

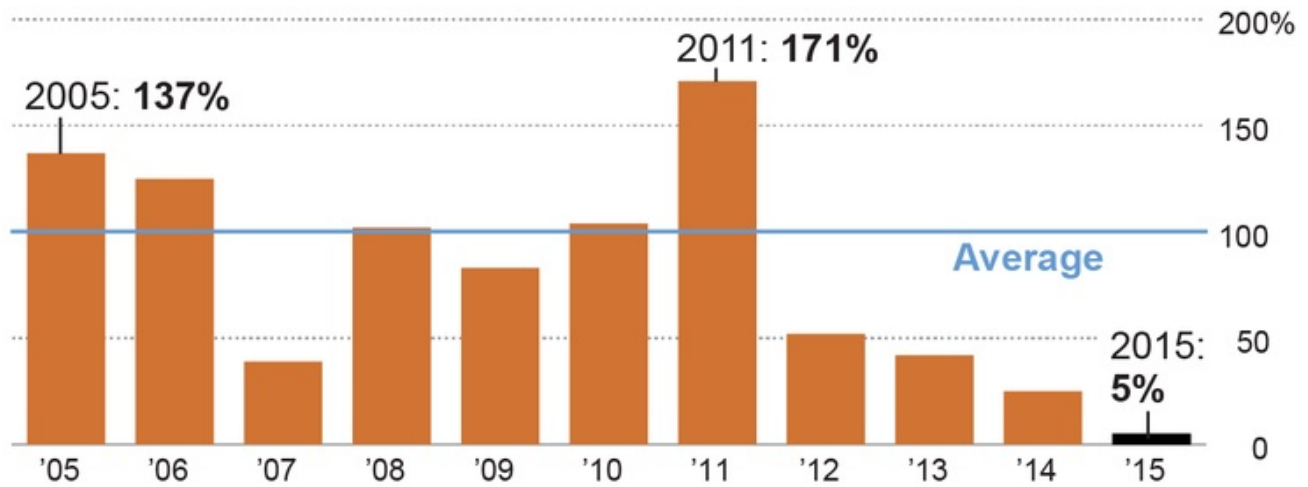
# 8 images that explain how bad the California drought has become

By Shelby Grad

LOCAL L.A. Now

## California's thin snowpack

Readings taken at about 100 stations Wednesday showed the water content of the Sierra Nevada snowpack was only about 5% of the average for April 1.



Source: California Department of Water Resources

@latimesgraphics

- [California Drought](#)

Here are some charts and maps that illustrate the drought and lack of snow in California

Gov. Jerry Brown's sweeping water conservation order Wednesday comes amid more grim news about the state's snowpack.

Electronic readings on Wednesday at about 100 stations across the Sierra Nevada showed that the water content of the snow was only about 5% of the state average for April 1, the date on which the snowpack is normally considered at its peak.

California drought

Caption California drought

National Weather Service

Dismal snowpack levels

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Early data show the snowpack is lower than any year since 1950, when record keeping began. Never before has the amount of water in the snow on April 1 dipped lower than 25% of the historical average for that day.

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The snowpack accounts for about 30% of the state's water supply. Other sources, including reservoirs and rainfall totals, have recently improved. Still, officials from the Department of Water Resources say the state of the snowpack, which melts and replenishes California's reservoirs, means there will be virtually no runoff this spring or summer when the rain stops and temperatures rise.

Above, take a look at some maps and charts that illustrate the drought and the lack of snow.

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