



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



## Drought Update

### Thursday, September 8, 2016

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#### KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS MONTH

- **State Water Board Posts New Fact Sheet on “Stress Test” Submissions; Results Reveal Drought Preparedness:** On August 17, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) [released](#) a new [fact sheet](#) on the “stress test” process that allows water suppliers to replace last year’s state-imposed mandatory conservation standards with locally determined measures. Results indicate that the majority of suppliers are drought-prepared in the event of an additional three dry years, and that many chose to continue local conservation commitments and water-use restrictions.

The purpose of the three-year “stress test” is to acknowledge the level of water supplies available to different areas through improved hydrology and/or significant investments in new supplies such as recycled water, groundwater banking, local surface and groundwater storage, desalination, and stormwater capture. For more information, visit the State Water Board’s [Water Conservation Portal](#).

- **New Analysis of Drought Estimates Economic Impact to Agriculture in 2016 at \$603 Million:** On August 16, the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences [released](#) a new [report](#) that indicates California’s ongoing drought will impact the state’s agricultural economy this year by \$603 million and eliminate more than 4,700 jobs. Despite improved drought conditions in some areas of the state, the report expects losses to be concentrated in the Central Valley south of the Delta.
- **First Phase of Emergency Project Brings Water to Drought-Stricken East Porterville:** On August 22, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), in collaboration with the State Water Control Resources Board, the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, Tulare County, and the City of Porterville, [completed](#) the first phase of the [East Porterville Water Supply Project](#). The multi-phase project is designed to connect as many as 1,800 homes in East Porterville with either no water or undrinkable water in their wells to the City of Porterville’s water system by the end of 2017. For more details, visit the [DWR Drought Information](#) webpage.
- **Urban, Agricultural Advisory Groups Named to Assist with Executive Order on Conservation:** In early August, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced that two advisory groups, [urban](#) and [agricultural](#), have been established to help implement Governor Brown’s Executive Order [B-37-16](#) making water conservation a California way of life. The [urban advisory group](#) and the [agricultural advisory group](#), comprised of members of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), held meetings on August 11 and August 25, respectively.

- **Officials Release Biological Assessment of California WaterFix:** On August 3, the Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation [released](#) a revised [biological assessment](#) for the California WaterFix project to federal agencies with a request to begin the formal consultation process under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The biological assessment presents a species-by-species analysis of the project's potential effects.

[California WaterFix](#) is a project proposed for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that seeks to balance the needs of California residents with those of Delta fish and wildlife. The newly released assessment articulates how the project would be operated to meet the needs of endangered species.

- **Public Briefings on WSIP Technical Reference Document:** On August 30, the California Water Commission (CWC) [held](#) the final public briefing for the Proposition 1 (Prop 1) Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) [Technical Reference Document](#), which supports applicants seeking funding under WSIP and assists them in producing competitive, technically sound applications. During the briefings, CWC provided an overview of the reference document and the opportunity to ask questions.

CWC is responsible for developing and adopting regulations, guidelines, and criteria to award Prop 1 funding for water storage projects that provide public benefits such as restored ecosystems, recreation, flood control, emergency response, and water quality. For more details, visit the CWC [Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program](#) website.

- **State Water Board to Provide Informational Fair on Water Right Measurement and Reporting:** On August 22, the State Water Control Resources Board (State Water Board) [held](#) an informational fair in Sacramento to help facilitate compliance with recently adopted measurement and reporting requirements. The fair was able to bring together water right holders, vendors, and other professionals employed in the water measurement industry to discuss ways to reasonably and practically measure diversions of water in compliance with the new requirements. For additional information, visit the State Water Board's [Water Rights: Water Use Reports and Measurement](#) website.
- **New PPIC Report Recommends Reforms to California Water Management:** On August 9, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) [released](#) a [report](#) with 12 specific recommendations aimed at improving the way the state tracks water resources. According to PPIC, the recommendations are based on best practices in 11 other U.S. states, Australia, and Spain, which address a range of issues including improving and standardizing water data collection and transparency, streamlining water rights, and clarifying environmental requirements.

