



Drought Update

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS WEEK

- **CDFA Funds \$9.38 Million to Assist Farmers In Drought through SWEEP:** On September 28, the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has [selected](#) 100 projects totaling \$9.38 million from the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program ([SWEEP](#)) to implement on-farm water irrigation systems that reduce energy use resulting in greenhouse gas (GHGs) emission reductions and water savings.

The selected projects will leverage an additional \$4.6 million in private cost-share dollars. The funding will support GHG emission reductions through projects that include water-efficiency modifications like drip and microsprinkler systems, energy-efficient water pumps, soil moisture sensors, and irrigation scheduling programs that apply water based on crop needs.

- **Resources Agency Releases Fact Sheet on CA WaterFix's Benefits to Fish:** On September 23, the California Natural Resources Agency [released](#) a four-page [fact sheet](#) that outlines the benefits to native fish species from the proposed Delta improvement Project. California WaterFix seeks to modernize the way water is diverted from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and would allow water project operators to avoid water diversions at locations in the Delta that would harm fish. For more information, visit [California WaterFix](#).
- **State Water Board and DWR to Hold Technical Sessions and Public Forums on SGMA Implementation:** On September 22, the State Water Board and the Department of Water Resource [announced](#) that a series of technical sessions will be offered for public agencies and public forums throughout the state during October and November to discuss the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ([SGMA](#)) implementation. For more information, visit the State Water Board's [Local Assistance Program](#).
- **USBR Begins Installation of Temporary Emergency Floating Pump System in Folsom Lake:** On September 25, the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) [began](#) the installation of a temporary emergency floating pump system in Folsom Lake that will help ensure access to drinking water if the reservoir's water level continues to drop and existing intakes are no longer usable. Construction of the system began in August and installation is expected to be complete by early October.
- **California Native American Day Highlights Importance of Water:** On September 25, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), in partnership with other state and federal agencies, [held](#) the 48th annual Native American Day which honored the history, art and culture of Native Americans in California and promoted the theme of "Water: Protecting Our Natural Resources" at the State Capitol. In addition, DWR showcased a water conservation exhibit and featured a drought information booth.

- **California's Water Conservation Education Program Campaign:** This past week, Save Our Water launched two commercials, "Helping Hands" and "Stepping Up", on major network television which challenges Californians to face the drought together. Stepping Up will also be aired statewide on digital and Hulu. Over 100 bonus radio weather and traffic spots have been secured to promote the "Fix it for Good" campaign in drought impacted areas through November and will be featured on various digital billboards and transit boards in the Sacramento area. Digital ads can be viewed through Tapad, Hulu and IHeartMedia.

Save Our Water and the [California Native Plant Society](#) issued a [press release](#) highlighting the benefits and importance of native plants, as well as the new [native plant section](#) of the Save Our Water website. In addition, Save Our Water partner Scotts Miracle Gro recently launched a great new resource for Californians looking to rethink their approach to their yards: [ScottsMiracleGro.com/California](#). The goal is to provide information to help Californians dramatically reduce water usage and still make the most of the California's natural beauty. 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 September 24 meeting, the State Water Board announced that the August conservation rate for more than 400 urban water suppliers throughout California will be released on October 1.

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 897,604 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 806,426 boxes of food have been picked up by 424,164 households.

Food boxes distributions vary by county and occur 1-4 times per month. Nearly 62% 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 2 to Fresno, Kern, Riverside, Santa Barbara, 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 September 18, CSD has reported that a total of \$459,777 has been issued to 2,279 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 \$77,814 has been issued to the Center for Employment Training, California Human Development, Central Valley Opportunity Center, and Proteus with 31 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 September 18, CSD has reported that a total of \$846,242 has been issued to 777 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 US Forest Service have responded to over 7,187 wildfires across the state, burning 766,974 acres. Fire activity across California remains high with nearly 145 combined wildfires in just the past week.

As of September 29, the Valley Fire in Lake, Napa, and Sonoma County remains the largest in the state burning more than 76,067 acres with 99% containment. The Butte Fire in Amador and Calaveras County is currently at 70,868 acres with 95% containment.

- **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 September 23, approximately 2,409 wells statewide have been identified as critical or dry, which affects an estimated 11,990 residents. Cal OES has reported that 2,262 of the 2,409 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, 95 out of the 129 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 million of those funds.
- **Projected Reservoir Management:** Shasta Reservoir recorded 1,635,261 acre-feet (AF) on September 24 with a 10-day average reduction in storage of 4,804 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 1,054,726 AF on September 24 with a 10-day average reduction in storage of 426 AF/day. Releases are low for water supply conservation but are moderated 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 178,771 AF on September 24 with a 10-day average reduction in storage of 386 AF/day. Releases are low for water supply conservation but are moderated to keep salt water from coming too far into the Delta and to meet other joint Federal-State obligations. 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 September 28 remain low, including: Castaic Lake 36% of capacity (45% of year to date average); Don Pedro 32% of capacity (47% of average); Exchequer 9% of capacity (19% of average); Folsom Lake 18% of capacity (32% of average); Lake Oroville 30% of capacity (48% of average); Lake Perris 36% (47% of average); Millerton Lake 37% of capacity (92% of average); New Melones 11% of capacity (20% of average); Pine Flat 12% of capacity (35% of average); San Luis 20% of capacity (42% of average); Lake Shasta 35% of capacity (59% of average); and Trinity Lake 23% of capacity (33% of average). An update of water levels at other [smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

- **Weather Outlook:** Conditions are expected to remain dry throughout the state over the next week. Temperatures will be in the mid 90's in the Central Valley and Sierra lows will remain above freezing.

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