

STED Talk

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR ALL THINGS ENVIRONMENTAL

This Issue

New Team Member P. 1

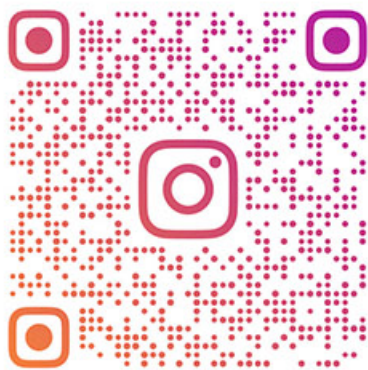
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New Member of the STED Team

Hello! My name is Katelyn Thomas, your new Environmental Specialist. I am honored and excited to work with the community and help preserve the environment here on the Soboba Reservation. Recently I graduated from California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Earth and Soil Science. Previously I worked for Mission Resource Conservation District conducting water system assessments and helping farmers find ways to use less water. In my free time I still enjoy being in nature and doing various outdoor activities like hiking and hammocking.



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No More Drought in California?

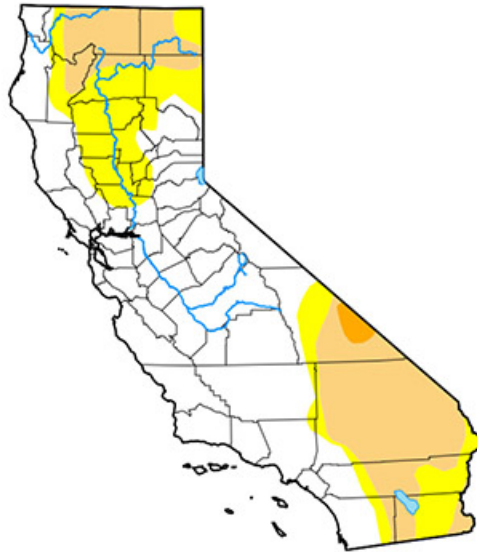
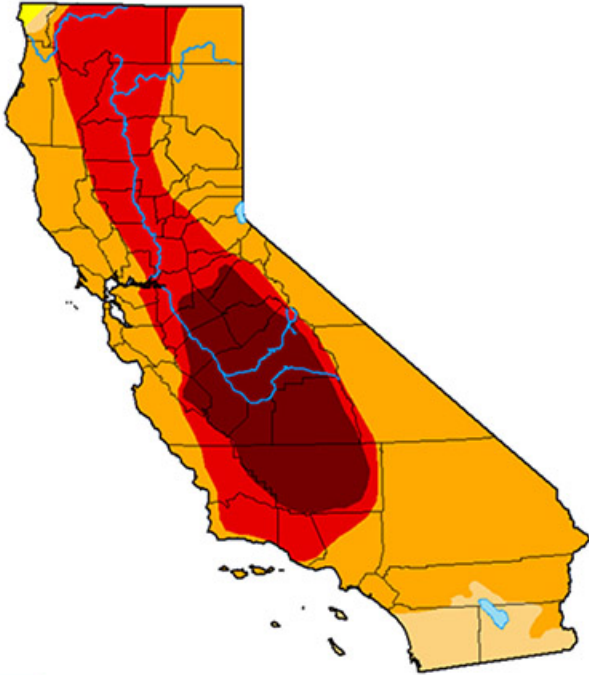
After the series of atmospheric rivers caused winter storms that brought rain and snow over the past months, California's drought level is now lower than it has been in nearly three years. Over half of California is no longer in any in any level of drought. Whereas last year over 95% of the state was in some form of drought. Today less than 8% of California is in an exceptional drought and extreme drought categories. This is the first time since 2014 that no part of California is in an exceptional drought. As for Riverside County there is no severe drought but 41% of the county is still in a moderate drought according to drought.gov. Despite these improvements, California is still under a drought state of emergency.

