



## Drought Update Tuesday, June 2, 2015

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### KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS WEEK

- **Temporary Salinity Barrier Installed in the Delta:** On May 29, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced that construction of the [temporary emergency drought barrier](#) at West False River in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is nearing completion about two weeks earlier than anticipated. The [emergency barrier](#) has been limited to protect fresh water supplies in the interior Delta from saltwater intrusion.
- **Drought Relief Program Offers Training for Impacted Workers:** On May 26, the Employment Training Panel (ETP) and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) announced the [California Drought Employment Training Program](#), which will offer a variety of different training certification programs to workers, employers and students impacted by the drought such as irrigation, water treatment and food safety. Starting in early 2015, these programs will be provided to a variety of individuals who certify that their employment has been affected by the drought, such as those who are unemployed, laid off, under-employed, incumbent, or from low-socioeconomic groups at no cost to participate. To learn more about this training program, visit the [California Community Colleges](#) website.
- **State Water Board Program Awards \$30 Million to Schools to Promote Stormwater Capture:** On May 29, the State Water Board [announced](#) the Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools' ([DROPS](#)) program will fund 30 school districts and institutions throughout California and will receive more than \$30 million to educate students and create on-campus projects relating to stormwater capture and water conservation.

DROPS was developed in response to Governor Brown's Drought State of Emergency issued in January 2014 to provide funds to schools and school districts for projects to provide multiple benefits including water conservation, water supply augmentation, energy savings, increased awareness of water resource sustainability and reduced dry-weather runoff.

- **U.S. EPA Announces \$1.6 Billion to Upgrade Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant:** On May 28, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) announced \$1.6 billion to help update the [Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant](#) which will remove nearly 95% of ammonia from wastewater discharges into the Sacramento River and Bay Delta. The existing wastewater plant serving approximately 1.4 million people is one of the largest sources of ammonia and nitrate pollution to the Bay Delta. This project will bring the wastewater plant to advanced treatment levels that will protect the Sacramento River and San Francisco Bay Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary.

- **MWD Increases Turf Removal and Water Conservation Program Budget to Record \$450 Million:** On May 26, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Board of Directors [approved a \\$350 million increase](#) to its existing budget for turf removal and water conservation programs for a total of \$450 million. MWD's turf removal program currently has rebate requests for more than 100 million square feet (or about 60,000 front lawns) and receives up to 10,000 applications per month. The expanded program is expected to result in the removal of about 175 million square feet of turf and projected to save about 80 million gallons of water per day for Southern California. For more information, visit MWD's [Water Conservation Program](#) website.
- **Drought Impacts, Public Perceptions to be Discussed at Upcoming California State Board of Food and Agriculture Meeting:** On June 2, the California State Board of Food and Agriculture (state board) board meeting will focus on the complexity of drought impacts and critical issues such as the misperceptions of California agriculture and farming. Invited speakers will include the University of California-Davis, the Center for Food Integrity and a variety of media representatives who will share their perspectives on drought perceptions in the public and the media.
- **Webinar Series Outlining Water Conservation Regulation Now Online:** On May 26, the Governor's Office, in partnership with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties, concluded the [special series of three webinars](#) that outlined the emergency regulations on mandatory urban water conservation and provided details on new conservation tools for local water agencies. More than 400 local water managers, staff and other agency officials participated remotely in each webinar. The webinars and accompanying written materials are now available [online](#).
- **California's Water Conservation Education Program Campaign:** The next phase of the state's ongoing public education campaign will kick off at the conclusion of the current 'Keep Saving CA' campaign at the end of June. This next phase of the Save Our Water public education campaign will focus on local water agencies around the state that must meet the state's highest water use reduction targets. This initiative will include radio/digital radio, billboards, transit ads, theater ads, digital and social media through the end of July.

Tree-care during the drought continues to be the primary focus on the Save Our Water social media pages, as well as on the website. In addition, the San Francisco Giants will be featured in upcoming public service announcements (PSAs) to further promote Save Our Water messaging. Save Our Water will film the Giants at AT&T on June 2. For easy-to-use water saving tips visit [saveourwater.com](http://saveourwater.com), and connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

- **Governor's Drought Task Force:** The Task Force continues to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought. On May 28, updates on drought response, water operations and environmental habitat, and external outreach were provided.

