

Opinion: Drought isn't over, so don't relax

By Peter Hanlon, High Country News

California's State Water Resources Control Board recently indicated that mandatory water restrictions could be lowered in some parts of the state later this spring. Such a move would come just one year after the wise decision that encouraged residents to save water in the midst of a severe, multi-year drought.

Regardless of the board's decision, Californians need to shift permanently toward water conservation and efficiency. In fact, that's not a bad idea for all Americans.

There's no denying it: There was a lot more rain and snowfall in California this past winter than we've seen in recent years, especially the last five. Unfortunately, when it comes to the drought, a closer look at recent rain and snow trends makes it clear that saying "things are better" is a long way from knowing that "the drought is over."

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