



## Drought Update

### Monday, May 23, 2016

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#### KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS MONTH

- **Governor Brown Releases Revised Budget, Contains Funds for Drought Resiliency; Issues Order to Continue Water Savings:** On May 13, Governor Brown [released](#) a revised budget that proposes a total of \$334.5 million to continue the state's emergency response to the drought. This funding will increase [drought resiliency](#), assist in drought response and conservation, increase smelt protection, and the removal and disposal of dead trees in high hazard areas.  
  
In addition, Governor Brown [issued](#) an [executive order](#) on May 9, that builds on temporary statewide emergency water restrictions to establish longer-term water conservation measures including permanent monthly water use reporting, new permanent water use standards in California communities, and bans on clearly wasteful practices such as hosing off sidewalks, driveways, and other hardscapes.
- **Californians Reduce Statewide Water Use by 24.3% in March; State Water Board Set to Consider Revisions to Emergency Regulation in May:** On May 3, the State Water Board [released](#) conservation figures for [March 2016](#) showing that Californians statewide have reduced their water use by 24.3%, as compared to water use in March 2013. This brings the state's cumulative water savings from June 2015 through March 2016 to 1.3 million acre-feet of water, or a 23.9% overall statewide reduction over the same months in 2013.
- **DWR Increases State Water Project Allocation Estimate to 60%:** On April 21, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) increased its water delivery estimate allocation for the State Water Project (SWP) from 45 percent in March to 60 percent. March storms have increased the state's Northern California reservoirs which continue to prompt the increase in delivery allocations. However, despite the recent increases, DWR noted that storage in Southern California reservoirs and groundwater aquifers remains low and that the state's historic drought is far from over. For more information about current reservoir conditions please visit DWR's [California Data Exchange Center – Reservoirs](#).
- **State Water Board Adopts 'Stress Test' Approach to Water Conservation Regulation:** On May 18, the State Water Board [adopted](#) a statewide water conservation approach that replaces the prior percentage reduction-based water conservation standard with a localized "stress test" approach that mandates urban water suppliers act now to ensure at least a three year supply of water to their customers under drought conditions. For more information, view the newly adopted emergency regulation on the State Water Board's [Conservation Portal](#).

- Agencies Agree to Coordinate on Flood and Habitat Projects in the Yolo Bypass Region:** On May 10, the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) [announced](#) that fifteen branches of federal, state, and local government have agreed to work together on planning and projects in the Yolo Bypass and Cache Slough region to restore wildlife habitat, better manage floods, preserve farmland, improve water supply and quality, and provide economic development and recreation. For more information, a copy of the MOU is available [here](#).
- DWR Releases Proposed Regulations on Groundwater Sustainability Plans:** On May 10, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) [released](#) proposed regulations that will guide the development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans as mandated by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ([SGMA](#)) enacted by Governor Brown in 2014. These regulations will move California toward the implementation of SGMA and more sustainable management in California's groundwater resources. For more information regarding California's groundwater visit DWR's [Groundwater Portal](#).
- CDFA Accepting Applications for Grants to Provide Technical Assistance to Farmers:** On May 11, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) [announced](#) they are accepting grants applications from organizations that wish to provide technical assistance to farmers applying for State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program ([SWEET](#)) funding. For more details on how to apply, view CDFA's 2016 SWEET Technical Assistance Workshop Grants, [Request for Applications](#).
- CDFW Now Accepting Proposals for Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs:** On May 10, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) [announced](#) the department is accepting proposals for ecosystem restoration and protection projects that fulfill the objectives of Proposition 1. Approved projects will contribute to the objectives of the California Water Action Plan, State Wildfire Action Plan, the Delta Plan, and California EcoRestore. For more information, visit CDFW's [Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs Portal](#).
- Coastal Conservancy Prop 1 Grant Solicitation:** On May 1, the State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) [released](#) the Proposal Solicitation for the next round Prop 1 grants. These grants fund multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects. Priority project types include will water sustainability improvements, anadromous fish habitat enhancement, wetland restoration and urban greening. Grant applications are due to the Conservancy on June 30, 2016. For more information, visit the Conservancy's [Prop 1 Grants Portal](#).
- Bureau Announces Initial Water Supply Allocation for the Central Valley Project:** On April 22, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation [increased](#) the water supply allocation for Friant Division Class 1 contractors from 40% to 50%. This allocation is based on improved forecasted hydrologic conditions, commercial power operations in the Upper San Joaquin River Basin, current storage in Millerton Lake, and cooler weather demand patterns. For more information, view the full press release on the Reclamation [News and Media Portal](#).

- **California’s Water Conservation Education Program Campaign:** Recently, Save Our Water and ScottsMiracle-Gro extended their partnership to [launch](#) new public messaging to encourage Californians to continue saving water in their outdoor spaces. The effort was launched the week of Earth Day, and will be available in the Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, and San Francisco market areas.

This effort builds on the past work between Save Our Water and ScottsMiracle-Gro to encourage Californians to keep “Fixing It for Good”, and taking actions that will provide long-term water savings. As part of the effort, ScottsMiracle-Gro has launched a website at [www.scottsmiraclegro.com/California](http://www.scottsmiraclegro.com/California) to provide inspiration and information on how water can be efficiently used in outdoor landscapes.

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 May 12 meeting, the Task Force provided updates on water conditions, water operations and environmental habitat, water conservation, and drought impacts and response efforts.

## **CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS**

- **Recent Precipitation:** Over the past two weeks, light to moderate amounts of precipitation was observed in most parts of the state. The Sierra Mountains received the most significant amount of precipitation. Seven day total rainfall accumulation was up to 2.1 inches in the Northern Sierra, up to 1 inch in the Central Sierra, and up to 1.7 inches in the Southern Sierra.

