



## Drought Update

### Wednesday, February 3, 2016

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#### KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS WEEK

- **State Keeps Meeting Cumulative Goal; As Monthly Conservation Rate Drops, Residential Water Users Urged to Continue Saving Water:** On February 2, the State Water Board [announced](#) that Californians reduced water use in December by a total of 18.3 percent, which equates to approximately 75,719 acre-feet, compared to 20.4 percent in November. In contrast, the average statewide water use declined from 76 gallons per person per day in November to 67 gallons in December– the second lowest per-person rate since water-use reporting began in June 2014.

Overall, Californians continue to reduce water use by a total of 25.5 percent, which equates to almost 1.1 million acre-feet since the emergency conservation regulations took effect in June. This amount is more than 91 percent of the way to meet the Governor's target of 25%, or 1.2 million acre-feet, goal by February 2016.

- **DWR Increases 2016 State Water Project Allocation from 10% to 15%:** On January 26, the Department of Water Resources [announced](#) a small increase to its initial allocation for the State Water Project (SWP) from 10 percent to 15 percent. For 2016, the 29 contractors that receive SWP water requested more than 4.1 million acre-feet of water. With the latest allocation increase, they will receive 631,115 acre-feet of requested supplies. State Water Project contractors serve approximately 25 million Californians and just under a million acres of irrigated farmland.
- **State Water Board Adopts 2016 Emergency Conservation Regulation:** On February 3, the State Water Board [adopted](#) an emergency conservation regulation that extends mandatory urban conservation through October. The regulation would allow urban water suppliers to apply for an adjustment of no more than 8% to their individual state-imposed conservation target. The climate adjustment, where applicable, could reduce a supplier's target by up to 4% for suppliers located in warmer regions of the state.

In addition, the growth adjustment, as proposed, would provide a mechanism to account for water-efficient growth since 2013. To qualify for the adjustment, suppliers would have to provide specific data to the State Water Board by March 15. For more information, please visit the State Water Board's [Water Conservation Portal](#).

- **Final 2016 Drought Contingency Plan Released:** On January 19, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation [finalized](#) the 2016 Drought Contingency Plan outlining the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project operations for February-November 2016. The key purpose of the plan is to communicate goals for 2016 water management and the actions needed to reach the goals for the water resources stakeholders and the public. The plan was developed in coordination with staff from state and federal agencies, and information contained in the plan will be updated as water supply conditions change later this winter.

- **State Water Board Authorizes Sale of \$1.2 Billion in Bonds for Clean Water State Revolving Fund:** On January 5, the State Water Board [adopted](#) a resolution authorizing the sale of \$1.2 billion in revenue bonds for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund ([Clean Water Fund](#)) to meet financing demands and commitments for water projects. This is due to a nearly 40 percent increase in commitments in fiscal year 2014-15, and a greater demand expected in fiscal year 2015-16 and beyond.

The Clean Water Fund is a financial assistance program, associated with the federal Clean Water Act and state water quality laws. The fund provides financial assistance for construction or implementation of projects that address water quality problems and prevent water pollution. The program also provides low-interest loans and other financial tools for construction of publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities, water recycling facilities, storm water treatment facilities and management tools plans.

- **DWR Announces \$232 Million in Grants to Improve Water Management across California:** On January 13, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) [announced](#) approximately \$232 million in grant funding for 26 proposals for Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) projects will leverage hundreds of millions of local and federal dollars. These grants will support projects and programs to meet California's long-term water management needs, including delivery of safe drinking water, enhancement of recycled water, water conservation, flood risk, watershed protection, ecosystem restoration and water management of groundwater. For a detailed list of projects and grant requests, please click [here](#).
- **CDFW Awards \$31.4 Million to Fund Ecosystem and Watershed Restoration Projects:** On January 13, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) [announced](#) 24 projects that will receive \$31.4 million in funding from its Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Prop 1) Restoration Grant Programs. These projects will further the objectives of the California Water Action Plan, establishing more reliable water supplies, restoring important species and habitat, and creating a more resilient and sustainably managed water resources system. For a list of projects approved for funding through the Watershed Restoration Grant Program, click [here](#).
- **State Water Board Approves Emergency Regulation Requiring Annual Reporting for Water Diversions:** On January 19, the State Water Board [approved](#) its revised Emergency Regulation for Measuring and Reporting the Diversion of Water, which requires all surface water right holders to report their diversions annually instead of every three years. The regulation is expected to affect approximately 12,000 water right holder and claimants. For more details, please view the State Water Board's full press release [here](#).
- **21 Groundwater Basins Identified as Critically Overdrafted:** On January 21, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) [identified](#) twenty-one (21) [groundwater](#) basins where excessive groundwater pumping has resulted in major overdraft. Overdraft impacts can include seawater intrusion and land subsidence, in addition to chronically lowered groundwater levels. As a result, those basins and subbasins identified by DWR as significantly overdrafted must have groundwater sustainability plans prepared by January 31, 2020. A full list of the critically overdrafted basins statewide can be found [here](#).

- **California’s Water Conservation Education Program Campaign:** This past week, the Save Our Water [PSA](#) featuring Golden State Warrior stars, Stephen Curry & Klay Thompson (“Splash Brothers”), will continue to air on the Comcast SportsNet (CSN) Bay Area through the end of January. Save Our Water also updated their social media pages and website with the new [Keep your Sprinklers Off](#) Campaign which serves as a one-stop shop for homeowners and professionals looking for information and online resources for water-efficient irrigation.

In addition, Save Our Water continues to promote the “[Claim your Turf Replacement](#)”, and “[Claim Your Toilet](#)” rebate programs. For more tips and tools to help conserve water and keep trees healthy during the drought, please visit Save Our Water’s website, which is 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 January 21 meeting, the Department of Water Resources indicated that the next manual snowpack survey will be conducted on February 2.

In addition, the Labor Workforce Development Agency announced that the federally funded Drought Temporary Jobs program has enrolled 834 participants at 136 worksite projects in 24 counties. The program is funded through the U.S. Department of Labor’s National Dislocated Worker Grant program which offers 6 months of employment on drought-related public works projects for up to 1,000 workers affected by the drought.

## **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 1,136,740 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 1,021,826 boxes of food have been picked up by 524,810 households.

Food boxes distributions vary by county and occur 1-4 times per month. Nearly 73% of the food distributions have occurred in the Tulare Basin (Fresno, Kern, Kings and Tulare). Approximately 11,700 boxes are scheduled for delivery to Fresno, Kern, Riverside, Tulare and Ventura counties by February 5.

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 January 15, CSD has reported a total of \$597,315 has been issued to 2,973 households. As a result, all funds for water assistance payments have been expended.

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 has reported that a total of \$184,000 has been expended with 93 participants enrolled.

In response to California's historic drought, CSD has received \$7.5 million in General Fund to implement the Drought Emergency Assistance Program (DEAP) to provide emergency relief and support services to drought-impacted individuals and their families and households. As of January 15, \$5.1 million has been issued to 3,862 households.

- **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**

- **Recent Precipitation:** A series of storms moved through the state this past week increasing precipitation totals. Highest amounts occurred in the Sacramento Valley with 7-day totals ranging from 0.5 to 12.5 inches. 2 to 6 inches occurred along the North Coast, 0.5 to 2.5 inches in the Bay Area, and 1 to 5 inches in the Sierras. The Central Coast received 0.5 to 3.5 inches of rainfall and .1 inches in the Los Angeles and San Diego regions.

Below are precipitation totals (in inches) from January 22 through January 29, and year-to-date rainfall based on the water year cycle (October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016).

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| • <b>Bakersfield:</b> 0.07" (2.35")    | • <b>Redding:</b> 1.55" (20.75")          |
| • <b>Paso Robles:</b> 0.13" (4.75")    | • <b>Riverside:</b> 0.00" (3.62")         |
| • <b>Fresno:</b> 0.57" (8.56")         | • <b>Sacramento:</b> 0.49" (8.64")        |
| • <b>Yosemite:</b> 1.64" (20.92")      | • <b>San Diego:</b> 0.00" (5.88")         |
| • <b>Los Angeles:</b> 0.00" (3.41")    | • <b>Mount Shasta:</b> 2.88" (20.98")     |
| • <b>Stockton:</b> 0.42" (9.08")       | • <b>South Lake Tahoe:</b> 0.94" (11.16") |
| • <b>San Francisco:</b> 5.00" (13.15") | • <b>Monterey:</b> 0.72" (13.28")         |

- **Fire Activity:** Since the beginning of the year, firefighters from CAL FIRE and the U.S. Forest Service have responded to over 8,397 wildfires across the state, burning 846,895 acres. Fire activity across California is low resulting in 14 combined wildfires in just the past week. In 2015, there was a 38% increase in the number of wildfires.

- **CAL FIRE Burn Suspension Status:** Due to cooler temperatures and recent rains, CAL FIRE has lifted the burn suspension in the State Responsibility Area in Northern California and portions of Central California, allowing residential outdoor burning of landscape debris with a permit.

CAL FIRE continues to monitor weather conditions closely and has the ability to increase staffing should the weather conditions change or if there is a need to support wildfire activity and any other emergencies in the State. For additional information on preparing for and preventing wildfires, please visit <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/>.

- **Dry Well Reports:** With California at the end of its fourth year of a severe, hot drought, the Governor's Drought Task Force continues to monitor and identify communities and local water systems in danger of running out of water. Over the summer, a cross-agency team, led by DWR, developed a new system that improves and streamlines data collection and reporting for [household water shortages](#) for California water systems with fewer than 15 household connections.

As of January 13, approximately 2,520 wells statewide have been identified as critical or dry, affecting an estimated 12,600 residents. Cal OES reported that 2,373 of the 2,520 dry wells are concentrated in the inland regions within the Central Valley. If you are experiencing a water supply shortage, please [submit a report](#) on DWR's 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. Since January 2014, 105 out of the 147 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 \$10.2 million of those funds.

- **Projected Reservoir Management:** Since the last report on January 22, Central Valley reservoirs from Shasta and Trinity in the North to Isabella in the South had a net gain in storage of 793,996 acre-feet (AF), with a total gain of 817,199 AF and a total loss of 23,203 AF. Shasta Reservoir increased by 334,920 AF, while San Luis Reservoir, an off-stream reservoir for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, increased its storage by 50,766 AF.
- [Reservoir Levels](#) as of January 28 have increased, including: Castaic Lake 35% of capacity (42% of year to date average); Don Pedro 40% of capacity (58% of average); Exchequer 13% of capacity (27% of average); Folsom Lake 43% of capacity (83% of average); Lake Oroville 40% of capacity (61% of average); Perris Lake 36% (45% of average); Millerton Lake 39% of capacity (62% of average); New Melones 16% of capacity (27% of average); Pine Flat 19% of capacity (41% of average); San Luis 32% of capacity (42% of average); Shasta Reservoir 49% of capacity (73% of average); and Trinity Lake 27% of capacity (38% of average). An update of water levels at other [smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

**Weather Outlook:** A cold front is expected to move along Northern California throughout the weekend. Wet weather is expected to start Friday night over the Sierra and will move east into northern Nevada Friday night into Saturday morning.

Another low pressure system is expected to move across the Pacific bringing precipitation to central and southern California on Sunday. The system will move south to the US/Mexico border by Sunday bringing 1 inch of precipitation or less. The weather is expected to dry up mid-week with possible light precipitation along the California-Oregon border.

## **Local Government**

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** A total of 63 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, and tribal governments, as well as special districts:
  - 29 Counties:** Butte, Colusa, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Inyo, Humboldt, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Plumas, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yuba.
  - **13 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), City of West Sacramento (Yolo County), City of Willits (Mendocino County) and the City of Fort Bragg (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 7 tribes have established drought task forces to coordinate tribal drought response. These tribes include: Hoopa Valley Tribe (Humboldt County), Hopland Tribe (Mendocino County), Karuk Tribe (Siskiyou County), La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians (San Diego County), Sherwood Valley Tribe (Mendocino County), Trinidad Tribe (Humboldt 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