



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



Drought Update Tuesday, June 23, 2015

KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS WEEK

- **Statewide Ordinance Would Cut Water Use by at Least 30 Percent on New Landscapes for Homes and Businesses:** On June 12, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a [revised model landscape ordinance](#) that strengthens water efficiency requirements outside of new California homes by 30 percent. The revised model ordinance also increases water efficiency requirements for landscaping outside of commercial buildings by approximately 40 percent. Local governments are required to adopt the new model ordinance—or adopt an ordinance with equivalent requirements—by the end of this year.

The draft revisions also expand these water efficiency requirements to any outdoor space over 500 square feet for both commercial and residential property. In addition, the updated ordinance limits the amount of grass that can be planted in yards, requires the installation of efficient sprinkler nozzles, ban grass in street medians and parkways, and requires use of compost to improve water-holding capacity in soil. On June 16 and June 19, DWR held two public meetings to accept public comments for the revised model ordinance.

- **Changes in Flows from Lake Shasta to Protect Salmon:** On June 16, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation [announced](#) a revised Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan, an annual plan that guides the release of water from Shasta Reservoir to enable survival of endangered fish when water temperatures rise. This revised plan, which involved coordination from several federal and state agencies, is under consideration by the State Water Quality Control Board. The Water Board will hold a workshop June 24 to receive feedback on the revised plan and better understand its projected impacts on fish habitat and downstream water users.
- **Emergency Regulation to Protect Coho Salmon and Steelhead Approved on Russian River Tributaries:** On June 17, the State Water Board [approved](#) an [emergency regulation](#) to provide additional water in four tributaries of the Russian River to protect threatened fish affecting about 13,000 properties in the watersheds of Dutch Bill Creek, Green Valley Creek, Mark West Creek and Mill Creek. Water users in those watersheds will be subject to enhanced conservation measures built on existing [statewide water restrictions](#), and water use reporting on surface and groundwater use.
- **Interior Announces Latest \$6.5 Million in Grant Funding to Help Relieve Drought in California:** On June 19, the Department of the Interior [announced](#) that its Bureau of Reclamation is awarding \$6.5 million in grant funds for increased management efficiency and conservation of California's water as part of the Obama Administration's effort to bring relief to drought-stricken communities.

- **State Water Board Approves Updated Water Recycling Funding Program Guidelines:** On June 16, the State Water Board [approved](#) updated guidelines for its [Water Recycling Funding Program](#) which allows the distribution of \$625 million in Proposition 1 to promote the beneficial use of treated municipal wastewater (water recycling) in order to augment fresh water supplies in California by providing technical and financial assistance to agencies and other stakeholders in support of water recycling projects and research.
- **CDFW Now Accepting Applications for Fisheries Restoration Grants:** On June 15, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) [announced](#) that the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) is now accepting grant applications for anadromous salmonid restoration projects that address impacts of the ongoing drought on habitat restoration, water conservation, education and drought planning. All drought restoration funds will be granted to projects located in anadromous waters within coastal watersheds and the Central Valley. The 2015 Summer Proposal Solicitation Notice for Drought Restoration Grants and the application is available [online](#).
- **OPC Proposition 1 Grant Guidelines for Public Comment:** On June 24, the State of California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) will hold the first of three meetings to receive public comments on the draft [OPC Proposition 1](#) grant guidelines which allocates \$30 million for ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects.
- **Summit on Water Technology and the California Drought:** On July 10, the Governor's Office, in partnership with various state agencies, will host the "Summit on Water Technology and the California Drought" at the California Environmental Protection Agency to explore and promote new water technologies. This summit will unite federal, state and local partners, as well as key stakeholders to showcase innovative and upcoming technologies that will increase drought resiliency in California.
- **California's Water Conservation Education Program Campaign:** This past week, Save Our Water continues to promote its' public education media buys for the summer which allows water managers, utility directors, conservation and communications staff the opportunity to leverage Save Our Water outreach tools and creative materials to meet new state mandates for water conservation. Save Our Water is also working with CAL FIRE to add new Water Idea Gallery content to the Save Our Water website, and partnering with the Department of Parks & Recreation to add conservation signs to park bathrooms.

On June 17, Save Our Water, in partnership with [DIGDEEP](#), led a nationwide water conversation on Twitter to highlight the urgent need to protect water and fight the drought. Save Our Water continues to grow its corporate partners by highlighting Comcast's water-saving efforts on the website and social media. In addition, [California ReLeaf](#), a group focused on California tree health, is partnering with Save Our Water to produce a full-scale tree section for the Save Our Water website.

For easy-to-use water saving tips, visit [saveourwater.com](#), and connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). For the new Spanish-language Save Our Water campaign website, visit [ahorrenuestraagua.com](#).

- **Governor's Drought Task Force:** The Task Force continues to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought. During the most recent Task Force meeting on June 18, DWR provided an update on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and how it will be used to address ground subsidence which impacts state-owned water infrastructure and conveyance systems, and roadways.

ONGOING DROUGHT SUPPORT

- **Emergency Food Aid, Rental and Utility Assistance:** The Department of Social Services (CDSS) has provided to date over 702,356 boxes of food to community food banks in drought-impacted counties. Approximately 642,531 boxes of food have been picked up by 337,176 households. By June 19, an additional 12,722 boxes will be delivered to Fresno, Kern, Kings, San Joaquin, Santa Cruz, and Tulare County.

The non-profit group La Cooperativa continues to distribute the \$10 million state-funded emergency rental assistance to families and individuals across counties most impacted by the drought. As of June 11, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reported that a total of \$8,751,343 have been issued to 5,909 applicants in 21 counties, with \$5,657 remaining in assistance funds.

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 June 12, CSD has reported that a total of \$126,622 has been issued to 658 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. CSD continues to ramp up program activities by developing marketing and outreach plans, pre-screening potential enrollees and executive MSFW service contracts. CSD will receive the first report of expenditures on July 20.

- **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, CAL FIRE has responded to over 2,392 wildfires across the state, burning 8,417 acres in the State Responsibility Area. The number of new fire starts is well above the 5-year average for the same time period of 1,601 fires. The average total number of acres burned for the same period, however, is higher at 13,907 acres burned. This is due to the late season moist weather pattern and the increased staffing over the winter that allowed firefighters to keep most of the fires started to a minimum acreage.
- **CAL FIRE Suspends Outdoor Residential Burning:** California's increased fire activity this year, coupled with record-setting drought conditions, require CAL FIRE to take every step possible to prevent new wildfires from starting. To date, the following counties have suspended burn permits: Calaveras, Fresno, Imperial, Inyo, Kings, Marin, Mono, Monterey, Riverside, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Stanislaus, Tulare and Tuolumne. On June 22, additional counties will ban burning in Northern California. By June 29, all counties in the state will have suspended burn permits.

This suspension bans all residential outdoor burning of landscape debris including branches and leaves. The department may issue restricted temporary burning permits if there is an essential reason due to public health and safety. For additional information on preparing for and preventing wildfires visit www.ReadyForWildfire.Org.

- **Dry Well Reports:** As California enters the fourth consecutive summer of drought, Cal OES continues to monitor and identify communities and local water systems in danger of running out of water. Approximately 1,908 wells statewide have been identified as critical or dry, which affects an estimated 9,540 residents. As of June 18, Cal OES has reported that 1,780 of the 1,908 dry wells are concentrated in the inland regions within the Central Valley.
- **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, 81 out of the 106 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 \$1.2 million of those funds.
- **Reservoir Levels (% capacity):** Since June 12, Central Valley reservoirs from Shasta and Trinity in the North to Isabella in the South had a net loss in storage of 224,859 acre-feet, with total gains being 4,246 acre-feet and total losses being 229,105 acre-feet. Shasta Reservoir decreased by 50,897 acre-feet, while San Luis Reservoir, an off-stream reservoir for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, decreased its storage by 50,733 acre-feet. For more information, please visit the [California Data Exchange Center](http://CaliforniaDataExchangeCenter.com).

[Reservoir Levels](#) as of June 17 remain low, including: Castaic Lake 34% of capacity (38% of year to date average); Don Pedro 39% of capacity (50% of average); Exchequer 13% of capacity (19% of average); Folsom Lake 50% of capacity (60% of average); Lake Oroville 42% of capacity (51% of average); Lake Perris 39% (48% of average); Millerton Lake 33% of capacity (41% of average); New Melones 18% of capacity (28% of average); Pine Flat 28% of capacity (40% of average); San Luis 47% of capacity (66% of average); Lake Shasta 50% of capacity (61% of average); and Trinity Lake 40% of capacity (46% of average). An update of water levels at [other smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

Recent Precipitation: Last week was warm and dry with no precipitation officially reported in California.

Weather Outlook: Northern California will be 10 to 15 degrees above normal by Friday into the weekend. Afternoon showers and thunderstorms will be possible along the southern California and Sierra Mountains by Friday moving farther north over the weekend.

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:** 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, Sutter, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yuba.
 - **11 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), 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.
- **County Drought Taskforces:** A total of 33 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, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yolo.
- **Tribal Taskforce:** A total of 5 tribes have established drought task forces to coordinate tribal drought response. These tribes include: Hoopa Valley Tribe (Humboldt County), Hopland Tribe (Mendocino County), Kashia Band of Pomo Indians (Sonoma County), Sherwood Valley Tribe (Mendocino 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