The Sacramento Valley and the San Joaquin Valley observed up to 0.6 inch of precipitation. The North Coast, Central Coast, and South Coast received up to 0.45 inch, 0.7 inch, and 1.2 inches of precipitation, respectively.

Below are precipitation totals (in inches) from May 6 through May 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> 0.54” (5.43”)    | • <b>Redding:</b> 0.44” (35.65”)          |
| • <b>Paso Robles:</b> 0.00” (7.37”)    | • <b>Riverside:</b> 0.18” (5.17”)         |
| • <b>Fresno:</b> 0.23” (14.27”)        | • <b>Sacramento:</b> 0.06” (15.81”)       |
| • <b>Yosemite:</b> 0.16” (35.20”)      | • <b>San Diego:</b> 0.43” (7.72”)         |
| • <b>Los Angeles:</b> 0.05” (6.35”)    | • <b>Mount Shasta:</b> 0.24” (37.76”)     |
| • <b>Stockton:</b> 0.33” (16.58”)      | • <b>South Lake Tahoe:</b> 1.25” (21.33”) |
| • <b>San Francisco:</b> 0.15” (22.12”) | • <b>Monterey:</b> 0.12” (21.42”)         |

- **Weather Outlook:** Cooler temperatures and precipitation for Northern Areas were expected this past weekend. Rainfall accumulations through this past weekend were estimated to range from 0.07 to 0.38 inches in the Klamath Basin, 0.04 to 0.37 inches in the North Coast, up to 0.22 inches in the Northern Sierra, and 0.01 to 0.22 inches in the Upper Sacramento region. Beginning Monday through Thursday, dry conditions are forecast across the state.
- **Fire Activity:** Since the beginning of the year, firefighters from CAL FIRE and the U.S. Forest Service have responded to over 772 wildfires across the state, burning 813 acres. Fire activity across California is high resulting in 407 new wildfires in the past month.
- **CAL FIRE Burn Suspension Status:** As weather conditions continue to bring less precipitation and increased temperatures, CAL FIRE has required burn permits within the State Responsibility Area in all counties throughout the state as of May 1. For additional information on preparing for and preventing wildfires, please visit <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/>.
- **Snow Survey:** As of May 23, a recent update using the [automated snow sensors](#) show snowpack conditions across the state now stand at 29 percent of normal. Regionally, the Northern Sierra is at 25 percent of average to date, Central Sierra is at 36 percent of average to date, and the Southern Sierra is at 20 percent of average to date.
- **Reservoir Management:** Since the last report on May 6, Central Valley reservoirs from Shasta and Trinity in the North to Isabella in the South had a net gain in storage of 90,308 acre-feet (AF), with a total gain of 184,292 AF and a total loss of 93,984 AF. Shasta Reservoir decreased by 12,509 AF, while San Luis Reservoir, an off-stream reservoir for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, decreased its storage by 40,452 AF.

Shasta Reservoir recorded 4.2 million AF on May 12 with a 10-day average change in storage of -1,763 AF per day. Oroville Reservoir recorded 3.4 million AF on May 12 with a 10-day average change in storage of 292 AF per day. Folsom Reservoir recorded 839,665 AF on May 12 with a 10-day average change in storage of 979 AF per day.

- [Reservoir Levels](#) as of May 15 have increased, including: Castaic Lake 63% of capacity (70% of year to date average); Don Pedro 74% of capacity (98% of average); Exchequer 56% of capacity (85% of average); Folsom Lake 86% of capacity (106% of average); Lake Oroville 95% of capacity (113% of average); Perris Lake 35% (42% of average); Millerton Lake 63% of capacity (84% of average); New Melones 26% of capacity (41% of average); Pine Flat 63% of capacity (91% of average); San Luis 38% of capacity (46% of average); Shasta Reservoir 92% of capacity (107% of average); and Trinity Lake 58% of capacity (68% of average). An update of water levels at other [smaller reservoirs](#) is available.

- **Dry Well Reports:** The winter of 2015-16 brought welcomed storms to Northern California, but the southern half of the state remains dry. For 2016, 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 May 12, approximately 2,166 wells statewide have been identified as critical or dry, affecting an estimated 10,830 residents. Cal OES reported that 1,982 of the 2,166 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 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. Since January 2014, 116 out of the 157 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 \$16.1 million of those funds.

## **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 1,330,086 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 1,198,287 boxes of food have been picked up by 618,960 households.

Food boxes distributions vary by county and occur 1-4 times per month. This past week, nearly 43% of the food distributions have occurred in the Tulare Basin (Fresno, Kern, Kings and Tulare). An estimated 13,320 boxes are scheduled for delivery to Fresno, Kern, Riverside, San Joaquin, and Tulare for the week ending May 13.

The Labor Workforce Development Agency announced that the federally funded Drought Temporary Jobs program has enrolled 1,172 participants at 197 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 \$356,486 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 May 9, approximately \$6.4 million has been issued to 4,839 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. To date, \$997 million has been committed and an additional \$415 million is anticipated to be committed by the end of Fiscal Year 2015-16.

Of the critical near-term funds available, approximately 75 percent is now committed and an additional \$72 million is anticipated to be committed in the remaining Fiscal Year.

In addition, Governor Brown has proposed an additional \$323 million for the 2016-17 budget to continue the state's response to the drought. If approved by the Legislature, 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:
  - **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.

- **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).
- **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 (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 and Tribal Drought Task Forces:** A total of 15 county and tribal drought task forces continue to coordinate local drought response in 2016. Inland Regions counties include: Colusa, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, 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](#)  
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