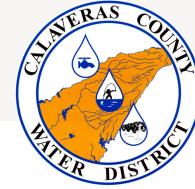


# PRESS RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2023

### **CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT ADOPTS MODIFIED 5-YEAR RATE PLAN**

The Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) Board of Directors approved a revised 5-year rate plan during its Public Hearing on September 13, 2023.

Starting in October, 2022, CCWD conducted a comprehensive cost-of-service analysis to ensure rates are adequate to cover the rising costs of the District’s water and wastewater systems over the next five years. After multiple public drafts and extensive budget reduction efforts, a proposed rate design and schedule were presented to the Board on July 12, 2023. At that meeting, the Board directed staff to issue the mandatory Proposition 218 notices for the proposed rates. CCWD then held three community workshops, among other outreach efforts. A special Board meeting on September 6th resulted in a reduced rate increase alternative based on deferral of certain projects from the Capital Improvement Program.

During the September 13th public hearing, the Board adopted the alternative proposal after making further reductions to the rate increases in years four and five of the rate schedule. The Board unanimously supported the rate increases in the first two years of the rate schedule, although there was disagreement about whether to limit the rate schedule to the first two years. In the end, a majority of the Board adopted a five-year rate schedule with rate increases that were lower than initially proposed. The originally proposed rate revenue increases are shown below along with the increases that were adopted by the Board.

Water Revenue Adjustments	Fiscal Year 2024	Fiscal Year 2025	Fiscal Year 2026	Fiscal Year 2027	Fiscal Year 2028
Proposed	22%	18%	16%	16%	15%
Adopted	22%	12%	13%	7%	7%

Wastewater Revenue Adjustments	Fiscal Year 2024	Fiscal Year 2025	Fiscal Year 2026	Fiscal Year 2027	Fiscal Year 2028
Proposed	14%	14%	14%	14%	3%
Adopted	12%	12%	12%	6%	5%

The District heard many concerns from the public during this process about the impact the rate increases will have on CCWD customers. CCWD is committed to working with its partners to provide assistance to low-income customers and to bring in other sources of revenue to offset rates for all customers. The District is obligated to cover the costs of furnishing the critical services it provides but will make every effort to keep rates as low as possible and connect customers with any available assistance.

CCWD is a non-profit public agency that provides water or wastewater service to a majority of Calaveras County residents. It also has county-wide water resources planning jurisdiction and owns two hydro-electric projects.

See below for more details on CCWD’s new rates in comparison to other local agencies. Other agencies are facing many of the same cost increases as CCWD, so these comparisons will change as other agencies adjust rates over the next five years. For CCWD, if the maximum allowable rate increases in the adopted schedule are implemented in each of the five years, the daily cost of the water base rate plus 187 gallons per day will increase from \$2.30 per day currently to \$4.04 per day in 2028. For wastewater, the daily cost for a single-family residence could increase from \$3.51 per day currently to \$5.47 in 2028. The bi-monthly bill amounts are shown below.



# CCWD Adopted 5-Year Water Rate Structure

Bi-monthly base rate + 187 gal/day comparison with neighboring agencies

2

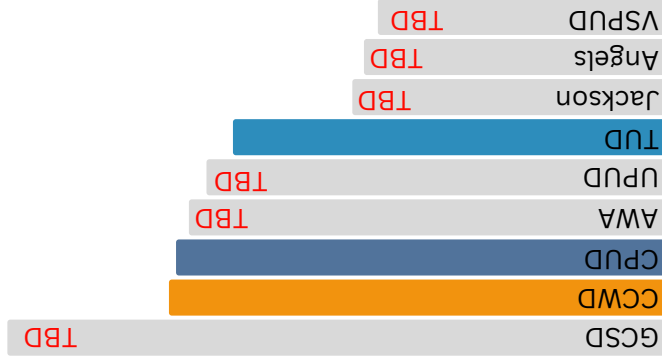
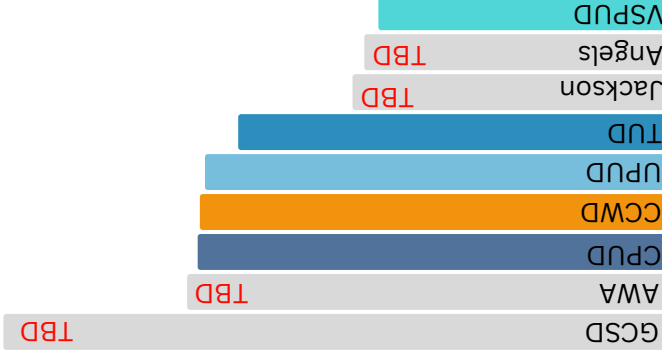
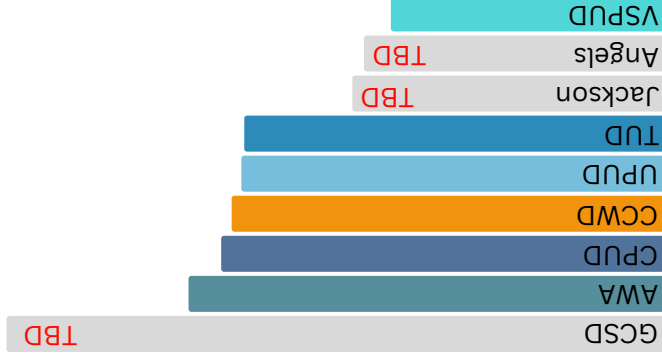
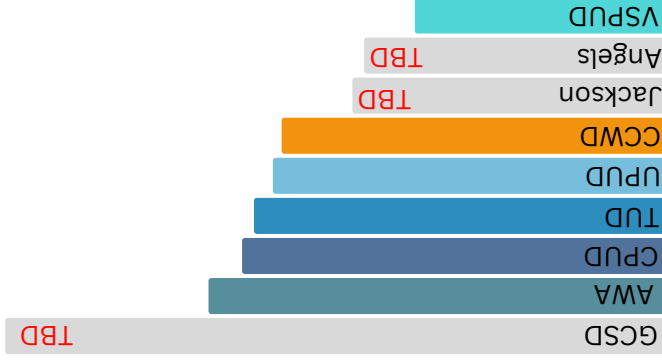
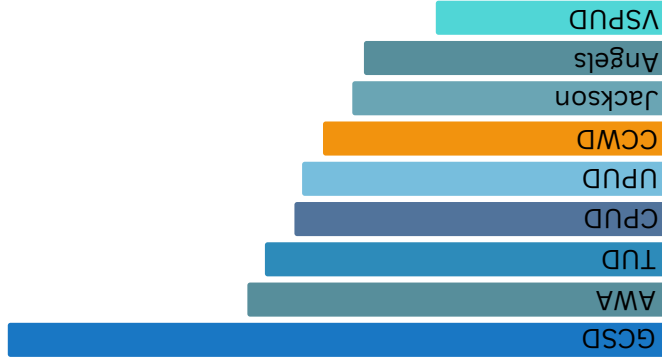
GCSD = \$321.47  
 AWA = \$204.12  
 TUD = \$195.53  
 CPUD = \$181.07  
 UPUD = \$177.32  
**Proposed = \$167.08**  
**CCWD = \$167.08**  
 Jackson = \$152.73  
 Angels = \$147.03  
 VSPUD = \$111.83

GCSD = TBD  
 AWA = \$222.68  
 CPUD = \$206.37  
 TUD = \$200.60  
**Proposed = \$197.27**  
 UPUD = \$191.40  
**CCWD = \$187.16**  
 Jackson = TBD  
 Angels = TBD  
 VSPUD = \$122.39

GCSD = TBD  
 AWA = \$232.67  
**Proposed = \$229.27**  
 CPUD = \$216.73  
**CCWD = \$211.62**  
 UPUD = \$206.89  
 TUD = \$205.47  
 Jackson = TBD  
 Angels = TBD  
 VSPUD = \$133.94

GCSD = TBD  
**Proposed = \$265.66**  
 AWA = TBD  
 CPUD = \$227.59  
**CCWD = \$226.53**  
 UPUD = \$224.06  
 TUD = \$207.99  
 Jackson = TBD  
 Angels = TBD  
 VSPUD = \$140.23

GCSD = TBD  
**Proposed = \$305.57**  
**CCWD = \$242.43**  
 CPUD = \$238.96  
 AWA = TBD  
 UPUD = TBD  
 TUD = \$211.12  
 Jackson = TBD  
 Angels = TBD  
 VSPUD = TBD



**22%**

FY 23-24

**12%**

FY 24-25

**13%**

FY 25-26

**7%**

FY 26-27

**7%**

FY 27-28

GCSD - Groveland Community District  
 AWA - Amador Water Agency  
 TUD - Tuolumne Utilities District  
 CPUD - Calaveras Public Utility District

UPUD - Union Public Utility District  
 CCWD - Calaveras County Water District  
 Angels - City of Angels  
 VSPUD - Valley Springs Public Utility District

TBD = Some of our neighboring agencies do not have a rate schedule for the same timeline as CCWD and will likely go through the Prop 218 process to restructure their rates during this period

**Proposed Rate**

**Adopted Rate**



# CCWD Adopted 5-Year Wastewater Rate Structure

Bi-monthly single-family residence rate comparison with neighboring agencies

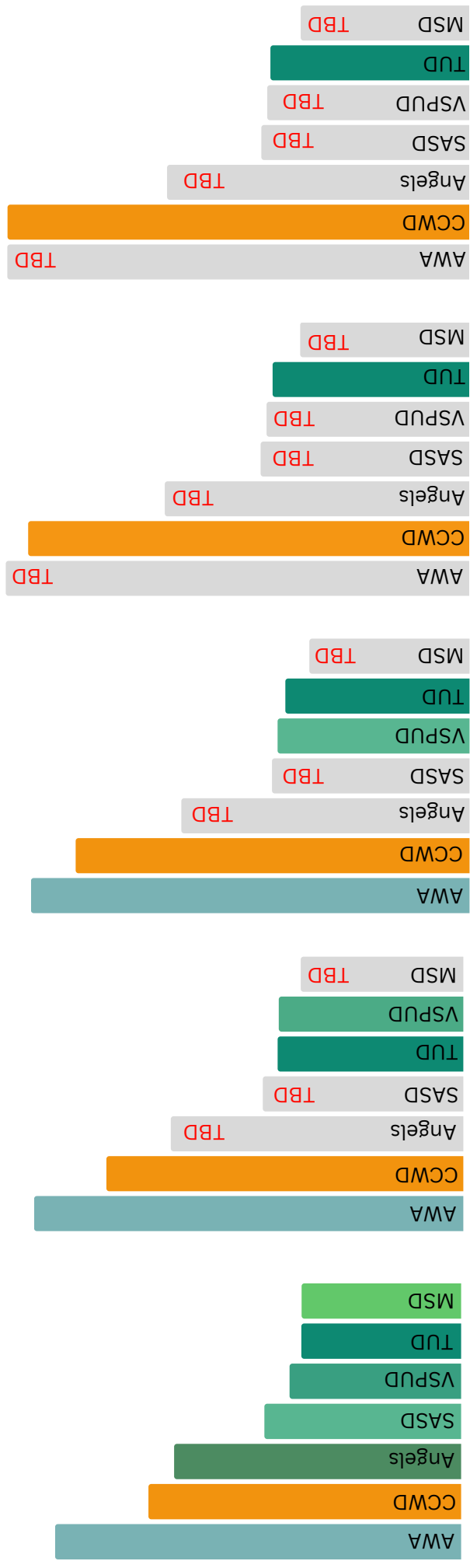
**AWA = \$305.42**  
**Proposed = \$239.392**  
**CCWD = \$235.21**  
 Angels = \$215.90  
 SASD = \$148.00  
 VSPUD = \$129.06  
 TUD = \$120.20  
 MSD = \$120.00

**AWA = \$316.80**  
**Proposed = \$272.90**  
**CCWD = \$263.44**  
 Angels = TBD  
 SASD = TBD  
 TUD = \$137.06  
 VSPUD = \$136.22  
 MSD = TBD

**AWA = \$328.56**  
**Proposed = \$311.09**  
**CCWD = \$295.06**  
 Angels = TBD  
 SASD = TBD  
 VSPUD = \$143.80  
 TUD = \$137.98  
 MSD = TBD

**Proposed = \$354.09**  
 AWA = TBD  
**CCWD = \$312.77**  
 Angels = TBD  
 SASD = TBD  
 VSPUD = TBD  
 TUD = \$139.52  
 MSD = TBD

**Proposed = \$365.26**  
 AWA = TBD  
**CCWD = \$328.41**  
 Angels = TBD  
 SASD = TBD  
 VSPUD = TBD  
 TUD = \$141.54  
 MSD = TBD



**12%** FY 23-24      **12%** FY 24-25      **12%** FY 25-26      **6%** FY 26-27      **5%** FY 27-28

AWA - Amador Water Agency  
 TUD - Tuolumne Utilities District  
 SASD - San Andreas Sanitary District  
 MSD - Murphys Sanitary District

CCWD - Calaveras County Water District  
 Angels - City of Angels  
 VSPUD - Valley Springs Public Utility District

TBD = Some of our neighboring agencies do not have a rate schedule for the same timeline as CCWD and will likely go through the Prop 218 process to restructure their rates during this period

**Proposed Rate**      **Adopted Rate**

THIS PAGE  
INTENTIONALLY  
LEFT BLANK

## ACA 13 and ACA 1 Pass to November 2024 Ballot

CSDA News, 09/19/23

The California State Assembly voted to concur in Senate amendments to Assembly Constitutional Amendment 13 (Ward), clearing the final procedural hurdle necessary for the measure to appear on the ballot before California voters. Throughout the final days of session, ACA 13 was intended to appear on the March 2024 ballot, several months before the November 2024 ballot and that same number of months prior to voters considering Initiative #1935, the initiative backed by the California Business Roundtable. However, following conversations with the Governor's Office, sponsors and author's office, an agreement was reached to place the measure on the November 2024 ballot. This maneuver was effectuated by means of a motion following the final passage of ACA 13 on the Assembly Floor, where lawmakers agreed to hold the passed measure at the Assembly Desk until November 1, 2023— several days after the October 26 deadline for measures to qualify for the March 2024 ballot. Assembly Member Chris Ward, the author of the measure, said at the time that “[a]fter careful consideration, ACA 13 will go on the November 2024 ballot when voter participation is historically higher to ensure the broadest representation of our democracy will have their voices heard on this Constitutional issue of fairness.” Amendment language taken in the Senate Elections & Constitutional Amendments Committee states that the provisions of ACA 13 apply to any initiative “submitted to the electors on or after January 1, 2024, including measures that appear on the ballot at the same election [as this one],” which would appear to include Initiative #1935 as well as any other initiative posed to voters on or after that date.

Dozens of special districts wrote and contacted their local legislators and the Office of Assembly Member Ward in support of ACA 13, heavily contributing to the grassroots advocacy campaign that ran counter to opponents' persistent and deceptive efforts to stymie the measure. Districts that contacted their legislators about ACA 13 are encouraged to follow-up to express their appreciation for their support (or, in the event the legislator did not vote to support ACA 13, to educate the legislator on the need to protect the efficient and effective delivery of essential local services).

The Protect and Retain the Majority Vote Act (ACA 13) will ask voters whether, in the event a citizen-initiated constitutional amendment contains vote thresholds in excess of a simple majority, such an amendment should be supported by the same vote threshold it seeks to impose. Any citizen-initiated constitutional amendment with supermajority vote thresholds would thus need to obtain the same level of supermajority approval it would require. ACA 13 was supported by a coalition of local government stakeholders, organized labor, nonprofits and good governance groups like California Common Cause and the League of Women Voters of California. It will next need the support of a majority of California voters on the November 2024 ballot in order to become part of the California Constitution.

Of similar, significant importance to special districts is the successful passage of Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1 (Aguiar-Curry). ACA 1 would propose to voters a question: whether to allow a city, county, or special district, with 55% voter approval, to incur bonded

indebtedness or impose specified special taxes to fund projects for affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, or public infrastructure.

ACA 1, sponsored by the California Professional Firefighters and the California State Building and Construction Trades Council, was supported by a coalition of local government stakeholders, organized labor, nonprofit housing providers, and social justice groups like California Common Cause and the Western Center on Law and Poverty. It will next need the support of a majority of California voters on the ballot in order to become part of the California Constitution.

# State flows plan advances in, out of court

AgAlert, 09/12/23

Central Valley water districts subject to a state plan that diverts flows from the San Joaquin River tributaries downstream for fish are working to achieve a more holistic approach for the fishery through voluntary agreements, while also challenging the state's flows-only approach in court.

Central to the issue is a plan adopted in 2018 by the California State Water Resources Control Board that requires affected water users to leave unimpaired flows of 30% to 50% in three San Joaquin tributaries—the Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced rivers. The work is the first phase of the state's water quality control plan update for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta, known as the Bay-Delta plan.

Districts, farmers and residents of the affected region have protested the plan, saying it would do little to restore salmon and other fish populations while cutting water supplies to the northern San Joaquin Valley.

“Notwithstanding our commitment and efforts in this collaborative process, MID continues to defend our water rights against the state water board's regulatory overreach,” said Melissa Williams, public affairs manager for Modesto Irrigation District, which jointly operates Don Pedro Reservoir on the Tuolumne River with Turlock Irrigation District.

The districts and their partner on the river, the San Francisco Public Utilities District, signed a memorandum of understanding last November to work with the state to advance a voluntary agreement for the Tuolumne River.

Williams said MID and related partners have participated in numerous meetings with state staff. “The comprehensive nature of the voluntary agreement greatly outweighs the devastating and one-sided, flow-only approach,” she said.

Michael Cooke, director of regulatory affairs at TID, spoke before the state water board during a meeting last week. He said local water districts look forward to partnering with resource agencies to develop a comprehensive approach to improving conditions for fish that includes flow, habitat, funding, science, monitoring and adaptive management.

Williams said voluntary agreements for the Tuolumne River and the Sacramento River basin—Phase 2 of the Bay-Delta plan—are expected to be presented to the state water board in 2024 for consideration and adoption.

As water districts, government agencies and other interests continue to negotiate voluntary agreements, oral arguments in about a dozen lawsuits challenging the state's plan were heard in Sacramento County Superior Court in late August.

Tina Cannon Leahy, staff counsel with the state water board's Office of Chief Counsel, discussed the pending litigation during the water board meeting.

She said an entire week of oral arguments was presented in state water board cases on Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act claims. In addition, she said there will be four days of court arguments on California Environmental Quality Act claims this month. That will be followed by two days of arguments on other legal matters, including claims on waste and unreasonable use and public trust, she said.

The cases, which challenge different aspects of the state's Bay-Delta plan for the San Joaquin River tributaries, include a lawsuit filed by the California Farm Bureau.

Chris Scheuring, senior counsel for the California Farm Bureau, said the suit, scheduled to be heard Sept. 25 in Sacramento County Superior Court, challenges adoption of the plan and claims the state's environmental review document underestimates the harm the plan would cause to Central Valley agriculture.

"The big plan is to put in place this water quality control plan, so a water quality overlay onto a major chunk of the San Joaquin River system for those three rivers that would purport to constrain water rights in the name of water quality, which is legally not a precise fit," Scheuring said, adding that water quality law in the past has addressed pollution issues.

"This is important statewide because this water quality control planning process, if validated, is probably going to move to other river systems, so it's coming to a watershed near you," Scheuring added.

Affected water right holders, he said, are aware that working with the state and other interests is the way to solve these issues.

"We've always said that the problem is much more multifarious than just throwing water at it by a regulatory process in which the state agency says get the water back in the river," he said. "Farmers are just as interested as anybody else, and probably more so, in solving fisheries conflicts."

As litigation continues, the state water board took its first action on the Bay-Delta plan in more than five years last week, adopting biological goals for flow objectives to support salmon in the San Joaquin River tributaries.

Stephen Louie of the state water board's division of water rights, said the biological goals are for salmon abundance, productivity, diversity and population spatial extent, distribution and structure.

