



Drought Update Wednesday, June 10, 2015

KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS WEEK

- **State Water Board Reports Improved Urban Conservation for April:** On June 2, the State Water Board [reported](#) April's statewide water conservation rate at 13.5%. April's reduction in water use represents a boost in conservation efforts over March's 3.9%. In addition, nearly 400 water suppliers responded to a first-ever enforcement report, indicating a high level of local activity to respond to reports of leaks and suspected water wasting. From June 2014 to April 2015, the state has conserved more than 175 billion gallons of water.
- **CBSC Approves Emergency Adoption of Building Standards to Conserve Water:** On May 29, the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) approved mandatory outdoor landscape irrigation water efficiency building standards applicable to newly constructed [residential](#) and [nonresidential buildings, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, correctional treatment facilities, public elementary and secondary schools and community colleges](#) through an emergency adoption process. These building standards became effective on June 1, 2015, and as set forth in the California Green Building Code (CALGreen), Title 24, will ensure that these types of newly constructed buildings permitted on or after June 1, include water-efficient landscape irrigation.

The California Building Standards Commission developed the emergency building standards in coordination with the Housing and Community Department, the Department of Water Resources, the Division of the State Architect, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, and other stakeholders, in an effort to further reduce the use of potable water in our state. The mandatory building standards and requirements will save California millions of gallons of water each year.

- **Whirling Disease Detection Triggers Quarantine at Three California Trout Hatcheries:** On June 4, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) [announced](#) that the detection of Whirling disease, a disease-causing parasite, has led to quarantine approximately three million infected trout at three northern California hatcheries. Due to severe drought conditions, water sources are drying up in watersheds that supply water to hatcheries. Terrestrial wildlife (heron, egrets, river otters, and bears) that eat fish can transmit the spores of the parasite via fish or on their fur or feathers.

As water supplies dry up, wildlife become concentrated at the water sources and more readily transmit disease. Although the disease has no known human health effects, infected hatchery fish cannot be released into California's waterways in order to prevent the spread of disease to non-infected state waters where the fish would normally be planted.

- **Drought and Water Top Californians' List of Concerns:** On June 3, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) [released](#) a poll which reveals that 39% of Californians are most likely to name water and drought as the most important current state issue, while 20% list jobs and the economy as their top concern. Some 69% of respondents also say that water supply is a big problem in their part of the state, which is the largest percentage since the question was first asked in 2009.
- **Hot Temperatures Play Critical Role in Drought, USGS Study Says:** According to a new [study](#) released on June 3 by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and university partners, the lack of precipitation is not the only factor driving California's historic drought. Recent experiments revealed that abnormally hot temperatures also play a role in worsening the drought's impacts. This study confirms [findings already published and discussed](#) publicly.
- **California's Water Conservation Education Program Campaign:** This past week, Save Our Water shifted its radio messaging focus to a "summer-centric" water saving message, which will run through June 22. Save Our Water is also collaborating with Starbucks to disseminate information in Starbucks locations throughout California. Additionally, Sergio Romo of the San Francisco Giants was filmed for a public service announcement (PSA) that will be launched later this month to further promote Save Our Water messaging.

On June 8, the Save Our Water held a [free webinar](#) that provided details on updated public outreach tools and partnership opportunities for water agencies as they seek to meet new state mandates for water conservation. For easy-to-use water saving tips visit saveourwater.com, and connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). For the new Spanish-language Save Our Water campaign website visit ahorrenuestraagua.com.

- **Governor's Drought Task Force:** The Task Force continues to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought. During the most recent Task Force meeting on June 4, the Governor's Office discussed a water technology summit it is hosting at the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) Headquarters on July 10. In addition, the California Energy Commission reported they do not anticipate drought-driven electricity interruptions in the coming months.

ONGOING DROUGHT SUPPORT

- **Emergency Food Aid, Rental and Utility Assistance:** The Department of Social Services (CDSS) has provided to date over 684,400 boxes of food to community food banks in drought-impacted counties. Approximately 616,735 boxes of food have been picked up by 323,327 households. By June 12, an additional 13,800 boxes will be delivered to Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Riverside, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Yolo County.

The non-profit group La Cooperativa continues to distribute the \$10 million state-funded emergency rental assistance to families and individuals across counties most impacted by the drought. As of May 14, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reported that a total of \$8,750,095 have been issued to 5,909 applicants in 21 counties, with \$6,904 remaining in assistance funds.

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 29, CSD has reported that a total of \$94,056 has been issued to 502 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 1,906 wildfires across the state, burning 6,852 acres in the State Responsibility Area (SRA). This fire activity is above the five year average for the same time period with 1,237 fires and 10,127 acres burned. CAL FIRE staffing is at peak staffing in most of the units throughout the state.
- **CAL FIRE Suspends Outdoor Residential Burning:** To date, CAL FIRE has suspended all burn permits for outdoor open residential burning in Calaveras, Fresno, Imperial, Inyo, Kings, Marin, Mono, Monterey, Riverside, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Tuolumne County. CAL FIRE anticipates that burn bans will be instituted statewide by the end of June.

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.

- **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 2,014 wells statewide have been identified as critical or dry, which affects an estimated 10,070 residents. As of June 4, Cal OES has reported that 1,769 of the 2,014 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 \$1.27 million of those funds.
- **Reservoir Levels (% capacity):** Since June 5, Central Valley reservoirs from Shasta and Trinity in the North to Isabella in the South had a net loss in storage of 192,564 acre-feet (AF), with total gains being 21,608 AF and total losses being 214,172 AF. Shasta has dropped 53,020 AF, Oroville has dropped 33,439 AF, Folsom has dropped 18,783 AF, and San Luis has dropped 56,535 AF. The following reservoirs increased in storage: Camanche and Pardee +2,499 AF, McClure +4,560 AF, Pine Flat +13,610 AF, and Kaweah +939 AF.

[Reservoir Levels](#) as of June 7 remain low, including: Castaic Lake 34% of capacity (38% of year to date average); Don Pedro 40% of capacity (52% of average); Exchequer 13% of capacity (19% of average); Folsom Lake 53% of capacity (63% of average); Lake Oroville 43% of capacity (52% of average); Lake Perris 40% (48% of average); Millerton Lake 33% of capacity (42% of average); New Melones 18% of capacity (29% of average); Pine Flat 27% of capacity (38% of average); San Luis 50% of capacity (67% of average); Lake Shasta 52% of capacity (61% of average); and Trinity Lake 41% of capacity (48% of average). An update of water levels at [other smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

- **Recent Precipitation:** Over the past week, precipitation was mainly confined to the mountains of California while the valley areas remained dry. Areas of the North Coast, Shasta Drainage, and the Feather Basin received 0.1 to 1.0 inches of rainfall. The Sierra Nevada Mountains, from the American Basin down to the Kings Basin, received 0.1 to 2.0 inches of rainfall with the heavier amounts centered around Yosemite National Park.
- **Precipitation Forecast:** This week, scattered thunderstorms are expected to bring light to moderate rainfall to parts of the State. The Trinity Alps and mountains north of Redding are expected to see rainfall accumulations of 0.01 to 0.5 inches. The Sierra Nevada mountain range is expected to get 0.1 to 2.0 inches of rainfall. Areas in the North San Francisco Bay down to Santa Barbara may see 0.01 to 0.1 inch of rainfall. 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