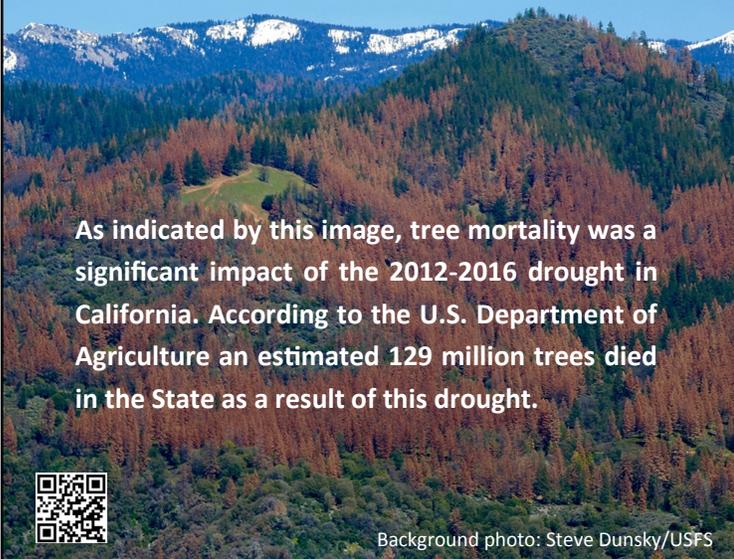


National Weather Service Los Angeles/Oxnard, CA

Drought Fact Sheet

What is a Drought?

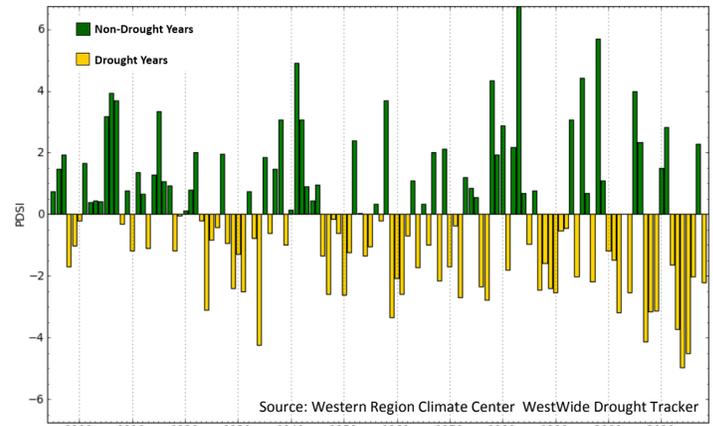
Drought originates from a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time — usually a season or more — resulting in a water shortage for some activity, group, or environmental sector.



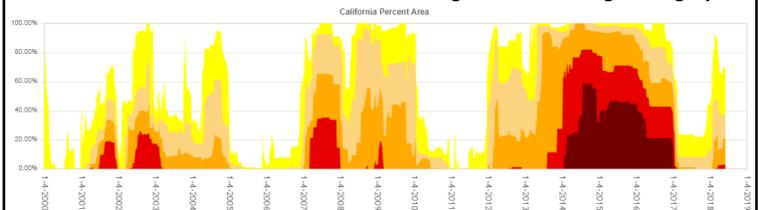
As indicated by this image, tree mortality was a significant impact of the 2012-2016 drought in California. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture an estimated 129 million trees died in the State as a result of this drought.

Recent Drought History in California

Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) History for the State of CA

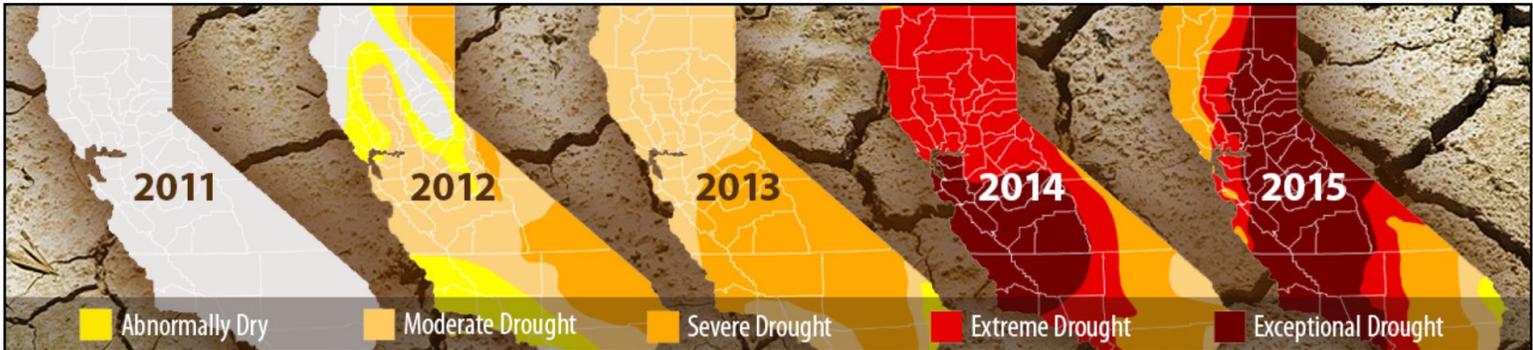


Percent of California area shown in a U.S. Drought Monitor drought category.



There are many ways that drought can be defined. Some can be quantified, such as **meteorological drought** (period of below normal precipitation) or **hydrologic drought** (period of below average runoff), others are more qualitative in nature (shortage of water for a particular purpose). There is no universal definition of when a drought begins or ends, nor is there a state process for defining or declaring drought, other than through proclamation of emergency conditions by the Governor of California. California's annual water supply conditions are highly variable, and droughts are a recurring feature in the state's water budget. On average, 75 percent of the state's average annual precipitation occurs between November and March, with half of it occurring between December and February. A few major storms more or less shift the balance between a wet year and a dry year.

Drought Resources



The **U.S. Drought Monitor**, established in 1999, is a weekly map of drought conditions produced jointly by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



United States Drought Portal

<https://www.drought.gov/drought/>



For more information

- 1) National Weather Service Los Angeles/Oxnard web page: www.weather.gov/losangeles
- 2) National Weather Service Los Angeles/Oxnard drought page: <https://bit.ly/2wJp7kf>
- 3) United States Drought Portal: <https://www.drought.gov/drought/>
- 4) United States Drought Monitor: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>
- 5) California Drought Portal: <https://drought.ca.gov/>
- 6) California Major Reservoir Status: <https://bit.ly/2Gkuwxz>
- 7) Current California Streamflow Conditions: <https://on.doi.gov/2ljpa6>

