

Editorial: California's most pressing need – water

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As if we needed more proof, the Sierra snow survey last week made clear that Californians must continue to conserve water while working to build a more reliable water system.

The snowpack is roughly normal in Northern California. But the situation is worse in Southern California, where El Niño was a bust, delivering half of normal rainfall.

Yet more evidence arrived Friday in the form of a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation announcement that while many customers will receive adequate water from the Central Valley Project, farmers on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley will receive a mere 5 percent of their contracted allocation.

California's existing plumbing is in need of help. The state must protect the environment, but also ensure a reliable water delivery system.

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