



California Drought Statement (April 2022)

With a continued lack of sufficient rain and snow to replenish our state's reservoirs, California's drought means one thing: less water available for all.

This third year of drought in California will likely lead to an unprecedented agricultural season for farmers across the state, including communities in the Sacramento Valley where farming is a major part of their foundation.

Specific impacts on the rice planting season won't be known until late May, at the earliest. Long-term drought impacts, remain unclear.

"What is certain is this historic drought has made our rural rice farming communities and our wildlife more vulnerable," remarked California Rice Commission President & CEO Tim Johnson. "Our rice mills, dryers and suppliers will undoubtedly feel the effects of the drought this season."

With less water on the landscape, natural wildlife habitat is shrinking. The few inches of water used to sustain the nation's second largest rice-producing state, also acts as surrogate wetlands for millions of migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway. Nearly 230 wildlife species rely on Sacramento Valley Ricelands for their survival.

"With extreme drought conditions forcing extraordinary challenges for both the wildlife and our farming communities, it is clear that flooded rice fields in the Sacramento Valley are more critical to our environment and our economy than ever before," said Johnson.