zero percent SWP allocation
- Additional actions are needed to manage and preserve SWP supplies

# Summary

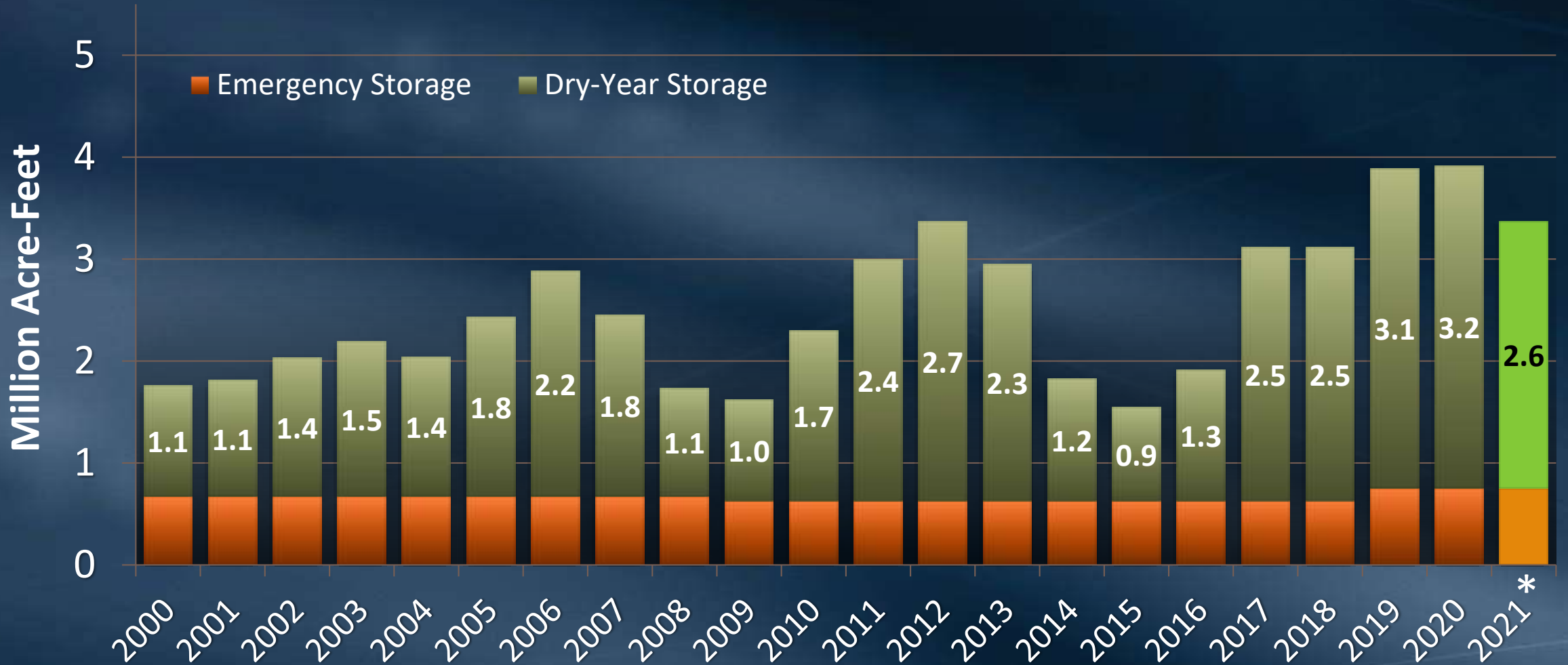
- Drought emergency now covers all California
- Strong start to the water year but more storms are needed to end the drought
- Roughly even chance for the 2022 SWP final allocation to reach 25 percent or greater
- Metropolitan advocating to DWR for region's health and critical water needs
- Metropolitan is prepared to make calls for additional steps to save water should dry conditions continue through the fall and into next year





# Supply/Demand Gap to Be Satisfied With Storage

## End of Year Balances



\* Estimate – May change based on supply/demand conditions