



Drought Update

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS WEEK

- **Sacramento River Temperature Plan Approved by State Water Board Official:** On July 7, the State Water Board approved the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation [temperature management plan](#) for the Sacramento River. The plan restricts summer water releases from Shasta Dam to preserve cold water for winter-run Chinook salmon and increases flows from Folsom Lake and Lake Oroville to decrease salinity in the Delta. For more information, the approval letter can be viewed [here](#).
- **Draft Environmental Study Issued for California WaterFix:** On July 9, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources [released](#) the joint Partially Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) /Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), also known as California WaterFix for public review. The document describes changes to secure California's water supplies by enabling better movement of water from the Sacramento River to South of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and by improving ecosystem conditions in the Delta. A fact sheet and answers to frequently asked questions are available at www.baydeltaconservationplan.com and www.californiawaterfix.com.
- **Water Technology and California Drought Summit:** On July 10, the Governor's Office, in partnership with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), held the [Water Technology and the California Drought Summit](#) at the California Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters in Sacramento. The summit featured innovative water technologies, identified strategies to scale-up successful technologies, as well as how to integrate them across all water use sectors within California to boost the state's drought resiliency. In addition, more than 20 water technology companies showcased their technology during the summit at the "Water Technology in Action" exposition.
- **State Water Board Adds New Information to its Emergency Water Conservation Portal:** On July 9, the State Water Board [announced](#) the availability of new information, fact sheets and guidance documents related to the newly implemented emergency conservation regulations and targets that will be helpful to local water agencies. The State Water Board also has added conservation tips, reporting data, and links to other conservation initiatives. To access information, please visit the State Water Board's Emergency Water Conservation Portal and click "[What's New](#)" in the Quick Links bar.
- **Water Conservation Pricing Explored in Workshop:** On July 8, the State Water Board held a [workshop](#) to examine ways water agencies can adopt best practices and avoid potential pitfalls when developing water pricing models that encourage conservation and comply with Proposition 218. In addition, the State Water Board also discussed how the state may help local agencies develop effective pricing structures and models.

- **California Water Commission to Consider Adopting Model Landscape Ordinance:** On July 15, the California Water Commission will hold a [meeting](#) to consider the revised Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) regulations. The regulations will increase water efficiency standards for new and retrofitted landscapes through more efficient irrigation systems, greywater usage, and onsite storm water capture.
- **State Parks Implements New Water Conservation Measures:** On July 7, the California Department of Parks and Recreation [announced](#) that effective July 15, all outdoor rinse stations within state parks and beaches will be shut off due to the severity of ongoing drought conditions. The department estimates that shutting off outdoor rinse stations will conserve more than 1.2 gallons of water per shower or rinse, thus potentially saving a total of more than 18 million gallons of water annually. For more information, visit the website [here](#).
- **Urban and Forest Legacy Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Grants Announced:** Recently, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) announced the award of nearly [\\$20 million in Urban Forestry and Forest Legacy Program grants](#) to local groups that will help the state reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon. The grants will add trees to urban communities and protect more than 2,400 acres of forest from development.
- **California's Water Conservation Education Program Campaign:** This week, the Department of Water Resources will lead Save Our Water campaign efforts by featuring two exhibits at the 2015 California State Fair. A national award-winning indoor exhibit will be on display showcasing water saving tips in the home, and there will also be an outdoor drought tolerant plant exhibit. Furthermore, a new webpage www.saveourwater.com/trees has been launched in partnership with California ReLeaf and will be promoted at the State Fair.

Save Our Water's viral campaign effort "Saving Together" launched this past week. The campaign aims to get Californians to share pictures and stories about how they are saving water. Radio station partners will be holding events across the state encouraging listeners to join the effort. Save Our Water's summer messaging was featured in several news stories this week as the program added "Fade to Gold" as a new message about lawns. New lawn signs with this messaging have been added to the Save Our Water website.

For easy-to-use water saving tips, visit saveourwater.com, and connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). For the new Spanish-language Save Our Water campaign website, visit ahorrenuestraagua.com.

- **Governor's Drought Task Force:** The Task Force continues to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought. During the most recent Task Force meeting on July 9, the Governor's Office announced that the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) will be releasing a report on August 17 describing the long-term effects and impacts of the drought should dry weather continue.

ONGOING DROUGHT SUPPORT

- **Emergency Food Aid, Rental and Utility Assistance:** The Department of Social Services (CDSS) Drought Food Assistance Program (DFAP) provides food assistance to affected communities that suffer high levels of unemployment from the drought. To date, over 734,612 boxes have been provided to community food banks in drought-impacted counties, with an average of approximately 13,250 food boxes per week since June 2014. Approximately 669,608 boxes of food have been picked up by 351,153 households.

Food boxes distributions vary by county and occur 1-4 times per month. Over 70% of the food distributions have occurred in the Tulare Basin (Fresno, Kern, Kings and Tulare). There are 9,600 boxes scheduled for delivery for the week ending July 17, to Fresno, Kern, Riverside, San Joaquin and Tulare County.

The Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) allocated an additional \$600,000, under the federally-funded Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), to continue the [Drought Water Assistance Program \(DWAP\)](#) which provides financial assistance to help low-income families pay their water bills. As of July 3, CSD has reported that a total of \$190,768 has been issued to 989 households.

CSD is in the process of allocating \$400,000, under CSBG, to continue the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) drought assistance program, which provides assistance in employment training and placement services to individuals impacted by the drought. This program provides employment training and placement services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers suffering job loss or reduced employment due to the drought. To date, CSD continues to ramp up program activities by developing marketing and outreach plans, pre-screening potential enrollees and executive MSFW service contracts. CSD will receive the first report of expenditures on July 20.

- **Drought Response Funding:** The \$687 million in state drought funding that was appropriated last March through emergency legislation, as well as \$142 million provided in the 2014 Budget Act, continues to advance toward meeting critical needs. To date, \$468 million has been committed, and nearly \$625 million of the emergency funds appropriated in March came from sources dedicated to capital improvements to water systems. Since March, the Department of Water Resources has expedited grant approvals, getting \$21 million immediately allocated to grantees that were pre-approved for certain projects.

As planned in March, the next \$200 million of expedited capital funding was awarded in October, and the remaining \$250 million will be granted by fall 2015. The 2014 Budget Act appropriated an additional \$53.8 million to CAL FIRE over its typical budget to enhance firefighter surge capacity and retain seasonal firefighters beyond the typical fire season.

As a result of continuing drought conditions, emergency legislation was enacted in March 2015 that appropriated over \$1 billion of additional funds for drought-related projects and activities. The Administration's May Revision proposal includes an additional \$2.2 billion for programs that protect and expand local water supplies, improve water conservation, and provide immediate relief to impacted communities.

CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS

- **Fire Activity:** Fire activity across California remains high with nearly 420 wildfires in just the past week. Since the beginning of the year, firefighters from CAL FIRE and the U.S. Forest Service has responded to over 4,501 wildfires across the state, burning 65,700 acres. The number of new fire starts is well above the five-year average for the same time period of 2,515 fires and 39,990 acres burned.
- **CAL FIRE Suspends Outdoor Residential Burning:** California's increased fire activity this year, coupled with record-setting drought conditions, require CAL FIRE to take every step possible to prevent new wildfires from starting. To date, CAL FIRE has suspended burn permits in all counties in the State Responsibility Area.

This suspension bans all residential outdoor burning of landscape debris including branches and leaves. The department may issue restricted temporary burning permits if there is an essential reason due to public health and safety. For additional information on preparing for and preventing wildfires, please visit www.ReadyForWildfire.Org.

- **Dry Well Reports:** As California enters the fourth consecutive summer of drought, Cal OES continues to monitor and identify communities and local water systems in danger of running out of water. Approximately 1,988 wells statewide have been identified as critical or dry, which affects an estimated 9,940 residents. As of July 8, Cal OES has reported that 1,883 of the 1,988 dry wells are concentrated in the inland regions within the Central Valley.
- **Vulnerable Water Systems:** The State Water Board continues to provide technical and funding assistance to several communities facing drinking water shortages, and is monitoring water systems across the state. Since January 2014, 83 out of the 109 projects approved to receive emergency funding for interim replacement drinking water have been executed. On May 19, the State Water Board adopted Guidelines for administering the latest emergency drought appropriations of \$19 million announced this past March. To date, the State Water Board has received requests for \$2.82 million of those funds.
- **Projected Reservoir Management:** Shasta Reservoir recorded 2,200,000 AF on July 1st with a 10-day average reduction in storage of 7,000 AF/day. Releases are being held lower than normal to keep cold water in the reservoir for Winter Run Chinook Salmon later in the fall. Shasta Reservoir is projected to reach 1,460,000 AF by the end of September. This is higher than the 1976/77 record low storage of 700,000 AF

Oroville Reservoir recorded 1,400,000 AF on July 1st with a 10-day average reduction in storage of 8,000 AF/day. Releases are higher than normal to help make up for reduced flows out of Shasta. These higher flows are to keep salt water from coming too far into the Delta and to meet other joint Federal-State obligations. Oroville Reservoir is projected to reach 900,000 AF by the end of September. This storage is about the same as the record low 1976/77 storage level.

Folsom Reservoir recorded 435,000 AF on July 1st with a 10-day average reduction in storage of 4,700 AF/day. Releases are higher than normal to help make up for reduced flows out of Shasta. Folsom Reservoir is projected to reach 120,000 AF by the end of September. This is lower than the 1976/77 record low storage of 150,000 AF.

[Reservoir Levels](#) as of July 12 remain low, including: Castaic Lake 38% of capacity (44% of year to date average); Don Pedro 36% of capacity (46% of average); Exchequer 11% of capacity (17% of average); Folsom Lake 39% of capacity (50% of average); Lake Oroville 37% of capacity (47% of average); Lake Perris 36% (45% of average); Millerton Lake 36% of capacity (48% of average); New Melones 16% of capacity (25% of average); Pine Flat 22% of capacity (35% of average); San Luis 33% of capacity (58% of average); Lake Shasta 46% of capacity (60% of average); and Trinity Lake 36% of capacity (44% of average). An update of water levels at other [smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

Weather Outlook: Dry and seasonable temperatures are expected over the next few days statewide. Warmer conditions will arrive into the mid and later part of the week.

Local Government

- **San Diego Region Reduces Water Use by 30% in May:** On July 7, the San Diego Water Authority [reported](#) that residents and businesses throughout the San Diego regions reduced their water use by 30%, as compared to May 2013.
- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** A total of 58 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, and tribal governments, as well as special districts:
 - **25 Counties:** El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Plumas, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Sutter, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne and Yuba.
 - **12 Cities:** City of Live Oak (Sutter County), City of Lodi (San Joaquin County), City of Manteca (San Joaquin County), City of Montague (Siskiyou County), City of Porterville (Tulare County), City of Portola (Plumas County), City of Ripon (San Joaquin County), City of San Juan Bautista (San Benito County), City of Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara County), City of Rancho Cucamonga (San Bernardino County) and City of West Sacramento (Yolo County) and City of Willits (Mendocino County).
 - **9 Tribes:** Cortina Indian Rancheria (Colusa County), Hoopa Valley Tribe (Humboldt County), Karuk Tribe (Siskiyou/Humboldt Counties), Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria (Sonoma County), Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians (Madera County) Sherwood Valley Pomo Indian Tribe (Mendocino County), Tule River Indian Tribe (Tulare County), Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation (Yolo County) and Yurok Tribe (Humboldt County).
 - **12 Special Districts:** Carpinteria Valley Water District (Santa Barbara County), Goleta Water District (Santa Barbara County), Groveland Community Services District (Tuolumne County), Lake Don Pedro Community Services District (Mariposa Stanislaus County), Mariposa Public Utility District (Mariposa County), Meiners Oaks Water District (Ventura County), Montecito Water District (Santa Barbara County), Mountain House Community Service District (San Joaquin County), Nevada Irrigation District (Nevada County), Placer County Water Agency (Placer County), Tuolumne Utilities District (Tuolumne County) and Twain Harte Community Services District (Tuolumne County).

- **Water Agency Conservation Efforts:** The Association of California Water Agencies (AWCA) [has identified](#) several hundred local water agencies that have implemented water conservation actions. These water agencies [are responding to the drought](#) by implementing conservation programs, which include voluntary calls for reduced water usage and mandatory restrictions where water shortages are worst.

ACWA [released](#) a Drought Response Toolkit to assist water agencies as they take action to meet state-mandated water conservation target and communicate information about water use restrictions, enforcement and other issues with their customers, media and other audiences.

- **County Drought Taskforces:** A total of 33 counties have established drought task forces to coordinate local drought response. These counties include: Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Humboldt, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yolo.
- **Tribal Taskforce:** A total of 5 tribes have established drought task forces to coordinate tribal drought response. These tribes include: Hoopa Valley Tribe (Humboldt County), Hopland Tribe (Mendocino County), Kashia Band of Pomo Indians (Sonoma County), Sherwood Valley Tribe (Mendocino County), and Yurok Tribe (Humboldt and Del Norte County).

DROUGHT RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Drought.CA.Gov](#): California's Drought Information Clearinghouse

State's Water Conservation Campaign, [Save Our Water](#)
Local Government, [Drought Clearinghouse and Toolkit](#)

California Department of Food and Agriculture, [Drought information](#)
California Department of Water Resources, [Current Water Conditions](#)
California Data Exchange Center, [Snow Pack/Water Levels](#)

California State Water Resources Control Board, Water Rights, [Drought Info and Actions](#)
California Natural Resources Agency, [Drought Info and Actions](#)
State Water Resources Control Board, Drinking Water, [SWRCB Drinking Water Program](#)
California State Water Project, [Information](#)

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Current Conditions throughout the Region
[U.S. Drought Portal](#), National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)

National Weather Service [Climate Predictor Center](#)

USDA Drought Designations by County [CA County Designations](#)

USDA Disaster and Drought Assistance Information [USDA Programs](#)

U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance Office: www.sba.gov/disaster