



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



## Weekly Drought Brief Monday April 14, 2014

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### CURRENT CONDITIONS

**Recent Precipitation:** No rain or snow fell in California in the past week:

- **Folsom:** 0.00" in the last week. 15.12" since July 1, 72% of normal by this date.
- **Fresno:** 0.00" in the last week. 4.26" since July 1, 41% of normal by this date.
- **Hetch Hetchy:** 0.00" in the last week. 17.93" since July 1, 55% of normal by this date.
- **Los Angeles:** 0.00" in the last week. 5.77" since July 1, 41% of normal by this date.
- **Modesto:** 0.00" in the last week. 6.63" since July 1, 56% of normal by this date.
- **Oroville:** 0.00" in the last week. 19.00" since July 1, 66% of normal this date.
- **Pollock Pines:** 0.00" in the last week. 24.40" since July 1, 51% of normal by this date.
- **Redding:** 0.00" in the last week. 21.16" since July 1, 69% of normal by this date.
- **Sacramento:** 0.00" in the last week. 9.59" since July 1, 50% of normal by this date.
- **Shasta:** 0.00" in the last week. 33.68" since July 1, 58% of normal by this date.
- **Willits:** 0.00" in the last week. 33.92" since July 1, 73% of normal by this date.

**Near-term Outlook for Precipitation:** Dry weather continues through this week, with a slight chance of showers later this week along the state's northern border. Any precipitation will likely be minimal.

\*\*As our state's rainy season ends this month, very heavy rain and snow would have to fall throughout California every day for the remainder of April to near average annual rain and snowfall levels. Even with such precipitation, California would remain in drought conditions, due to low water supplies from the two previous dry years.\*\*

**Snow survey:** The most recent [snowpack survey](#), conducted on April 1, recorded California snowpack at 32% of normal. A more [recent update](#) using automated devices shows snowpack at 28% of normal as of Sunday, April 13.

**Reservoir Levels (% capacity):** [Reservoir Levels](#) as of April 12 remain low, including: Don Pedro 54%; Exchequer 24%; Folsom Lake 51%; Lake Oroville 51%; Millerton Lake 32%; New Melones 43%; Pine Flat 24%; San Luis 46%; Shasta 52%; and Trinity Lake 54%. 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 help several communities facing near-term drinking water shortages and is monitoring water systems across the state to determine where else it can provide support. Updated information can be found at the [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#) website.

**Fire Danger:** 953 fires have been reported across the state since January 1, burning 2,372 acres. This year's fire activity is well above the year-to-date average of 377 fires, burning 1,135 acres. 79 new fires were reported over the past week. On Monday, April 14, CALFIRE will again increase staffing levels in many parts of Northern California to meet the current wildfire threats.

## KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM LAST WEEK

### Federal Actions

- The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources last week released a [Drought Operations Plan](#) for the rest of 2014. This plan outlines planned operations of the state and federal water projects through the fall as California transitions from the rainy season into several dry months. This plan provides a framework of water management decisions that intends to balance key water needs during a third straight dry year. This plan will be implemented with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the State Water Resources Control Board.

The overall objectives of the plan include:

- Closely manage scarce water resources in the coming dry months and into next year
- Augment water exports from the Delta this spring for storage and use when possible
- Ensure adequate water supplies for drinking water, sanitation and firefighting
- Prevent saltwater from intruding into California's water delivery system
- Provide sufficient water for fish migration and spawning
- Meet water quality needs for Delta water users by keeping saltwater at bay

The current Drought Operations Plan, which took several weeks to produce, is based on water data as of early March. Decisions will be updated in the coming weeks based on the April water forecast currently being compiled, and will be further updated in the coming months based on changing conditions. [Additional information and FAQs](#) on the Drought Operations Plan can be found at [drought.ca.gov](http://drought.ca.gov).

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced last week that [farmers and ranchers can sign-up for disaster assistance programs](#) reestablished and strengthened by the 2014 Farm Bill, beginning on Tuesday (April 15). Speedy implementation of these emergency programs has been a top priority of USDA in order to support farmers and ranchers hurt by the current drought.

### State Actions

- **Statewide fire staffing continues to expand:** Last week, CALFIRE added 17 fire engines to fire stations in Northern California, and will add 42 more engines to the region next week. Southern California continues to operate with 120 fire engines. CALFIRE has increased firefighter staffing this spring far earlier than normal amidst dry conditions and abnormally high wildfire activity.
- **Housing assistance for drought victims advances:** The California Department of Housing & Community Development announced last week [\\$21 million in grant funding for rental assistance](#) to individuals impacted by the drought. Half of this funding (\$10 million) comes from emergency funding approved through state legislation, while \$11 million comes from federal HOME and CDBG funding programs. HCD is seeking public input on the proposed process for providing this assistance, which will be provided during peak unemployment periods created by the drought.

- **New Conservation Ads:** [Save our Water](#), the state's coordinated water conservation campaign, has rolled out [seven new print advertisements](#) that will be displayed on billboards, in water agencies materials, and through social media outlets across the state. These ads, which are part of the "Californians Don't Waste" media program, reinforce Governor Brown's call for a 20% reduction in water use across California.
- **State agencies hold workshop to facilitate water transfers:** The State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Water Resources will hold a [public meeting](#) on Tuesday, April 29 to solicit recommendations on how best to streamline the review process for temporary water transfers. State and federal agencies are working to streamline water transfers, which allow water rights holders to buy and sell water from each other, amidst severe constraints in water that can be delivered by the state and federal water projects for agricultural irrigation.
- **State, Federal and Tribal Collaboration:** The Governor's Tribal Liaison is expanding coordination with California tribal leaders regarding drought response. After multiple coordination calls between tribal leaders and state and federal agencies, this coordinating group has decided to initiate biweekly calls in order to coordinate drought response.
- **Small grants for drought-impacted farms.** Non-governmental groups continue to find creative ways to provide support to those impacted by drought. California Certified Organic Farmers and Community Alliance with Family Farmers have announced [grants up to \\$500](#) available to small, certified organic farms hurt by the drought.
- **Cost Data:** Cal OES continues to gather drought-related costs from state agencies and local governments, which is reported weekly to the Drought Taskforce.
- **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 38 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, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Sutter, Tulare, Tuolumne, 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
  - **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, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.
  - **Special Districts:** Lake Don Pedro Community Services District, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), Twain Harte Community Services District, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Sonoma County Water Agency, Meiners Oaks Water District, Mariposa Public Utility District, and Goleta Water District.

- **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 24 counties have established drought task forces to coordinate local drought response. These counties include: Butte, Kern, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, and Tuolumne.
- **LA-Area Groundwater Project increases use of Recycled Water:** The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board [took action last week to increase use of recycled water](#) in its large Montebello Forebay Groundwater Recharge project, potentially saving more than 4.8 million gallons of imported water a year. This project represents the potential of combining water recycling with effective groundwater management to greatly increase water conservation.

#### DROUGHT RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Drought.CA.Gov](#): California's Drought Information Clearinghouse

Governor's [Proclamation of Drought Emergency](#)  
 State's Water Conservation Campaign, [Save our Water](#)  
 Local Government [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](#)  
 USDA Drought Designations by County [CA County Designations](#)  
 USDA Disaster and Drought Assistance Information [USDA Programs](#)  
 Small Business Administration Disaster Support: [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster)