



Drought Update Thursday, November 17, 2016

KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS MONTH

- **Statewide Water Savings Top 18 Percent in September; Conservation Still Needed Despite Early Rains:** On November 1, the State Water Resources Control Board [announced](#) that urban Californians' monthly water conservation was [18.3 percent](#) in September, up from 17.5 percent in August but below the 26.2 percent savings in September 2015, when state-mandated conservation targets were in place. The cumulative average savings from June 2015 through September 2016 was 23 percent, compared with the same months in 2013.

Since June 2015, 2.15 million acre-feet of water has been saved which is enough water to supply 10 million people, more than one-quarter the state's 38 million population, for a year. The State Water Board will continue to monitor conservation levels and water supply conditions, and will develop a proposal for [extended emergency conservation regulations](#) in January 2017. For additional information, visit the State Water Board [Water Conservation Portal](#).

- **State Agencies Join Forces with White House Council on Environmental Quality on California Water Data Challenge:** On November 28, California state agencies, in partnership with the White House Council on Environmental Quality, [launched](#) the [California Water Data Challenge](#) to leverage information technology and available water information to support decisions around California water reliability and sustainability of resources.

The California Water Data Challenge invites individuals and teams to develop apps, websites, data visualizations and other tools that leverage publicly available datasets in novel ways to support creative solutions to California's water challenges, as outlined in the California Water Action Plan. For additional information, visit the webpage at waterchallenge.data.ca.gov.

- **California's Water Conservation Education Program Campaign:** In November, Save Our Water continues to promote the [#reimagineyourlandscape](#) statewide marketing effort 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 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.

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 November 17 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 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, continues to finance and construct the [East Porterville Water Supply Project](#), which will connect homes in East Porterville to a new sustainable source of water.

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. As of November 3, 41 homes have been connected to the City of Porterville and receiving water.

CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS

- **Weather Outlook:** In parts of Northern and Central California, a Pacific storm system will bring a chance for some light precipitation on Wednesday with cooler conditions and increased winds through Thursday. Thursday and Friday appear likely to be dry before a stronger, wetter system arrives for the weekend.
- **Recent Precipitation:** In the past week a small amount of precipitation was recorded along the North Coast (1 to 2 inches), Shasta area received 0.5 to 1 inch. Other locations received 0.0 to trace amounts. Below are precipitations totals (in inches) from November 4 through November 10, and year-to-date rainfall based on the water year cycle (October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017).

• Bakersfield: 0.00" (0.24")	• Redding: 0.15" (6.78")
• Paso Robles: 0.00" (1.34")	• Riverside: 0.00" (0.86")
• Fresno: 0.00" (0.67")	• Sacramento: 0.00" (4.86")
• Yosemite: 0.00" (6.68")	• San Diego: 0.00" (0.03")
• Los Angeles: 0.00" (0.51")	• Mount Shasta: 0.19" (11.86")
• Stockton: 0.00" (2.33")	• South Lake Tahoe: 0.00" (7.40")
• San Francisco: 0.00" (2.36")	• Monterey: 0.00" (2.90")
- **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 6,821 wildfires across the state, burning 557,653 acres. Fire activity across California is high resulting in 33 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.

- **Reservoir Management:** As of November 11, Shasta storage is 2.8 million acre-feet (AF) (105% of average), about 880,000 AF below flood control space, and releasing 4,850 cubic feet per second (cfs). Oroville storage is at 1.5 million AF (72% of average), about 1.5 AF below flood control space, and releasing 3,500 cfs. Folsom is at 381,000 (78% of average), about 270,000 acre-feet below flood control space, and releasing 1,250 cfs. Don Pedro is 1.3 million AF (102% of average), while Pine Flat is at 193,000 AF (55% of average). Releases from these facilities are minimal due to conservation for water supply.

[Reservoir Levels](#) as of November 13 have remained steady, including: Castaic Lake 70% of capacity (92% of year to date average); Don Pedro 66% of capacity (102% of average); Exchequer 38% of capacity (86% of average); Folsom Lake 39% of capacity (79% of average); Lake Oroville 43% of capacity (72% of average); Perris Lake 37% (48% of average); Millerton Lake 46% of capacity (116% of average); New Melones 21% of capacity (38% of average); Pine Flat 20% of capacity (55% of average); San Luis 36% of capacity (64% of average); Shasta 62% of capacity (105% of average); and Trinity Lake 44% of capacity (67% 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 October 20, approximately 2,426 wells statewide have been identified as critical or dry, affecting an estimated 12,130 residents. Cal OES reported that 2,242 of the 2,426 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. Since July 2016, 7 projects have been approved to receive Cleanup and Abatement Account Interim Emergency Drinking Water Program (CAA) SB 826 funding, 0 of 5 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, 0 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

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 1,767,363 boxes have been provided to community food banks in drought-impacted counties. Approximately 1,589,144 boxes of food have been picked up by 822,835 households.

Food boxes distributions vary by county and occur 1-4 times per month. This past week, nearly 58% of the food distributions have occurred in the Tulare Basin (Fresno, Kern, Kings and Tulare). An estimated 14,040 boxes are scheduled for delivery to Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Merced, Riverside, and Tulare the week ending November 11.

The Labor Workforce Development Agency reported that the federally funded Drought Temporary Jobs program has enrolled 1,220 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 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), 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 5,019 HETs have been installed, which have saved over 12.2 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 October 17, \$168,550 has been issued to 94 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 ([ACWA](#)) 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](#)