



## Drought Update Monday, January 9, 2017

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### KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS MONTH

- **State Water Project Allocation Estimate Increased to 45%:** On December 21, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) [announced](#) an increase in its estimate of 2017's State Water Project (SWP) allocation to 45%, up from the initial estimate of 20%, thanks to December storms making a impression in the drought.

DWR reports that the SWP's principal reservoir, Lake Oroville, held 1.8 million acre-feet on December 21 which is 88% of its historical average to date. Lake Shasta, the Federal Central Valley Project's largest reservoir was holding 3.3 million acre-feet, 120% of its historical average. San Luis Reservoir a critical south-of-Delta storage facility for both the SWP and CVP held 1.2 million acre-feet, 87% of its historical average to date.

For more information DWR's California Data Exchange Center websites show current water conditions for [Reservoirs](#) and [Precipitation](#).

- **State and Federal Officials Release Final Environmental Documents for Cal WaterFix:** On December 22, state and federal officials released the final, refined [environmental documents](#) for the [California Water Fix](#) an effort to modernize the state's water infrastructure in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The project's lead agencies, the California Department of Water Resources and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, identified WaterFix as the preferred alternative to modernize California's primary water delivery system in the Delta.

DWR officials indicate that [WaterFix](#) will secure water supplies for 25 million Californians and prepare for a future marked by rising seas, seismic threats and more extreme weather. The [project](#) consists of three new intakes in the northern Delta and two 35-mile-long tunnels to transport water to the existing pumping plants in the south Delta. New intakes and tunnels also would help guard water supplies against saltwater intrusion as sea levels rise and in the event of an earthquake or storm powerful enough to destroy levees in the low-lying Delta.

To read all of the environmental documents, visit the [Final Environmental Impact Report](#) or the California [WaterFix](#) web portal.

- **President Signs WIIN Act:** On December 16, President Barack Obama [signed](#) the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act ([WIIN](#)). The WIIN Act includes restoration of the Los Angeles River, Lake Tahoe, and the Salton Sea, as well as help capture ground water. The legislation would improve the drought mitigation projects, and also promote local water supply development. It would also authorize \$558 million for new water infrastructure in the West, including \$515 million for storage, water recycling and reuse, and desalination projects in [California](#).

- **California’s Water Conservation Education Program Campaign:** In December, Save Our Water continues to promote the [#reimagineyourlandscape](#) statewide marketing efforts through weather and traffic sponsorships, radio and gas pump ads, billboards, and social media clips to encourage Californians to conserve water with California-friendly yards. In addition, Save Our Water shared several articles from its’ partner, [Plant California](#), including [Waterwise Grasses and Ground Cover](#) and [Convert Your Patio to Drip Irrigation](#) on social media.

Save Our Water also continues to promote the “[Real People, Real Savings](#)” campaign, which showcases California homeowners and their water-wise gardens and yards, as well as easy outdoor tips to reduce water use. To share your reimagined landscape story, visit the Save Our Water [Around the Neighborhood](#) website.

Save Our Water is the state’s official water conservation program managed in partnership between the Association of California Water Agencies and the Department of Water Resources. For more [tips](#) and [tools](#) to help conserve water, learn about [rebates](#) on turf and toilet replacement, relevant water and [drought news](#), and keep [trees](#) healthy during the drought, please visit the new [SaveOurWater.com](#), available in both English and [Spanish](#), or connect with the program on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#).

- **Governor’s Drought Task Force:** The Task Force continues to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought. During the December 12 meeting, the Task Force provided updates on water operations and environmental habitat, water conservation, and drought impacts and response efforts. In addition, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) provided an update to the state tree mortality issue and indicated that federal, state, local, and utility partners continue to coordinate and remove dead and dying trees that pose the greatest risk to public safety.

To date, CAL FIRE and its partners have removed more than 423,000 trees in 10 counties, inspected and cleared dead trees along nearly 52,000 miles of roads and power lines, created approximately 1,300 acres of fuel breaks, and treated more than 26,000 acres.

## **CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS**

- **Weather Outlook:** As rain returns to the North Bay this evening and then to our entire region on Tuesday as another system moves through. Rain will change over to showers on Wednesday with drier weather likely by the end of the week. A prolonged period of heavy snow is expected in the northern Sierra. Stormy conditions will also result in gusty ridgetop winds and mountain snow across northwest California. A fast moving cold front will bring a period of moderate to heavy rain to portions of southwest California this morning. Additional widespread rainfall is likely with a cooler system late Tuesday into Wednesday. More rain is possible later in the week with continued cool conditions.
- **Recent Precipitation:** In the past week, widespread precipitation occurred across the entire forecast region. North Coast Hydrologic Region received up to 5 inches of precipitation. San Francisco Region, Central Coast Region, and South Coast region received up to 4 inches, 7 inches, and 2.5 inches of precipitation, respectively. Northern Sierra received up to 8 inches of precipitation. Parts of the San Joaquin Valley and the Inland South Coast region had the least precipitation ranging from half an inch to tenths of inches. This weekend,

Below are precipitations totals (in inches) from December 31 through January 6, and year-to-date rainfall based on the water year cycle (October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017).

- **Bakersfield:** 1.17" (3.29")
- **Paso Robles:** 0.21" (3.82")
- **Fresno:** 0.73" (5.20")
- **Yosemite:** 5.32" (23.38")
- **Los Angeles:** 0.89" (6.17")
- **Stockton:** 1.24" (7.19")
- **San Francisco:** 1.45" (10.41")
- **Redding:** 2.03" (19.63")
- **Riverside:** 1.08" (5.28")
- **Sacramento:** 1.40" (10.86")
- **San Diego:** 1.28" (4.95")
- **Mount Shasta:** 1.32" (21.66")
- **South Lake Tahoe:** 2.79" (16.14")
- **Monterey:** 1.28" (7.12")

- **Reservoir Management:** Since the last report on December 30, Central Valley reservoirs from Shasta and Trinity in the North to Isabella in the South had a net gain in storage of 361,309 acre-feet, with total gains being 380,004 acre-feet and total losses being 18,695 acre-feet. Shasta Reservoir increased by 32,958 acre-feet, while San Luis Reservoir, an off-stream reservoir for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, increased its storage by 56,755 acre-feet.

As of midnight on January 5<sup>th</sup>, Shasta, Oroville, and Folsom Reservoirs recorded 3,378,190 AF, 2,041,007 AF, and 461,754 AF, storage respectively. The 10-day average changes were 3,445, 8,960, and -11,559 AF/day, respectively.

- [Reservoir Levels](#) as of January 8 have remained steady, including: Castaic Lake 60% of capacity (75% of year to date average); Don Pedro 80% of capacity (120% of average); Folsom Lake 51% of capacity (104% of average); Lake McClure 53% of capacity (118% of average); Lake Oroville 64% of capacity (102% of average); Lake Perris 37% (47% of average); Millerton Lake 74% of capacity (134% of average); New Melones 29% of capacity (51% of average); Pine Flat 36% of capacity (84% of average); San Luis 66% of capacity (93% of average); Shasta 76% of capacity (120% of average); and Trinity Lake 53% of capacity (78% of average). An update of water levels at other [smaller reservoirs](#) is available.
- **Dry Well Reports:** California's Water Year 2015-16 ended on September 30 with lower-than-expected rainfall and a "snow drought" as the state's snowpack measured well-below average. As the state enters a new water year, the Governor's Drought Task Force continues to monitor and identify communities and local water systems in danger of running out of water. The cross-agency team, led by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), continues to improve and streamline data collection and reporting for household water shortages for California water systems with fewer than 15 household connections.

As of December 12, approximately 2,357 wells statewide have been identified as critical or dry, affecting over 12,785 residents. Cal OES reported that 2,169 of the 2,357 dry wells are concentrated in the inland regions within the Central Valley. For Californians experiencing a water supply shortage, residents can [submit a report](#) on DWR's Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System website.

- **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. The Budget Act of 2016, SB 826, appropriated \$15 million from the

Cleanup and Abatement Account Interim Emergency Drinking Water Program (CAA) for addressing drought-related drinking water emergencies or threatened emergencies. Since July 2016, 7 projects have been approved to receive CAA SB 826: 0 of 5 approved funding agreements have been executed, and 2 oral agreements have been issued. To date, the State Water Board has received requests for \$1.4 million of those funds.

On July 19, 2016, the State Water Board approved the allocation of up to \$4 million from the CAA SB 826 funding program to provide interim emergency drinking water to disadvantaged communities with a contaminated water supply. Since July 2016, 17 projects have been approved to receiving emergency funding for interim drinking water, 1 of 10 funding agreements have been executed, and 7 oral agreements have been issued. To date, the State Water Board has received requests for \$1.3 million of those funds.

- **Fire Activity:** Since the beginning of the year, firefighters from CAL FIRE, U.S. Forest Service and other federal fire agencies have responded to over 6,986 wildfires across the state, burning 564,835 acres. Fire activity across California is high resulting in 5 new wildfires over the past week.
- **CAL FIRE Burn Suspension Status:** The recent rains and lowered fire threat has allowed CAL FIRE to lift the outdoor open residential burn restriction across much of the State. Currently, the following counties are required to obtain burn permits including: Alpine, Amador, Eastern Trinity, El Dorado, Fresno, Inyo, Imperial, Kings, Mono, Monterey, Nevada, Placer, Riverside, San Benito, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Sierra, Tulare, and Yuba counties.

