

# WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

**Date:** March 13, 2024

**To:** Resource Management and Climate Protection Committee

**From:** Tom Francis, BAWSCA, RMCP Committee Member

**Subject:** Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency update on water supply conditions in San Mateo County

(For further information contact Tom Francis of BAWSCA  
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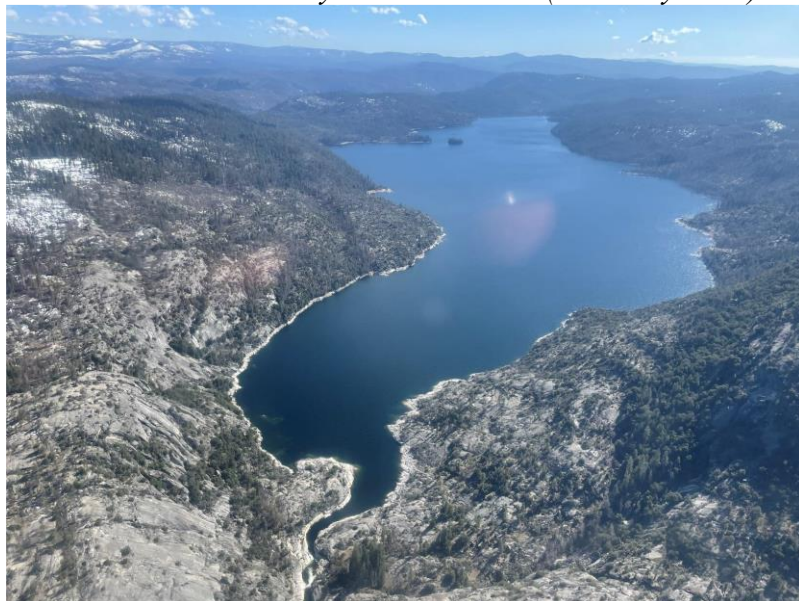
## **BACKGROUND**

At the February 15, 2023 meeting of the Resource Management and Climate Protection Committee (RMCP), Committee Member Francis was asked to prepare a written water supply update for distribution to the Committee, for months when no formal presentation on water supply conditions is given. This memo provides the summary for the month of March 2024. Information presented in the memo focuses on conditions associated with the San Francisco Regional Water System (SF RWS), which serves as the water source for much of San Mateo County. Graphs included are produced by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and are made available to BAWSCA.

## **DISCUSSION**

The FY 2023-24 water year started out dry, yet in January and February 0f 2024 rains and snowfall have proven to be robust. Reservoir storage is excellent, thanks in no small measure to the wet conditions of the 2022-23 water year. California as a whole has reservoirs that are substantially full.

*Photo – SFPUC’s Cherry Lake Reservoir (February 2024)*



SF RWS - Reservoir Storage

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is at 89.4% full. Local reservoir storage is ample. The overall system storage is robust at 93.0%

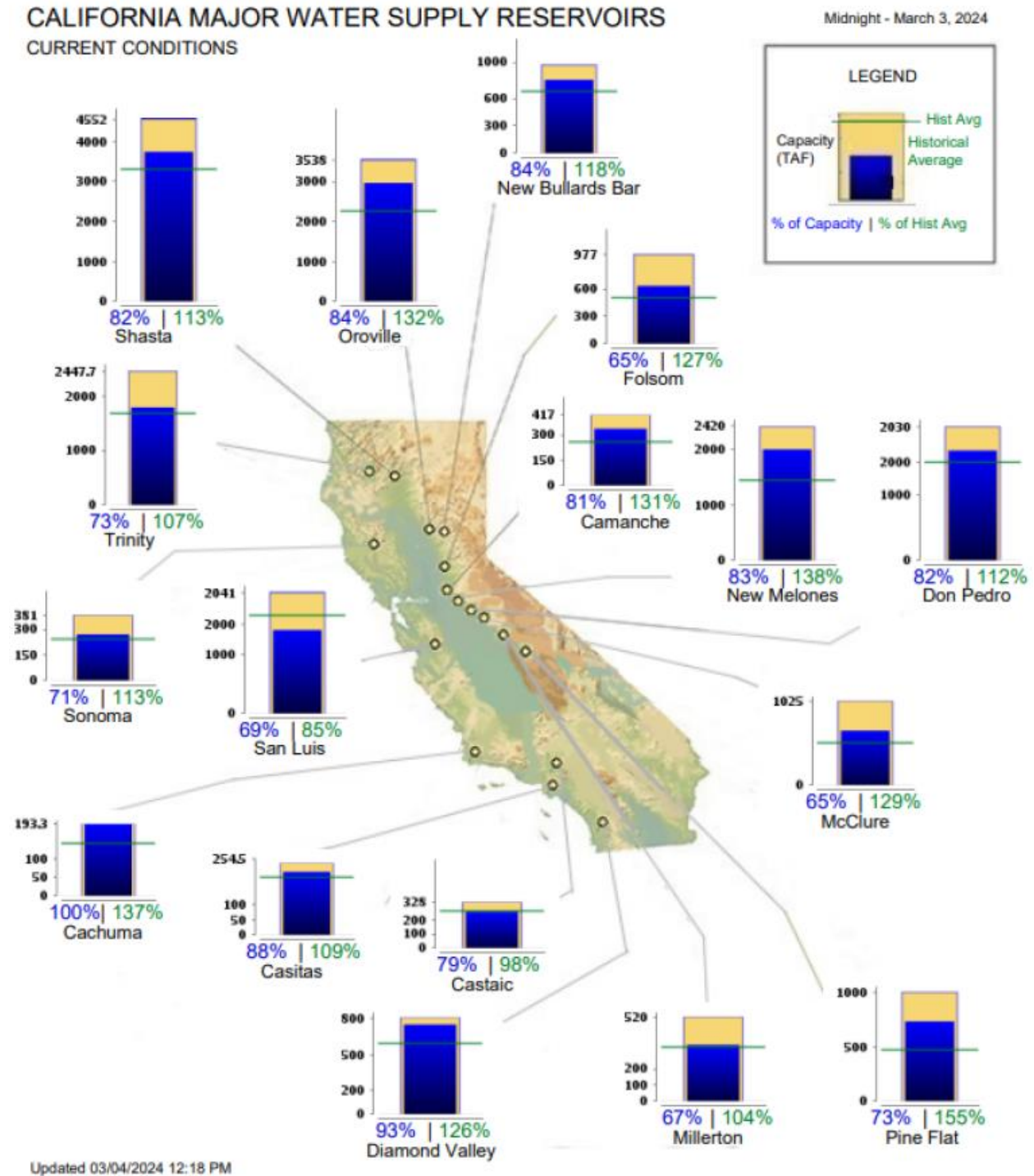
*As of March 4, 2024*

Reservoir	Current Storage <sup>1,2,3</sup> (AF)	Maximum Storage <sup>4</sup> (AF)	Available Capacity (AF)	Percent of Maximum Storage	Normal Percent of Maximum Storage <sup>5</sup>
<u>Tuolumne System</u>					
Hetch Hetchy	322,000	360,360	38,360	89.4%	65.1%
Cherry	246,200	273,345	27,145	90.1%	-
Eleanor	24,070	27,100	3,030	88.8%	-
Water Bank	570,000	570,000	0	100.0%	99.3%
<b>Total Tuolumne Storage</b>	<b>1,162,270</b>	<b>1,230,805</b>	<b>68,535</b>	<b>94.4%</b>	<b>-</b>
<u>Local System</u>					
Calaveras	95,123	96,670	1,547	98.4%	-
San Antonio	49,566	53,266	3,700	93.1%	-
Crystal Springs	44,654	68,953	24,299	64.8%	-
San Andreas	14,969	18,675	3,706	80.2%	-
Pilarcitos	2,527	3,125	598	80.9%	-
<b>Total Local Storage</b>	<b>206,839</b>	<b>240,689</b>	<b>33,850</b>	<b>85.9%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total System Storage</b>	<b>1,369,109</b>	<b>1,471,494</b>	<b>102,385</b>	<b>93.0%</b>	<b>79.7%</b>
<b>Total without water bank</b>	<b>799,109</b>	<b>901,494</b>	<b>102,385</b>	<b>88.6%</b>	<b>-</b>

As a reminder, Water Year 2023-24 began on October 1, 2023.

## State of California – Major Reservoir Storage

Storage in California's major water supply reservoirs is robust, with the majority having benefited by exceptional rainfall in the winter / spring of 2023. As a reminder, while these reservoirs do not serve San Mateo County, they do serve as a water source for much of the State of California. Some of these reservoirs are part of the State of California's "State Water Project", while others are part of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamations "Central Valley Project".



## California Drought Conditions Monitor

As noted on the graphic below, only a small portion of the State of California is shown as Abnormally Dry. No part of the State is in a drought.

### U.S. Drought Monitor USDA California Climate Hub



**March 5, 2024**

(Released Thursday, Mar. 7, 2024)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	95.46	4.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 02-27-2024	92.97	7.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-05-2023	96.33	3.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	96.65	3.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	94.01	5.99	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 03-07-2023	26.84	73.16	43.06	19.00	0.00	0.00

#### Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate 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>

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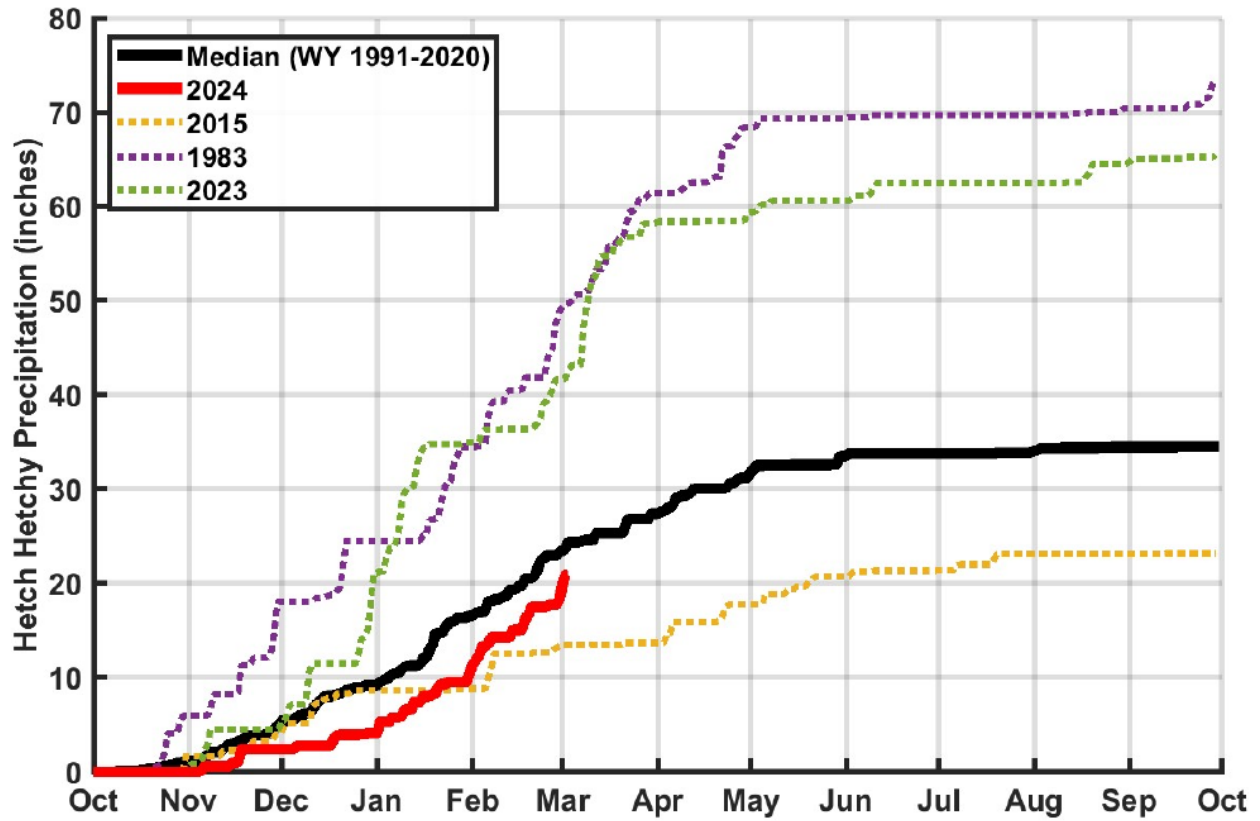


[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Given the recent rains and in consideration of the ample storage in California's reservoirs, while the drought monitor may get a bit worse as we enter the summer of 2024, it is highly unlikely that any drought declarations will be made by the State of California in 2024.

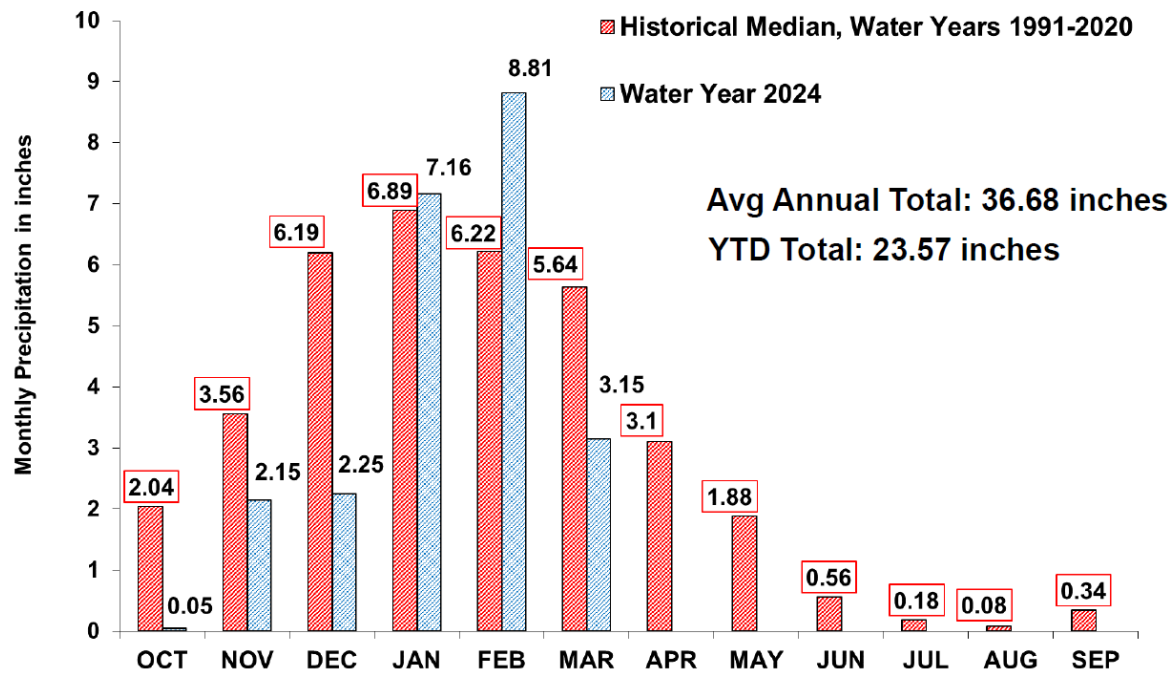
### Hetch Hetchy (Upcountry) Precipitation

The precipitation to date is inching upward toward the median (yet it remains below that line).



### Upcountry Precipitation Totals by Month

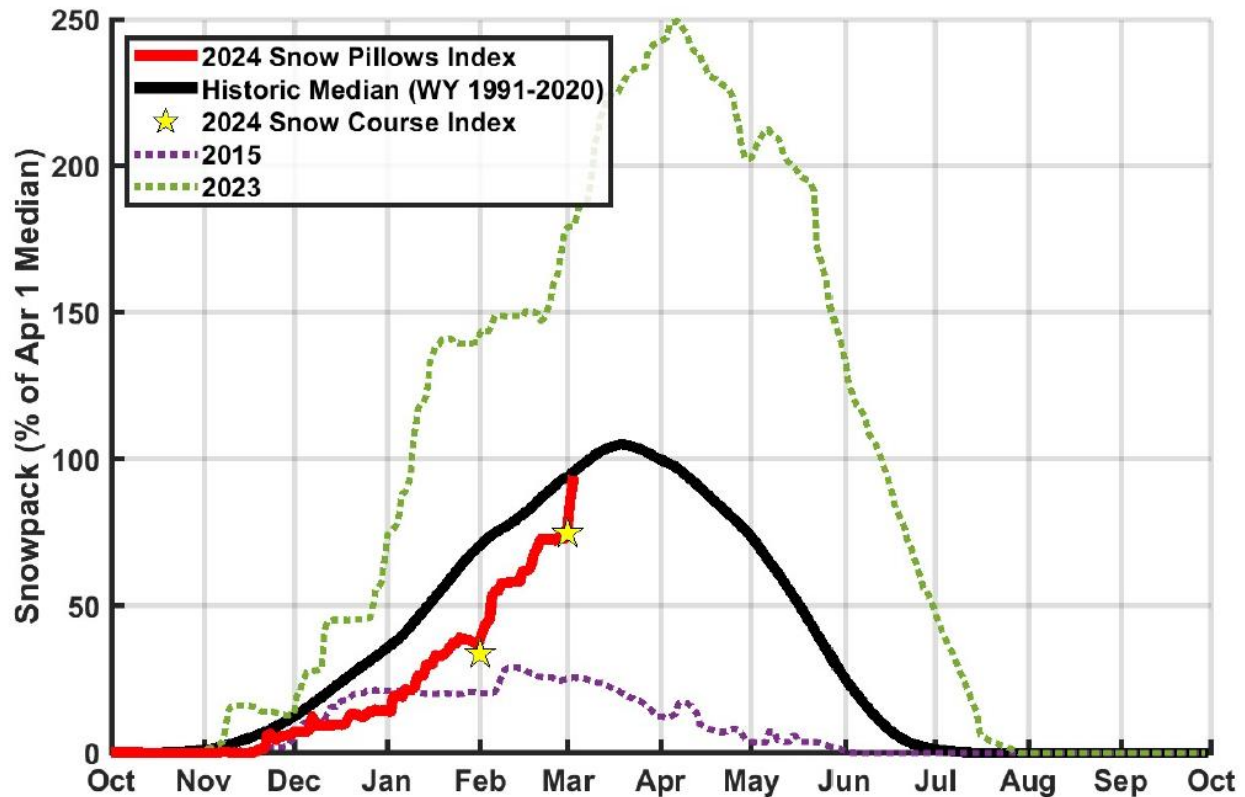
On average, the upcountry receives 36.68 inches of precipitation during the water year. As of March 4, 2024, 23.57 inches has been recorded.





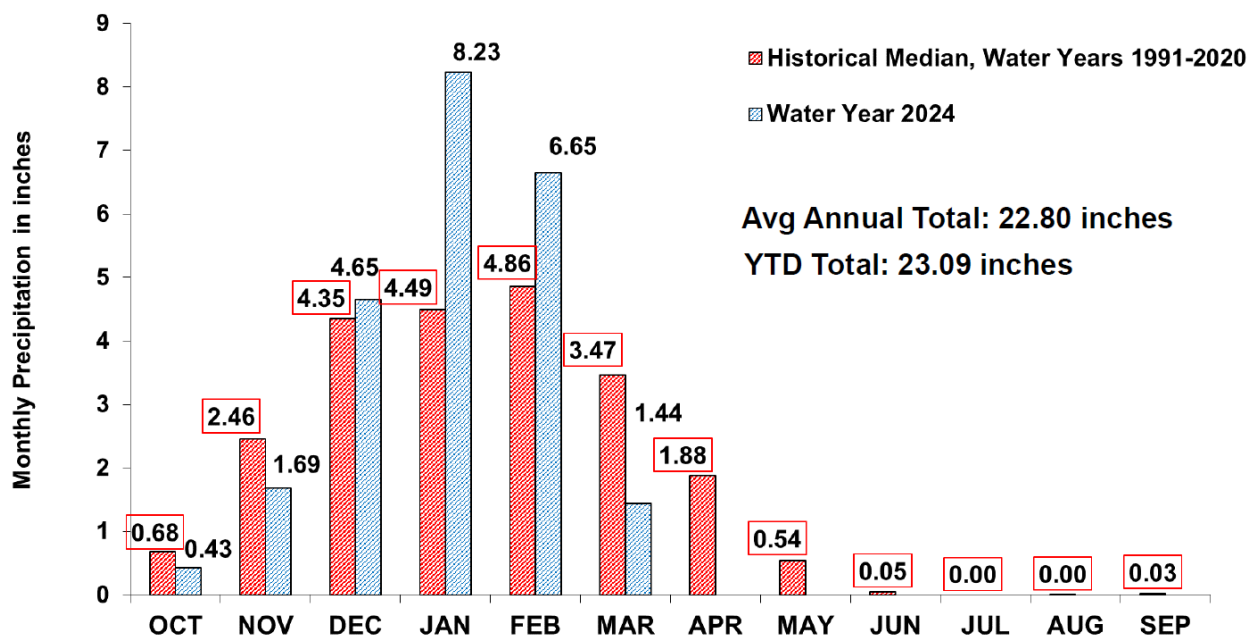
### Upcountry Snowpack

As shown on the graphic, snowpack increased in February and is now near the median.



### Local Rainfall – by Month

Local (Bay Area) rainfall was robust in January. On average, the region receives 22.80 inches of rain. This water year, as of March 4, 2024, 23.09 inches has been recorded to date.



## Water Demand – SF RWS

January and February rains coupled with cool temperatures helped to moderate water use, and in particular outdoor water use. Records indicate that water demand has stayed relatively flat at approximately 150 million gallons per day (mgd) from the SF RWS. Recall that this graphic depicts use by both wholesale customers as well as SFPUC's retail.

