

2014 Drought Response Report

State Operations Center

Situation Brief – April 25, 2014



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



Situational Summary

On January 17, 2014 Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. proclaimed a State of Emergency and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for drought conditions. The State Operation Center (SOC) is activated to implement objectives in support of the Governor's priorities. The lack of winter rain and snowfall has resulted in extremely dry conditions in many parts of the State. Reservoir levels are down significantly from where they should be on average for this time of year. If conditions continue without substantial rainfall, severe impacts to municipal water supplies, agriculture (plants and livestock) and firefighting capabilities are likely in store for the State over the next few months. Negative economic impacts will also result.

This week brings cooler and wetter weather across the state, although precipitation will likely be limited.

****As our state's rainy season comes to an end, it is highly unlikely that precipitation totals will increase significantly. This winter's below average rain and snowfall worsens conditions in this third straight dry year.***

The drought could result in severe impacts to the municipal water supplies, wells, agriculture (plants and livestock) and firefighting capabilities for several months. The SOC continues to be activated to monitor the situation statewide, and support regional and local operational areas.

Situational Summary (cont'd)

Information as of 4/21/14

- The Taskforce continues to meet regularly to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought.
- 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 19% of normal as of April 20.
- DWR has announced that water essential for health and safety will be delivered through the state water project in spite of the zero allocation policy. Deliveries will be boosted if storms produce enough rain and snow to increase reservoir storage and the snow pack.
- Cal OES continues to gather drought-related costs from state agencies and local governments.

Drought Impacts

1. Drinking Water (Information as of 4/21/14)

- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is developing questions that will be included in the upcoming Annual Report (AER) to gather data on water conservation and drought preparedness. The data collection will begin 3/10/2014, with a deadline to complete of 4/18/2014.
- CDPH has established and continually updates the CDPH Drinking Water website, as needed at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/DroughtPreparedness.aspx>.
- CDPH activated an Information Line to answer concerns or questions about public drinking water systems. Contact (855) 737-1796, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, effective Monday, February 24, 2014.
- 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.

2. Fires (Information as of 4/21/14)

- 1,040 fires have been reported across the state since January 1, burning 2,393 acres. This year's fire activity is well above the year-to-date average of 428 wildfires, burning 1,179 acres. 87 new wildfires were reported over the past week, most of which were kept small due to additional firefighters, fire engines and firefighting aircraft added during this dry winter.

Drought Impacts (continued)

3. Economic Impacts (Information as of 3/12/14)

- Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack declared two more California counties, Riverside and San Diego official disaster areas, bringing the total number of counties in this category to 56 of the 58 counties. Farmers in these counties are eligible for low interest emergency loans and other disaster assistance programs. The remaining two counties (Imperial and San Francisco) are covered as "contiguous" areas – as such, all counties in California are eligible for assistance.
- By law, SBA makes Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack declared this disaster on February 26, 2014.
- No information is available yet regarding impact on labor due to drought. Employment Development Department (EDD) will be sending weekly updates.

4. Agricultural Impacts (Information as of 4/8/14)

- CDFA will hold two public stakeholder meetings to discuss its new Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program, as well as receive comments and suggestions for the program's implementation. These meetings will take place on April 11, 2014 at CDFA headquarters, and on April 18, 2014 at the Stanislaus County Agricultural Center in Modesto.
- CDFA Secretary Karen Ross will hold an additional agricultural stakeholder call regarding the drought on Tuesday, April 8, 2014.

5. Community Impacts (Information as of 4/8/14)

- CDFA's drought webpage has been updated to include additional community resources with links and descriptions for the following programs from USDA's Farm Service Agency: Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Program (LFP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP), and Tree Assistance Program (TAP). These programs will be open for sign-up in mid-April 2014 (exact date unknown).

Federal Resources/Actions

Information as of 4/21/14

- **President signs the Drought Information Act:** Congress passed and the President signed a federal bill to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act (NIDIS). This act enables a federal early warning system for droughts by providing information, forecasts and assessments to vulnerable states. NIDIS was championed by the Western Governors Association, based on the drought vulnerability of western states.
- **Water Allocations Increase:** The capture of storm runoff from February and March rains has enabled the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources to update their water allocations:
 - Reclamation will increase its water allocation to Upper Sacramento Settlement Contractors from 40% to 75%. Several of these contractors have agreed to take their allocations later in the season than normal, which will benefit migrating fish. Some water from this increased allocation may be used south of the Delta thanks to water transfers between willing water buyers and sellers.
 - DWR has increased its allocation for South of Delta Service Contractors from 0% to 5%. This increase, while modest, will enable approximately 200,000 acre feet of water to state water project users.
- **Salinity barriers not currently needed:** DWR and partner agencies have determined that rock barriers to prevent saltwater intrusion into the Delta are not needed at this time. Salinity barriers remain an option for later in the year if needed.

Federal Resources/Actions (continued)

Information as of 4/21/14

- **Increased fish monitoring:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife and federal fish and wildlife agencies announced they will immediately move to expand monitoring of the drought's evolving impacts on protected fish, including those migrating through the Sacramento River.
- **US Navy demonstrates leadership on water conservation:** Navy Region Southwest, the Navy division that manages California Navy bases, is taking new steps to conserve water at its bases, including aiming to reduce water usage another 10% through December. This recent push continues Navy Region Southwest's successful water conservation efforts, which has included reducing water use by more than 26% since 2007.

State Resources

Information as of 3/10/14

Governor Brown signed emergency legislation that provides funding for shovel-ready water projects and emergency assistance to communities hurt by the drought. The proposal also streamlines state rules to enable more water recycling, strong enforcement of water rights and housing assistance to migrant workers. Funding in the bill includes:

- \$549 million for infrastructure grants to increase storm water capture and use of recycled water, improve management of groundwater storage, and strengthen water conservation.
- \$40 million from the proceeds of the state's cap-and-trade program to help local water agencies improve their water and energy efficiency, help farmers upgrade irrigation and water pumping systems to reduce water and energy use, and to enable retrofits in commercial and residential buildings that improve water and energy efficiency.
- \$25 million for emergency food assistance in areas hard-hit by the drought.
- \$21 million for housing-related assistance to drought victims.
- \$15 million to help communities that face drinking water shortages access alternative water supplies.
- \$14 million to improve groundwater management across the state, including help to disadvantaged communities with groundwater contamination exacerbated by the drought.

State Resources

Information as of 4/21/14

- **Statewide fire staffing continues to expand:** Last week, CALFIRE added another 42 fire engines across the state, and will add 65 more engines this week. CALFIRE has increased firefighter staffing this spring far earlier than normal amidst dry conditions and abnormally high wildfire activity. In the last week alone, 82 new fires were reported.
- **Housing assistance for drought victims advances:** The California Department of Housing & Community Development is currently seeking public input on its plan to spend \$21 million in grant funding for rental assistance to individuals impacted by the drought. This public comment will inform the way these funds are spent later this spring and summer.
- **Drought Relief Food Assistance:** On Thursday, the California Department of Social Services announced that food banks in 24 drought-impacted counties will soon receive shipments of the first \$5.1 million in food assistance authorized by the state's emergency drought legislation.
- **Upcoming workshop on recent water operations:** The State Water Resources Control Board will hold a workshop on Tuesday, May 6 to discuss recent actions the Water Board has taken to provide flexibility to DWR and the Bureau of Reclamation in their water operations. These changes have been approved through modifications to Temporary Urgency Change Petitions, and is described in greater detail on drought.ca.gov.

State Resources

Information as of 4/21/14

- **Water Board launches web tool:** The State Water Board has developed a webpage that helps water users monitor river flow in watersheds where they live and farm. This information, which will be updated weekly, helps water users anticipate any curtailment of their water use that may become necessary due to lack of river flow.
- **Drought Taskforce leaders travel to Tulare and Visalia:** Leaders of the Governor's Drought Taskforce will hold their fourth regional meeting with local government leaders in Visalia on Monday, April 28. These regional meetings allow Taskforce leaders to learn more about localized drought impacts. Drought Taskforce meetings have already taken place in Willits, Merced and Santa Cruz.
- **Upcoming workshop on recent water operations:** The State Water Resources Control Board will hold a workshop on Tuesday, May 6 to discuss recent actions the Water Board has taken to provide flexibility to DWR and the Bureau of Reclamation in their water operations. These changes have been approved through modifications to Temporary Urgency Change Petitions, and is described in greater detail on drought.ca.gov.
- **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

State Advance/Strategic Planning

Information Current as of 4/18/14

State actions looking forward for 30, 60,120 days ahead will focus on:

- State and federal funding and legislative actions.
- Agricultural support, including USDA programs and other assistance to farmers.
- Actions to address water system operations and water supply, including curtailments, transfers, delta emergency actions.
- Actions to assess and assist with emergency needs related to drinking water.
- Assessment of hydropower generation, and any direct or indirect impacts to the electricity supply.
- Actions to address long-term habitat preservation.
- Community support needs and delivery of needed services such as food, rental/housing assistance, utilities assistance and support to non-profit organizations.
- Public health and safety issues such as increased fire threat, security threats, and activation of contingency plans.
- Actions to anticipate and address air quality impacts from continuing drought.

Current Missions

Information Current as of 4/18/14

Current Missions:

- There are no current missions open at this time.
- Mission 2014-Inland-2185 Tuolumne County was completed on March 25, 2014.

County Drought Task Force Meetings

Information as of 4/24/14

County Drought Task Force Upcoming Meetings		
Inland Region		
County	Previous Meetings	Upcoming Meetings
Butte	2/18/2014	5/19/2014
Kern	4/10/2014	
Madera	3/11/2014	4/29/2014
Merced	4/17/2014	5/8/2014
Modoc	2/12/2014	
Nevada	4/15/2014	5/29/2014
Placer	3/12/2014	
Plumas	4/14/2014	
Sacramento	4/11/2014	5/2/2014
San Joaquin	4/17/2014	
Siskiyou	4/22/2014	
Stanislaus	3/19/2014	5/8/2014
Sutter	3/13/2014	5/8/2014
Tehama	2/18/2014	5/19/2014
Tulare	4/14/2014	
Tuolumne	3/28/2014	5/1/2014
Yolo		5/1/2014
Coastal Region		
Mendocino	4/16/2014	
Monterey		
San Mateo	3/18/2014	5/19/2014
Santa Clara	2/27/2014	
Solano	3/31/2014	
Southern Region		
San Luis Obispo	3/19/2014	
Santa Barbara	3/12/2014	
Orange	4/1/2014	

County Updates

Local Government (as of 4/24/14)

- **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.

Coastal Region Updates

Contra Costa (as of 4/24/14)

- The City of Pleasanton will be declaring a local emergency on May 7th to enable the City to enforce drought requirements due to Zone 7 water agency providing only 75% of normal water.

Marin (as of 4/24/14)

- Despite no rain in the last week, rainfall runoff contributed to a slight increase in reservoir levels from 81% to 82% of capacity for the week ending April 13. Consumption dropped 13% from the same week one year ago.

County Updates (continued)

Coastal Region Updates

San Francisco

- Voluntary 10% reduction
- All city departments are directed to take steps immediately to reduce their water consumption by at least 10 percent.
- By April 1, 2014, develop a plan and timeline for replacing potable water with non-potable water sources for street cleaning.
- Effective immediately, all departments shall educate employees and facility visitors about the efficient use of water at City facilities and the need to conserve.

San Mateo

- **March 18,2014 Correction:** The County of San Mateo does not have a Drought Task force. At the March 18,2014 meeting of the County's Emergency Managers' Association addressed forming a task force and received strong push back citing, that California has been in a drought situation for well over 100 years and for San Mateo County Peninsula; is the reason our water storage is in the eastern part of the state.
- County Service Areas - No new updates for La Honda (CSA-7) or Pescadero (CSA-11) other than County Public Works has been requested by the Board of Supervisors/County Manager's Office, to look into the costs and options for providing incentives; such as rebates to customers to install low flow devices (shower heads, toilets, etc.) in their homes or businesses. The plan is Public Works will report back to the Board in June 2014.

County Updates (continued)

Coastal Region Updates

San Mateo - continued (as of 4/24/2014)

- **UPDATES:** The County Emergency Managers' Association (EMA) continues to hold Drought 2014 Planning Meeting on May 22, 2014 with 21 jurisdictions, the Bay Area Water Supply Conservation Agency President, County Agriculture Commissioner and County Public Works Watershed Protection representatives to the meeting; to further discuss forming a Drought Group or a Drought Task force. Cal OES and Cal DWR Agency Representatives have also confirmed their participation.

Solano (as of 4/24/2014)

- Disaster Council meeting moved to Apr 23 to accommodate multiple scheduling contacts. Ag Commissioner, Solano Irrigation District and Solano Water Agency leaders will present briefings and Q&A. Discussion will include potential Proclamation for Ag related concerns on the County

Sonoma - (as of 4/24/14)

- Two water systems in OA are being placed in "vulnerable" status by CDPH, Mt. Taylor Mobile Home Park and Timber Cove County Water District. Meeting in Santa Rosa with them on April 17.

County Updates

Inland Region Updates

Butte (as of 4/24/14)

- Public has been informed through media outlets that Western Canal District will receive 100% of water allocation. The attached letter from DWR to Western Canal District says otherwise.

Calaveras (as of 4/24/14):

- At this time, the County is more concerned about the dry fuels and potential for a major fire than they are with drought.
- Calaveras MAC meeting held on 4/10/2014. County is continuing voluntary conservation measures. Determination made not to proclaim a local emergency or implement mandatory water restrictions. County will reconvene in the summer (date TBD) to evaluate situation again.

County Updates

Inland Region Updates

Fresno (as of 4/24/14)

- Status of Electric and Gas Utility Service - Normal
- EF-04 FIRE - Fire season conditions are expected to begin earlier and potentially last longer this year. CAL FIRE has increased its staff earlier this year due to the fuels conditions and the potential for an earlier fire season. Currently, the Fresno-Kings Unit has two-thirds of the peak season staffing and equipment in place due to the fire danger. As the fire potential continues to develop, weekly hazard analyses are being completed throughout the unit to determine when the remaining one-third of the staffing and equipment will be brought online. There is a concern regarding the availability and access to water for fire operations. Finding water will be difficult due to the low level of reservoirs, streams, and lakes.
- EF-05 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - The Fresno County Office of Emergency Services maintains ongoing contact with local stakeholders from Ag, Water, Social Services and Fire to review our current drought impacts and to refine our system for reporting changes as they occur. The representatives in this group will provide regular updates to County OES. This information will be used to plan our response and to maintain and update our weekly situation reports. Planning and Intelligence will continue to update situational status as future changes occur.

County Updates

Inland Region Updates

Fresno (as of 4/24/14)

- EF-06 MASS CARE, HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES - Due to the drought unemployment will increase significantly. Many of our communities depend largely on farming for their economic support. In some communities we expect unemployment levels to increase to approximately 40 percent, similar to the impacts in previous water-short years, such as 2009.
- With the lack of water we expect to see a significant impact on Ag as well as other industries. A lack of crops/production will lead to a lack of jobs and revenue being generated throughout most of our communities. Many of our residents and communities will suffer. As with the last drought we expect our private non-profit organizations to be heavily impacted with requests for assistance. Most of these agencies are already overwhelmed so they will likely be asking for help to meet the needs of our citizens who don't have resources due to the drought. The County and our cities will have higher operational costs and will not have as much revenue coming in due to the impacts the drought will have on our economy.
- Local Private Non Profit Organizations are beginning to meet to discuss the level of need and what resources will be available to help.

County Updates

Inland Region Updates

Fresno (as of 4/24/14)

- EF-11 AGRICULTURE - The Fresno County Ag Commissioner is working with the County Farm Bureau and other partner agencies to attempt to accurately quantify the impacts that the drought is currently having on the agricultural economy in our County as well as projecting future impacts.
- Current impacts: Rangeland conditions are deteriorating since the most recent rain events. Feeding of cattle on rangeland continues. Cattlemen have aggressively culled herds and sold calves early to try to save the mother herd. Well water and carryover allocations of water is being used to protect producing permanent crops. Some orchards have been removed and allocated water is being diverted to younger orchards.
- Anticipated future drought related impacts (some of these impacts are already occurring) Based on a sampling of farmers, Fresno County is on track to fallow at least 200,000 acres of productive farmland this year as a result of the drought. The value of lost crop production is estimated to be approximately \$1.7 billion. The value of lost economic activity tied to reduced crop production is estimated to reach \$5 billion. Plantings of spring lettuce are expected to be reduced by 50%. Plantings of cotton and other row crops are also being reduced. Later in the year we will see reduced production of bell peppers, melons, processing tomatoes and other annual crops. Reduced plantings of these crops will have a major impact on available jobs.

County Updates

Inland Region Updates

Fresno (as of 4/24/14)

- EF-11 AGRICULTURE (continued) - Unemployment will increase significantly. In communities that depend largely on farming for their economic support, we can expect to see increases to approximately 40 percent, similar to the impacts in previous water-short years, such as 2009.
- With the lack of water we expect to see a significant impact on Ag as well as other industries. A lack of crops/production will lead to a lack of jobs and revenue being generated throughout most of our communities. Many of our residents and communities will suffer.
- EF-12 UTILITIES - Municipal Water Systems - No jurisdictions are currently reporting water shortage problems. Although some jurisdictions have been given reduced allocations for the upcoming water year, they have indicated that they feel they will be able to get by with the water that they will receive. Some cities are concerned about the expected increase in costs for water and some are seeking USDA assistance to help cover these costs.
- Several communities on the west side of the County rely on surface water to meet their needs. These communities were recently notified of their water allocations for the upcoming year.

County Updates

Inland Region Updates

Fresno (as of 4/24/14)

- EF-12 UTILITIES (continued) The City of Coalinga's water allotment will be 3285 AF and they will be implementing Stage 2 water conservation efforts (outdoor irrigation only 2-days per week).
- The City of Huron's water allotment will be 649 AF and they have implemented an alternate day watering schedule. Huron will begin taking steps to implement Stage 4 conservation, which would prohibit outdoor irrigation. The City will address this first through a noticed public hearing, followed by a board-adopted resolution. The City has identified an ag well ¼ mile from their surface water plant that may be suitable for emergency supply. They will approach the owner to begin discussions. Both CDPH and USDA are providing the city with ongoing assistance as they seek to meet their upcoming water needs. Huron has made contact with two farmers, each with ag wells in the vicinity of the City's water treatment plant. The farmers were both supportive of working with the City to meet emergency water supply needs. The Huron City Council adopted a water conservation ordinance and has implemented level four of the ordinance that will stop all landscape irrigation with only minimal exceptions.
- Westlands Water District's M&I water allotment will be 1373 AF. Westlands Water District indicated that they will allow M&I water users "to use up to their historic usage (last year for example) though they must comply with the District's prohibition on outdoor watering this year. There should therefore be no public water systems that have contracts with Westlands for M&I water that should be experiencing critical water shortages this summer.

