



# California Water and Infrastructure Report

## For April 23, 2020

### by Patrick Ruckert

**Published weekly since July, 2014**

**An archive of all these weekly reports can be found at both links below:**

<http://www.californiadroughtupdate.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaDroughtUpdate>

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*April 22 (EIRNS)—In an address to the United Nations Security Council April 21, World Food Program Executive Director David Beasley warned that 36 countries are facing famine. “Millions of civilians living in conflict-scarred nations, including many women and children, face being pushed to the brink of starvation, with the specter of famine a very real and dangerous possibility,” Beasley told to an online session of the UNSC.*

*“Forgive me for speaking bluntly,” he said, “but I’d like to lay out for you very clearly what the world is facing at this very moment. At the same time while dealing with a COVID-19 pandemic, we are also on the brink of a hunger pandemic.”*

## A Note To Readers

Following an update on the developing drought in California, is an invitation to the weekend internet broadcast conference of the Schiller Institute, “Mankind’s Existence Now Depends on the Establishment of a New Paradigm!” This Saturday and Sunday four panels featuring some of the best thinkers and scientists in the world will discuss, as the opening paragraph of the invitation reads:

*“This conference takes place in a time that challenges our moral fitness to survive. Even before the outbreak of the double crisis of the coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing financial blowout, it was evident that the old world order — the attempted establishment of a unipolar world after the disintegration of the Soviet Union — was breaking apart. With the spread of the pandemic and the turn by the central banks to “helicopter money,” we have now reached exactly the moment Lyndon LaRouche had warned about in August 1971, when he forecast that the monetarist floating-exchange-rate policies adopted by President Nixon, following his abandoning of the Bretton Woods system, would lead to a new depression and the danger of a new fascism. From 1974 on, LaRouche and his*

*science team warned repeatedly and published numerous studies, which pointed to the danger of the reemergence of old diseases and new pandemics as a result of the austerity policies imposed on the developing sector by the World Bank and the IMF.”*

The invitation includes both a schedule of the conference and describes each of the panels.

The world pandemic and economic collapse demands deliberation and action, not lies and aggression. For example, on April 21, the UN Security Council received a briefing from David Beasley, Executive Director of the World Food Program, on the urgent need for full and reliable volumes of staples, pre-staged for 36 countries completely dependent on this to survive. He warned of a “hunger pandemic” among 265 million human beings.

Follow this through. There are experts in the wings internationally, to confer to make this food lifeline happen, from shoring up farming in both hemispheres, to the logistics of shipping. The same must happen for all basics—industry, power, water, transportation, fuel. This is the essential back-up for pandemic emergency measures, and for the world health security system that must be put in place.

In turn, all this physical economic activation can only take place through the [LaRouche “Four Laws”](#) in appropriate application to each nation, whose initiation needs consultation among the leaders of the great powers. Every hour now counts to bring maximum participation for this weekend’s historic deliberation, [starting at 10 a.m. EDT—“Conference: Mankind’s Existence Now Depends on the Establishment of a New Paradigm!”](#)

President Trump's proposal for a \$2 trillion infrastructure building program is exactly what is required now.

### **Also in this week's report:**

As mentioned above the report begins with an update on the developing California drought.

Next is the conference invitation, also mentioned above.

There are more and more calls for at least the first of LaRouche's Four Laws-- returning to the Glass-Steagall banking law, outlawing once again the criminal speculative policies by the large Wall Street banks that gave us the collapse of 2008, and today we see in the trillions now being given to the same banks by the Federal Reserve.

Under the title, *“Infrastructure Failing As Supply Chain Slams into a Wall,”* are reports on failing bridges and the failing water supply system.

We include a short excerpt from and the links to a comprehensive policy statement on addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and the financial/real economy crises: *“LaRouche’s ‘Apollo Mission’ to Defeat the Global Pandemic: Build a World Health System Now!”*

Then, under the title, **“Some Crises and Some Solutions,”** are the following articles: *“CDC’s Redfield Plans Increased Public Health Capacity for Combined Winter COVID-19 and Flu Threat;”* *“World Food Program Exec Warns UNSC of ‘Hunger Pandemic’ Catastrophe in 36 Countries;”* and *“Save Agricultural Capacity, Dump the Dead ‘Markets’ System.”*

The final item this week returns us to California with a report on its agriculture sector's difficulties due to the pandemic.

# Drought and Megadroughts

This week's U.S. Drought Monitor continues to picture the slowly developing drought in the state. This week we see something new. Almost 5% of the state is now in "Extreme Drought." The red-colored splotch in the northwest corner of the state was not there last week.

Not to allow the opportunity to push the idea of "man-caused climate change" a new study claims that "A drought, equal to the worst to have hit the western US in recorded history, is already under way, say scientists. Researchers say the megadrought is a naturally occurring event that started in the year 2000 and is still ongoing."

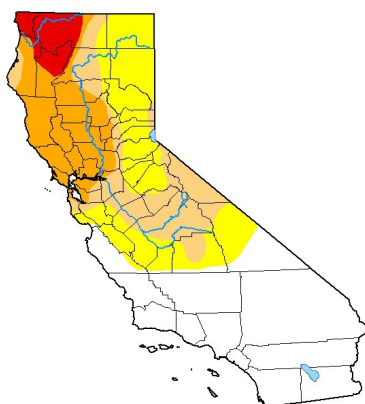
The article reporting this will be found below the U.S. Drought Monitor graphics, and does report that "this new study is contentious."

For further discussion of megadroughts, see my book review: "Are We Controlled by the Whims of Nature, or Will We Create Our Future?"

[https://larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2014/eirv41n19-20140509/48-52\\_4119.pdf](https://larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2014/eirv41n19-20140509/48-52_4119.pdf)

## U.S. Drought Monitor

### U.S. Drought Monitor California



**April 21, 2020**  
(Released Thursday, Apr. 23, 2020)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	41.80	58.20	35.70	19.59	4.66	0.00
Last Week (04-14-2020)	41.80	58.20	35.70	12.83	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago (01-21-2020)	96.39	3.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12-31-2019)	96.43	3.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (10-01-2019)	95.29	4.71	2.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (04-21-2019)	94.03	5.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Intensity:**  
None D0 Abnormally Dry D1 Moderate Drought D2 Severe Drought D3 Extreme Drought D4 Exceptional Drought

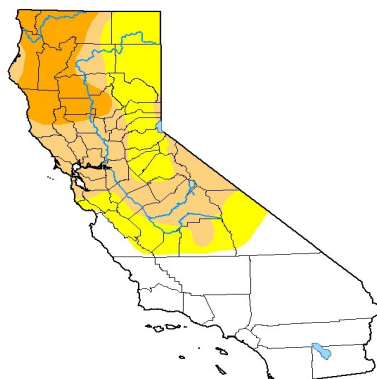
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

**Author:**  
Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

### U.S. Drought Monitor California



**April 14, 2020**  
(Released Thursday, Apr. 16, 2020)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	41.80	58.20	35.70	12.83	0.00	0.00
Last Week (04-07-2020)	32.29	67.71	43.31	1.30	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago (01-14-2020)	96.39	2.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12-31-2019)	96.43	3.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (10-01-2019)	95.29	4.71	2.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (04-16-2019)	94.03	5.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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**Author:**  
Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

## ***Climate change: US megadrought 'already under way'***

*By Matt McGrath Environment correspondent*

• 16 April 2020

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-52312260>

*A drought, equal to the worst to have hit the western US in recorded history, is already under way, say scientists.*

*Researchers say the megadrought is a naturally occurring event that started in the year 2000 and is still ongoing.*

*Climate change, though, is having a major impact with rising temperatures making the drought more severe.*

*Some researchers are more cautious, saying that it is too early to say if the region really is seeing a true megadrought.*

