



Drought Update Tuesday, August 4, 2015

KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS WEEK

- **California Water Use Drops 27.3 Percent, Exceeds 25 Percent Mandate for June:** On July 30, the State Water Board [announced](#) that California's urban water suppliers exceeded the statewide conservation goal of 25% despite being the hottest June on record. Californians reduced water use by 27.3%, saving 59.4 billion gallons or 182,151 acre-feet, as compared to June 2013. June conservation efforts put the State on track to achieve the 1.2 million acre-feet savings goal by February 2016.
- **Majority of Californians Believe Water Supply is the Most Important Environmental Issue:** On July 29, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) [released](#) poll results that indicate 58% of Californians say water supply or drought is the most important environmental issue facing the state today. However, the poll also found that 64% of Californians do not know their local water district's mandated water conservation target. For more information, view the full report on PPIC's [website](#).
- **SaveWater.CA.Gov Launched to Help Communities Identify Water Waste:** On July 30, the State Water Board, in partnership with the California Department of Technology and Save Our Water, [announced](#) the launch of [SaveWater.CA.Gov](#) to help communities save more water this summer. The new mobile-optimized website will allow residents to report and send pictures of suspected leaks and water waste anywhere from their smartphones, tablets and computers.

Users can select the type of water waste from a list of common problems, type in the address where the potential waste is occurring and click send. In addition, users do not need to know the name of the local water agency or how to contact them. The report is transmitted directly to the water agency that serves the geographic area where the report is made.

- **DWR Releases Mapping Tool for Outlining Economically Distressed Areas:** On July 29, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) [announced](#) the release of a web-based mapping tool to assist potential grant applicants propose Economically Distressed Area (EDA) status. EDA status is the basis to determine whether a grant applicant can request a waiver or reduction of the mandated 50% cost share requirement.

This [mapping tool](#) is an interactive map application that will allow users to overlay numerous Geographic Information Systems layers onto a map of California to assist DWR's determination regarding EDA status. In addition, DWR must also provide at least 10% in funding to support disadvantaged communities, economically distressed area, and underrepresented communities in the Integrated Regional Water Management program.

- **State Water Board to Host Free Funding Fair on Infrastructure Projects in Truckee:** On August 5, the State Water Board, along with five partner agencies, will [host](#) a free California Financing Coordinating Committee (CFCC) Funding Fair in Truckee. The CFCC Funding Fair will provide public works and local government representatives an opportunity to obtain information on funding currently available for California infrastructure projects. This will be the first of six funding fairs to be held throughout the state in 2015. For more information, visit the [CCFC website](#).
- **California's Water Conservation Education Program Campaign:** This past week, Save Our Water's new media campaign that asks Californians to share a helping hand by "[Saving Together](#)" with a selfie has received 109 new submissions, and continues to receive strong support from state agencies, radio and TV station partners. Saving Together is about creating a social movement of Californians sharing water-saving tips to encourage and empower others to join the effort.

Save Our Water also continues to partner with local agencies such as the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Southern California Gas, and Southern California Edison to continue their statewide public outreach efforts by featuring Save Our Water on customer mailing envelopes. 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 most recent Task Force meeting on July 30, DWR announced that the report on groundwater subsidence will be released the week of August 3.

ONGOING DROUGHT SUPPORT

- **Emergency Food Aid, Rental and Utility 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 789,330 boxes have been provided to community food banks in drought-impacted counties, with an average of approximately 13,250 food boxes per week since June 2014. Approximately 707,570 boxes of food have been picked up by 372,978 households.

Food boxes distributions vary by county and occur 1-4 times per month. Over 70% of the food distributions have occurred in the Tulare Basin (Fresno, Kern, Kings and Tulare). There are 12,300 boxes scheduled for delivery for the week ending August 7, to Butte, Fresno, Kern, Kings, 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 July 24, CSD has reported that a total of \$278,589 has been issued to 1,440 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 has reported that a total of \$10,000 has been issued to the Center for Employment Training located in Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz County.

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, firefighters from CAL FIRE and the U.S. Forest Service have responded to 5,059 wildfires across the state, burning 104,713 acres. Fire activity across California remains high with over 600 wildfires in just the past week and a half.
- **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, CAL FIRE has suspended burn permits in all counties in the State Responsibility Area.

This suspension bans all residential outdoor burning of landscape debris including branches and leaves. For additional information on preparing for and preventing wildfires, please 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 2,151 wells statewide have been identified as critical or dry, which affects an estimated 10,755 residents. As of July 29, Cal OES has reported that 2,043 of the 2,151 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, 86 out of the 114 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 \$3.9 million of those funds.
- **Projected Reservoir Management:** Shasta Reservoir recorded 1,994,796 acre-feet (AF) on July 30 with a 10-day average reduction in storage of 6,400 AF/day. Releases are being held lower than normal to keep cold water in the reservoir for Winter Run Chinook Salmon later in the fall. Shasta Reservoir is projected to reach 1,460,000 AF by the end of September. This is higher than the 1976-77 record low storage of 700,000 AF.

Oroville Reservoir recorded 1,168,262 AF on July 30 with a 10-day average reduction in storage of 7,600 AF/day. Releases are higher than normal to help make up for reduced flows out of Shasta. These higher flows are to keep salt water from coming too far into the Delta and to meet other joint federal-state obligations. Oroville Reservoir is projected to reach 900,000 AF by the end of September. This storage is about the same as the record low 1976-77 storage level.

Folsom Reservoir recorded 289,575 AF on July 30 with a 10-day average reduction in storage of 4,300 AF/day. Releases are higher than normal to help make up for reduced flows out of Shasta. Folsom Reservoir is projected to reach 120,000 AF by the end of September. This is lower than the 1976-77 record low storage of 150,000 AF.

[Reservoir Levels](#) as of August 2 remain low, including: Castaic Lake 38% of capacity (46% of year to date average); Don Pedro 34% of capacity (45% of average); Exchequer 11% of capacity (17% of average); Folsom Lake 28% of capacity (41% of average); Lake Oroville 32% of capacity (45% of average); Lake Perris 36% (46% of average); Millerton Lake 34% of capacity (56% of average); New Melones 14% of capacity (23% of average); Pine Flat 15% of capacity (31% of average); San Luis 25% of capacity (51% of average); Lake Shasta 43% of capacity (62% of average); and Trinity Lake 33% of capacity (42% of average). An update of water levels at other [smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

- **Weather Outlook:** This week, a gradual cooling trend will take place over central and northern California with dry conditions. There will be a slight chance of mountain thunderstorms on Tuesday and Friday as a weak low pressure system brushes the northern portion of the area.

Local Government

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** A total of 60 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, and tribal governments, as well as special districts:
 - **27 Counties:** Butte, 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, Stanislaus, 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 7 tribes have established drought task forces to coordinate tribal drought response. These tribes include: Hoopa Valley Tribe (Humboldt County), Hopland Tribe (Mendocino County), Karuk Tribe (Siskiyou County), La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians (San Diego County), Sherwood Valley Tribe (Mendocino County), Trinidad Tribe (Humboldt 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