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Rain, snow bring relief; Folsom Lake nearly full

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Rain and snowfall in recent weeks have improved water supply forecasts in El Dorado County and the possibility that a drought declaration will soon be lifted.

Jenkinson Lake near Pollock Pines, which supplies about 50 percent the El Dorado Irrigation District's water, spilled April 27 and remains at 100 percent capacity, said David Witter, natural resources director.

Folsom Lake, the water source for the El Dorado Hills area, was at 92 percent of capacity Monday, and "rising at a very fast pace," he said.

The district board declared a Stage 1 drought in March, because it appeared this year's water allocations from Folsom Lake would be about 1,000 acre-feet less than projected demand.

A Stage 1 declaration calls for customers to voluntarily reduce water use by 15 percent. Higher drought rates also became effective April 1.

Witter said customers had achieved an overall reduction of 12.8 percent for the month of April.

If increased allocations from Folsom Lake bridge the supply gap, district officials said they will consider lifting the drought declaration and restoring the normal rate schedule.

– Cathy Locke

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