County Updates

Inland Region Updates

Fresno (as of 4/24/14)

- EF-12 UTILITIES (continued) -CDPH Drinking Water Program Engineers are continually working with these and other jurisdictions to monitor water status and provide assistance as needed. The CDPH Fresno and Merced Districts hosted a workshop on April 2, 2014, for the Shaver Lake water systems to discuss drought issues and provide information on drought contingency planning as well as to encourage shared solutions. It was attended by representatives of at least 9 water systems in that area. Per the local CDPH Drinking Water Program Engineers there are currently no reports of water outages or critical water supplies (<60 days) in Fresno County.
- Wells: - There has been a significant increase in the number of permits being issued to drill wells. Permits for well drilling have been approximately double what they were at this time last year. According to an informal survey of local well drillers the average wait time for an Ag well is about 10-12 months. Wait times for domestic wells is about 5-10 months depending on the location.
- FUTURE CONCERNS/ OPERATIONS - At this time there is a great deal of concern regarding the drought but most people think that the major impacts will not be felt for another couple of months. Lack of jobs and the economic impact on communities will likely cause the most strain on our area. Impacted citizens will need assistance with food, rent and utilities. Environmental impacts from the increased utilization of well water will likely lead to subsidence issues and over time will create high salt content in our soils making farm land less productive. Public and private industry will be impacted economically by the lack of water and/or the higher costs associated with obtaining water.

County Updates

Inland Region Updates

Kern (as of 4/24/14):

- The drought has left some Kern County ranchers with no option but to begin selling parts of their livestock. Shepherders are one of the ranchers that have been hit the hardest. They say many of the natural green pastures that they once had have turned into a dirt lot because there is no water. Shepherders have turned to hay to feed their livestock but the price of hay is going up as well. Local hay growers said they have had to deal with a high demand of hay in the last several months. The price of hay has gone from around to \$210 to over \$240 in the last few weeks.
- The Agricultural Commissioner maintains calculations of manpower required per acre for various commodities grown in Kern County. This data will be correlated with information regarding reduced acreage in production and cross-verified with local officials from the Employment Development Department to estimate agricultural job losses expected due to drought.

Kings (as of 4/24/14):

- As reported by the Hanford Sentinel: The Lemoore City Council will consider action Tuesday to adopt a tiered response plan to deal with the drought crisis. The proposed plan outlines methods to urge citizens to conserve water. Enforcement would begin with public education and voluntary compliance, followed by three increasing levels of restrictions placed on water use.

Madera (as of 4/24/14):

- OES will also be working with Central CA Animal Disaster Team in preparing for incident as it progresses.
- Next Drought Task Force meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 2014.
- Still having web EOC access issues and not able to identify if postings have been recorded.

County Updates

Inland Region Updates

Mariposa (as of 4/24/14):

- To the Yosemite-Mariposa (Y-M) Regional Water Advisory Council (RWAC) and other interested stakeholders: Please review the attached news items from the California Water Plan eNews update and the list of emerging investments strategies for IRWM, including proposed base-level funding for active Regional Water Management Groups.
- As noted on the eNews page, DWR has released for public comment, the draft 2014 IRWM Grant Guidelines and Drought Grant Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for the recently approved Drought Funding. The public comment period ends May 15, after which the application period opening date will be announced.

Merced (as of 4/24/14):

- Next Drought Taskforce Meeting April 17, 2014.
- Drought Proclamation Renewed, next Renewal will be April 22, 2014

Nevada(as of 4/24/14):

- NID Declared a Drought Emergency - Stage II. Currently no mandatory restrictions but asking a 10-15% voluntary reduction.
- Drought Task Force Meeting - Today - April 15, 2014.
- Drought has no current impact for the eastern portion of Nevada County - Truckee area - Truckee Donner Public Utility District

County Updates

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Placer (as of 4/24/14):

- The City of Roseville announced on March 24, mandatory 20 percent water use restrictions effective immediately. The restrictions include a targeted 20% reduction in water use by residents and businesses from normal seasonal use, Commercial water customers are required to reduce irrigation by 30% for existing landscaping, washing of vehicles or boats is prohibited except when using a hose that is equipped with a control nozzle capable of completely shutting off the flow of water or when washed in either an automatic or manual commercial car wash.
- The Nevada Irrigation District Board declaring a stage II drought On April 9th. Highlights from the resolution are below:
 - Request voluntary 10-15% reductions to help enhance carryover storage
 - Inside District- Accept new sales and increases, but with scrutiny. This is a change from their February 12th Board decision.
 - Outside District- no new sales or increases
 - No supplemental water for South Sutter Water District
 - Target goal of 75% (or 110,000AF) of average for storage carryover, which they believe they can achieve with purchasing water from PG&E and voluntary reductions.
 - Water season will start next week, but the reso gives the district the ability to end the season early to ensure carryover storage amounts are met.
 - The board gave staff approval to move forward with purchasing 20,000-25,000 acre feet of water from PG&E at \$30/AF.

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Placer-continued (as of 4/24/14):

Key items from PCWA:

- PG&E released their water number as 60% of normal range for water supply
- Treated water for residential/homeowners- calling for 10-15% voluntary reduction
- Untreated for agriculture- 1" or more mandatory 10%, for less than 1" the reduction is voluntary.

Plumas (as of 4/24/14)

- Continues to monitor drought conditions.

San Joaquin County (as of 4/24/14):

- Due to a schedule conflict, the next Agricultural Drought Task Force meeting will be moved to April 17th.
- South San Joaquin County Irrigation District has decided to fill Woodward Reservoir in Oakdale. The reservoir will be filled May 1st through July 7th.
- SSJID advised water conditions have improved over Jan & Feb and are now expecting to receive 75-80,000 AF more than their initial projection.
- Next Steps: Continued education will be of the utmost importance in the coming weeks. Keep all jurisdictions updated on situations and actions taken by state and federal agencies to assist during the drought.

County Updates

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Siskiyou (as of 4/24/14):

- The county is still continuing to work with the City of Montague and the Montague Water Conservation District (MWCD) in regard to their water emergency. The city and district are currently working on developing detailed project and cost estimations so they can begin the process of applying for financial assistance through CDPH and USDA.
- The current target project would consist of connecting to an existing water diversion located on the Shasta River just north of Hwy 3. Water pipe would be run from the point of diversion to the City of Montague's treatment facility, which is estimated to be approximately 13,000 feet of pipe. Implementing this project would require a portion of the water pipe to be run under a rail line owned by Union Pacific Railroad. Senator Ted Gaines' office submitted a letter to Union Pacific Railroad on Montague's behalf explaining the circumstances and requesting their assistance in working with us to expedite any processes (See attached letter).
- On 04/10/14, the City of Montague hosted a public forum in regard to the water emergency. Several handouts were provided to the public for their review (See Attached Handouts). MWCD engineer Gary Black addressed attendees in regard to the current water situation at Dwinnel Dam. Black advised the attendees that with consistent conservation, the city would potentially run out of water around August 1, 2014. With a lack of consistent conservation, Black said the city could potentially run out of water as early as July 1, 2014.
- City Mayor Jayne Keller advised attendees that water curtailment was going to become mandatory, explaining the city was going to impose monetary penalties for over-consumption of water. This will be enforced by water meter readings. The higher the water use, the higher the monetary penalty will be. The City of Montague is meeting today (04/11) to develop their water conservation plan and develop a structured penalty matrix.

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Siskiyou (as of 4/24/14):

- At the end of the meeting, the board ratified a resolution proclaiming a local emergency due drought conditions and imminent threat of disaster in the City of Montague.
- The county has been in contact with the City of Etna regarding their water situation. Etna City Clerk Pam Russell advised the city's water is currently stable with no concerns at this time. The city developed a water conservation plan that they plan on implementing, if needed. Russell said their engineer has advised them that he believes the city should be fine until around August or September. He believes they may have to implement their water conservation plan in August or September to get them through the end of the summer, but feels they will have enough water to get to the higher precipitation winter months.

Stanislaus (as of 4/24/14):

- The next Stanislaus County Drought Task Force meeting is scheduled for May 8th.
- [At their 4/22/14 meeting Modesto Irrigation District considered a recommended action to adopt a resolution recognizing the current extraordinary drought conditions and the potentially severe impacts on Modesto Irrigation District \(MID\) customers and our community; and, committing to continued resource stewardship, enforcement of MID's Irrigation Rules, and prudent water planning.](#)

Sutter (as of 4/24/14):

Continuation of the Emergency Declaration (Resolution # 14-011) was approved 4/8/14.

Tuolumne (as of 4/24/14):

- Next drought task force meeting tentatively scheduled for 5/1/14 at the Tuolumne BOS Chambers.
- TUD reports that Lyons Reservoir is looking better and is starting to fill up. Therefore, they will hold on starting up the pumps at New Melones until we think we need the water the most.

County Updates

Inland Region Updates

Tuolumne (as of 4/24/14)

- Tuolumne Utilities District is in the process of finalizing the agreement between SSJID and Chicken Ranch for purchase of water from New Melones. The agreement should be finalized by the end of this week (4/18/2014). One of the issues that is being discussed is whether the water purchased by TUD pumped beyond 9/30/14 will go against this year's water allocation or next year's 14/15. SSJID is waiting for their water allocation before supporting the request for TUD to pump beyond 9/30/2014.
- Tuolumne OES has arranged for four (4) community forums to discuss drought. The first one is scheduled for 4/30/14 a 6:30 pm at the Sonora Opera Hall.

Southern Region Updates

San Luis Obispo County (as of 4/24/14)

- Due to severe drought conditions, the California Fish and Game Commission adopted, on February 5, 2014 the recommendation of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to implement emergency regulations that close certain waters to fishing; for San Luis Obispo County this includes all portions of any coastal stream west of any Highway 1 bridge until April 30.

