

A message from Melvin Matthews, General Manager, Kinneloa Irrigation District

Eaton Dam Measurements:

This Season to Date: 15.40 inches

Average Season to Date: 12.38 inches

Our average rainfall for an entire season in the Kinneloa area over the past 25 years has been 24.1 inches. So, in spite of this late winter storm, ***we are likely to end the season well below the long-term average.*** [Emphasis added.]

There has been no significant change in the Raymond Basin Aquifer level in our area this year. Over the longer term we have been able to slow the decline in the pumping level by voluntary reductions in pumping. However, it will take many years of above-average rainfall to make a significant impact. It can take as long as 20 years for rain received now to percolate into the basin. However, we have seen a slight recovery in production from our water tunnels over the past two years.

We still encourage our customers to water outside no more than 3 days a week and to turn off outside irrigation 48 hours before a predicted storm. Even though there is a perception that the drought is over, the next drought likely to be just around the corner.