



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



## Weekly Drought Brief Monday, August 25, 2014

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### **CURRENT CONDITIONS**

**Fire Activity:** CAL FIRE has responded to 4,294 wildfires across the state since January 1, burning 84,048 acres. This year's fire activity is above the year-to-date average of 3,311 wildfires on 67,492 acres. CAL FIRE responded to over 160 new wildfires last week, including the Junction Fire in Madera County, which has burned more than 600 acres with 95% containment.

**Reservoir Levels (% capacity):** Reservoir Levels as of August 21 remain low, including: Don Pedro 41%; Exchequer 17%; Folsom Lake 40%; Lake Oroville 32%; Millerton Lake 46%; New Melones 24%; Pine Flat 11%; San Luis 19%; Lake Shasta 31%; and Trinity Lake 30%. 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 \$10.4 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**

- **Local Water Agencies Report Urban Water Use:** As of Thursday, August 21, close to 75% of California Urban Water Agencies had reported on their water use, which is required under emergency regulations adopted by the State Water Board in July. In the coming days, the State Water Board will contact agencies that have not yet submitted these reports. All reports submitted by water agencies will be evaluated. Information will be provided publicly on the amount of water conservation achieved by region and water supplier. This information will help the Water Board decide whether additional actions are necessary to expand water conservation during the drought.
- **Reclamation to Release Additional Water to the Lower Klamath River:** The Bureau of Reclamation will release additional water from Trinity Reservoir to supplement flows in the lower Klamath River in order to protect the returning run of adult Chinook salmon. Reclamation will continue to work with NOAA Fisheries and other federal agencies to comply with applicable provisions of the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.
- **California Agency to Expand Watershed Activities with New Funding from Reclamation:** The Bureau of Reclamation announced that \$496,337 in WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program funding will be made available for six groups located in

California, Colorado, Montana and New Mexico to establish or expand a watershed group and reduce conflict in the effective management of the West's water and power resources, improving the water quality, and ecosystem resilience. The Sierra Streams Institute located in Nevada City, California, received \$99,925 to establish a watershed group for the Bear River in north-central California.

- **Emergency Food Aid, Rental and Utility Assistance:** The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has provided to date over 205,800 boxes of food to community food banks in drought-impacted counties. Approximately 153,800 boxes of food have been picked up by 80,556 households. By this Friday, August 29, an additional 14,400 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 14, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reported that a total of \$3,231,380 is committed; and \$2,057,947 in funds has been issued to 1,684 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 through 10 agencies that are experiencing "exceptional" drought. As of Friday, August 15, CSD has reported that a total of \$18,645 has been issued to 229 households.

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 15, 48 clients are enrolled in employment training programs, 8 clients have obtained employment, and 37 clients are receiving employment support services.

- **September is National Preparedness Month:** The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services will be hosting the [California Day of Preparedness Fair](#) with a focus on water conservation efforts on Saturday, September 6, to inform and educate the public about emergency response in California and to encourage Californians to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities.
- **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 57 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, and tribal governments, as well as special districts:
  - **25 Counties:** Glenn, Inyo, Humboldt, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Napa, Plumas, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, 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:** A total of 2 tribes have established a drought task force to coordinate tribal drought response. These tribes include: Hoopa Valley Tribe (Humboldt County), and Yurok Tribe (Humboldt Counties).

#### 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