• County Updates

Southern Region Updates

Santa Barbara (as of 4/24/14)

- ON FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH, THE US BUREAU OF RECLAMATION NOTIFIED CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY (CCWA) TO STOP PUMPING INTO LAKE CACHUMA:
- Drought Task Force Meeting: Originally scheduled for April 9th, was postponed.
- April 15th: BOS Re-Ratification
- Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA): Purchase of 10,000 AF from rice farmers north of the delta: Continue to negotiate and explore this potential purchase. Conditions of the delta have improved significantly to allow for transfers. The call date for agreeing to this purchase is April 25th. Santa Barbara will continue to negotiate and explore the various issues on this purchase prior to the April 25th call date.
- On Friday, April 4th, the US Bureau of Reclamation notified CCWA to stop pumping into Lake Cachuma. The Bureau has to provide flows into Hilton Creek and the Santa Ynez River for fish. They have two pumps to meet the flow and one is broken.
- In order to make up the difference in the required flows in Hilton Creek and what the one pump can provide, they are using the delivery facilities we use to pump into the Lake to make up the difference.
- CCWA is hiring a vendor to install piping along the side of the spillway at the dam so that CCWA can deliver directly into Cachuma Lake instead of through the existing facilities; hoping to resume deliveries by the middle of next week. Vendor should begin work on Monday 14th. Estimated cost of \$25K. CCWA is in negotiations to purchase and/or exchange water with other State Water Project contractor's carryover water in the San Luis Reservoir. CCWA hopes to have more information on that after meetings in Sacramento next week. CCWA Supplemental Water Purchase Program is fully functioning now.

Weather Synopsis by Region

Information as of 4/25/14

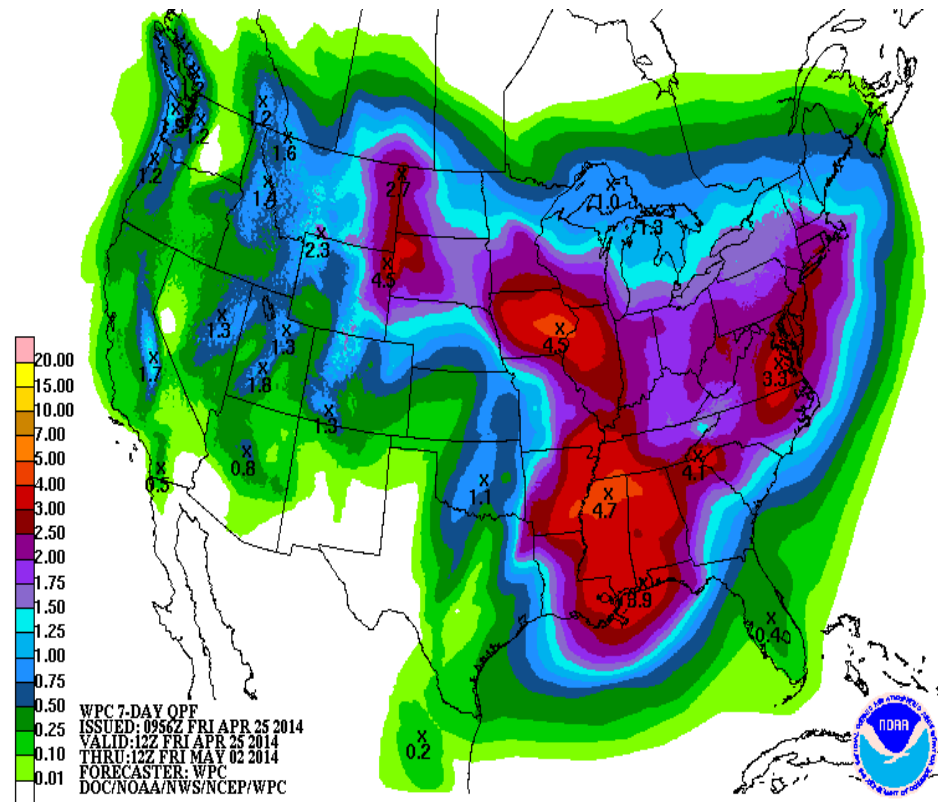
Northern & Central California

Eureka Weather:

An upper level trough will introduce a colder and more unstable air mass to Northern California today, resulting in a slight chance for thunderstorms through Friday. Another weak front will bring light rain amounts to the area this weekend followed by warmer and drier weather next week.

San Francisco Weather:

A storm system will bring cooler temperatures and chances for precipitation through today. Another weaker system could bring rain chances Saturday night and Sunday. Above normal temperatures are expected next week as high pressure builds over the state.



<http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/day1-7.shtml>

Weather Synopsis by Region

Information as of 4/25/14

Central California and Southern San Joaquin Valley

Sacramento Weather:

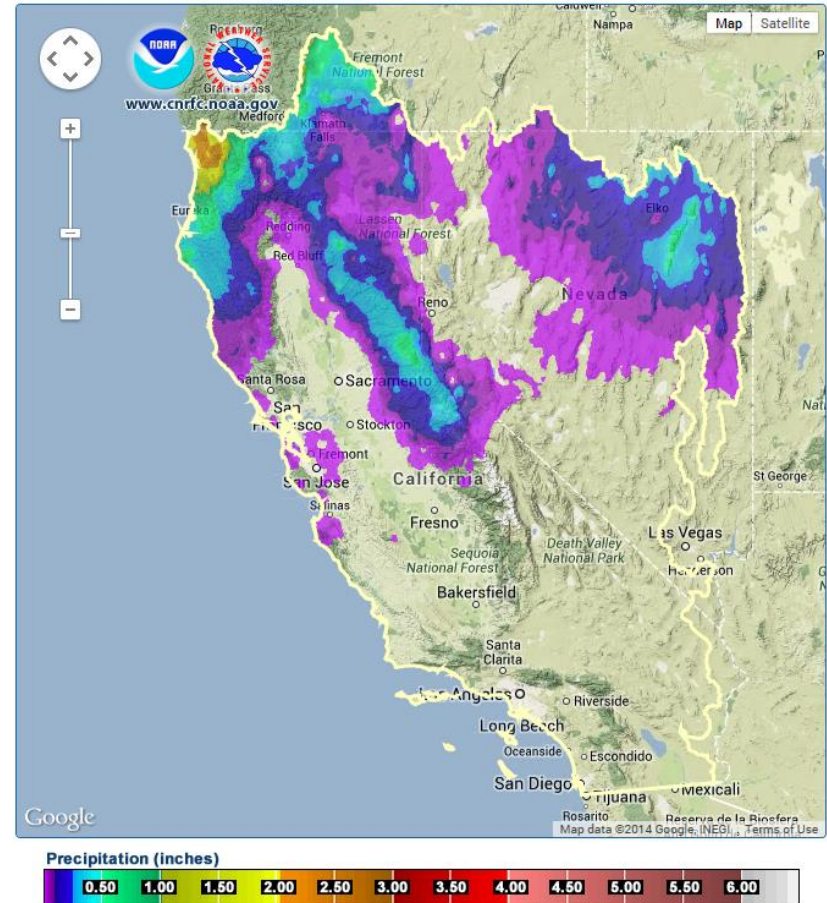
Cool and wet today with lowering snow levels through tonight. Expect isolated thunderstorms today with small hail. A weak system Sunday has little impact on the area followed by significant warming into early next week, 10 to 15 degrees above normal.

Hanford Weather:

A Pacific storm system will move into and across Central California late tonight through Saturday bringing mountain snow and lower elevation rain showers along with gusty winds. Some thunder is also possible on Friday afternoon in the San Joaquin Valley and Sierra Nevada foothills. Beginning Sunday, high pressure will start to move in bringing a return to dry and warming conditions for next week.

California Precipitation Graphic

72 hour (4/25/14-4/28/14)



<http://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/google.php>

Weather Synopsis by Region

Information as of 4/25/14

Southern California

Los Angeles Weather:

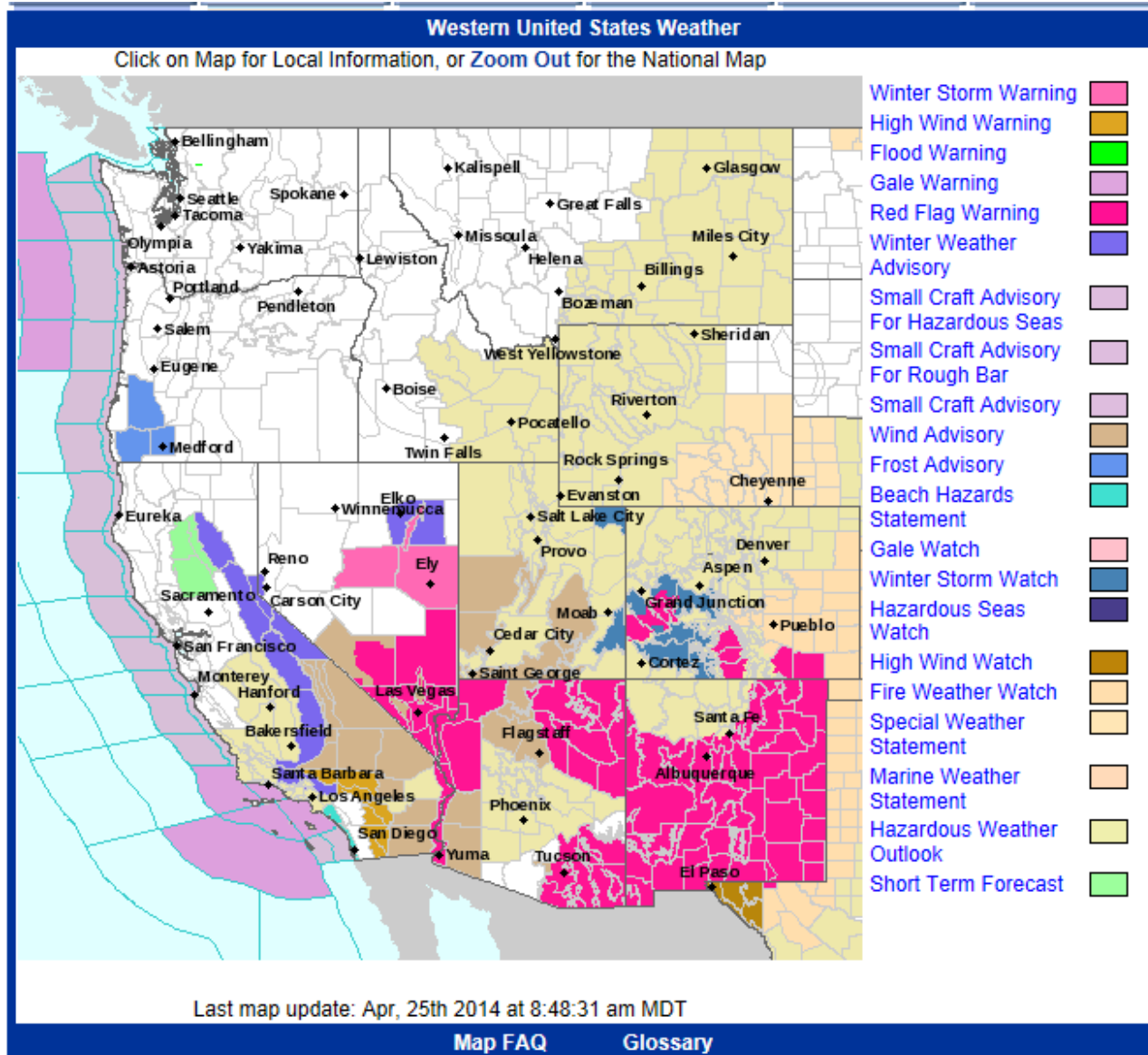
An area of low pressure will bring some showers and snow to portions of the Los Angeles area later today through early Saturday morning. There will be strong winds accompanying this storm system as well. In the wake of the storm, strong high pressure and offshore flow will develop bringing a significant warm up early next week and persist through most of next week.

Orange, San Diego, Western Riverside, and Southwestern San Bernardino Weather: Southeast California Weather:

Partly cloudy and cooler today as a low pressure trough approaches from the Northwest. The trough will travel through overnight, accompanied by scattered showers and strong, gusty winds in the mountains and deserts. Cooler conditions are expected on Saturday with strong winds continuing in the deserts. It will be fair and warmer on Sunday as high pressure slowly rebuilds. Much warmer and dry weather is forecast for the balance of the week under high pressure aloft.

State Weather Map

Information as of 4/25/14





National 7-day Significant
Fire Potential Outlook



Legend

Fuel Dryness

- Moist - Little or no risk for large fires.
- Dry - Low risk of large fires in the absence of a "High Risk" event.
- Very dry - Low/Moderate risk of large fires in the absence of a "High Risk" event.
- Data Unavailable.

High Risk Events

- W** Wind
- H** Hot and Dry
- ⚡** Lightning

Missing Stations

- Yurok
- Whitmore Calif

California - North Area 7 Day
Significant Fire Potential

Predictive Service Area	Wed Apr 23	Thu Apr 24	Fri Apr 25	Sat Apr 26	Sun Apr 27	Mon Apr 28	Tue Apr 29	Wed Apr 30
NC01 - North Coast								
NC02 - Mid Coast								
NC03A - Bay Area-Marine								
NC03B - Diablo/Santa Cruz Mtns								
NC04 - Northwestern Mtns								
NC05 - Sacramento Valley								
NC06 - Northeast CA								
NC07 - Northern Sierra								
NC08 - East Side								

Weather

*** A return of wetter weather later today into Friday ***

Another Pacific cold front will be moving into northern CA today and tonight. This storm, and the associated low pressure trough that will linger well into Friday, could combine to bring .25 - 1.25 inches of precipitation to over three-fourths of North Ops. The initial part of the storm's moisture will arrive as a frontal band later today or tonight. However on Friday it will transition into showers, along with isolated or scattered thunderstorms. Look for SW gradient winds to increase to moderate to strong from near the Cascade/Sierra eastward, in the pre-frontal environment later today. Snow levels will drop to 4000-5000 feet with the colder air that arrives late tonight or Fri. morning. The weekend stays fairly humid and unsettled, under a West to NW flow aloft, with isolated to scattered showers still a possibility. By Monday night stronger high pressure takes over, perhaps sufficiently so to keep the bulk of next week warm and dry in NorCal. That period might have locally moderate NE wind gusts in a.m. hours.

Fuels/Fire Potential

The approaching frontal system will be humid, cloudy, and/or wet enough, to push all 9 PSAs back into the MOIST fuel moisture category for about 5 days. The Bay Area looks most likely to only see small precip amounts, and it will (as has been common during the drought) be the first area to dry back out, fuels-wise. Thus the return to categorizing as predominantly DRY fuels there by next Wednesday. Lower-elevation annual grasses in driest areas and/or poorer soils, are locally getting into middle stages of curing. For most foothill type annual grass areas, the grass is still green enough that the coming rain could help delay curing a week or two. Larger dead fuels continue to run below normal in all PSAs due to the drought. But there should be adequate precip in the coming 2-4 days to help the fine to medium size classes show upward moisture trends. Bottom line is that there is minimal large fire potential for NOPS for this 7-day period.

Most of Northern California remains in Severe to Extreme longer-term drought. For the latest drought map see: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA>

Resources

- North OPS: Preparedness Level 1
- National: Preparedness Level 1
- MACS Mode 2






California - South Area 7 Day Significant Fire Potential

Issued: Thursday, Apr 24, 2014

Parameters:

Legend

Fuel Dryness

	Moist - Little or no risk for large fires.
	Dry - Low risk of large fires in the absence of a "High Risk" event.
	Very dry - Low/Moderate risk of large fires in the absence of a "High Risk" event.
	Data Unavailable.

High Risk Events

	Windy and Dry
	Lightning

Missing Stations

- Big Sur
- Devore
- Ozena
- Big Pine Flat
- Converse
- Squaw Lake
- Squaw Lake
- Oak Creek

Predictive Service Area	Wed Apr 23	Thu Apr 24	Fri Apr 25	Sat Apr 26	Sun Apr 27	Mon Apr 28	Tue Apr 29	Wed Apr 30
BC01 - Eastern Sierra								
BC02 - Central Sierra								
BC03 - Southern Sierra								
BC04 - Sierra Foothills								
BC05 - Central Valley								
BC06 - Central Coast Interior								
BC07 - Central Coast								
BC08 - South Coast								
BC09 - Western Mountains								
BC10 - Eastern Mountains								
BC11 - Southern Mountains								
BC12 - Lower Deserts								
BC13 - Eastern Deserts								
BC14 - Central Mojave								
BC15 - Upper Deserts								
BC16 - Northern Deserts								

Weather

Very Warm and Dry Conditions Expected Next Week

Mostly sunny and warmer weather will return today as a weak ridging develops over the state. High temperatures will be 5-8 degrees warmer over most locations today and highs will be back into the 70s at the lower elevations to the 50s in the mountains. Local north winds of 15-25 mph will be possible near the I-5 Corridor and in Santa Barbara County, mainly this morning. Friday, a trough from the Pacific Northwest will drop into the state, bringing windy and cool weather along with some light rain. The rain will develop along the Sierras during the early morning hours Friday before spreading southward into portions of Southern California by sunset. Rainfall amounts will be heavily skewed toward the higher terrain, but overall, amounts will be light with this system. Expect around a quarter of an inch in Central California with local amounts over a half inch in the Sierras from Sequoia National Park northward. A trace to a tenth of an inch will be possible in Southern California Friday evening. The snow level will drop to 4,000-4,500 feet in the Sierras and a few inches of snow will be likely by the time the storm moves out of the area Saturday. Strong west winds of 25-40 mph will occur over most of the deserts Friday afternoon and evening. Skies will slowly clear Saturday, but a few showers may linger near the higher terrain well into the afternoon. Temperatures Friday and Saturday will be 10-15 degrees below normal with highs in the 50s to lower 60s in the valleys to the 30s and 40s in the mountains. However, a dramatic warmup will occur next week as a strong high pressure ridge builds over the state. By Tuesday, high temperatures will be in the 80s over many valley and foothill locations with 105 degree readings likely in the deserts. Some light offshore flow will be possible next Tuesday night into Wednesday. Minimum RH will likely approach 10% in some inland and mid-slope locations with poor nighttime recovery possible Tuesday night. Cooler weather may return by the end of next week.

Fuels/Fire Potential

Large fire potential will remain low through the weekend due to cool weather and the presence of a green seasonal grass crop. But the hot and dry weather next week should result in rapid curing of grasses across Southern California, especially on the south and west aspects. Although fuel loading is much lighter than normal for April, significant grass growth occurred during the past few weeks in response to the rains of March and early April. These fuels will become highly receptive to ignition by the middle of next week. IA will be light through Sunday then may become moderate due to a significant increase in grass fires, especially in foothill and urban interface areas.

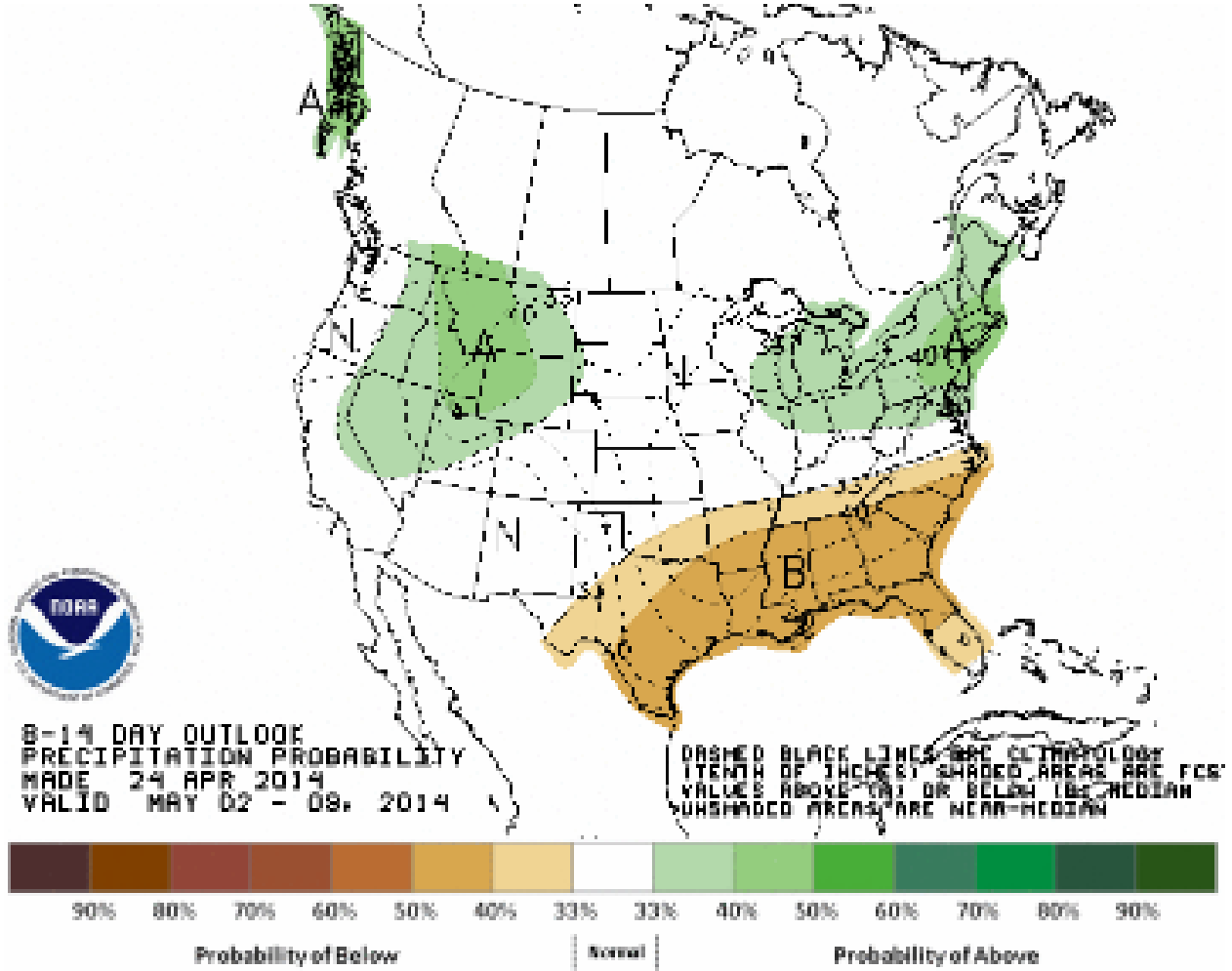
Resources

OWCG Preparedness Level 2, MACS Mode 2



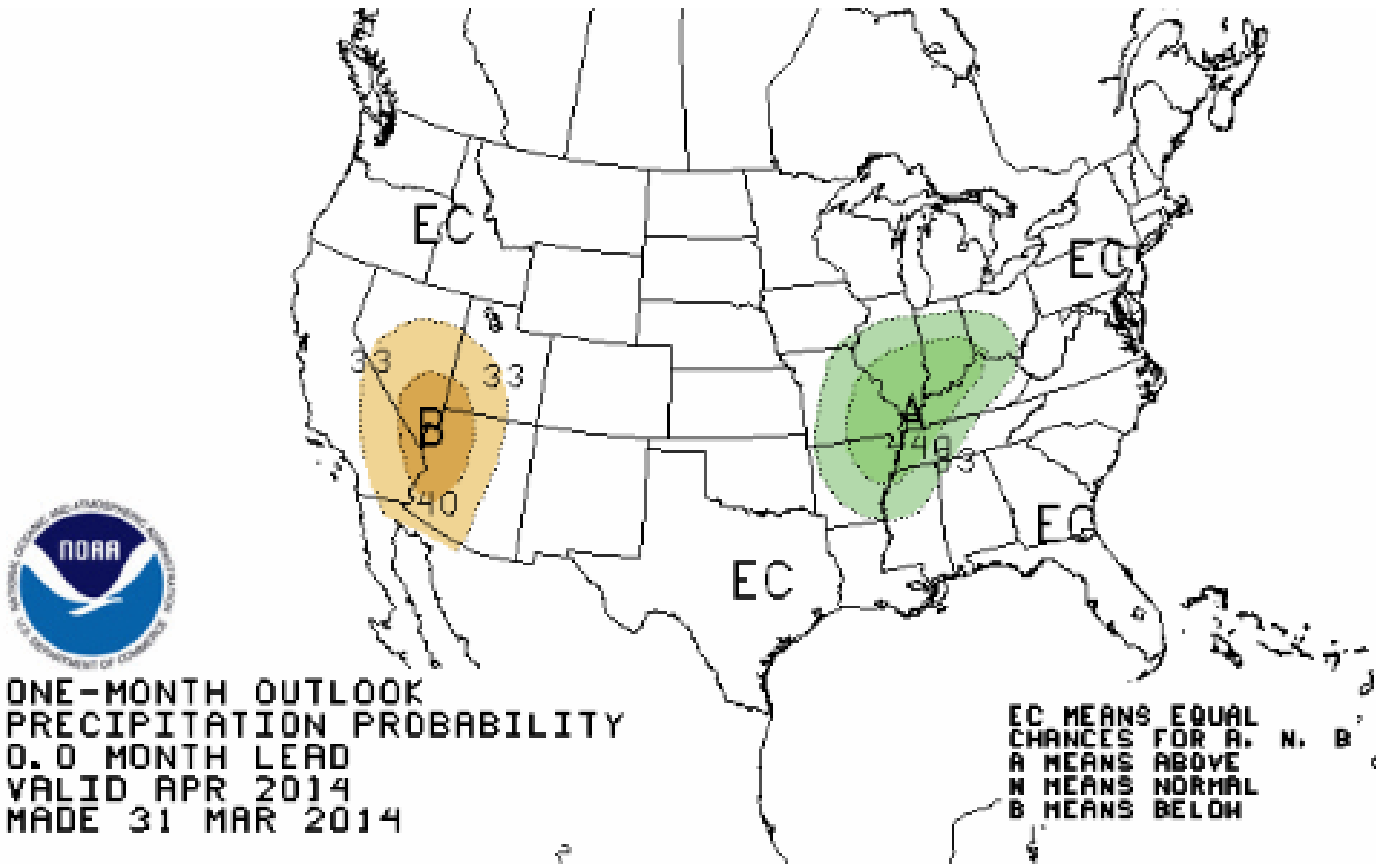
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OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

8-14 Day Precipitation Probability Outlook for May 02 – May 08, 2014



<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/814day/>

March-April Precipitation Probability Outlook



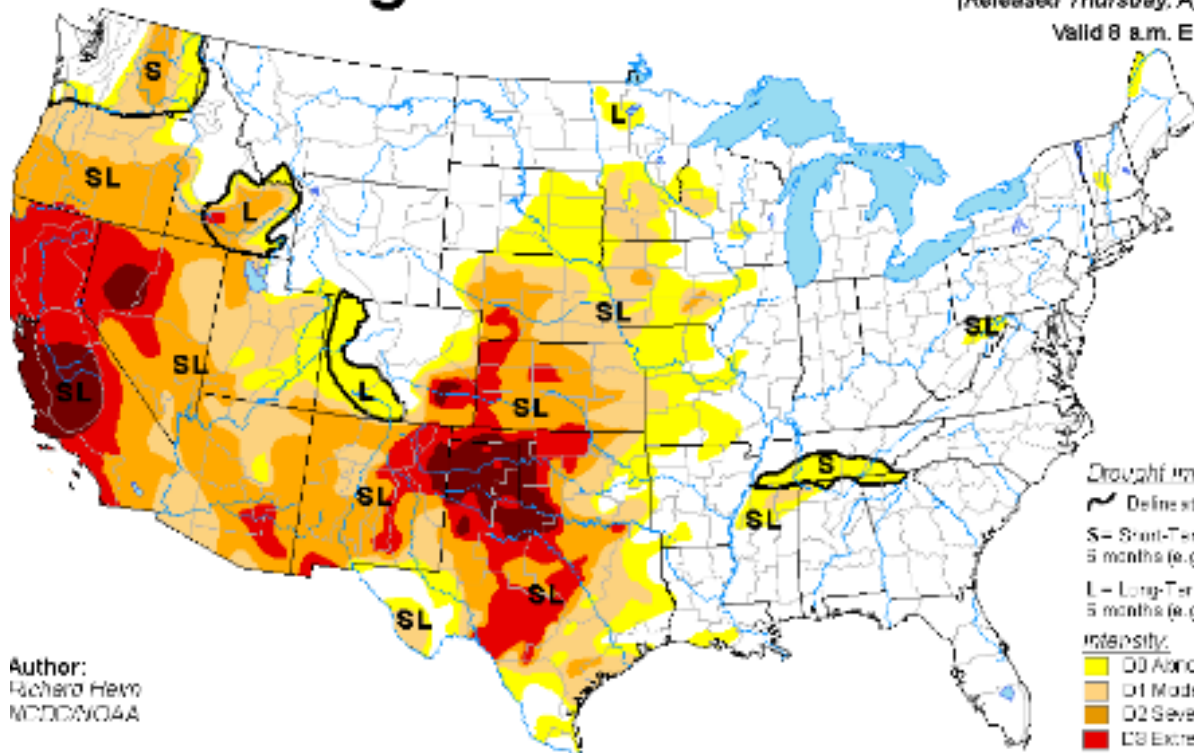
<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/>

U.S. Drought Monitor

April 22, 2014

(Released Thursday, Apr. 24, 2014)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Author:
Richard Heim
MCDONALD

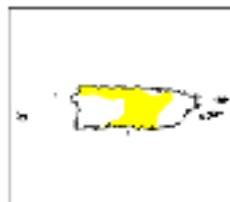
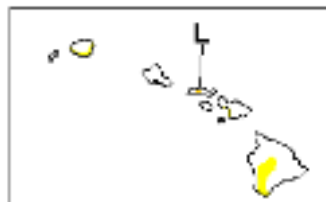
Drought Impact Types

- ~ Defines area dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

Intensity

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

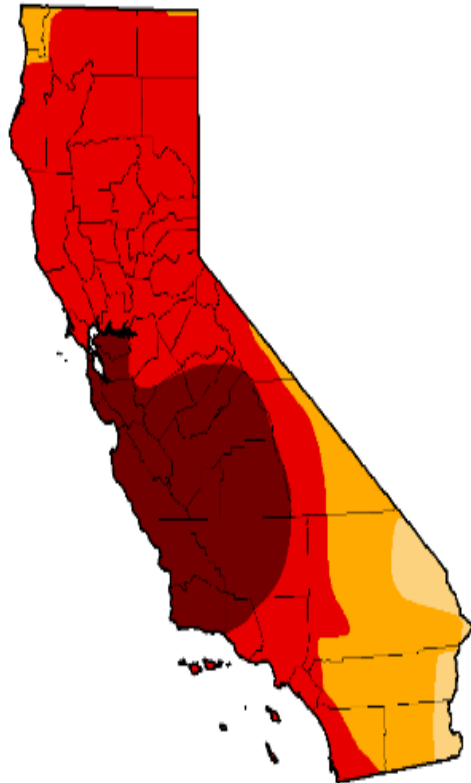
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



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Weather Summary - Current Drought Conditions in California

U.S. Drought Monitor California



April 22, 2014

(Released Thursday April 24, 2014)

Valid 7 a.m. Eastern

Statistics type: Traditional (D0-D4, D1-D4, etc.) Categorical (D0, D1, etc.)

Drought Condition (Percent Area):

Week	Date	Nothing	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	4/22/2014	0.00	100.00	100.00	96.01	78.68	24.77
Last Week	4/15/2014	0.00	100.00	99.80	95.21	68.78	23.49
3 Months Ago	1/21/2014	1.43	98.57	94.18	89.91	62.71	0.00
Start of Calendar Year	12/31/2013	2.81	97.39	94.25	87.53	27.59	0.00
Start of Water Year	10/1/2013	2.83	97.37	95.95	84.12	11.36	0.00
One Year Ago	4/23/2013	2.84	97.16	83.42	30.00	0.00	0.00

[View More Statistics](#)

Intensity:

- D0 - Abnormally Dry
- D1 - Moderate Drought
- D2 - Severe Drought
- D3 - Extreme Drought
- D4 - Exceptional Drought

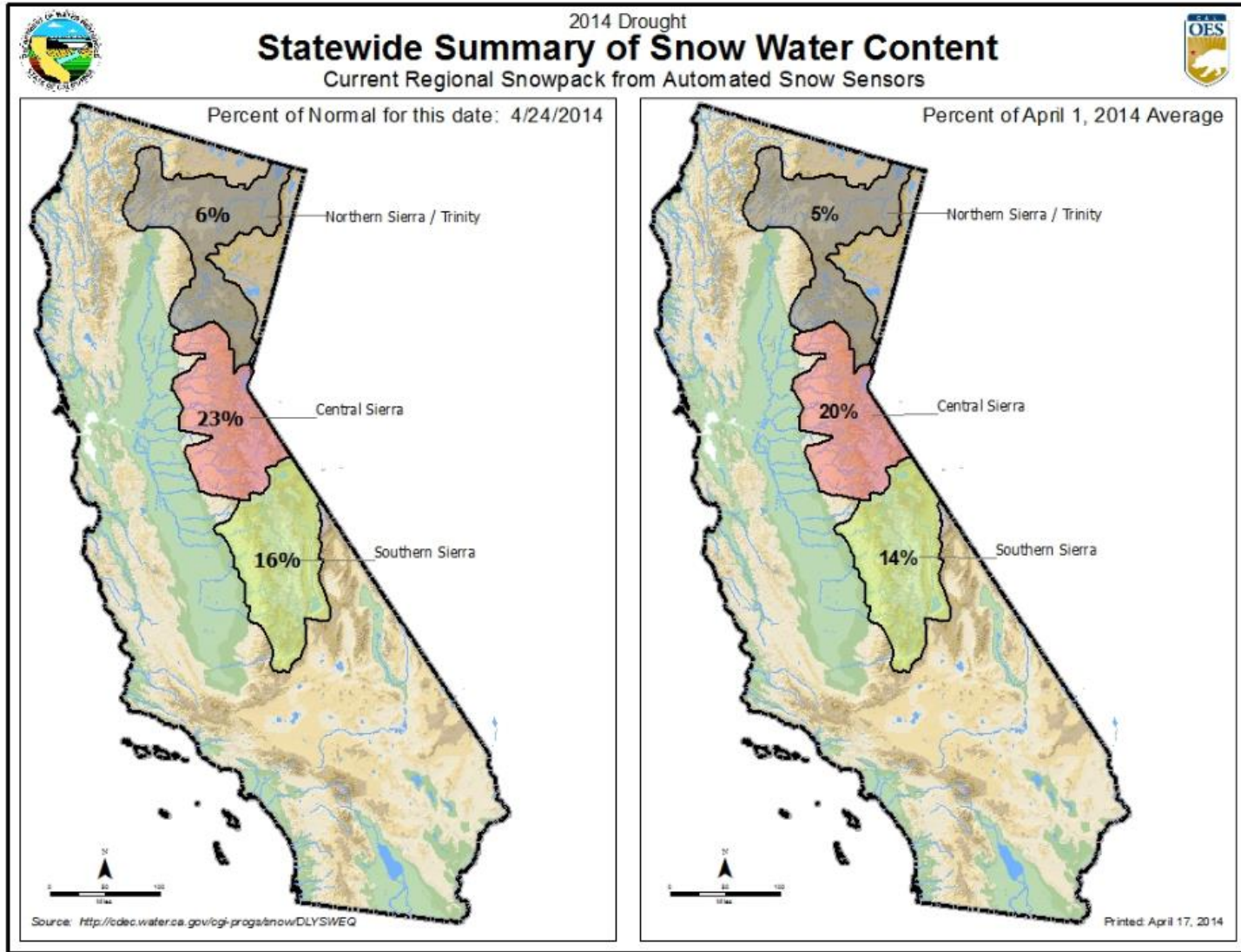
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying [text summary](#) for forecast statements.

The D4 (Exceptional Drought) is the worst drought category on the Drought Monitor and **the first time it's been used in California since this monitoring system started in 2000.** The degradation was made due to historically low rainfall amounts so far this winter, long-term precipitation deficits stretching several years, and a growing number of increasingly significant drought impacts. **In addition, 68% of California is now covered by D3/D4 conditions.**

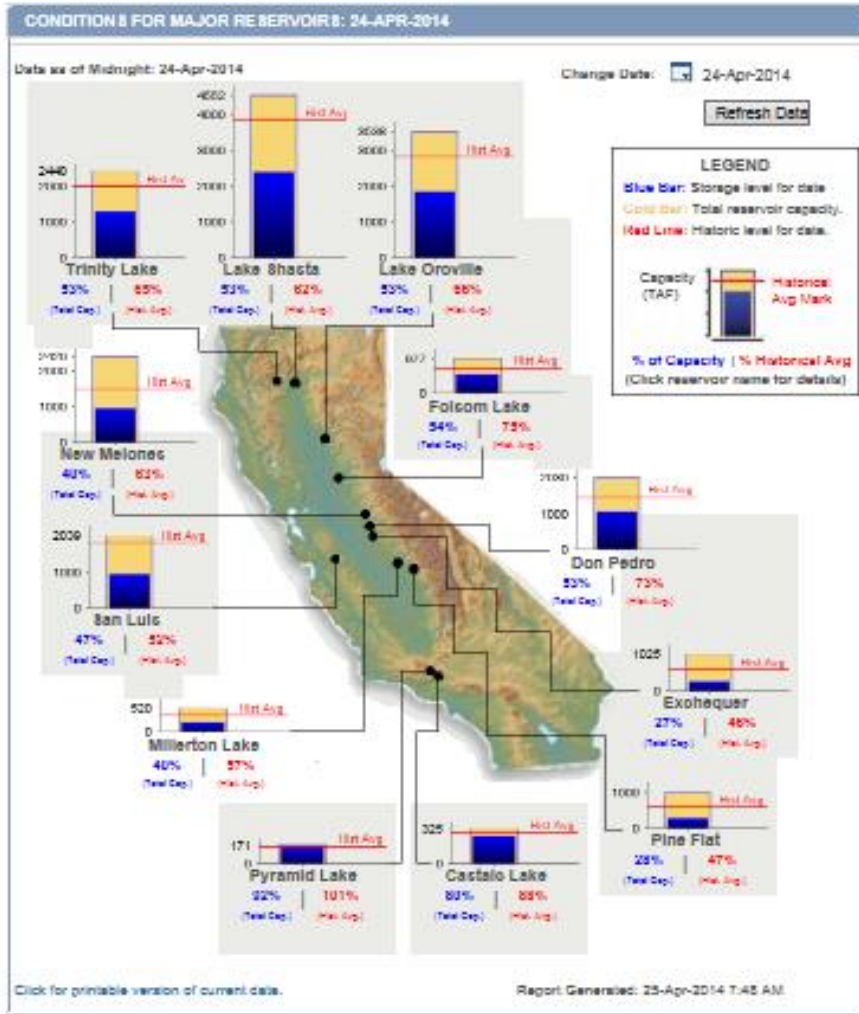
Note: Updated Weekly

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA>

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sto/droughtca.php>



California Data Exchange Center - Reservoirs



Reservoir Levels

Many parts of California -- including Sacramento and Los Angeles -- marked calendar year 2013 as the driest on record. These extremely dry conditions follow two previous dry years statewide.

