

State of the Valley's Water

Presented by: Melanie Richardson, P.E., Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Santa Clara Valley Water District



Drought in Santa Clara County

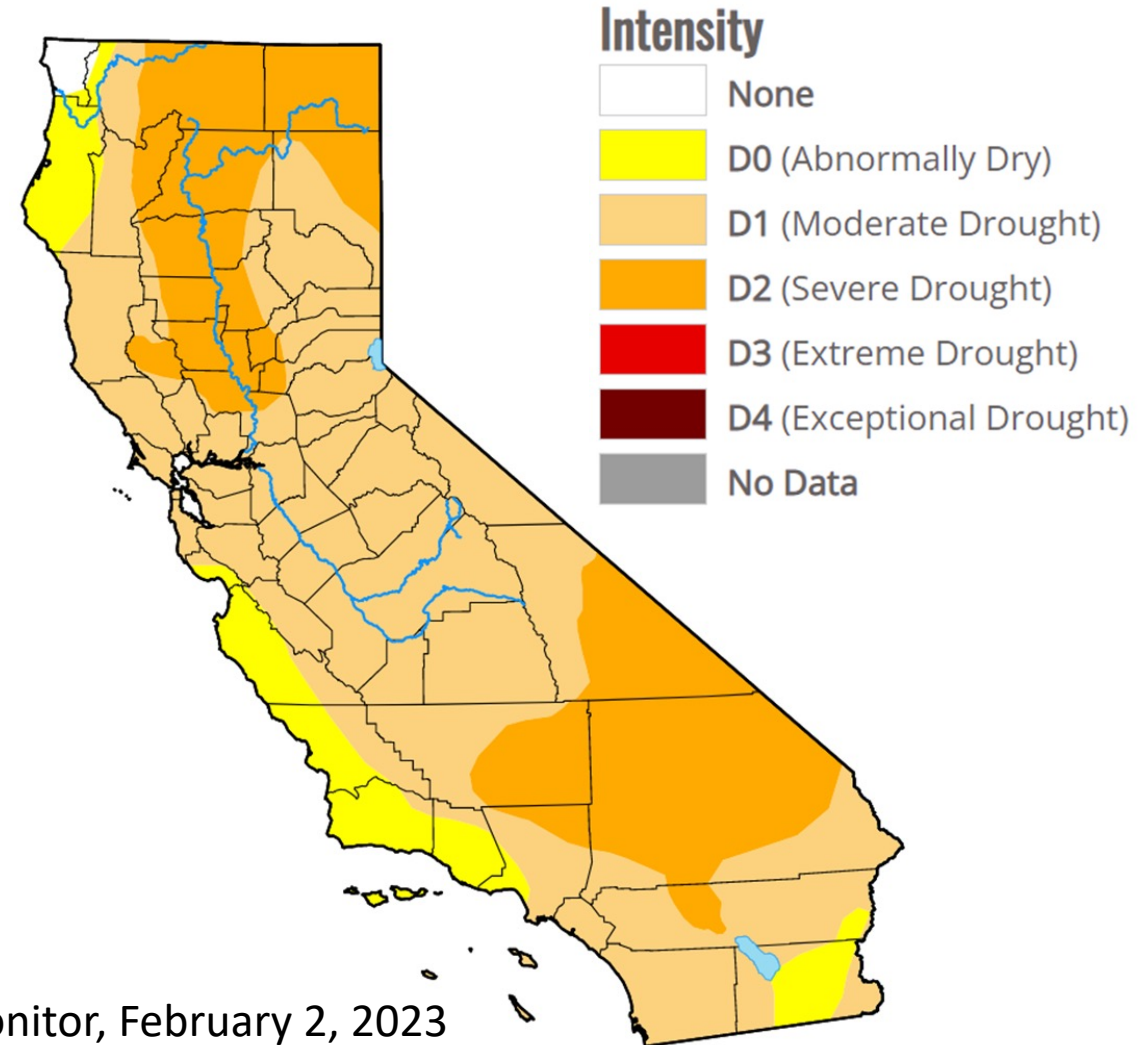
Ongoing drought since 2020

- **Jun 2021** – Water Shortage Emergency Condition
- **Jun 2021**– County proclaims drought
- **Jul 2021** – County added to State drought proclamation
- **Sep 2022** – Ban on watering CII non-functional turf
- **Feb 2023** – State continues drought emergency



