

Reservoirs recover, putting Calif. water limits in question

By Ryan Sabalow, Mark Glover and Dale Kasler, Sacramento Bee

With California's two largest reservoirs hitting historically average levels following a weekend of heavy storms, the state's chief water regulator is cautiously optimistic that the drought may finally be relaxing its grip.

If the wet weather continues, she said, the urban conservation mandates that turned lawns brown and have Californians taking shorter showers may be eased in the weeks ahead.

"In May, we'll be either lifting it or changing it significantly," Felicia Marcus, chair of the State Water Resources Control Board, said Monday. "The more precipitation we get, the more snowpack we have, the better it is."

Over the weekend, the state's largest reservoir, Shasta Lake, surpassed its historic average for this time of year. The second largest, Lake Oroville, hit that mark Monday afternoon. It marks the first time since 2013 that the reservoirs have reached their historical averages for this time of year, said Doug Carlson, a spokesman for the Department of Water Resources.

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