



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



## Drought Update

### Thursday, April 14, 2016

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#### CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS

- **Drought Outlook:** As California's traditional wet season draws to a close this month, California continues to experience a fifth year of drought conditions. Rain and snow levels this winter certainly improved from recent years, but not enough to draw the state out of the current drought. This winter, rain and snow levels varied significantly by region, with parts of Northern California receiving better than average precipitation while most of Southern California received below average precipitation. The state will continue to respond to drought conditions throughout the state in the coming months.
- **Recent Precipitation:** Over the weekend, several weather systems moved through the state with the highest amounts of average rainfall in the Central and Southern Sierra ranging from 0.94 to 2.1 inches. Additional areas that received precipitation include 0.35 to 0.84 inches in the Bay Area, and 0.52 to 1.41 inches in the San Joaquin Valley.

Below are precipitation totals (in inches) from April 1 through April 13, 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> 0.77" (4.68")    | • <b>Redding:</b> 0.28" (32.13")          |
| • <b>Paso Robles:</b> 0.09" (7.30")    | • <b>Riverside:</b> 0.24" (4.91")         |
| • <b>Fresno:</b> 0.95" (13.82")        | • <b>Sacramento:</b> 0.38" (15.10")       |
| • <b>Yosemite:</b> 0.96" (33.28")      | • <b>San Diego:</b> 0.45" (7.29")         |
| • <b>Los Angeles:</b> 0.19" (6.30")    | • <b>Mount Shasta:</b> 0.76" (36.27")     |
| • <b>Stockton:</b> 1.78" (15.20")      | • <b>South Lake Tahoe:</b> 0.91" (18.59") |
| • <b>San Francisco:</b> 0.67" (21.18") | • <b>Monterey:</b> 0.32" (20.96")         |

- **Weather Outlook:** The next weather system is expected to move into Northern California by Wednesday night into Thursday. Warm and dry conditions will return to the area by the weekend. Dry weather will prevail in Southern California through Wednesday with slight warming. Thursday will be partly cloudy and cooler through Friday, with clear skies and warmer temperatures expected through the weekend.
- **Snow Survey:** The latest [manual snowpack survey](#), conducted on March 30, recorded California snowpack at 87 percent of normal to date. Regionally, the Northern Sierra Nevada is at 97 percent of average to date, the Central Sierra is at 88 percent of average to date, and the Southern Sierra Nevada is at 72 percent of average to date.

As of April 11, a more recent update using the [automated snow sensors](#) show snowpack conditions across the state now stand at 70 percent of normal. Regionally, the Northern Sierra is at 75 percent of average to date, Central Sierra is at 76 percent of average to date, and the Southern Sierra is at 60 percent of average to date.

- **Projected Reservoir Management:** Since the last report on April 1, Central Valley reservoirs from Shasta and Trinity in the North to Isabella in the South had a net gain in storage of 335,812 acre-feet (AF), with a total gain of 385,025 AF and a total loss of 50,213 AF. Shasta Reservoir increased by 61,148 AF, while San Luis Reservoir, an off-stream reservoir for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, decreased its storage by 15,059 AF.
- [Reservoir Levels](#) as of April 13 have increased, including: Castaic Lake 44% of capacity (49% of year to date average); Don Pedro 64% of capacity (87% of average); Exchequer 40% of capacity (70% of average); Folsom Lake 79% of capacity (115% of average); Lake Oroville 92% of capacity (117% of average); Perris Lake 36% (43% of average); Millerton Lake 58% of capacity (83% of average); New Melones 27% of capacity (42% of average); Pine Flat 44% of capacity (75% of average); San Luis 50% of capacity (56% of average); Shasta Reservoir 91% of capacity (109% of average); and Trinity Lake 57% of capacity (71% of average). An update of water levels at other [smaller reservoirs](#) is available.
- **Dry Well Reports:** As California faces the fifth year of drought, the Governor's Drought Task Force continues to monitor and identify communities and local water systems in danger of running out of water. In 2015, a cross-agency team, led by the Department of Water Resources (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 April 7, approximately 2,180 wells statewide have been identified as critical or dry, affecting an estimated 10,900 residents. Cal OES reported that 1,988 of the 2,180 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, 113 out of the 151 projects approved to receive emergency funding for interim replacement drinking water have been executed. On May 19, 2015, 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 \$14 million of those funds.

- **Fire Activity:** Since the beginning of the year, firefighters from CAL FIRE and the U.S. Forest Service have responded to over 365 wildfires across the state, burning 131 acres. Fire activity across California is low resulting in 62 combined wildfires in just the past week.
- **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/>.

### **KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS WEEK**

- **Californians Save 1.19 Million Acre-Feet of Water, Enough to Supply Nearly 6 Million People for a Year:** On April 4, the State Water Board [announced](#) that Californians saved nearly 1.19 million acre-feet of water from June 2015 through February 2016. Overall, Californians just missed Governor Brown's 25 percent water conservation mandate by cumulatively saving 23.9% compared with the same months in 2013. The State Water Board indicated that the water saved during that period is enough to supply 5.9 million residents within California during a one-year period.
- **State Water Board Releases New Conservation Standards:** On April 7, the State Water Board [released](#) new water conservation standards for many urban water suppliers that reflect adjustments and credits of up to eight percentage points. The new conservation standards are authorized by the revised Emergency Regulation for Statewide Urban Water Conservation which was adopted in [February 2016](#) to ensure that urban water conservation continues throughout the year. The regulation extends restrictions on urban water use through October 2016 while providing urban water suppliers more flexibility in meeting their conservation requirements.
- **State Water Board to Host April 20 Workshop on Urban Water Conservation Regulation:** On March 23, the State Water Board [announced](#) that a [public workshop](#) will be held on April 20 to discuss potential modifications to the current Emergency Regulation for Statewide Urban Water Conservation. For more information, visit the State Water Board's [Water Conservation Portal – Emergency Conservation Regulation](#).

- **State Water Project Allocation Increases to 45 Percent:** On March 17, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) [increased](#) its water delivery estimate allocation for the State Water Project (SWP) from 30 percent in February to 45 percent. March storms have increased some of the state's major reservoir levels to slightly above historic levels which prompted the increase in delivery allocations.
- **CDFW Monitors Effect of Severe Drought on Wildlife:** On March 10, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) [released](#) a comprehensive assessment that identifies and analyzes the vulnerability of California wildlife impacted by the drought. CDFW biologists report that amphibian, reptile, bird and mammal populations that depend on freshwater marsh, streamside habitat and wet meadows are struggling most to endure the drought.

In addition, CDFW biologists ranked the vulnerability of the state's terrestrial species and identified 48 species that need additional monitoring and assistance. The greatest concentrations of these high-risk populations are found in Southern California coastal, mountain and valley regions, the Sierra Nevada mountain range, the Mojave Desert, Central Valley and the southern Cascade mountain range. For more information about drought related actions to preserve and protect the state's fish and wildlife resources, visit the CDFW [Drought Portal](#).

- **Bureau Announces Initial Water Supply Allocation for CVP:** On April 1, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) [announced](#) the initial 2016 water supply allocation for the Central Valley Project (CVP). This allocation is based on the amount of water that will be available for delivery to CVP water users and reflects current reservoir storages, precipitation and snowpack in the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada.

Due to improved drought conditions in Northern California, north-of-Delta contractors have been allocated 100% of their contract supply, while south-of-Delta agricultural contractors have been allocated 5 percent, and eastside contractors have received a zero allocation this year. For more information, view the full press release on the Reclamation [News & Multimedia Portal](#).

- **California's Water Conservation Education Program Campaign:** On March 30, Save Our Water and the Department of General Services [launched](#) the [Water-Smart Renovation Project](#) in Capitol Park with a mulching demonstration on the East steps of the State Capitol. The renovation project will also include turf removal and numerous water efficiency measures and is expected to be complete by the summer. Once implemented, the renovations are expected to save more than 1.6 million gallons of water a year.

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 April 7 meeting, the Task Force provided updates on water conditions, water operations and environmental habitat, water conservation, and drought impacts and response efforts. In addition, the California Department of Public Health provided an overview of drought-related community impacts surveyed in Tulare and Mariposa County.

## **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 1,272,786 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 1,145,086 boxes of food have been picked up by 588,491 households.

Food boxes distributions vary by county and occur 1-4 times per month. This past week, nearly 46% of the food distributions have occurred in the Tulare Basin (Fresno, Kern, Kings and Tulare). An estimated 12,000 boxes are scheduled for delivery to Fresno, Kern, Riverside, San Joaquin, and Tulare for the week ending April 15.

The Labor Workforce Development Agency announced that the federally funded Drought Temporary Jobs program has enrolled 1,150 participants at 189 worksite projects in 15 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.

The Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) is in the process of allocating \$400,000, under CSBG, to support the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) drought assistance program which provides assistance in employment training and placement services to individuals impacted by the drought. To date, CSD has expended a total of \$349,425 and has assisted 111 participants in employment training and placement services.

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 March 31, approximately \$6.4 million has been issued to 4,776 households.

- **Drought Response Funding:** The \$687 million in state drought funding that was appropriated in March 2015 through emergency legislation, as well as \$142 million provided in the 2014 Budget Act, continues to advance toward meeting critical needs. In 2015, \$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 2015, 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 2015, the next \$200 million of expedited capital funding was awarded last 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.

## **Local Government**

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** A total of 60 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, and tribal governments, as well as special districts:
  - **26 Counties:** Butte, Colusa, Calaveras, 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.
  - **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 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).



- **10 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), 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 (ACWA) [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