

# A Few Drops in a Leaky Bucket

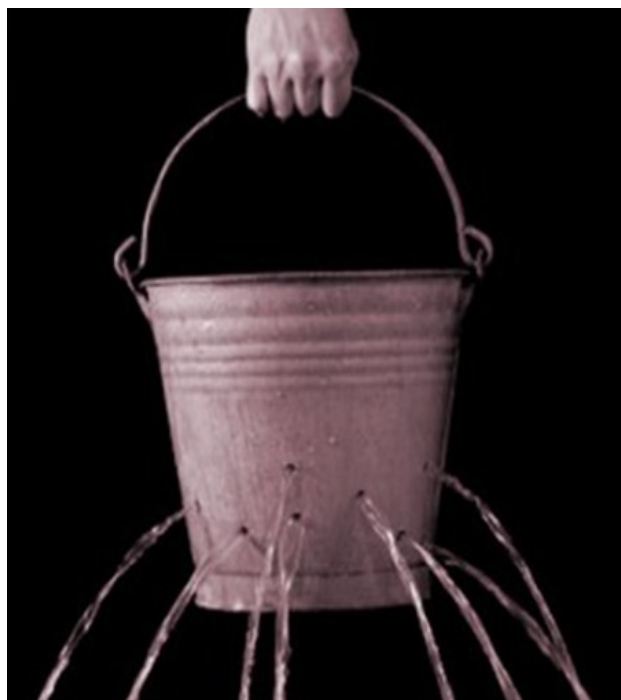
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Recent storms are a welcome development after three straight years of extreme drought conditions in the state. Precipitation in many regions is running well above normal to date, but the weather year just got started and we have a long way to go. [According to NASA](#), **it will take another 11 trillion gallons of precipitation to put an end to the current drought.**

Early season snow surveys currently measure the statewide snowpack at just 50 percent of normal. Most telling, the initial water supply allocation for the State Water Project is just 10 percent, meaning residents, farms and businesses will be forced again to make major cutbacks in water usage.

While upstream reservoirs have benefited from the recent rain, they continue to hover near just one-third of full. Equally concerning, Delta water pumping operations are starting to be curtailed to protect fish, further limiting deliveries to 25 million Central Valley, Southern California and Bay Area water users. **As less water is pumped, more water is lost to the Ocean, an unintended, but increasingly common consequence of an antiquated water conveyance system in desperate need of repair.**

As policymakers return to Sacramento in January, much more work remains to be done. Recognizing the ongoing severity of the drought and need for long term water supply security are necessary first steps.



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## Delta Watch

**A Project of the Coalition for a Sustainable Delta**