- **California’s Water Conservation Education Program Campaign:** On August 3, Save Our Water [released](#) a statewide marketing effort, [Water Conservation: It’s For Life](#) that encourages Californians to continue to conserve and make permanent changes to save water as part of the “California Lifestyle.” The summer conservation campaign aims to help residents maintain their strong commitment in saving water by promoting ideas, tools, and inspiration to help make saving water an everyday habit.

Save Our Water is the state’s official water conservation program managed in partnership between the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and the Department of Water Resources. For more tips and tools to help conserve water, learn about rebates on turf and toilet replacement, 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 August 11 meeting, the Task Force provided updates on water operations and environmental habitat, water conservation, and drought impacts and response efforts.

The Department of General Services (DGS) also provided updates regarding the [DGS Water Conservation Efforts](#) web portal which identifies best practices on immediate water conservation and actions taken to conserve water at State facilities.

## **CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS**

- **Fire Activity:** Since the beginning of the year, firefighters from CAL FIRE, U.S. Forest Service and other federal agencies have responded to over 5,354 wildfires across the state, burning 496,126 acres. Fire activity across California is high resulting in 215 new wildfires over the past week.
- **CAL FIRE Burn Suspension Status:** To date, CAL FIRE has [suspended](#) all burn permits for outdoor open residential burning in Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Eastern San Joaquin, Eastern Stanislaus, Eastern Trinity, El Dorado, Fresno, Glen, Humboldt, Inyo, Imperial, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, San Benito, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Siskiyou, Tehama, Tuolumne, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba counties.

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 visit [www.ReadyForWildfire.org](#).

- **Weather Outlook:** Dry weather is expected across the Central and Southern California Interior for the next several days. Temperatures will remain cooler than average until midweek when temperatures begin warming to near normal.
- **Reservoir Management:** Since the last report on August 19, Central Valley reservoirs from Shasta and Trinity in the North to Isabella in the South had a net loss in storage of 310,114 acre-feet (AF), with total gains of 37,084 AF for a total loss of 347,198 AF. Shasta Reservoir decreased by 91,098 AF, while San Luis Reservoir, an off-stream reservoir for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, decreased its storage by 36,724 AF.

As of August 25, Shasta, Orville, and Folsom Reservoirs recorded approximately 3.2 million AF, 1.9 million AF, and 355,343 AF, respectively. The 10-day average changes were -12,793 AF, -14,448 AF, and -2,954 AF per day, respectively.

- [Reservoir Levels](#) as of September 5 have decreased, including: Castaic Lake 74% of capacity (91% of year to date average); Don Pedro 67% of capacity (95% of average); Exchequer 42% of capacity (79% of average); Folsom Lake 35% of capacity (57% of average); Lake Oroville 50% of capacity (78% of average); Perris Lake 37% (48% of average); Millerton Lake 48% of capacity (109% of average); New Melones 23% of capacity (39% of average); Pine Flat 19% of capacity (51% of average); San Luis 18% of capacity (42% of average); Shasta 67% of capacity (107% of average); and Trinity Lake 43% of capacity (59% 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 August 11, approximately 2,359 wells statewide have been identified as critical or dry, affecting an estimated 11,795 residents. Cal OES reported that 2,179 of the 2,359 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, 122 out of the 188 projects approved to receive emergency funding for interim replacement drinking water have been executed.

In May 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 \$13.1 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 1,583,669 boxes have been provided to community food banks in drought-impacted counties. Approximately 1,421,820 boxes of food have been picked up by 732,887 households.

Food boxes distributions vary by county and occur 1-4 times per month. This past week, nearly 44% of the food distributions have occurred in the Tulare Basin (Fresno, Kern, Kings and Tulare). An estimated 12,840 boxes are scheduled for delivery to Fresno, Kern, Kings, Merced, Riverside, and Tulare the week ending August 26.

The Labor Workforce Development Agency reported that the federally funded Drought Temporary Jobs program has enrolled 1,193 participants at 199 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.

The Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) has completed the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Drought Assistance Program which provides \$400,000, under the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), for employment training and placement services to individuals impacted by the drought. To date, CSD has expended a total of \$393,119 and has assisted 111 participants in employment training and placement services.

In response to California's historic drought, CSD 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 July 30, approximately \$6.5 million has been issued to 4,873 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 57 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).
  - **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:** 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 16 county and tribal drought task forces continue to coordinate local drought response in 2016. Inland regions counties include: Butte, 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](#)  
 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](#)