



**GCID**

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District | [www.gcid.net](http://www.gcid.net)

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**SPECIAL EDITION**

**February 2022**



## Shasta Critical Year Declared for 2022

**Drought conditions expected to limit Sacramento River deliveries**

On February 15, the Bureau of Reclamation provided notice to all Sacramento River Settlement Contractors (SRSC) that based on the forecasted inflow to Shasta Lake, the 2022 Year is determined to be a Critical Year.

Last year was also a Critical Year, with the lowest inflow to Shasta Reservoir on record. While this winter started out strong, most of the early precipitation was not in the Shasta watershed and we have experienced 45 dry days in a row, with no precipitation in the forecast.

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# January 31 Storage Comparison

	2014	2015	2021	2022
<b>SHASTA</b>	1.66 million acre-feet	2.00 million acre-feet	2.13 million acre-feet	1.62 million acre-feet

*In addition to a lack of precipitation, the following issues compound the problem:*



Current storage in Shasta Reservoir is 1.64 million acre-feet, about 54% of average for this time of year, and more than 500,000 AF less than last year at this time.



The volume of water currently in storage and forecasted inflow to Shasta Reservoir are lower than any time since the Settlement Contracts were executed in 1964.



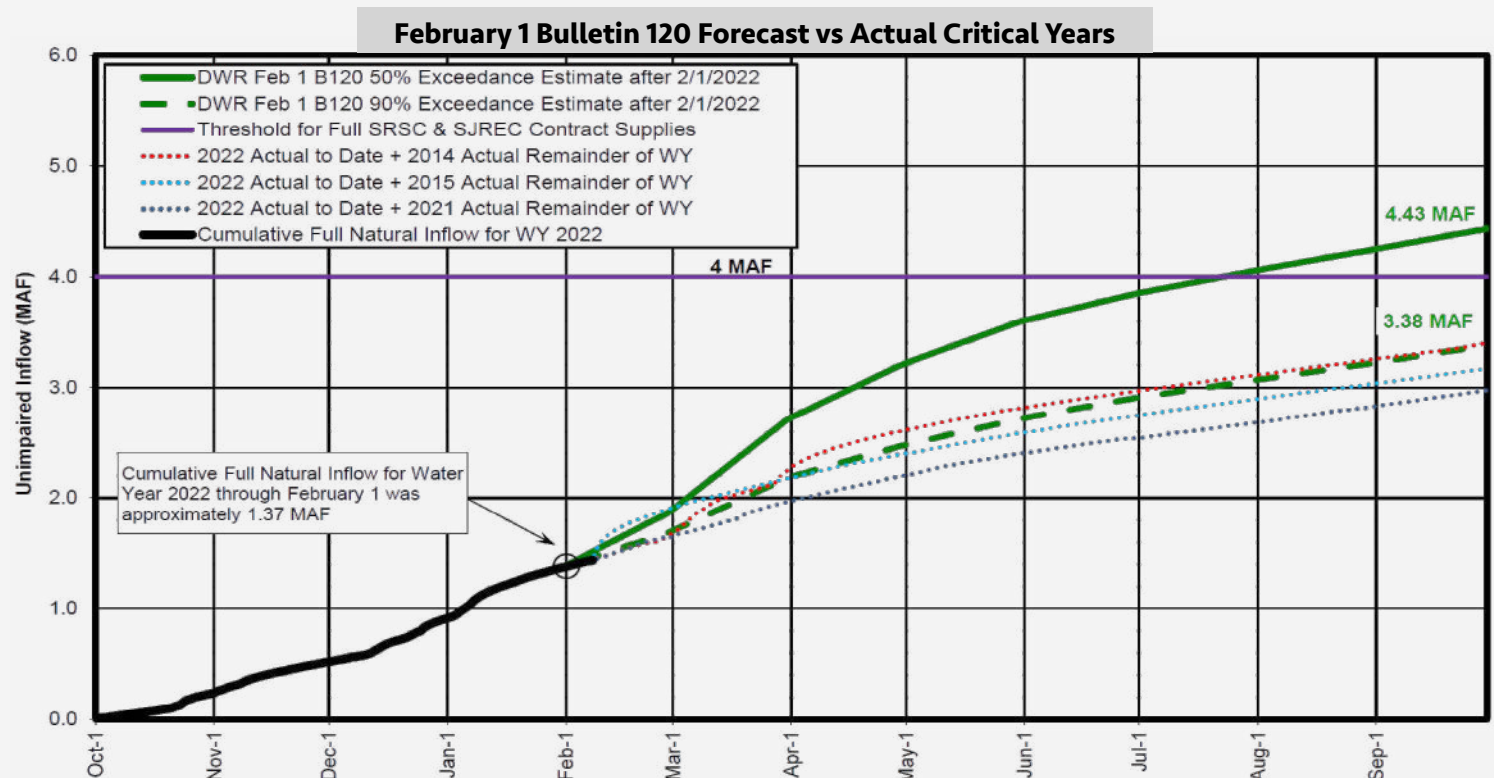
Pending litigation against the Bureau of Reclamation challenging the Biological Opinions, which includes a proposed Interim Operations Plan or other interim injunctive relief that could constrain Reclamation's releases from Shasta Reservoir



Actions by the State Water Resources Control Board to condition Reclamation's operations



Remaining inflow for this year at the 90% exceedance level looks very similar to other critical years (2014, 2015, 2021) as shown on the chart below.



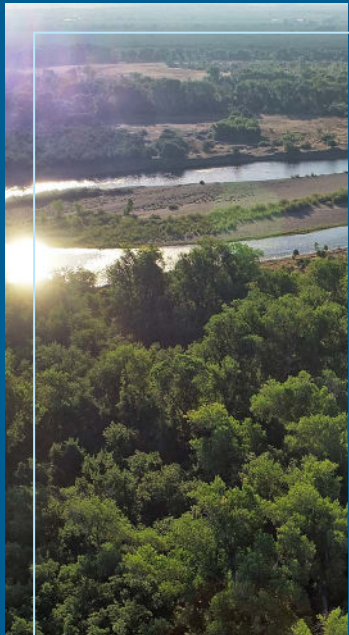




The Settlement Contracts with Reclamation state that in a Shasta Critical Year, each contractor is entitled to divert up to 75% of its contract quantities. **Based on the drought conditions described above, however, it is unlikely there will be enough water to supply 75% of the contract quantities and it is possible that significantly less will be available.**

While it is too early to identify where we will end up, SRSC Board members, managers, and counsel are meeting regularly with federal and state agencies on planning operations this year, including modeling forecasts and possible operations.

We expect to know more by mid-March but wanted to share these concerns so landowners and water users can plan for reduced water supply. Given the current circumstances, please be sure to speak with your crop insurance advisor regarding coverage needs and deadlines.



## Landowners Vote Against Proposed SRSC Assessment

Landowners voted against a proposed benefit assessment to support the Sacramento River Settlement Contract following a public hearing by GCID's Board of Directors on February 17.

A total of 1,006 ballots were distributed to landowners, and 480 ballots were returned and tabulated after the conclusion of the public hearing. Of those, 58.94% of the weighted ballots were against the proposed assessment and 41.06% were in favor. As a result, there will be no change to the assessment on land within the District.

The Board will review the results at its meeting on Thursday, March 3, and provide direction to staff on pursuing water rate and assessment alternatives for the 2023 water year.

## Maintenance Season Progress

The District's winter maintenance work is wrapping up. This season's projects are detailed below. Once they are complete, no new construction will be started that will impact water deliveries.

- A Main Canal turnout project with Colusa County Public Works at the intersection of Danley Road and Fairview Road (Lateral Turnout 47-1) will be completed in the next two weeks.
- Main Canal sediment removal from Maxwell Highway north to MP. 44.38 will progress until water is introduced in that reach of the canal.
- Lateral 25-1 Long-crested weir construction will be finished in the next couple of weeks.
- Lateral 64-1a additional gate installation will be completed by the end of February.



## GCID Makes Winter Water Available



On February 17, the GCID Board of Directors voted to modify the scheduling of early irrigation water, making it available prior to the Feb. 21 (frost) and March 1 (irrigation) dates where feasible.

GCID staff is working to bring water into the system from three points to fill portions of the conveyance system in a timely manner while accommodating ongoing scheduled maintenance projects.

The water deliveries are subject to curtailments under Term 91.



Please contact the office at (530) 934-8881 to apply or contact your water operator to check availability in your area.



## Join Us

The GCID Board of Directors meets on the **first and third Thursday of the month at 9 a.m.** Meetings are held both in person and by teleconference.

### In-person:

GCID Board Room  
344 E. Laurel St., Willows

### By phone:

Check our website or call the office for details.

## Check out our new look!

GCID has a new logo to better reflect our commitment to providing water for farms, fish, wildlife and the environment.



Protecting agriculture and wildlife in the Sacramento Valley for more than a century