2022-2023 Precipitation Impacts

- Improvement in drought status
- Local reservoir levels increased significantly
- Record-high State snowpack



US Drought Monitor, February 2, 2023

Imported Water Supplies

- Imported water is typically half of countywide supply
- Historically low allocations in 2021 and 2022
- Improved allocation in 2023
- Out-of-county groundwater bank
- Emergency transfers as needed

Groundwater

- Increased managed recharge
- Water levels increased in many areas of the county
- Most water levels are above 2014 drought levels



Recharge at Alamitos Pond

Risks of Drought

- Decreased water supply
- Dry wells
- Subsidence

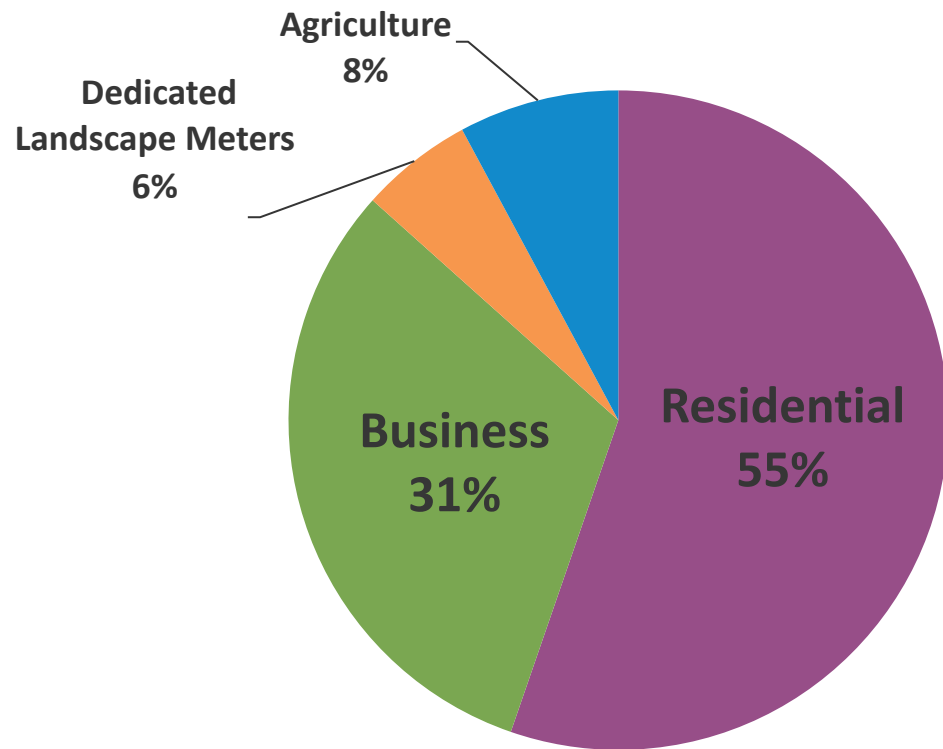
Conservation is still essential

Loss of Anderson Increases Risk



Drained by federal
mandate for
seismic retrofit
(89,278 acre-feet
capacity)

Water Use in our County



~Half of water used in homes is used outdoors.

