

State of the Valley's Water

Presented by: **Melanie Richardson, P.E., Assistant Chief Executive Officer**
Santa Clara Valley Water District



Drought in Santa Clara County

Ongoing drought since 2020

Jun 9, 2021 – Water Shortage Emergency Condition

Jun 22, 2021 - County proclaims drought

Jul 8, 2021 – County in State's drought proclamation

Oct 19, 2021 – All CA counties in State's drought proclamation



Loss of Anderson Increases Risk

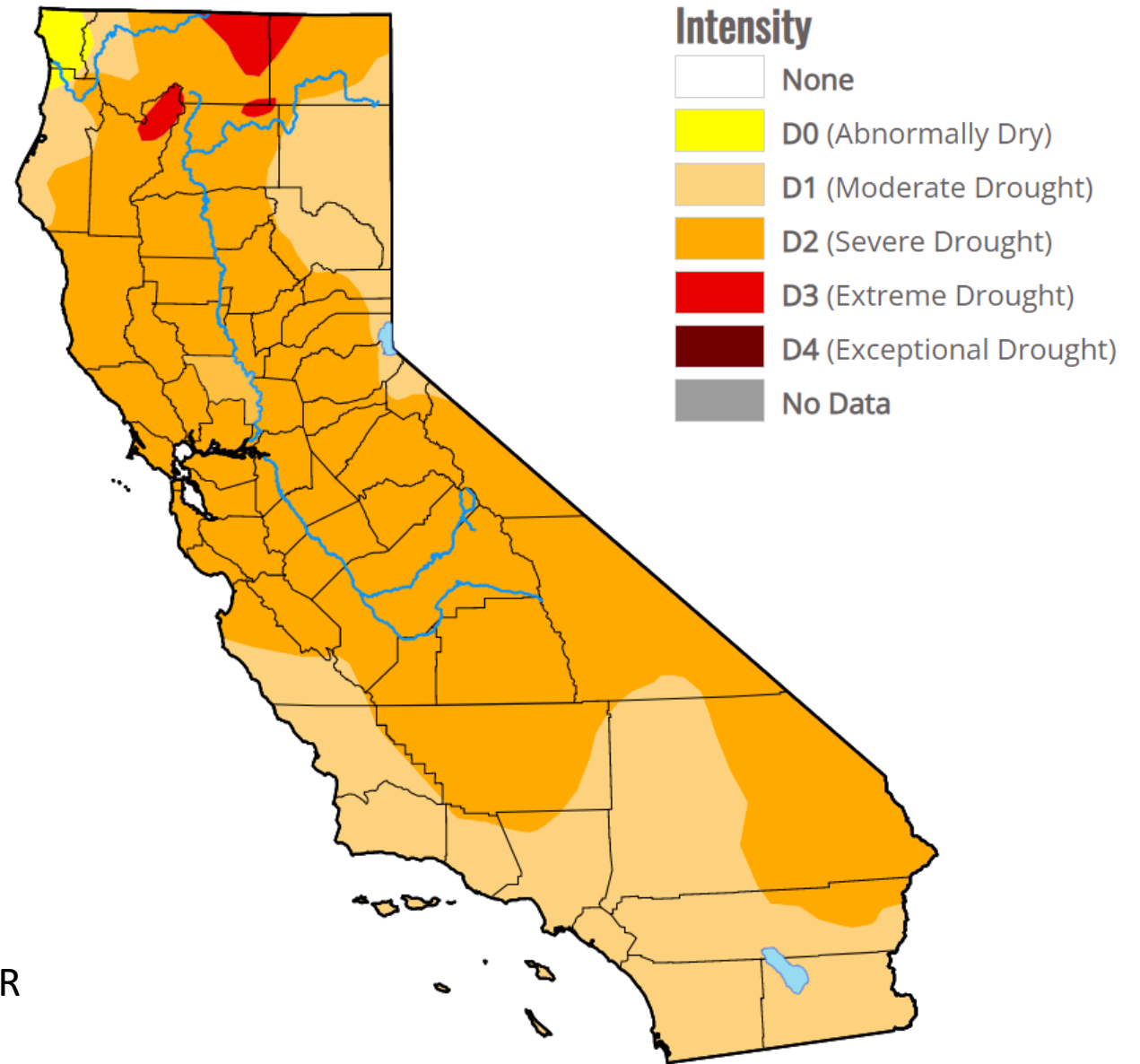


Drained by federal
mandate for
seismic retrofit
(89,278 acre-feet
capacity)

Current Drought Status

- Severe drought
- State snowpack below average
- Local and state reservoirs below average

Data sources: U.S. Drought Monitor, California DWR



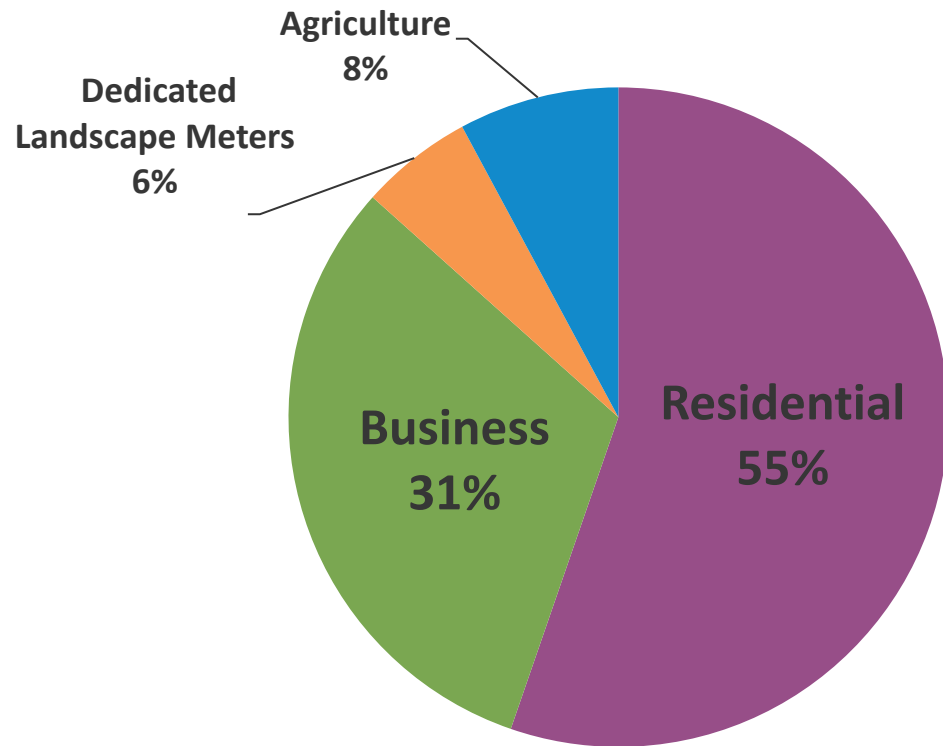
Imported Water Supplies

- Imported allocations in 2021 were low
- 2022 State Water Project – 15%
- 2022 Central Valley Project – 6 TAF (Jan – Feb)
- Semitropic banking recovery – 31.5 TAF
- Emergency transfers as needed

Risk to Water Supply

- Emergency imported water supplies and water use reduction have helped slow groundwater level declines
- Without continued water use reduction, risk of subsidence and wells going dry if drought continues
- Groundwater is the only drinking water source in South County

Water Use in our County



Half of water used in homes is used outdoors.

Key Drought Response Actions

- Water conservation programs, doubled landscape rebate
- Increased conservation messaging
- Reduce retailer deliveries
- Ensure adequate recharge in South County
- Reduced imported water releases to most creeks and ponds



Extensive Public Outreach

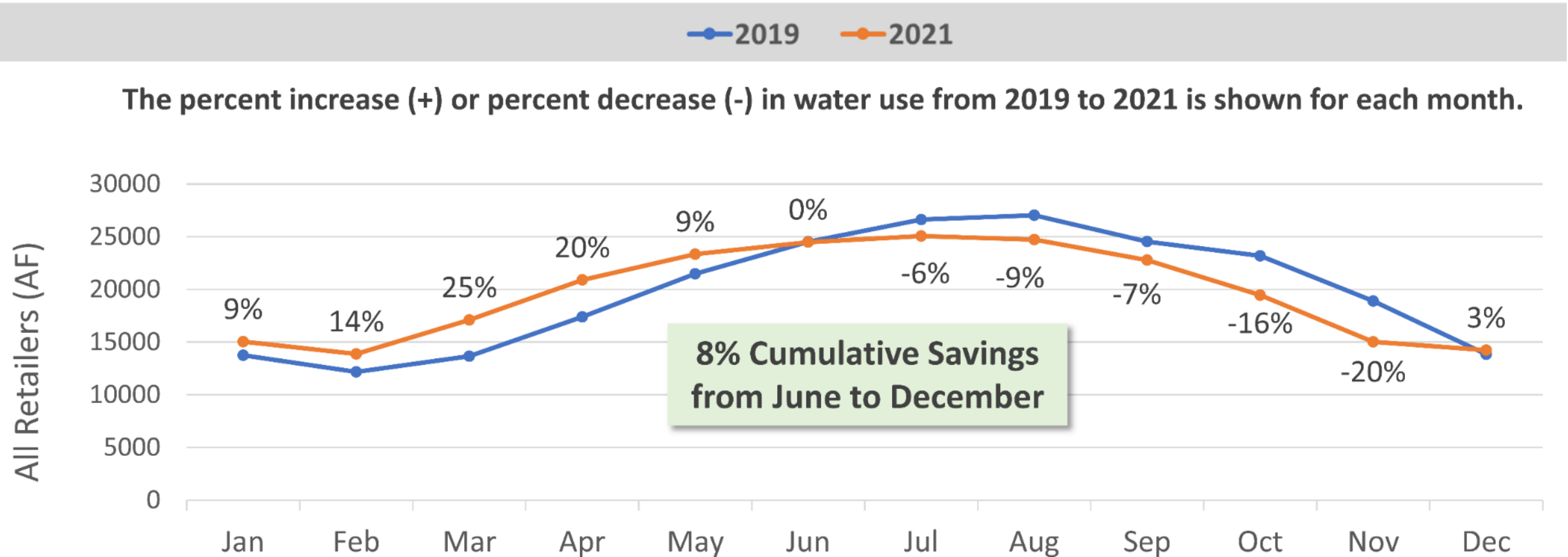
Media campaign

Public presentations

Education



Steady drop in retailer water use compared to 2019



Successes so far

- Drop in retailer water use compared to 2019
- Secured additional imported water
- Slowed groundwater level decline
- Increased participation in water conservation programs



Next Steps

- Assess drought condition in Spring 2022
- If drought continues, may consider pursuing emergency imported supplies and increasing percentage of water use reduction call
- Continue to monitor water supply indicators and adapt as needed

Purified Water: the long-term solution

- Valley Water investment in technology
- Improve supply reliability consistent with Water Supply Master Plan 2040
- Meet goal of 10% of Santa Clara County's water demand from water reuse
- Purified water can help replenish groundwater



QUESTIONS?





Valley Water

Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection