

## Rainfall and Lake Level History

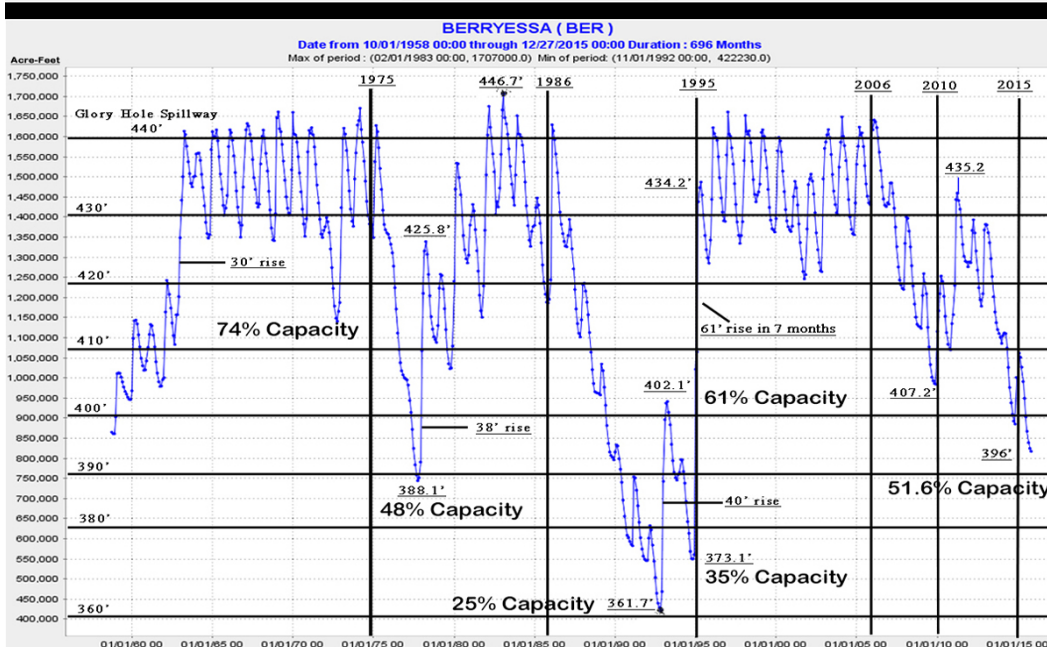
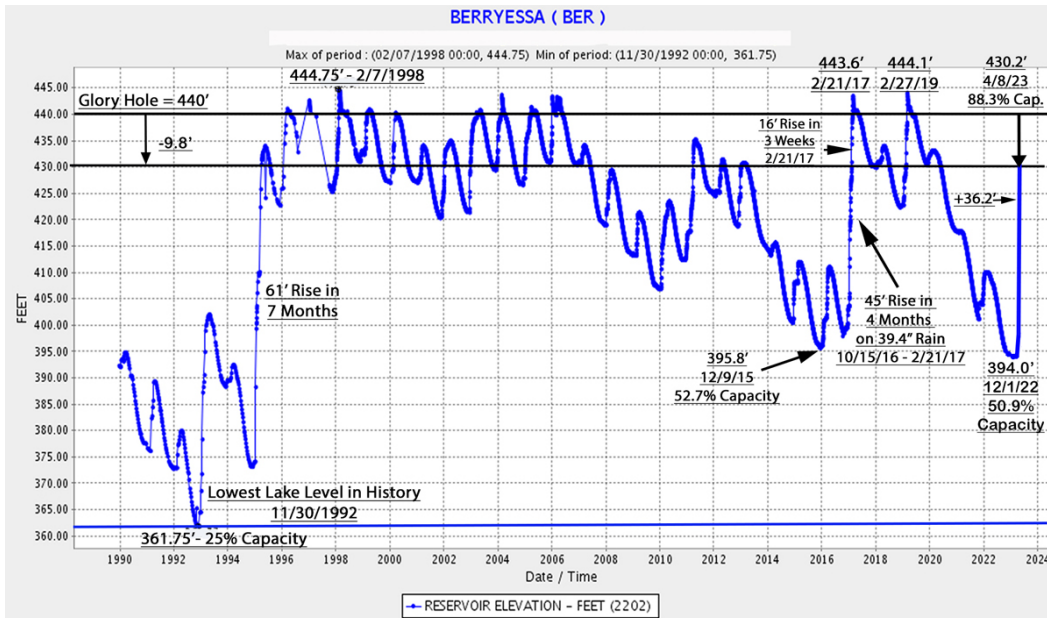
Long-term weather patterns are cyclic in nature but unpredictable in practice. The charts below show the history of Lake Berryessa since Monticello Dam was built in 1957 until 2023. Data sources for much of the information in this book can be found at:

<https://www.scwamonitoring.com/LakeBerryessa/>

and

[https://cdec.water.ca.gov/dynamicapp/sensorplots?staid=ber&dur\\_code=D](https://cdec.water.ca.gov/dynamicapp/sensorplots?staid=ber&dur_code=D)

The lake has had previous droughts, one in the late 1970's, a ten-year drought from 1986 to 1996, and the latest from 2006 to 2017. As of October 2022 a new drought is occurring and the level is lower than it was during the previous drought.



California endured severe droughts in 1976 and 1977, which ended in 1978. The master chart shows that Lake Berryessa levels did not even see the usual winter uptick during those years and had dropped to less than 50% of capacity by 1978. The 1987-92 statewide drought was notable for its six-year duration and the statewide nature of its impacts. Statewide reservoir storage was about 40 percent of average by the third year of the drought and did not return to average conditions until 1994. But Lake Berryessa had dramatically dropped to only 30% of capacity by then and did not fill up again until 1996. 1991 was the single driest year of the drought. The rapid increase in 2017 was driven by the high rainfall at Cobb Mountain at the north end of the watershed.

Annual Rainfall Totals Monticello Dam vs Cobb Mountain		
Rain Year	Season Total (At Dam <sup>1</sup> ) (7/1 - 6/31)	Season Total (Cobb Mtn <sup>2</sup> ) (10/1 - 9/1)
09-10	26.41"	77.1"
10-11	37.92"	73.8"
11-12	19.56"	46.6"
12-13	20.65"	27.0"
13-14	13.69"	27.8"
14-15	19.56"	57"
15-16	24.57	65.6"
<b>16-17</b>	<b>47.55"</b>	<b>130.5"</b>
17-18	14.89"	68.8"
<b>18-19</b>	<b>40.53"</b>	<b>103.6"</b>
19-20	10.93"	37.9"
20-21	9.21"	21.8"
1. Provided by the Bureau of Reclamation 2. Provided by the Cobb County Water Dist.		

Rain Year (7/1 - 6/31)	First Rain	Total By 1/1 (At Dam)	Season Total (At Dam)
97-98		10.77"	46.26"
98-99	11/10/98	7.18"	23.46"
99-00	10/30/99	6.5"	26"
00-01	10/20/00	4.54"	24.7"
01-02	10/29/01	15.73"	23.38"
02-03	11/7/02	19.34"	31.6"
03-04	10/31/03	12.01"	25.64"
04-05	10/19/04	15.55"	36.36"
05-06	9/26/05	17.4"	40.56"
06-07	10/3/06 - .22"	5.36"	12.7"
07-08	9/19/07 - .1"	4.48"	25.32"
08-09	10/3/08 - .2"	6.6"	23.96"
09-10	9/14/09 - .24"	6.5"	26.41"
10-11	10/18/10 - .21"	12.62"	37.92"
11-12	10/4/11 - .2"	3.04"	19.56"
12-13	10/22/12 - .73"	17.97"	20.65"
13-14	9/22/13 - .43"	1.88"	13.69"
14-15	9/19/14 - .11"	13.34"	19.56"
15-16	10/2/15 - .68"	6.23"	24.57
16-17	10/4/16 - .04"	8.8"	47.55"
17-18	10/20/17 - .21"	3.41"	14.89"
18-19	10/2/18 - .51"	7.28"	40.53"
19-20	11/27/19 - .73"	7.14"	10.93"
20-21	11/15/20-.09"	1.92"	9.21"
21-22	9/10/21 - .05"	15.36"	18.73"
22-23	9/19/22 - .51"	11.92"	40.97 (4/4)