Water issues haven't gone away, they are just taking more of a backseat currently. Since the most recent storms have refilled many of California's reservoirs, there has been a broad reduction in drought coverage and intensity across California. Precipitation in the form of snow had a record breaking year with approximately 222% of average peak snowpack. Snowpack is a crucial piece of the state's water system because the snow melt feeds reservoirs and rivers. Rain recharges reservoirs while snowmelt helps preserve these levels into spring and summer providing around 30% of the water supply for the state. This year has a heightened potential for spring floods because of the abundance of snowpack that will eventually melt and run into the rivers and streams.

September 27, 2022

U.S. Drought Monitor California

April 4, 2023
(Released Thursday, Apr. 6, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

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

Author:

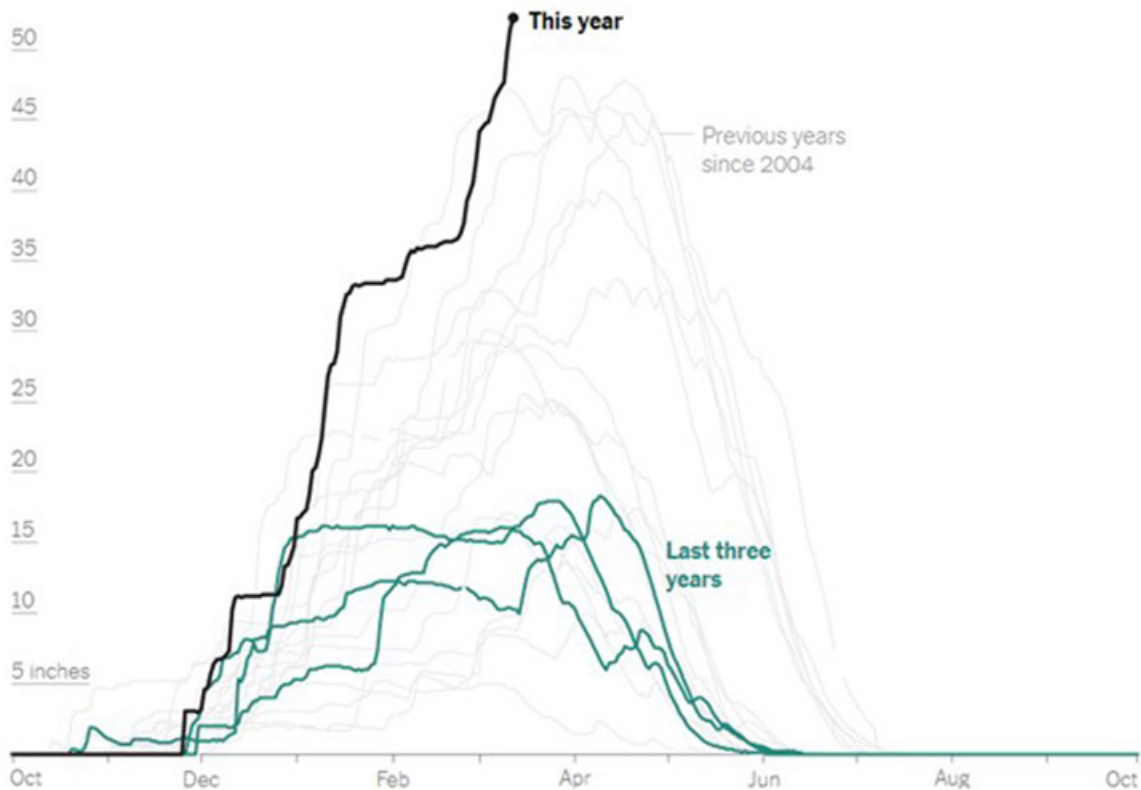
David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Record Snowpack Across California

Average snowpack levels statewide are the highest in decades.



Source: California Department of Water Resources - Note: Annual lines use water years, which run from October through the end of September the following year. Data runs through March 12, 2023.