Homeowners should always check with their local CAL FIRE station and local air quality management agency before burning. CAL FIRE Burn Permits are required in most Counties until further notice. Agriculture burns must be inspected by CAL FIRE prior to burning. For additional information on preparing for and preventing wildfires visit [www.ReadyForWildfire.org](http://www.ReadyForWildfire.org).

## **ONGOING DROUGHT SUPPORT**

- **Emergency Food Aid, Utility and Employment 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 1,862,846 boxes have been provided to community food banks in drought-impacted counties. Approximately 1,697,253 boxes of food have been picked up by 879,273 households.

Food boxes distributions vary by county and occur 1-4 times per month. This past week, nearly 41% of the food distributions have occurred in the Tulare Basin (Fresno, Kern, Kings and Tulare). An estimated 12,240 boxes are scheduled for delivery to Fresno, Kern, Merced, Riverside, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare the week ending January 6.

The Labor Workforce Development Agency reported that the federally funded Drought Temporary Jobs program has enrolled 1,245 participants at 200 worksite projects in 24 counties. The program is funded through the U.S. Department of Labor's National Dislocated Worker Grant program, which offers 2,080 hours of employment on drought-related public works projects to workers affected by the drought.

The Department of Community Services and Development (CSD), in partnership with the Department of Water Resources, continues to implement the Toilet Retrofit Program, which

administers Proposition 1 funds to install high-efficiency toilets (HETs) in disadvantaged communities throughout the state. The program has administered \$5.3 million to over 30 energy service providers and entities. To date, approximately 6,894 HETs have been installed, which have saved over 16.6 million gallons of water. It is expected that approximately 12,000 HETs will be installed during this program.

In response to California's historic drought, CSD has received an additional \$7.5 million in 2016-17 General Funds to implement the Drought Emergency Assistance Program. This program provides emergency relief and support services to drought-impacted individuals including low-income migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families and households. As of December 9, \$1,790,871 has been issued to 1165 households.

- **Drought Response Funding:** The \$3.7 billion in state drought funding appropriated in the 2014 and 2015 Budget Acts, as well as in March 2015 through emergency legislation, continues to advance toward meeting critical near-term needs and long-term drought resiliency and water supply needs.

In June 2016, Governor Brown [approved](#) an additional \$254.7 million for the 2016-17 budget to continue the state's response to the drought. These additional funds will be available to aid in emergency drinking water for communities, emergency food assistance, enhanced fire protection, environmental and wildlife assistance, assistance to communities to help dispose of the dead and dying trees in high hazard zones for public safety issues, and the continued statewide awareness campaign.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

- **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:** Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Plumas, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Shasta, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yuba.
  - **10 Cities:** Fort Bragg (Mendocino County), Live Oak (Sutter County), Lodi (San Joaquin County), Manteca (San Joaquin County), Montague (Siskiyou County), Porterville (Tulare County), Portola (Plumas County), Rancho Cucamonga (San Bernardino County), Ripon (San Joaquin County), and West Sacramento (Yolo County).
  - **11 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), Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation (Del Norte County), Tule River Indian Tribe (Tulare County), Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians (Tuolumne 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:** Last year, the Association of California Water Agencies ([AWCA](#)) launched an interactive gallery to showcase the local drought response activities by ACWA members statewide. As the drought stretches into its fifth year in 2016, the [Drought Response Gallery](#) continues to highlight conservation and efficiency projects and program actions in five categories. In June 2016, ACWA [released](#) a Water Conservation Communications Toolkit to assist water agencies in messaging to customers the transition to a new emergency conservation regulation and the importance of ongoing water conservation.
- **County and Tribal Drought Task Forces:** A total of 19 county and tribal drought task forces continue to coordinate local drought response in 2016. Inland regions counties include: Butte, Colusa, Madera, Merced, Modoc, San Joaquin, Siskiyou, Tehama, Tulare, and Tuolumne. Coastal regions counties include: Hoopa Valley Tribe (Humboldt County), Humboldt, Karuk Tribe (Siskiyou County), San Mateo, Trinidad Tribe (Humboldt County), and Yurok Tribe (Humboldt and Del Norte County). Southern regions counties include: Orange, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara.

#### DROUGHT RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

State's Water Conservation Campaign, [Save Our Water](#)  
California Natural Resources Agency, [California WaterFix](#)  
Local Government, [Drought Clearinghouse and Toolkit](#)  
California Department of Food and Agriculture, [Drought Information](#)  
California Department of Water Resources, [Current Water Conditions](#)  
Department of Fish and Wildlife, [Drought Web Portal](#)  
California Data Exchange Center, [Snow Pack/Water Levels](#)  
State Water Resources Control Board, Water Rights, [Drought Info and Actions](#)  
State Water Resources Control Board, [SWRCB Drinking Water Program](#)  
California State Water Project, [Information](#)  
Department of General Services, [Water Conservation Efforts](#)  
State of California Sustainable Buildings, [Water Usage from 2010 to 2015](#)

[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, [Disaster Loans](#)