During the most recent Task Force meeting the State Water Board announced that the next statewide conservation water-use data survey for April will be released at the State Water Board meeting on June 2, which provides a year-over-year water use comparison of nearly 400 urban water retailers. In addition, the University of California-Davis (UCD) Center for Watershed Sciences also provided preliminary results of a drought impact study

## **ONGOING DROUGHT SUPPORT**

- **Emergency Food Aid and Utility Assistance:** The Department of Social Services (CDSS) has provided to date over 656,409 boxes of food to community food banks in drought-impacted counties. Approximately 606,907 boxes of food have been picked up by 319,256 households. By June 5, an additional 10,800 boxes will be delivered to Fresno, Kern, Lake, Riverside and Tulare County.

The Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) allocated an additional \$600,000, under the federally-funded Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), to continue the [Drought Water Assistance Program \(DWAP\)](#) which provides financial assistance to help low-income families pay their water bills. As of May 22, CSD has reported that a total of \$75,831 has been issued to 404 households.

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

## **CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS**

- **Fire Activity:** Since the beginning of the year, CAL FIRE has responded to over 1,694 wildfires across the state, burning 6,746 acres in the State Responsibility Area (SRA). This fire activity is above the five year average for the same time period with 1,106 fires and 9,096 acres burned. CAL FIRE staffing is six to eight weeks ahead of schedule with all units to be at peak staffing the beginning of June.
- **CAL FIRE Suspends Outdoor Residential Burning:** To date, the following counties in SRA have suspended burn permits in Fresno, Kings, Monterey, San Benito, Tulare and Marin County. On June 1, CAL FIRE has suspended all burn permits for outdoor open residential burning in Calaveras, Imperial, Inyo, Mono, Tuolumne, San Diego, San Bernardino, San Joaquin and Stanislaus County.

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).

- **Dry Well Reports:** As California enters the fourth consecutive summer of drought, Cal OES continues to monitor and identify communities and local water systems in danger of running out of water. Approximately 1,966 wells statewide have been identified as critical or dry, which affects an estimated 9,830 residents. As of May 26, Cal OES has reported that 1,721 of the 1,966 dry wells are concentrated in the inland regions within the Central Valley.
- **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, 81 out of the 103 projects approved to receive emergency funding for interim replacement drinking water have been executed. On May 19, 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 \$1.1 million of those funds.
- **Reservoir Levels (% capacity):** Since May 29, reservoirs around the State are drawing down storage for irrigation, water supply, water quality, and Delta salinity control. Shasta has dropped 63,000 acre-feet (AF), Oroville has dropped 33,000 AF, Trinity Lake has dropped 26,000 AF, Folsom has dropped 9,000 AF, San Luis has dropped 35,000 AF. A few Tulare Basin reservoirs have increased storage: Pine Flat +16,000 AF, Terminus +3,000 AF, and Lake McClure +8,000 AF.
- [Reservoir Levels](#) as of June 1 remain low, including: Castaic Lake 34% of capacity (38% of year to date average); Don Pedro 41% of capacity (53% of average); Exchequer 13% of capacity (18% of average); Folsom Lake 54% of capacity (65% of average); Lake Oroville 44% of capacity (52% of average); Lake Perris 40% (48% of average); Millerton Lake 34% of capacity (44% of average); New Melones 19% of capacity (30% of average); Pine Flat 27% of capacity (37% of average); San Luis 53% of capacity (67% of average); Lake Shasta 53% of capacity (62% of average); and Trinity Lake 42% of capacity (48% of average). An update of water levels at [other smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.
- **Recent Precipitation:** Over the past week, the eastern portions of California, along the Nevada border, received precipitation. Areas experiencing precipitation included the Sierra Nevada mountain range (0.5 to 1.5 inches), and northeastern California (up to 1.5 inches). The Central Valley had light precipitation measuring less than half an inch, while Southern California near San Diego had minor traces of precipitation.
- **Precipitation Forecast:** A low pressure system is expected to travel through Northern California and Southern Oregon starting early next week. As a result, more widespread showers in the north are anticipated during the first half of the week. Dry conditions and warm temperatures are expected for the remaining areas of California.

## 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:** El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Inyo, Humboldt, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Plumas, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Sutter, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yuba.
  - **11 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 San Juan Bautista (San Benito County), City of Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara County), and City of West Sacramento (Yolo County), and City of Willits (Mendocino County).
  - **9 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), 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.
- **County Drought Taskforces:** A total of 31 counties have established drought task forces to coordinate local drought response. These counties include: Butte, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, 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, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yolo.
- **Tribal Taskforce:** A total of 4 tribes have established drought task forces to coordinate tribal drought response. These tribes include: Hoopa Valley Tribe (Humboldt County), Kashia Band of Pomo Indians (Sonoma County), Sherwood Valley Tribe (Mendocino 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: [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster)