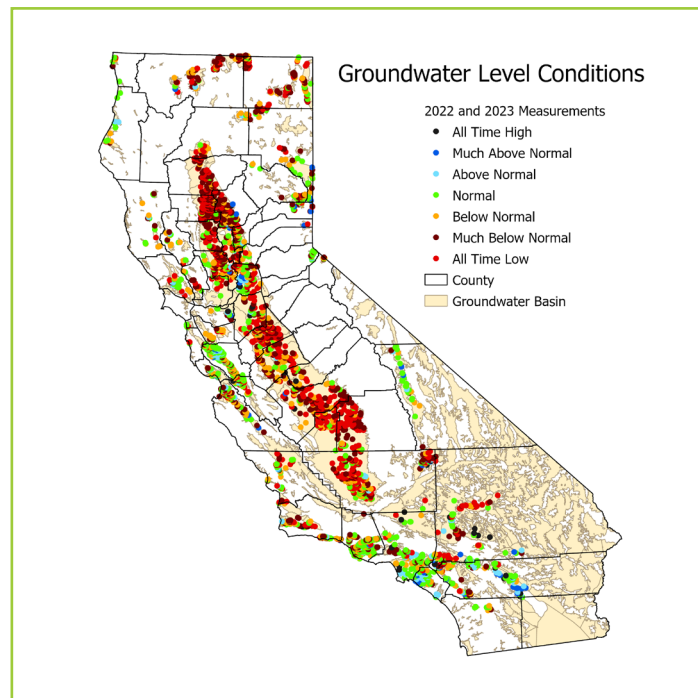
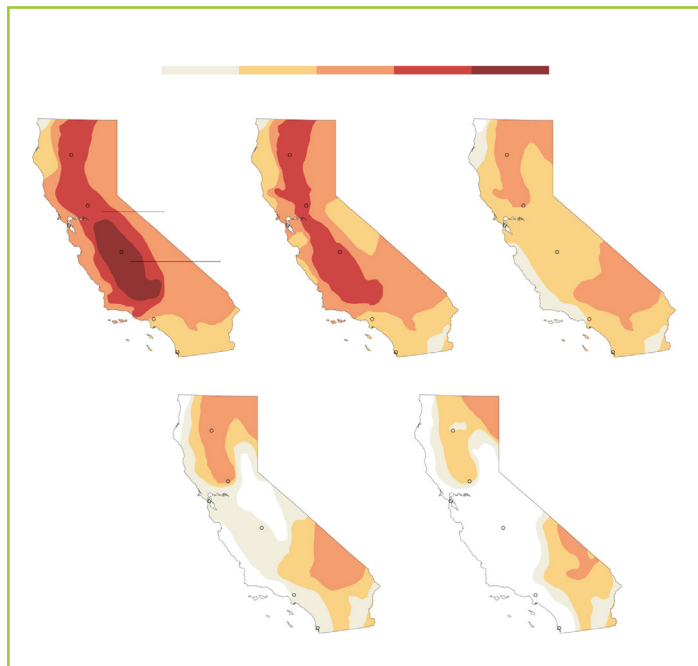


WINTER HAS BEEN GREAT TO CALIFORNIA

By Nathan Wissenbach

California has been dealing with an unbelievable amount of rain caused by what they call Atmospheric River Storms. These Atmospheric River Storms have been slamming into California, which has brought an ample amount of water and snow to the region. This has filled a lot of California's reservoirs to almost full capacity in the matter of three months. There's been so much water dumped on California that the reservoir Lopez had water spilling out the spillway. The last time this happened was 25 years ago. This has helped with the drought conditions that California has been facing. Now 55% of California is out of drought conditions. The other thing that is going to help California drought conditions is the incredible amount of snowpack that they have accumulated this season. Some parts of the Sierra mountains have reached a snowpack of 700 inches. This snowpack is a water reserve for the summer and fall seasons. This ample snowpack should help maintain California reservoirs and keep them full.

at the first of the year it was 421.20 feet. Most of these reservoirs would be full but they are letting out the large amount of water through their spillways because of flood control.



Where the Atmospheric River Storms have been great for California reservoirs, it hasn't done a lot for the groundwater level. The groundwater level in California is still quite low, it will take several years of wet winters in California to recharge the groundwater level. All of these storms have helped bring moisture back into a lot of the soil in California that has dried up due to the drought. Hopefully this is a sign of better years to come for California. 💧💧

(Data Source – Lakeonline.com, droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap.aspx, sigma.water.ca.gov/CalGWLlive/)

I looked up some interesting data on how much the reservoirs have filled since the first of the year till April 1st. I picked six of the largest reservoirs in California to see where they stand, and this is the information I found. Shasta reservoir level as of April 1st is 1041.39 feet and full pool is 1067 feet, at the first of the year the level was 928.1 feet, Oroville reservoir level as of April 1st is 858.50 feet and full pool is 900 feet, at the first of the year the level was 707.1 feet. Trinity reservoir level as of April 1st is 2245.23 feet and full pool is 2370 feet, at the first of the year it was 2194.35 feet. New Melones reservoir level as of April 1st is 992.51 feet and full pool is 1085 feet, at the first of the year it was 899.26 feet. Don Pedro reservoir level as of April 1st is 806.45 feet and full pool is 806.78 feet, at the first of the year it was 754.44 feet. San Luis reservoir level as of April 1st is 541.40 feet and full pool is 543 feet,



Nathan Wissenbach
Technical Assistance Provider
wissenbach@nyruralwater.org