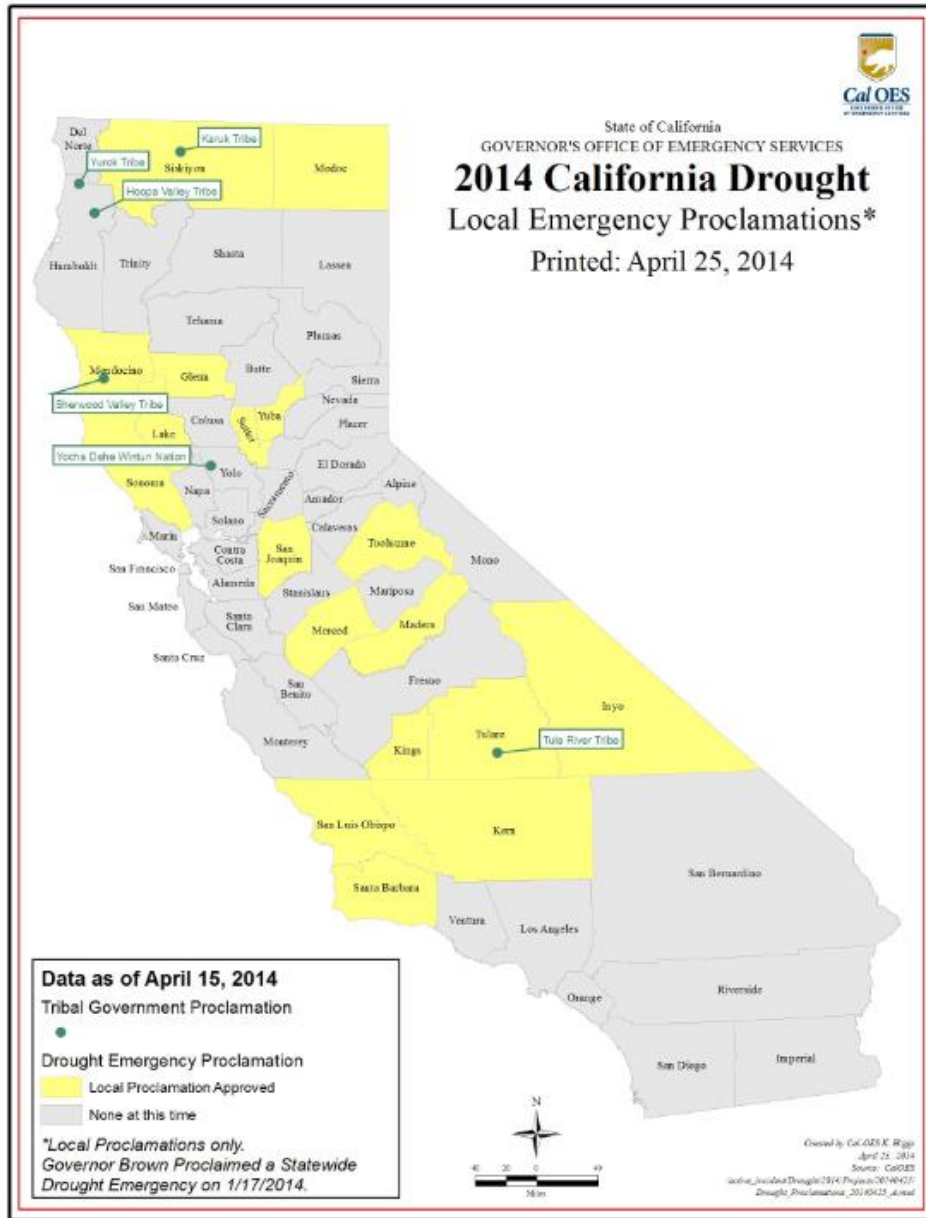
Storage in the reservoirs that typically help California cope with dry weather are well below average for this time of year.

River levels are low around the state. Along the North Coast, the Russian River, and the upper Sacramento River, levels are at their lowest points ever for this time of year.

Some water districts with a diversified portfolio of water sources and ample storage -- such as the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which serves 19 million people -- are prepared to weather a third dry winter.

Farmers who depend heavily on the State's two biggest water projects, the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, face minimal and uncertain supplies.

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecapp/resapp/getResGraphsMain.action>



Proclamations

State

1/17/14 Governor Edmund G. Brown proclaimed a State of Emergency

Counties

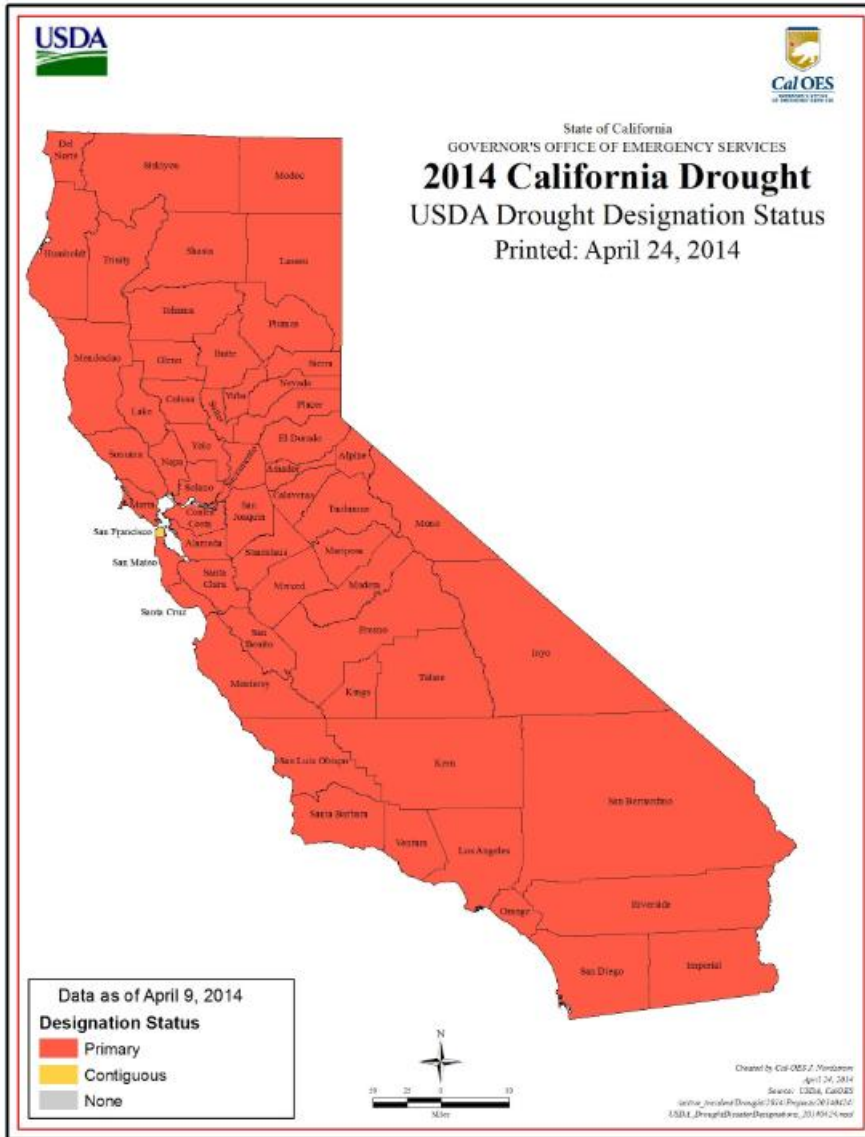
- Glenn (1/22/14)
- Inyo (1/29/14)
- Kern (1/14/14)
- Kings (1/14/14)
- Lake (1/17/14, ratified 3/4/14)
- Madera (1/17/14)
- Mendocino (1/7/14)
- Merced (2/25/14)
- Modoc (3/4/14)
- San Joaquin (2/25/14)
- San Luis Obispo (3/11/14)
- Santa Barbara (1/17/14)
- Siskiyou (3/11/2014)
- Sonoma (2/25/14)
- Sutter (2/11/14)
- Tulare (2/4/14)
- Tuolumne (2/4/14)
- Yuba (2/18/14)

Tribal

- Hoop Valley Reservation (1/20/14)
- Sherwood Valley Pomo Indian Tribe (2/19/14)
- Yurok Reservation (1/29/14)
- Tule River Indian Tribe (1/30/14)
- Karuk Tribe (2/18/14)
- Yocha Dehe Wintun (3/25/2014)

Federal

None



USDA Disaster Designation

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a secretarial disaster designation identifying 56 of 58 counties in California as primary natural disaster areas due to drought and 2 contiguous counties. This means that every county in California is now eligible to receive assistance.

USDA Disaster Designation – Individual Assistance

Information as of 4/25/14

