



## Drought Update

### Monday, June 27, 2016

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#### **KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS MONTH**

- **State Water Board Stresses Need to Continue Water Savings as Drought Persists:** On June 6, the State Water Board [announced](#) that water conservation remained strong in April with residents statewide reducing water use by 26.1% over the same month in 2013. Including the results for [April](#), Californians have saved more than 1.43 million acre-feet of water since June 2015, a 24.1% reduction in water use compared to the same months in 2013. Water saved during the 11 month period was enough to supply 7.2 million Californians for one year, or 18% of the state's population.
- **Analysis of California WaterFix Submitted to State Water Board:** On June 1, the Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation jointly [submitted](#) detailed testimony to the State Water Board as required for the upcoming public hearings beginning July 26. The request seeks to strengthen the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta by adding three new points of diversion to the State Water Project (SWP), with coordination operations for the Central Valley Project (CVP), for [California WaterFix](#).
- **State Water Board Expands its Commitment to Recycled Water with New Permitting Process:** On June 8, the State Water Board [approved](#) a new [General Order](#) to simplify the permitting process for recycled water projects, and advances the state's goal of increased recycled water use statewide. The General Order, which will be administered by the nine Regional Water Boards, applies to the use of treated municipal wastewater for irrigating landscapes and crops, dust control, industrial and commercial cooling, decorative fountains, and other uses on a case-by-case basis. For additional information, visit the State Water Board's [Water Reclamation Requirements for Recycled Water Use](#) website.
- **CDFA Announces SWEEP Funding Availability for 2016:** On June 20, the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) [announced](#) that the department will begin accepting applications for the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP). Approximately \$18 million will be available for competitive grant funding to provide financial assistance to implement irrigation systems that reduce greenhouse gases and save water at California agricultural operations.

CDFA will also host grant application and technical assistance workshops throughout the state to provide prospective applicants with basic information on the program and application process. For more information, visit CDFA's [SWEEP](#) web portal.

- **Energy Commission Approves more than \$8.5 Million in Grants to Save Water:** On June 14, the California Energy Commission (CEC) [approved](#) more than \$8.5 million in grants to promote innovative technologies and strategies that save water and energy. The projects are expected to accelerate the deployment of drought-resilient strategies that minimize the need for new water-related energy infrastructure. For more information, visit CEC's [Electric Program Investment Charge](#) website.
- **DWR Releases Final Guidelines and Solicitation Package for CalConserve Water Use Efficiency Loan Program:** On June 16, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the Proposition 1 [Final Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package](#) for the CalConserve Water Use Efficiency Revolving Fund Loan Program, which provides funding for certain urban water use efficiency projects. A total of \$10 million is available for competitive, zero-interest loans to fund local agencies' implementation of residential water use efficiency upgrades. For more information on this program, visit DWR's [Water Use Efficiency Grants and Loans](#) website.
- **Public Listening Sessions regarding Implementation of Executive Order B-37-16:** In early June, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), State Water Board, and the Department of Food and Agriculture [held](#) three Public Listening Sessions regarding implementation of Executive Order B-37-16 issued by Governor Brown on May 9. For more details, view DWR's [Listening Session Factsheet and Discussion Questions](#).
- **Series of Public Workshops on Salton Sea Management Program Set for this Summer:** On June 14, the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) announced a series of workshops to provide information to and solicit public input on the State's Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP). The meetings will introduce the state process and Phase I projects currently proposed as part of the SSMP. For additional information, visit CNRA's [Salton Sea Management Program](#) website.
- **Sierra Nevada Conservancy awards \$3.2 million for tree mortality, forest health, and watershed restoration projects:** On June 2, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Governing Board [approved](#) over \$3.2 million in grants for projects that will address tree mortality, reduce wildfire risk, and restore forest and watershed health in the Sierra Nevada region. To learn more about project details, please visit SNC's [Proposition 1 Grant Program](#) website.
- **\$3.7 Million in Grant and Matching Funds Announced for Klamath River Coho Habitat Restoration Program:** On June 15, the Bureau of Reclamation, NOAA Fisheries, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFNF) [announced](#) the award of 12 grants from the Klamath River Coho Habitat Restoration Grant Program. The restoration program will serve to enhance the survival and recovery of the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho salmon. For more information, view NFNF's 2016 Grant Slate [factsheet](#).

