



## Drought Update Tuesday, July 7, 2015

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### **KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS WEEK**

- **Energy Commission Online Map Tracks Water and Energy Resources:** The California Energy Commission has for the first time assembled statewide data on water and energy resources in an [online map](#) that identifies the key sources of water for the state's 100 largest thermal power plants. The map shows that California power plants depend on a diversity of water sources, with no single water source providing the majority of cooling for California's thermal power plants.

The map demonstrates significant progress in reducing water consumption and increasing recycled water usage. Among the 100 power plants, 50 depend on recycled and degraded groundwater as their primary source of water, 30 plants use surface water and 20 plants use groundwater. For additional information, click [here](#).

- **DWR Public Meeting Webinar on Turf Replacement Initiative:** On July 2, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) held a public meeting to receive comments on the design of the Turf Replacement initiative. In partnership with local agencies, the initiative aims to collectively replace 50 million square feet of lawns and ornamental turf with drought tolerant landscapes. For more information on this program, visit DWR's [website](#).
- **Navy Bases Do Their Part to Conserve Water:** In response to the state's mandated 25 percent water use reduction statewide, Navy Region Southwest has [ordered](#) nine of its California bases to reduce its water use by 925 million gallons a year by 2020. Navy facilities in the region use 3.7 billion gallons of potable water annually, which is 23% reduction of water use since 2007. In support of water sustainability, the Naval Base located in San Diego has replaced approximately 1.5 million square feet of landscaping with drought-resistant plants or artificial turf, or has allowed to turn brown. Currently, planners are preparing to remove or replace the remaining 1.5 million square feet of landscaping and identify potential projects which will help maintain reliable water supplies.
- **California's Water Conservation Education Program Campaign:** On July 1, Save Our Water, in partnership with the Department of Forestry and Fire (CAL FIRE), featured fire safety information on Save Our Water's social media accounts to help increase wildfire awareness leading up to the Fourth of July weekend. In addition, local water agency partners continue to take advantage of the new Save Our Water conservation toolkit which encourage Californians to "Turn It Off" and cut back on water use.

Save Our Water continues to build awareness of the new public education campaign which includes press releases, media outreach, social media and blog posts to urge Californians to make even more cuts in water use. 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 July 2, the Governor's Office, in partnership with the Office of Planning & Research, announced that the water technology summit and expo will be held on July 10, at the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) headquarters to promote new water technology and highlight water technology in the field. In addition, the Governor's Office provided a 2-page factsheet that identifies the state's surface water use between urban, agriculture and managed wetlands.

## **ONGOING DROUGHT SUPPORT**

- **Emergency Food Aid, Rental and Utility Assistance:** The Department of Social Services (CDSS) has provided to date over 734,050 boxes of food to community food banks in drought-impacted counties. Approximately 661,700 boxes of food have been picked up by 346,114 households. By July 10, an additional 12,146 boxes will be delivered to Fresno, Kern, Riverside, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Ventura 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 July 18, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reported that a total of \$8,754,473 have been issued to 5,909 applicants in 21 counties, with \$2,527 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 June 26, CSD has reported that a total of \$165,089 has been issued to 849 households.

CSD is in the process of allocating \$400,000, under CSBG, to continue the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) drought assistance program, which provides assistance in employment training and placement services to individuals impacted by the drought. This program provides employment training and placement services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers suffering job loss or reduced employment due to the drought. To date, CSD continues to ramp up program activities by developing marketing and outreach plans, pre-screening potential enrollees and executive MSFW service contracts. CSD will receive the first report of expenditures on July 20.

- **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:** Fire activity across California remains high with nearly 300 wildfires in just the past week. Since the beginning of the year, CAL FIRE has responded to over 2,980 wildfires across the state, burning 13,497 acres in the State Responsibility Area. The number of new fire starts is well above the five-year average for the same time period of 1,949 fires. However, the number of acres burned this year is lower than the five-year average of 17,107 acres burned year to date.
- **CAL FIRE Suspends Outdoor Residential Burning:** California's increased fire activity this year, coupled with record-setting drought conditions, require CAL FIRE to take every step possible to prevent new wildfires from starting. To date, all counties in the State Responsibility Area have suspended burn permits.

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, please 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 1,952 wells statewide have been identified as critical or dry, which affects an estimated 9,760 residents. As of July 1, Cal OES has reported that 1,846 of the 1,952 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 107 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 \$2.5 million of those funds.
- **Reservoir Levels (% capacity):** Since June 26, Central Valley reservoirs from Shasta and Trinity in the North to Isabella in the South had a net loss in storage of 301,368 acre-feet, with total gains being 13,994 acre-feet and total losses being 315,362 acre-feet. Shasta Reservoir decreased by 44,626 acre-feet, while San Luis Reservoir, an off-stream reservoir for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, decreased its storage by 84,352 acre-feet. For more information, please visit the [California Data Exchange Center](http://CaliforniaDataExchangeCenter.com).

[Reservoir Levels](#) as of July 1 remain low, including: Castaic Lake 36% of capacity (41% of year to date average); Don Pedro 37% of capacity (46% of average); Exchequer 12% of capacity (17% of average); Folsom Lake 42% of capacity (52% of average); Lake Oroville 38% of capacity (48% of average); Lake Perris 36% (44% of average); Millerton Lake 35% of capacity (46% of average); New Melones 16% of capacity (26% of average); Pine Flat 25% of capacity (38% of average); San Luis 36% of capacity (60% of average); Lake Shasta 47% of capacity (60% of average); and Trinity Lake 37% of capacity (44% of average). An update of water levels at other [smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

**Weather Outlook:** Low pressure and elevated moisture levels are expected off the coast for the next several days. High terrain in northern California, southern Oregon, Sierra and Nevada can expect a persistent pattern of convective showers, which may spread more widely to the Sierra and Nevada by the middle of next week as the low pressure nears the coast.

### **Local Government**

- **Sacramento-Area Residents Cut Water Use by 40% in May:** On July 1, the Regional Water Authority [reported](#) that residents in Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Yolo and Sutter counties reduced their water use by 40%, as compared to May 2013.
- **MWD Launches Multicultural Summer Campaign Asking Consumers to “Take a Turn” Conserving:** On July 1, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) [launched](#) a new \$5.5 million multicultural summer campaign aimed at cutting water use. The “Take a Turn” campaign features various types of media including television, radio, and digital and online outlets. The campaign also is available in five languages: English, Spanish, Mandarin, Korean and Vietnamese. For more information on the campaign, visit the MWD [website](#).
- **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:** El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, 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.
  - **12 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), City of Rancho Cucamonga (San Bernardino 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.

ACWA [released](#) a Drought Response Toolkit to assist water agencies as they take action to meet state-mandated water conservation target and communicate information about water use restrictions, enforcement and other issues with their customers, media and other audiences.

- **County Drought Taskforces:** A total of 33 counties have established drought task forces to coordinate local drought response. These counties include: Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Humboldt, 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, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yolo.
- **Tribal Taskforce:** A total of 5 tribes have established drought task forces to coordinate tribal drought response. These tribes include: Hoopa Valley Tribe (Humboldt County), Hopland Tribe (Mendocino 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)