

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR 2012!

The storage at New Hogan Reservoir on October 1 is expected to be about 191,000 Acre-Feet (AF); about 82,000 AF more than last year on this date. New Melones storage level is also up about 800,000 AF from last year. This makes three straight years of stable levels above a million AF at New Melones. If managed properly, this trend can help our supplies for 2012. Like last year, the water district relied on the New Melones Reservoir supply as the primary source for the drinking water treatment plant serving the City of Stockton, California Water Service Company and San Joaquin County service areas. Higher New Hogan year-end reservoir levels reflect this source management focus. Surface water users are to be congratulated for working with the water district staff in order to conserve the water which was available to us this year. With your help, we met our goal, thank-you! Climatology experts are consistent in their predictions for the coming winter. La Niña is the term they use; and a wet beginning with below average total precipitation amounts are expected. With an average year of precipitation, the storage in New Hogan Reservoir is expected to increase to over 250,000 AF by April 1, 2012. That would be sufficient to get us comfortably through the next irrigation season. A similar effect in the Stanislaus River watershed could also result in a sufficient allocation of Central Valley Project water from New Melones Reservoir, allowing New Hogan Reservoir to hold greater reserves for irrigation years beyond 2012. Those who have read this type of message before know these estimates are based on average inflow figures, and only time will tell how the 2012 irrigation season will play-out. Think snow; it will not be too long!