Black Mold

What is black mold?

Stachybotrys chartarum (*S. Chartarum*) also known as black mold is a type of fungi that is present all around us. At normal amounts, mold in the environment does not pose a serious threat to the average human. Although, those with underlying conditions such as respiratory issues may have something to be cautious of. Black mold looks like black stains or dots growing in irregular circular patterns. It is in your best interest to mitigate exposure to black mold.

Where is black mold found?

It is most often found in homes or buildings that have been exposed to excessive amounts of water or humidity for an extended period of time. Black mold is not always easily visible as it can develop behind sheetrock and ceilings. Mold thrives in warm, frequently moist environments, including: baths, showers, toilets, kitchens, and basements. Black mold can also grow on wood, dirt, or paper. Mold often appears after flooding events or when leaks are left unchecked.

Is black mold dangerous?

Black mold weakens immune systems and can cause negative reactions in people with asthma. Common symptoms of mold exposure include: coughing, wheezing, nose stuffiness, skin rash, sore throat, and red or itchy eyes.

If you have mold

Remove and discard soft or porous materials such as carpets, insulation, or wall-board that show signs of mold. Exit the home if conditions worsen or you notice impacts to your health. Contact a professional if there is extensive mold growth in the home or if allergic reactions occur.

Preventing Black Mold

Do

- Fix leaks in your roof or walls to reduce moisture
- Control humidity levels
- Deal with any flooding promptly
- Clean the bathroom regularly to prevent mold and mildew
- Make sure your rain gutters are clean and not blocking water drainage
- Keep fabrics and surfaces dry
- Install moisture barriers
- Add mold inhibitors to paints
- Use exhaust fans in the kitchen and bathroom or open a window to improve ventilation

Don't

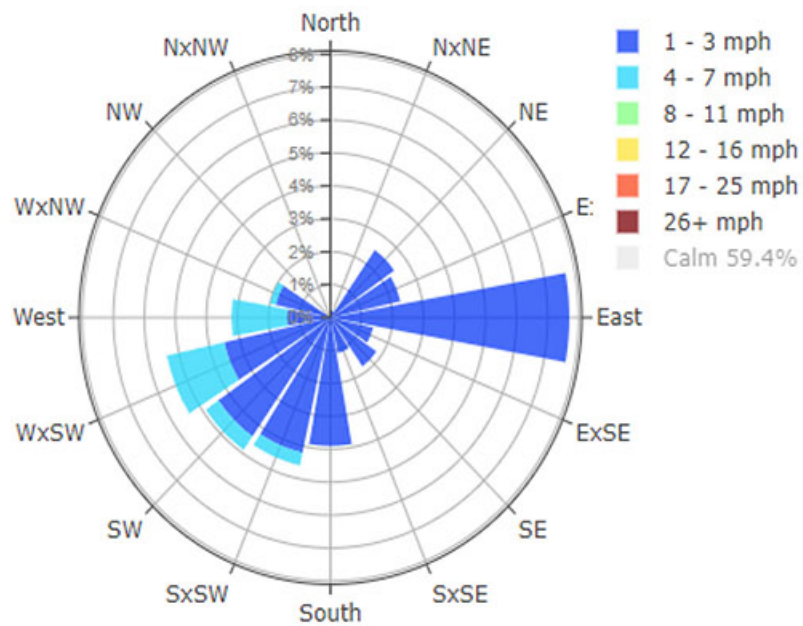
- Leave old books, newspapers, or wood sitting unused for long periods of time
- Put carpet in bathrooms, kitchens, and basements
- Ignore leaks from pipes or groundwater



Air Quality Update

Here is a sneak peak at the air quality monitoring website that's coming soon! STED is excited with the website progress and can't wait to update you with a public launch! The website depicts the statistics for four air quality monitoring sensors throughout Soboba. The Noli Indian School shown is an example of what you will see on the website. The air quality monitors track and chart the PM2.5 & PM10 levels, ozone, and nitrogen dioxide. The website has graphical analysis for all of the pollutants and shows wind speeds at the monitoring sites.

Wind at Health Clinic



Noli Indian School

Current AQI Value

25

Current AQI Category

Good

Responsible Pollutant

Ozone

Responsible Pollutant
Recent Hourly
Concentration

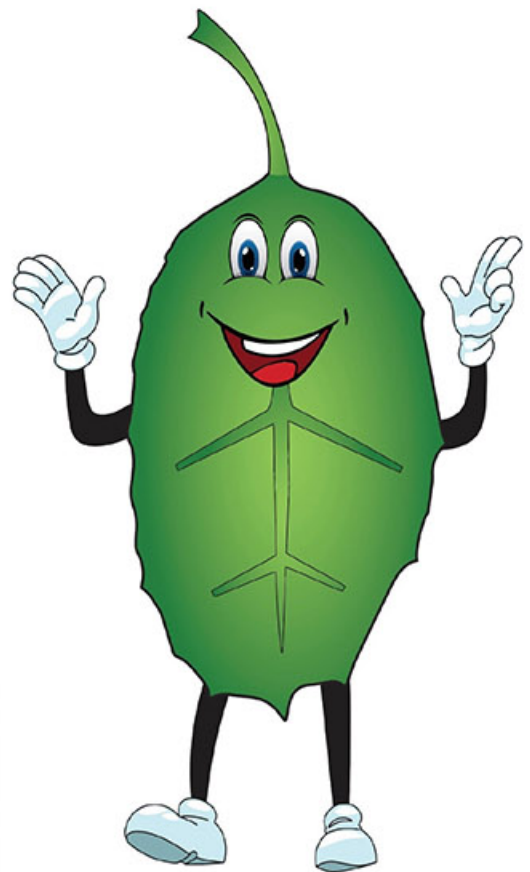
31 ppb (4-13-23 / 8:01am)

Current AQI Color



Meet STEDman

With Soboba Tribal Earth Day approaching, this will be STEDman's first public event. Please be on look out as he will be directing people to various areas. Want to know where the food line is? Look for STEDman! Want to know where to find the restrooms or the jumpers? Look for STEDman. And as always, he wants to remind everyone to dispose of their trash appropriately. Most recently STEDman went out with the Soboba Tribal Environmental Specialist, Katelyn, to test the water quality and boy was he so happy to see the river flowing. As always, he wants to ensure the protection of all natural resources on the Soboba Reservation. STEDman looks forward to engaging with Tribal Members and sharing his ongoing adventures in each issue. He cannot wait to see you on April 20th for the Soboba Tribal Earth Day!!



Upcoming Events

WASTE COLLECTION EVENT– JUNE 29, 2023

Your Environmental Department is working for you to help you dispose of that waste that has been collecting around your house or property. Got oil? Bring it! Got paint cans or batteries? Come on down! We work diligently to ensure that you and your family are safe from the hazardous effects of letting these items sit in your yard, seep through your soil and harm you. Please be on the look out for further information and flyers. Give us a call if you have any questions! (951) 654-5544 Ext. 4129



Spring Word Search

B U M C S C Y L O I P S F S W
V G Q I Q P E L D P A S V A A
H O R K C V S D C S L K V W S
N F L E W R G R U H O A Y L T
C N T U E J O A R C M B N N E
L O P X N N O G K E A F O E J
P U M E A T C W R P C T I B T
E R J P O H E U L E F Y I M A
A U B M O Q A E Y J E I C O S
R M J T B S N T R U I N U L N
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S U B S T A I N A B I L I T Y
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N A N M U T X Y M W G O O P K

SUBSTAINABILITY	MICROGREENS	VOLUNTEER
EDUCATION	COMMUNITY	RECYCLE
PLANET	SOBOBA	COMPOST
GREEN	EARTH	WASTE
OCEAN		