He said the goals are not regulatory but serve as metrics for monitoring and assessment. Once established, the board may use the goals to measure the effectiveness of the flow objectives and other aspects of the Bay-Delta plan.



Thomas Berliner, an attorney representing the Merced Irrigation District, addressed the state water board last week, encouraging the board to delay a decision to adopt biological goals.

Berliner noted the board resolution states that addressing water rights is an essential part of the Bay-Delta plan and meeting the biological goals. But he said, "There has not been any water rights proceeding."

Williams of MID said the district is considering legal options on the board's approval of biological goals, adding the goals are not consistent with amendments of the Bay-Delta plan or state law.

"Despite the state water board's disappointing action," Williams said, "MID remains committed to the voluntary agreement process as we firmly believe it is the best chance to provide balanced, comprehensive solutions to address water quality concerns in the Bay-Delta and its tributaries, including the Tuolumne."

THIS PAGE  
INTENTIONALLY  
LEFT BLANK

# El Niño is likely here to stay through winter: What that means for California

SF Gate, 09/15/23

El Niño — a weather pattern that can cause impacts around the world — developed in summer and is expected to persist through winter, long-term forecasters said Thursday.

In its latest monthly forecast, the federal Climate Prediction Center said there's a 95% chance El Niño will continue through winter, January to March, and it will most likely be strong, as opposed to weak or moderate.

In California, El Niño has near-celebrity status, as the state has seen some epic wet winters when it has developed in the past, but meteorologists say that the state has also seen dry or normal precipitation in El Niño winters. The data shows this: The three strongest El Niños to develop in the past 50 years fell during the winters of 1982-83, 1997-98 and 2015-16. In the first two, California saw above-normal rainfall, while in the last one, Northern California saw close-to-normal precipitation and Southern California below-normal.

"Every El Niño is different," David DeWitt, director of the Climate Prediction Center, told SFGATE over the phone Thursday. "In some places, it's very reliable and very typical. California is not one of those places. Even though it certainly is on track to be a very strong El Niño, when we look at the dynamical models, the primary tool that we look at for precipitation forecasting on the seasonal time scale, it is looking right now like you're going to have probably a near-normal rainfall season and snowfall season in California."

DeWitt added that there's low confidence in the long-term forecast, as it's difficult to predict the weather several months out. "As we get closer in time to winter, the November-December period, that forecast could change," he said.

El Niño and its close cousin La Niña actually occur nowhere near California. They're phenomena that develop in the equatorial waters of the Pacific Ocean. In an El Niño year, the trade winds ease, allowing warm water to collect at the equator off the west coast of South America, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

La Niña is the inverse of El Niño, and when it develops, those same winds grow stronger than usual and the hot waters off South America are pushed westward toward Asia. Sea surface temperature can impact the jet stream, high altitude winds that generally move west to east over the continents, and ultimately impact weather all over, especially in the winter months. A shift in the jet stream can lead some areas to be drier than usual and some areas to be wetter than is typical in the winter.

While El Niño and La Niña can affect weather in locations around the world, meteorologist Jan Null with Golden Gate Weather Services said there's an "alphabet soup" of other weather patterns that influence precipitation. Last winter, California saw a parade of

storms that piled up a massive snowpack during a La Niña year. Null said a weather pattern known as the Madden-Julian Oscillation, marked by thunderstorms that circle the equator and help foster storms, was likely one of the drivers behind the historically wet 2022-23 winter.

“There are all these other things going on,” Null told SFGATE over the phone. “We not only have to forecast how warm the equatorial Pacific is going to be, but we have to forecast all these other things going on.”

Climate change, Null said, is another factor that’s also influencing weather and changing past patterns. “With warmer oceans, everything has climate change DNA in it,” he said.

All of that said, Null isn’t betting any money on what this winter is likely to bring in California. “Ask me in April,” he said.

Michael Anderson, California’s state climatologist, echoed the sentiment that El Niño isn’t a good predictor of California’s winter.

“Other climate system processes play a role in the weather outcomes for California as they relate to the timing, pace and scale of storms that show up,” Anderson wrote in an email. “While more work is needed to generate reliable seasonal outlooks, Californians should be prepared for either another wet year or a dry year.”