



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



Weekly Drought Brief Monday, July 14, 2014

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Fire Activity: CAL FIRE has responded to 3,155 wildfires across the state since January 1, burning 26,006 acres. This year's fire activity is well above the year-to-date average of 2,261 wildfires on 22,600 acres. CAL FIRE responded to nearly 250 new wildfires last week, including the Monticello Fire in Yolo County, which has burned a total of 6,500 acres.

Reservoir Levels (% capacity): Reservoir Levels as of July 10 remain low, including: Don Pedro 48%; Exchequer 25%; Folsom Lake 46%; Lake Oroville 40%; Millerton Lake 59%; New Melones 28%; Pine Flat 27%; San Luis 29%; Lake Shasta 39%; and Trinity Lake 41%. An update of water levels at other smaller reservoirs is also available.

Vulnerable Water Systems: The California Department of Public Health 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. This week, over \$8.3 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.

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

KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS WEEK

- **State Water Board Releases Draft Urban Water Conservation Regulations:** Stepping up its call to the public to increase water conservation during the state's worsening drought, the Water Board released proposed statewide emergency water conservation regulations on Wednesday, July 9, that would restrict certain forms of outdoor water use and impose fines of up to \$500 for violations. These proposed emergency regulations will be considered by the Water Board on Tuesday, July 15.

Last month, water agencies serving California's cities and towns provided updates to the Water Board on current water consumption. These updates, combined with a statewide survey of water agencies' conservation actions, have informed the Water Board's proposed emergency water conservation regulations. Also, the Governor's April Proclamation of Continued Emergency Drought called on residents to limit outdoor irrigation and prevent wasteful water practices, and directed water agencies to prevent water waste.

- **Emergency Curtailment Regulations and Enforcement:** The proposed emergency curtailment regulations adopted on Wednesday, July 2, were submitted to the Office of Administrative Law for approval on Wednesday, July 9. If approved, the emergency regulations adopt to protect senior water right holders across the state are scheduled to go into effect on Friday, August 1. These regulations enable the Water Board to issue curtailments to additional junior water right holders on a real-time basis. The Water Board staff will continue to inspect surface water diversions in all watersheds where curtailment notices have been issued.

- **New Report Calls for Tighter Groundwater Management:** A newly released report from the California Water Foundation highlights the need for [tighter groundwater management](#) throughout California, especially as the state grapples with increased groundwater pumping due to drought.
- **UC Davis Releases Updated Study of the Drought's Impact to California's Agricultural Economy:** On Tuesday, July 15, the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences will release its updated estimates of the drought's economic effects in a previously released report on the Central Valley farm belt, presents new data on the state's coastal and southern farm regions and projects acres fallowed, wells drying up, jobs lost and agricultural dollars lost through 2016. [Watch the briefing](#) at the National Press Club website at 11am EDT.
- **Public Works Funding Fairs Scheduled Throughout California:** Representatives from public works agencies, local governments and California Native American tribes are invited to attend a series of [funding fairs hosted by the California Financing Coordinating Committee](#) that will highlight monies available for various projects and ways to apply for the funds.

Funding is available for a variety of projects including: water quality, wastewater treatment, water supply, restoration, flood management, streets, highways and community facilities. Fairs will be held in Fresno, San Luis Obispo, Bakersfield, Perris, and Sacramento.

- **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.
- **Emergency Food Aid and Rental Assistance:** The California Department of Social Services has provided to date over 116,500 boxes of food to community food banks in drought-impacted counties. Approximately 78,400 boxes of food have been picked up by households. By this Friday, July 18, an additional 15,600 will be delivered to food banks. Local food banks are targeting 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 Wednesday, July 3, the Department of Housing and Community Development has reported that a total of \$288,195 is committed; and \$172,450 in funds has been issued to 191 applicants in 16 counties.

- **Deadline Nearing to Apply for \$200 million in Drought Grants:** Water agencies have until Monday, July 21, to submit applications to the State Department of Water Resources for \$200 million in [Integrated Regional Water Management](#) grants that has been expedited by emergency drought legislation passed in March.
- **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 follow and share Save Our Water's [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) feeds for this public awareness campaign.
- **Sonora is Site of Drought Task Force Meeting:** Leaders of the Governor's Drought Task force travelled to Sonora (Tuolumne County) on Friday, June 11, to meet with local leaders

and agencies to coordinate drought response. The following Counties were present at this meeting: Tuolumne, San Joaquin, Calaveras, El Dorado, Amador, Inyo and Mono. This was the seventh regional meeting of the taskforce, following meetings in Sacramento, Ukiah, Merced, Santa Cruz, Tulare and Montague (Siskiyou County).

- **Drought Response Funding Moves Forward:** \$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 Taskforce 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 49 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, and tribal governments, as well as special districts:
 - **Counties:** Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Santa Barbara, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Sutter, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yuba.
 - **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, San Juan Bautista, Lodi City and Ripon City.
 - **Tribes:** Hoopa Valley Tribe in Humboldt County, Yurok Tribe in Del Norte County, Tule River Indian Tribe in Tulare County, Karuk Tribe in Siskiyou/Humboldt Counties, Sherwood Valley Pomo Indian Tribe, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, and Cortina Indian Rancheria.
 - **Special Districts:** Lake Don Pedro Community Services District, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), Twain Harte Community Services District, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Meiners Oaks Water District, Mariposa Public Utility District, Montecito Water District, Goleta Water District, Tuolumne Utilities District, Nevada Irrigation District and Mountain House CSD.
- **Water Agency Conservation Efforts:** The Association of California Water Agencies 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 26 counties have established drought task forces to coordinate local drought response. These counties include: Butte, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Napa. The Hoopa Tribe has also established a drought task force.

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](#)

California Department of Public Health, Drinking Water [CDPH 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 Support: www.sba.gov/disaster