Key Drought Response Actions

- Water conservation programs & doubled landscape rebate
- Increased conservation outreach
- Irrigation restrictions & enforcement
- Reduced treated water deliveries
- Reduced recharge in 2021, increased in 2022
- Ensured sufficient recharge in South County



Extensive Public Outreach

- "Yes to Saving Water" Media campaign
- Drought Summits
- Public presentations
- Education



Conservation Milestones



**One Million Sq. Ft. of
Turf Converted**



**Water Use Dropped 25%
in the Last 5 Years**



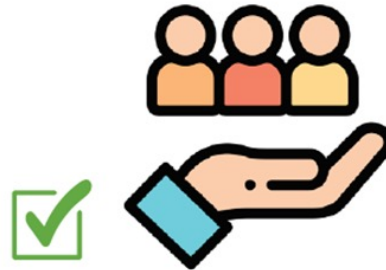
**22 Water Conservation
Programs Underway**



**On Track for Long-Term
Water Savings**



Robust Outreach Campaign



Drought Resources Increased



**Total Water Use Down Amid
Historic Population Growth**

Successes

- Increased countywide conservation
- Exceeded State's conservation level
- Secured additional imported water
- Maintained normal groundwater level



Purified Water: a long-term solution

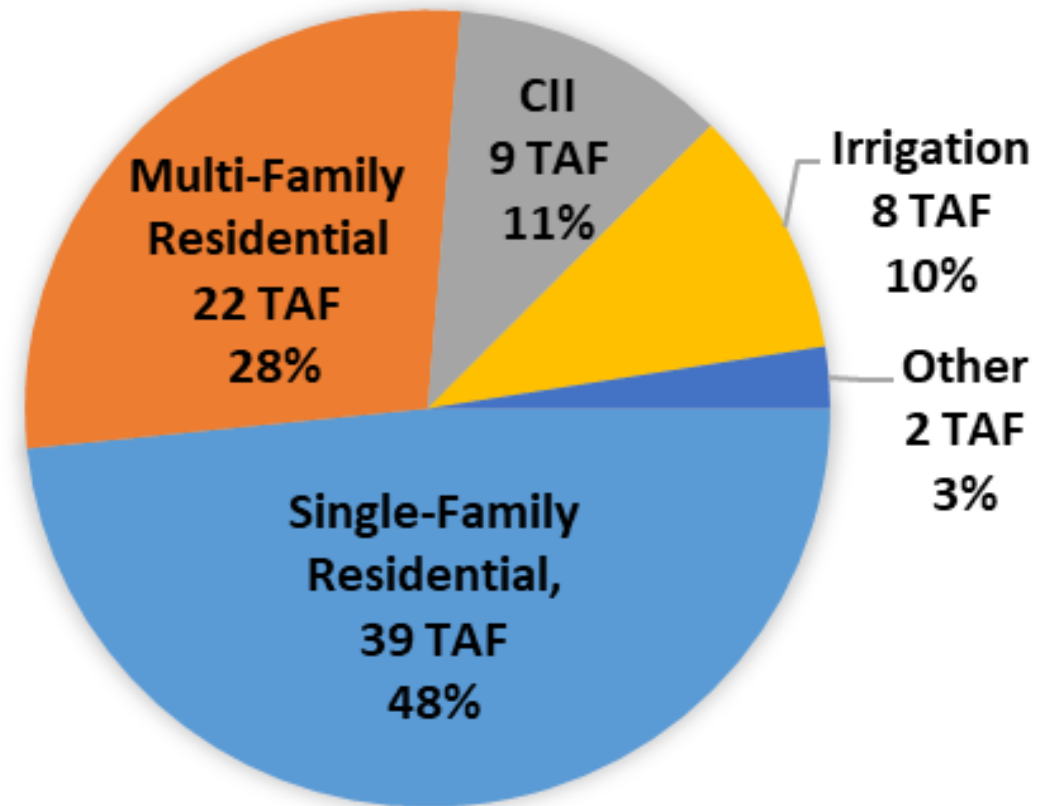
- Valley Water investment in technology
- Improve supply reliability consistent with Water Supply Master Plan 2040
- Meet goal of 10% of Santa Clara County's water demand from water reuse
- Purified water can help replenish groundwater



Water Conservation as a Way of Life

- Long-term conservation reduces risks for current and future droughts
- Conservation Savings Targets
 - 99,000 AF/year by 2030
 - 109,000 AF/year by 2040
- 80,000 AF/year saved through 2022

WATER SAVINGS BY SECTOR





Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection