

# 2015 DROUGHT REPORT



**State Operations Center  
July 3, 2015**

- **Three year period between 2011 and 2014 driest on record**
- **Effect of drought being felt differently throughout state**
  - Household and non-farm businesses account for 20% of human water use in California
  - Major metropolitan areas in So California and the Bay Area relatively well supplied
  - Communities without diverse water sources face sharp cutbacks
- **Agriculture accounts for 80% of human water use**
  - Ag growers lost 6.6 million acre feet of surface water in 2014\*
  - Large cuts in crop acreage
- **Difficult trade-offs**
  - Protecting Fish and Wildlife
  - Water supplies for cities and agriculture

\* California Public Policy Institute California

## **Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency on January 17, 2014**

**Executive Order B-26-14** declaring a state of emergency due to the drought; streamlined relief efforts for drinking water shortages (CDAA) and provide temporary supplies to certain households.

**Executive Order B-28-14** waived specific sections of the California Environmental Quality Act and Water Code and the adoption of water reclamation requirements by the State Water Board.

**Executive Order B-29-15** to increase enforcement, streamline drought response, invest in new water technologies, and orders cities and towns to cut water use by 25%.

## **Governor's Drought Task Force (DTF) meets weekly**

- Advise on conservation actions
- Monitor and report drought impacts
- Coordinate state response to the drought

# 2014 Drought Response Funding

- \$687 million for meeting critical drought-related needs.
  - Nearly \$625 million dedicated to capital improvements to water systems
  - \$21 million grant allocated for pre-approved for certain projects.
  - \$200 million awarded October 2014; remaining \$250 million to be granted by fall 2015.
- Proposed 2015-16 Governor's Budget includes an additional \$115 million to continue critical drought response.
- Additional \$53.8 million allocated in 2014 budget for CAL FIRE to enhance firefighter surge capacity and retain seasonal firefighters beyond typical fire season.

# 2015 Emergency Drought Package

State funding includes

- more than \$1 billion for local drought relief and special projects for state's water infrastructure
- \$128 million to provide direct assistance to workers and communities impacted by drought and to implement the Water Action Plan
- \$272 million in Prop 1 Water Bond funding for safe drinking water and water recycling
- \$660 million for flood protection

The state pledged over \$870 million to support drought relief including

- Money for food to workers directly impacted by the drought
- Funding to secure emergency drinking water for impacted communities
- Bond funds to help local communities water systems more resilient.

Governor Brown met with U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell to announce nearly \$20 million in federal drought relief for California's Central Valley Project.

**57 Emergency Proclamations** have been received to date from city, county, tribal governments, and special districts

- **25 Counties**
- **11 Cities**
- **9 Tribes**
- **12 Special Districts**



## Reservoir Levels (% capacity)

Castaic Lake 34%; Don Pedro 37%; Exchequer (Lake McClure)13%; Folsom Lake 45%; Lake Oroville 39; Lake Perris 37%; Lake Shasta 48%; Millerton Lake 34%; New Melones 17%; Pine Flat 27%; Lake San Luis 40%; Trinity Lake 38%.

## 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.

## Dry Well Count:

Coastal	4
Inland	1846
Southern	102
<b>Total Count</b>	<b>1952</b>



A series of webcam photos of Half Dome in Yosemite National Park, taken each mid-March from 2012 to 2015, vividly illustrates the effects of the multi-year drought.

Credit: *Yosemite Conservancy*



## Snow Pack Conditions

The Sierra Nevada snowpack is at a near record low. The March snowpack measurement came in at 0.9 inches of water content in the snow, just 5% of the March 3rd historical average for the measurement site.

The overall water content for the Northern Sierra snowpack came in at 4.4 inches, just 16% of average for the date.

Central and southern Sierra readings were 5.5 inches (20% of average) and 5 inches (22%) respectively.

April 1, 2015

Phillips snow course just off  
Highway 50 near Sierra at Tahoe  
Road 90 miles east of Sacramento



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

## Current Operations and Response Activities

State Operation Center (SOC) has been activated since 2014 to implement objectives in support of the Governor's priorities

Cal OES' Regions (Inland, Coastal, and Southern) coordinate the daily activities with the Operational Areas and elevate and address any drought related needs from the OAs

Cal OES Regions participate in weekly calls with the OAs, state agency representatives, tribal governments, and the SOC to identify drought issues, discuss on-going drought projects, and receive updates on state agency drought programs.



# Current State Activities

## ***Department of Water Resources (DWR)***

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is responsible for managing and protecting California's water. Working with other agencies, local governments, and the public, DWR develops strategic goals, and near-term and long-term actions to conserve, manage, develop, and sustain California's watersheds, water resources, and management systems.

## ***State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board)***

State Water Board provides technical and funding assistance to communities facing drinking water shortages, and monitors water systems across the state. State Water Board adopted guidelines for administering the latest emergency drought appropriations of \$19 million. For the first time, sent curtailment notices early June 2015 to pre-1914 (senior) water rights holders.

## ***Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)***

State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) available to agriculture operations to implement conservation measures that result in water conservation measures in irrigation systems.

## ***Department of Social Services (CDSS)***

Drought Food Assistance Program (DFAP) has provided to date over 715,172 boxes of food to community food banks in drought-impacted counties. Boxes are distributed to eligible households at least once per month and include a 3-5 day supply of food.

## ***Department of General Services (DGS)***

Irrigation upgrades are complete on 35 buildings; 12 installations remain. To date, installation of drip irrigation, low angle sprinklers, and smaller sprinkler heads have saved 56,982 gallons of water. \$10 million has been allocated to help other Departments with water conservation.

## ***Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)***

The Drought Housing Relocation Assistance program provides \$6 Million of relocation and rental assistance funds to households living in housing units without potable water.





## US Department of Agriculture

All counties listed were designated natural disaster areas on March 30, 2015, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met.

Additional programs available to assist farmers and ranchers include

- Emergency Conservation Program
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program
- Livestock Indemnity Program
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program
- Tree Assistance Program



# CAL FIRE

Since January 2015, CAL FIRE has responded to over 2,782 wildfires across the state, burning 12,688 acres in the State Responsibility Area (SRA). This fire activity is above 2014 for the same time period with 2,146 fires and 10,616 acres burned. There were 296 new wildfires over the past week. A 53% increase in wildfires over last year.

## Statewide Open Burn Ban Update:

To date, all counties in the state have suspended burn permits. The suspension bans all outdoor residential burning of landscape debris.



# Drought Task Force Meetings

Inland Region		
County	Previous Meetings	Upcoming Meetings
Butte	6/17/2015	TBD
Colusa	6/18/2015	TBD
Glenn	5/27/2015	TBD
Kern	6/4/2015	TBD
Kings	6/11/2015	7/16/2015
Madera	6/16/2015	6/30/2015
Merced	6/25/2015	7/23/2015
Modoc	2/12/2014	TBD
Nevada	10/29/2014	TBD
Placer	4/20/2015	TBD
Plumas	6/4/2015	TBD
Sacramento	6/4/2015	7/2/2015
San Joaquin	7/1/2015	8/5/2015
Siskiyou	5/22/2014	TBD
Stanislaus	6/18/2015	8/20/2015
Sutter	5/14/2015	TBD
Tehama	5/19/2014	7/1/2015
Trinity	6/17/2015	7/8/2015
Tulare	6/8/2015	7/13/2015
Tuolumne	6/12/2015	7/10/2015
Yolo	11/6/2014	TBD

Coastal Region		
County	Previous Meetings	Upcoming Meetings
Hoopa Valley Tribe	12/17/2014	7/13/2015 (Inter-Tribal)
Hopland Tribe		TBD
Humboldt	6/17/2015	7/8/2015
Karuk Tribe		7/13/2015 (Inter-Tribal)
Lake	6/18/2015	7/16/2015
Mendocino	10/30/2014	TBD
Monterey	6/3/2015	TBD
Napa	5/15/2015	TBD
San Francisco	8/11/2014	TBD
San Mateo	6/17/2015	TBD
Santa Clara		TBD
Sherwood Valley Tribe	11/1/2014	TBD
Solano		TBD
Trinidad Tribe		7/13/2015 (Inter-Tribal)
Yurok Tribe	10/6/2014	7/13/2015 (Inter-Tribal)
Southern Region		
Orange	3/26/2015	7/TBD/2015
San Luis Obispo	6/17/2015	7/15/2015
Santa Barbara	10/8/2014	7/15/2015

	Counties	Tribes
Totals	33	5

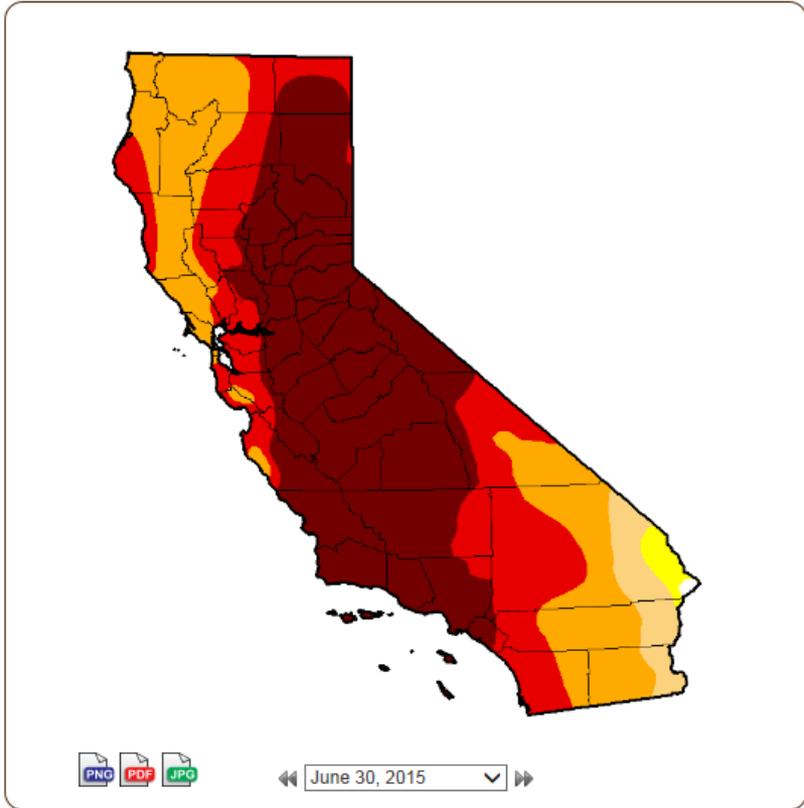
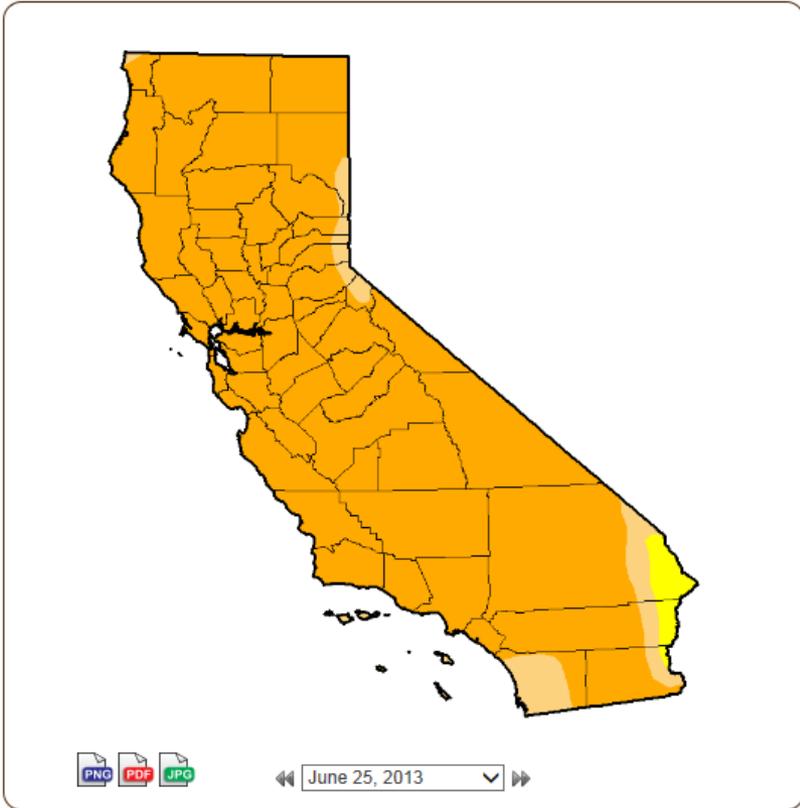
# Cal OES Drought Activities

Cal OES' Recovery Section is responsible for:

- Drought daily SOC operations.
- Leading and/or participating in the following calls
  - <15 Connections
  - Regional calls
  - State Agency Coordination call
- Managing the CDAA application and project approval process authorized through the EO (B-26-14) for emergency water supplies to households for drinking water and sanitation purposes
  - Helping with costs for permitting, tank installation, and hauling of water for the Temporary Household Tank Program.

# U.S. Drought Monitor Weekly Comparison

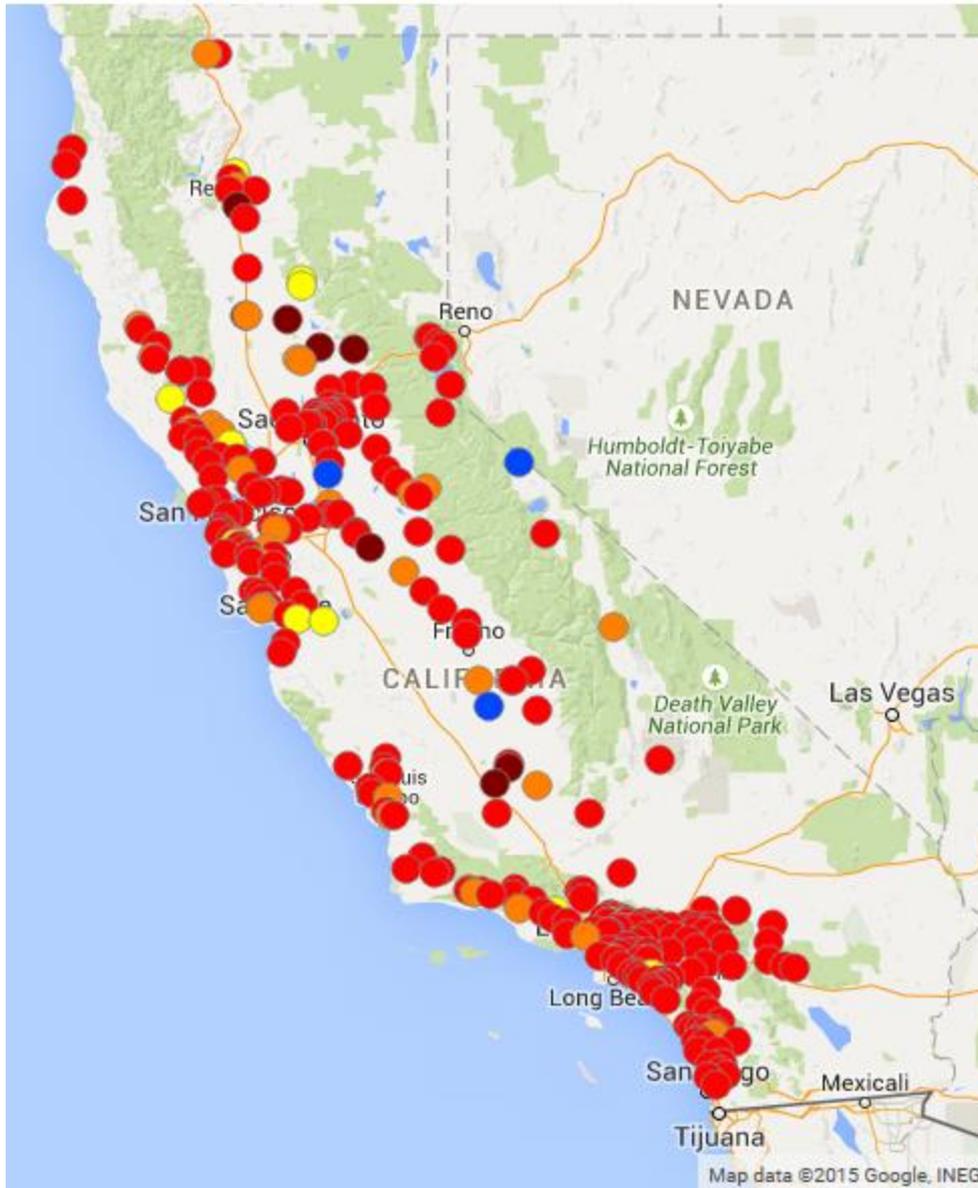
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### Statistics Comparison

Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
2013-06-25	0.00	158148.07	155314.18	146458.21	0.00	0.00
2015-06-30	221.36	157926.71	156111.37	149598.14	112405.25	73900.16

# Local Water Agencies Restriction Status



-  Mandatory Restrictions
-  Voluntary Measures
-  Drought Emergency / Water Shortage
-  Agricultural Reductions
-  Other actions

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## Contact Information

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