



Weekly Drought Brief Monday, August 18, 2014

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Fire Activity: CAL FIRE has responded to 4,132 wildfires across the state since January 1, burning 80,634 acres. This year's fire activity is well above the year-to-date average of 3,153 wildfires on 57,290 acres. CAL FIRE responded to over 170 new wildfires last week, including the Eiler Fire in Shasta County, which has burned more than 32,400 acres with 95% containment and the KNF Beaver Fire in Siskiyou County at 32,300 acres with 75% containment.

Reservoir Levels (% capacity): [Reservoir Levels](#) as of August 14 remain low, including: Don Pedro 42%; Exchequer 18%; Folsom Lake 40%; Lake Oroville 33%; Millerton Lake 48%; New Melones 25%; Pine Flat 12%; San Luis 20%; Lake Shasta 32%; and Trinity Lake 32%. An update of water levels at [other smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

Vulnerable Water Systems: The State Water Board's Drinking Water Program is providing technical and funding assistance to several communities facing drinking water shortages, and is monitoring water systems across the state to determine if new support is needed. As of this week, a total to date of over \$9.5 million has been identified for specific emergency drinking water projects out of \$15 million appropriated in March for this purpose. Updated information can be found at the [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#) website during the three (3) month transition period. For more information regarding the transfer, please visit the [State Water Board's Drinking Water Program](#) website.

Recent Precipitation: No significant rain fell over the last week and no rain is expected soon.

KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS WEEK

- **Governor Brown Signs Legislation to Place Water Bond before Voters in November:** Gov. Jerry Brown late Wednesday evening [signed legislation to put a comprehensive \\$7.5 billion water bond](#) before voters this November. The bond provides funds for water use efficiency and recycling, groundwater cleanup and management, as well as \$2.7 billion for additional water storage. It also invests in safe drinking water, particularly in disadvantaged communities, and provides for watershed restoration and increased flows in some of California's most important rivers and streams. Brown signed the legislation after it was approved by the Legislature on Wednesday, August 13. The bond will appear as Proposition 1 on the November ballot.
- **Secretary Jewell Visits California Wildland Fire Operations Center:** On Tuesday, August 12, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell met with members of the interagency fire leadership team and employees from the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service at the Northern California Geographic Area Coordination Center (North Ops) in Redding, California. During her visit, [Secretary Jewell underscored her support](#) for the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and the President's Fiscal Year 2015 budget proposal to change how fire suppression costs are budgeted to treat extreme fire seasons the way other emergency disasters are treated.

- **CPUC Orders Water Utilities to Provide Notification to Customers of Water Use Restrictions and Potential Fines:** On Thursday, August 14, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) [ordered the water companies under its jurisdiction](#) to provide direct notice to their customers of mandatory water use restrictions and potential fines in response to the State Water Resources Control Board's Emergency Regulation for Statewide Water Conservation.
- **State Water Board Opens Online Reporting Portal for Water Agencies:** The [State Water Resources Control Board released instructions for](#) local water agencies to explain how they will provide water production data, as required under new emergency regulations. The survey requires urban water suppliers to provide the amount of potable water produced each month for use by their customers, which helps to track the amount of water conservation occurring across the state. The State Water Board will provide the reports and accompanying analysis of this reporting in the coming weeks.
- **Governor's Drought Task Force Meeting with SF Area Officials:** On Monday, August 11, members of the Governor's Drought Task Force met in San Francisco with the region's local government officials to discuss conservation efforts to respond to California's drought. Local governments involved in the meeting included the City and County of San Francisco, and the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma.
- **State and Federal Wildlife Managers Preparing Habitat for Migrating Birds:** Each year millions of [birds migrate along the Pacific Flyway](#) relying on a diverse string of habitats that stretch from Alaska and Canada to Central and South America. While the wetlands of the Central Valley provide less than 5 percent of the habitat historically available, they are critical as a feeding area during the migration and wintering of these birds. Throughout the state, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is carefully developing the most effective actions to conserve water and provide critical habitat for waterfowl.
- **Emergency Food Aid, Rental and Utility Assistance:** The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has provided to date over 192,700 boxes of food to community food banks in drought-impacted counties. Approximately 141,900 boxes of food have been picked up by 74,008 households. By this Friday, August 22, an additional 16,500 will be delivered to six counties. Local food banks continue to target this food aid to residents most impacted by the drought.

The non-profit group La Cooperativa continues to distribute the \$10 million state-funded emergency rental assistance to impacted families and individuals across counties most impacted by the drought. As of Thursday, August 7, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reported that a total of \$2,802,452 is committed; and \$1,833,295 in funds has been issued to 1,400 applicants in 18 counties.

The Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) has created a \$600,000 program to help families pay their water bills. This program targets families in 10 agencies that are experiencing "exceptional" drought. As of Friday, August 8, CSD has reported that a total of \$17,219 has been issued to 197 households in 4 agencies. The remaining 6 agencies are still formulating Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreements with local utility providers.

CSD has also implemented a \$400,000 Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker (MSFW) drought assistance program, in coordination with the California Human Development (CHD), Central Valley Opportunity Center (CVOC), Center for Employment Training (CET) and Proteus, which provides assistance in employment training and placement services to individuals impacted by the drought. As of Friday, August 8, 46 clients are enrolled in employment training programs, 7 clients have obtained employment, and 31 clients are receiving employment support services. (Valerie) Has throughout the collaboration

- **Nine Desalination and Water Purification Research Projects and Pilot Studies Receive \$1.4 million from the Bureau of Reclamation:** On Monday, August 11, the Bureau of Reclamation Acting Commissioner Lowell Pimley announced that nine research projects and pilot studies across the nation will receive a portion of the \$1.4 million to address desalination and water purification needs. Four of the nine research projects and pilot studies funded by Reclamation's Desalination and Water Purification Research Program are located in California. A complete description of all the projects is available at: www.usbr.gov/awt.
- **Water Saving Tips Promoted Across the State:** The state's newly improved water conservation website, SaveOurWater.com, is promoting the "Don't Waste Summer" campaign. This campaign provides a new conservation tip each day for the 100 days of summer. Supporters can sign up for daily email tips, and share Save Our Water's [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) feeds for this public awareness campaign.
- **Open Burn Ban in Affect across the State:** Open burning continues to be prohibited on 31 million acres of land across the state due to the [burn ban that CAL FIRE](#) has directed through the coordination of its unit chiefs. This ban on open burning in state responsibility areas (outside of cities and towns) reduces wildfire danger amidst extremely dry conditions.
- **Drought Response Funding:** \$687 million in state drought funding that was appropriated in March through emergency legislation continues to advance toward meeting critical needs. Over \$61 million of this funding addresses emergency water needs, food aid and housing assistance to drought-impacted communities. Nearly \$21 million of those funds are already in communities providing assistance and additional funds are being readied as drought impacts worsen. Nearly \$625 million of the emergency funds appropriated in March came from sources dedicated to capital improvements to water systems. Since March, state agencies have expedited grant approvals, getting over \$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 will be awarded this fall, with the remaining \$250 million granted by mid next-year. State government has also appropriated tens of millions in funding to CAL FIRE over its typical budget to enable staffing-up fire crews much earlier this fire season.
- **Governor's Drought Task Force:** The Task Force continues to meet daily to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought.

Local Government

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** A total of 55 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, and tribal governments, as well as special districts:
 - **23 Counties:** Glenn, Inyo, Humboldt, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Napa, Santa Barbara, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Sutter, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yuba.
 - **13 Cities:** Brooktrails Township (Mendocino County), City of Willits (Mendocino County), City of St. Helena (Napa County), City of Calistoga (Napa County), City of American Canyon (Napa County), City of Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara County), City of Montague (Siskiyou County), City of Live Oak (Sutter County), City of San Juan Bautista (San Benito County), City of Lodi (San Joaquin County), City of Portola (Plumas County), City of Ripon (San Joaquin County), and City of Rio Dell (Humboldt County).
 - **8 Tribes:** Hoopa Valley Tribe (Humboldt County), Yurok Tribe (Humboldt County), Tule River Indian Tribe (Tulare County), Karuk Tribe (Siskiyou/Humboldt Counties), Sherwood Valley Pomo Indian Tribe (Mendocino County), Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation (Yolo County), Cortina Indian Rancheria (Colusa County) and Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria (Sonoma County).
 - **11 Special Districts:** Lake Don Pedro Community Services District (Stanislaus County), Placer County Water Agency (Placer County), Twain Harte Community Services District (Tuolumne County), Carpinteria Valley Water District (Santa Barbara County), Meiners Oaks Water District (Ventura County), Mariposa Public Utility District (Mariposa County), Goleta Water District (Santa Barbara County), Montecito Water District (Santa Barbara County), Tuolumne Utilities District (Tuolumne County), Mountain House Community Service District (San Joaquin County), Nevada Irrigation District (Nevada 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 30 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, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yolo.
- **Tribal Taskforce:** One tribe has established a drought task force to coordinate tribal drought response. This tribe includes: Hoopa Valley Tribe (Humboldt 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