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## El Dorado Irrigation District plans to declare Stage 1 drought

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The El Dorado Irrigation District is preparing to declare a Stage 1 drought March 9, barring significant increases in snow and rainfall in the next four weeks.

Customers would be asked to voluntarily cut back on water use, with the goal of reducing demand 15 percent districtwide. The staff also would step up public awareness campaigns and enforcement of water waste regulations.

The district serves about 100,000 customers on El Dorado County's western slope.

Jenkinson Lake near Pollock Pines, which supplies 50 percent of the district's water, was at 64 percent capacity Feb. 3, said David Witter, natural resources director.

The district also expects a reduction in the amount of water it will be allowed to draw this year from Folsom Lake, which is at 25 percent of capacity, Witter told board members Monday.

Director Harry Norris said he would rather start with the Stage 1 alert and voluntary conservation measures in March, than to wait until May and have to go immediately to mandatory cutbacks.

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