- **Interior Department Announces \$30 Million in Title XVI funding for California:** On June 10, the U.S. Department of the Interior [announced](#) more than \$30 million in funding through the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) Title XVI program for seven projects that will provide clean water to California communities and promote water and energy efficiency. To learn more about these projects, visit the Bureau's [WaterSMART Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse](#) website.
- **California's Water Conservation Education Program Campaign:** On June 15, Save Our Water and Green Acres Nursery and Supply launched the [#ifixeditforgood](#) contest to highlight great ways Californians update their yards with water-friendly plants. Customers will snap and share photos of how they saved water in their landscape on Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #ifixeditforgood and #idiggreenacres. These photos can include new water-wise landscape or plantings, improved irrigation, mulch, or attending a seminar about water savings. For additional information and official rules, visit the [Green Acres Nursery and Supply](#) website.

This summer, Save Our Water plans to update its website, provide new tools and toolkits for partners, and launch a paid media campaign in July and August. If approved by the Legislature, the 2016-17 State Budget would provide \$2 million for Save Our water efforts including new locally-tailored messaging focused on long-term conservation and making permanent changes in water use. 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 June 16 meeting, the Task Force provided updates on water operations and environmental habitat, water conservation, and drought impacts and response efforts. In addition, the Governor's Tribal Advisor announced that the next Monthly Tribal Consultation Webinar on Drought Response will be held on July 12.

In addition, the Department of Water Resources provided a brief summary of the [June 2016 Water Conditions Fact Sheet](#) which provides a high-level summary of California's current water conditions.

## **CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS**

- **Fire Activity:** Since the beginning of the year, firefighters from CAL FIRE and the U.S. Forest Service have responded to over 2,392 wildfires across the state, burning 98,088 acres. Fire activity across California is high resulting in 293 new wildfires over the past week. As of June 26, the Erskine Fire in Kern County remains the largest in the state burning more than 45,388 acres with 40% containment.

- **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, Eastern San Joaquin, Eastern Stanislaus, Eastern Trinity, El Dorado, Fresno, Glen, 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.

As of July 4 the following counties will suspend burning: Del Norte and Humboldt 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](http://www.ReadyForWildfire.org).

- **Weather Outlook:** Above normal temperatures and dry conditions across Northwest California will persist this week as a ridge of high pressure remains over the western states. A few late day thunderstorms are possible mid-week near the Sierra crest south of Tahoe. High temperatures will warm into the 90s to over 100 degrees for interior locations while mid 60s continue along the coast. In the Southern regions, hot weather will continue into this week, and then slight cooling is expected by midweek as high pressure weakens.
- **Reservoir Management:** Since the last report on June 17, Central Valley reservoirs from Shasta and Trinity in the North to Isabella in the South had a net loss in storage of 330,561 acre-feet (AF), with a total gain of 30,712 AF and a total loss of 361,273 AF. Shasta Reservoir decreased by 56,842 AF, while San Luis Reservoir, an off-stream reservoir for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, decreased its storage by 66,350 AF. Shasta, Orville, and Folsom Reservoirs recorded 3.9 million AF, 3.1 million AF, and 751,200 AF, respectively. The 10-day average changes were -7,923 AF, -13,137 AF, and -4,709 AF per day, respectively.
- [Reservoir Levels](#) as of June 26 have increased, including: Castaic Lake 73% of capacity (84% of year to date average); Don Pedro 77% of capacity (97% of average); Exchequer 60% of capacity (84% of average); Folsom Lake 75% of capacity (91% of average); Lake Oroville 86% of capacity (105% of average); Perris Lake 37% (46% of average); Millerton Lake 87% of capacity (109% of average); New Melones 26% of capacity (41% of average); Pine Flat 60% of capacity (86% of average); San Luis 20% of capacity (31% of average); Shasta Reservoir 87% of capacity (107% of average); and Trinity Lake 53% of capacity (62% 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 June 13, approximately 2,057 wells statewide have been identified as critical or dry, affecting an estimated 10,285 residents. Cal OES reported that 1,913 of the 2,057 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 167 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 \$15.4 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 1,436,703 boxes have been provided to community food banks in drought-impacted counties. Approximately 1,286,768 boxes of food have been picked up by 670,677 households.

Food boxes distributions vary by county and occur 1-4 times per month. This past week, nearly 59% of the food distributions have occurred in the Tulare Basin (Fresno, Kern, Kings and Tulare). An estimated 14,400 boxes are scheduled for delivery to Fresno, Kern, Merced, Riverside, and Tulare the week ending July 1.

The Labor Workforce Development Agency reported that the federally funded Drought Temporary Jobs program has enrolled 1,167 participants at 197 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) 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 \$370,658 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 June 3, approximately \$6.5 million has been issued to 4,868 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:** 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 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, [California WaterFix](#)  
State Water Resources Control Board, Drinking Water, [SWRCB Drinking Water Program](#)  
California State Water Project, [Information](#)  
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](#)