



Drought Update Monday, August 10, 2015

KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS WEEK

- **Governor Brown Declares State of Emergency in California to Bolster Wildfire Response:** On July 31, Governor Brown [declared](#) a state of emergency in California to help mobilize additional firefighting and disaster response resources due to the wildfires burning throughout the State. Due to severe drought conditions and extreme weather, the State's risk of wildfires have increased, caused millions of trees to die, and elevated the severity and spread of the fires throughout the State.
- **DWR Releases New Guidebook to Assist With Agricultural Water Management Plans:** On August 8, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) [released](#) the 2015 Agricultural Water Management Plan (AWMP) Guidebook to provide assistance to mid-sized farm water districts. The guidebook is intended to help agricultural water suppliers understand AWMP requirements and assist them in developing a plan. AWMPs provide information on water supplies, demands and deliveries to farm customers and must include reporting on water efficiency measures implemented by the water agency. For more information, visit the [AWMP website](#).
- **CDFW Now Accepting Proposals for Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs:** On August 6, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) [announced](#) that they are accepting proposals for restoration projects that further the objectives of the California Water Action Plan. A total of \$31.4 million in Proposition 1 funds will be made available through CDFW's Watershed Restoration Grant Program and the Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program.

Approved by California voters in November 2014, Proposition 1 provides funds to implement the [California Water Action Plan](#) which establishes more reliable water supplies, restores important species and habitat, and creates a more resilient, sustainably managed water resources system (water supply, water quality, flood protection and environment) that can better withstand inevitable and unforeseen pressures in the coming decades.

- **State Accepting Pre-Applications for Groundwater Quality Funding:** On August 3, the State Water Board [announced](#) they are now accepting preliminary applications for Groundwater Quality Funding (GWQF) Projects through the online Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST). Successful pre-applications will be invited to submit a final application, either for Proposition 1 Groundwater Sustainability Program or the Site Cleanup Subaccount Program, or may be advised to apply for another potential source of funds. For more information, visit the State Water Board's [Groundwater Quality Fund Programs website](#).

- **California Coastal Conservancy Prop 1 Grant Solicitation:** The State Coastal Conservancy announced a new round of competitive grants to fund watershed restoration and ecosystem protection projects. These grants will be funded by the Proposition 1 Water Bond approved by California voters last fall. For more information, view the [proposal solicitation](#).
- **California's Water Conservation Education Program Campaign:** Save Our Water is transitioning the conservation message from "Turn It Off" to "Let It Go" in their social and digital campaign. Save Our Water's viral campaign that asks Californians to share a helping hand by "[Saving Together](#)" continues as music stars Brett Eldredge, Baby Bash, and NEF The Pharaoh join the effort.

This week, Raley's and Save Our Water are partnering together to host a live event Twitter Feed on August 12. In addition, Save Our Water and Clear Channel Outdoor will be featuring billboards throughout Northern California. For 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 August 6, CAL FIRE reported that over 11,000 firefighters are currently battling 17 active wildfires in California, and have dropped over 1 million gallons of fire retardant from large airtankers.

In addition, the Labor Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) anticipates the California Drought Relief Employment Training Program to begin in the next few weeks. This program will provide training opportunities to workers, employers, and students at community colleges in regions severely impacted by the drought. For a list of participating community colleges, view the [LWDA brochure](#).

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 806,800 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 718,762 boxes of food have been picked up by 378,270 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 10,800 boxes scheduled for delivery for the week ending August 14, to Fresno, Kern, Riverside, Tulare, and Ventura 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 31, CSD has reported that a total of \$309,165 has been issued to 1,581 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, California Human Development, and Central Valley Opportunity Center.

- **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 5,500 wildfires across the state, burning 180,500 acres. Fire activity across California remains high with over 432 wildfires in just the past week.
- **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 2,182 wells statewide have been identified as critical or dry, which affects an estimated 10,910 residents. As of August 5, Cal OES has reported that 2,085 of the 2,182 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, 88 out of the 116 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 \$4.1 million of those funds.
- **Projected Reservoir Management:** Shasta Reservoir recorded 1,951,315 acre-feet (AF) on August 6 with a 10-day average reduction in storage of 5,710 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 1,123,272 AF on August 6 with a 10-day average reduction in storage of 6,222 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 262,874 AF on August 6 with a 10-day average reduction in storage of 3,799 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 9 remain low, including: Castaic Lake 38% of capacity (46% of year to date average); Don Pedro 33% of capacity (45% of average); Exchequer 10% of capacity (17% of average); Folsom Lake 26% of capacity (38% of average); Lake Oroville 32% of capacity (45% of average); Lake Perris 36% (46% of average); Millerton Lake 33% of capacity (57% of average); New Melones 14% of capacity (23% of average); Pine Flat 14% of capacity (30% of average); San Luis 23% of capacity (49% of average); Lake Shasta 42% of capacity (62% of average); and Trinity Lake 32% of capacity (41% of average). An update of water levels at other [smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

- **Weather Outlook:** Dry weather and seasonable temperatures are expected this week, except for a slight chance of thunderstorms across the northern mountains. Temperatures return today to around average for mid-August, then warm again by the end of the week and through the weekend.

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