



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



## Drought Update

### Friday, October 30, 2015

---

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

- **Californians Must Prepare for Winter Floods While Still Conserving Water:** On October 19, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) [launched](#) a new website that details the state's efforts on [flood preparation](#). Forecasted El Niño conditions indicate the potential for heavy rainfall in some portions of the state which will put these areas at high risk for flooding. While these heavy downpours will not end the current drought, Californians should continue to conserve water to help mitigate the effects.
- **California Department of Housing and Community Development Makes \$11 Million Available for Residents Facing Water Shortages:** On October 16, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) announced two new assistance programs, the \$6 million Drought Housing Relocation Assistance Program (DHRA) and the \$5 million Drought Lateral Connections Program, for many California residents facing water shortages. For more information regarding the assistance programs, visit the [HCD Drought Resources](#) webpage.
- **DWR Secures Approval of SGMA Groundwater Basin Boundary Regulations:** On October 21, the California Water Commission (CWC) [adopted](#) the new DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ([SGMA](#)) groundwater basin boundary regulations. The regulations establish the process for local agencies to request that DWR modify the boundaries of a groundwater basin or subbasin, a key provision of the landmark groundwater law signed by Governor Brown last year. For more information on the new regulations or California's existing groundwater basins and subbasins please visit DWR's [Groundwater](#) or [Basin Boundary Regulations](#) webpage.
- **California WaterFix Comment Period Ends October 30 for Draft Documents:** On October 23, DWR [announced](#) that the public comment period for the recirculated draft environmental documents for [California WaterFix](#), the proposed water conveyance improvement plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, will end on October 30. Specifically, the comment period is closing on the Partially Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS) for California WaterFix.
- **Project Nearly Complete to Prevent Straying of Adult Sacramento River Salmon:** On October 22, the Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW), in coordination with local, state, and federal officials, [announced](#) the \$2.5 million fix to the Knights Landing Outfall Gates in Yolo County which will keep adult salmon from leaving the Sacramento River, while allowing the natural and agricultural drainage flows to enter the Sacramento River. This project is one of several planned to protect native salmon while maintaining important water supply infrastructure in the Sacramento River and its tributaries, and is expected to be completed by November 30, 2015.

- **California’s Water Conservation Education Program Campaign:** This past week, Save Our Water continues to push out media opportunities including television, direct mail, radio and digital ads promoting the “[Fix It For Good](#)” and “[Stepping Up](#)” public education campaigns through the end of October. These campaigns are focused on helping the public make permanent changes to save water by [rethinking their yards](#), going water efficient with [new toilets](#) and fixtures and repairing leaks. In addition, Save Our Water is also utilizing billboards, transit boards and mall media outlets to continue the conservation efforts throughout the fall and winter.

Save Our Water and their partnership with [Plant California](#) and [California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers](#) continues to focus on tree care and landscaping into the fall months. In addition, there has been a continued push on the Save Our Water Rebate website on social media promoting the “[Claim your Turf Replacement](#)” rebate, and “[Claim Your Toilet](#)” rebate programs. 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 October 22 meeting, the Task Force announced that the next regional DTF meetings are scheduled for November 12 in San Luis Obispo and in Sacramento/Yolo County on November 17.

In addition, the Labor Workforce Development Agency announced that the Drought Temporary Jobs program has enrolled 500 participants. The program is funded through the Department of Labor’s National Dislocated Worker Grant program which offers 6 months of employment on drought-related public works projects for up to 1,000 workers affected by the drought.

## **ONGOING DROUGHT SUPPORT**

- **Emergency Food Aid, Utility and Employment 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 949,240 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 855,892 boxes of food have been picked up by 449,326 households.

Food boxes distributions vary by county and occur 1-4 times per month. Nearly 67% 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 October 30 to Fresno, Kern, Kings, Riverside, and Tulare counties.

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 October 16, CSD has reported that a total of \$543,723 has been issued to 2,715 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 \$103,112 has been issued to the Center for Employment Training, California Human Development, Central Valley Opportunity Center, Center for Employment Training and Proteus with 39 participants enrolled.

In response to California's historic drought, CSD has received \$7.5 million in General Fund to implement the Drought Emergency Assistance Program (DEAP) to provide emergency relief and support services to drought-impacted individuals and their families and households. As of October 16, CSD has reported that a total of \$1,879,476 has been issued to 1,512 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, firefighters from CAL FIRE and the U.S. Forest Service have responded to over 7,835 wildfires across the state, burning 824,290 acres. Fire activity across California remains high with nearly 311 combined wildfires in just the past two weeks.
- **CAL FIRE Suspends Outdoor Residential Burning:** California's increased fire activity this year, coupled with record-setting drought conditions, has caused CAL FIRE to [suspend burn permits](#) in all counties in the State Responsibility Area.

- **Dry Well Reports:** With California in its fourth year of a severe, hot drought, the Governor's Drought Task Force continues to monitor and identify communities and local water systems in danger of running out of water. Recently, a cross-agency team, led by DWR, developed a new system that improves and streamlines data collection and reporting for [household water shortages](#) for California water systems with fewer than 15 household connections.

As of October 21, approximately 2,591 wells statewide have been identified as critical or dry, which affects an estimated 12,955 residents. Cal OES has reported that 2,444 of the 2,502 dry wells are concentrated in the inland regions within the Central Valley. If you are experiencing a water supply shortage, please [submit a report](#) on DWR's website.

- **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, 99 out of the 135 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 \$5.4 million of those funds.

- **Projected Reservoir Management:** Since the last report on October 16, Central Valley reservoirs from Shasta and Trinity in the North to Isabella in the South had a net loss in storage of 80,482 acre-feet (AF) with a total gain of 17,283 AF and a total loss of 97,765 AF. Shasta Reservoir decreased by 52,260 AF, while San Luis Reservoir, an off-stream reservoir for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, decreased its storage by 6,625 AF.

Oroville Reservoir recorded 1,032,464 AF on October 22 with a 10-day average reduction in storage of 1,250 AF/day. Folsom Reservoir recorded 156,145 AF on October 22 with a 10-day average reduction in storage of 752 AF/day.

[Reservoir Levels](#) as of October 25 remain low, including: Castaic Lake 31% of capacity (41% of year to date average); Don Pedro 31% of capacity (48% of average); Exchequer 7% of capacity (16% of average); Folsom Lake 16% of capacity (30% of average); Lake Oroville 29% of capacity (48% of average); Lake Perris 36% (46% of average); Millerton Lake 34% of capacity (90% of average); New Melones 12% of capacity (21% of average); Pine Flat 12% of capacity (34% of average); San Luis 17% of capacity (34% of average); Lake Shasta 32% of capacity (54% of average); and Trinity Lake 21% of capacity (32% of average). An update of water levels at other [smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

**Weather Outlook:** Dry and mild weather continues today. A weather system will bring scattered showers to the region tonight through Wednesday. Breezy north winds are likely Thursday into Friday. A cold system may impact the Sierra and western Nevada for the start of next week with the potential for strong winds, showers and mountain snow.

## Local Government

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** A total of 62 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, and tribal governments, as well as special districts:
  - **28 Counties:** Butte, Colusa, 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, Stanislaus, Sutter, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yuba.
  - **13 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), City of West Sacramento (Yolo County), City of Willits (Mendocino County) and the City of Fort Bragg (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