### ***So what exactly is a megadrought?***

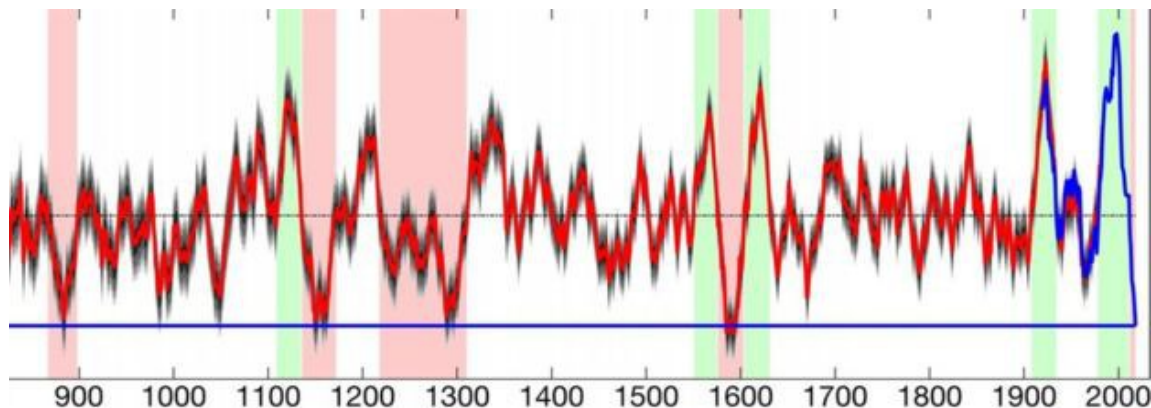
*According to the authors of this new paper, a megadrought in North America refers to a multi-decade event, that contains periods of very high severity that last longer than anything observed during the 19th or 20th centuries.*

*The authors say there have been around 40 drought events over the period from 800-2018 in the western US.*

*Of these, only four meet the criteria for a megadrought.*

*These were in the late 800s, the mid-1100s, the 1200s and the late 1500s.*

### ***What did the study find?***



*The researchers discovered that when they compared the worst 19-year drought events in the past to soil moisture records from 2000-2018, the current period is already worse than three of the four megadroughts recorded.*

*The fourth one, which ran from 1575 to 1603 was likely the worst one of all, but the difference with the present event is slight.*

*"The first two decades of this drought look just like the first two decades of all of the mega droughts," said lead author Dr Park Williams, from Columbia University in New York.*

*"In fact, it is essentially tied with the worst two decades of the worst of the mega droughts."*



***Is the current megadrought a natural event or was it caused by climate change?***

*The authors say that undoubtedly the current drought situation is a natural event but is being made much worse by climate change.*

***Is there full agreement among scientists that a megadrought is taking place right now?***

*No. This new study is contentious, especially as the definition of what exactly a megadrought means is still being argued over.*

*Some say that it is also way too early to declare that a megadrought is ongoing.*

*But even those who disagree with the idea, acknowledge there is water stress in the region and this is likely to get worse in the future.*

*"Whether or not the western US has crossed a threshold into an event that goes by any specific label, what's been clear this century is that water is an essential resource in the western US, and it's a precarious one, because the region can have long spells with little precipitation," said Dr Angeline Pendergrass, a scientist with the US National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR).*

*The [study has been published](#) in the journal Science.*

## **Conference: Mankind's Existence Now Depends on the Establishment of a New Paradigm!**

**Saturday, April 25**

**7:00am PDT; 10:00 am EDT; 16:00 CEST**

<https://schillerinstitute.com/blog/2020/03/29/conference-mankinds-existence-now-depends-on-the-establishment-of-a-new-paradigm/>



This conference takes place in a time that challenges our moral fitness to survive. Even before the outbreak of the double crisis of the coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing financial blowout, it was evident that the old world order — the attempted establishment of a unipolar world after the disintegration of the Soviet Union — was breaking apart. With the spread of the pandemic and the turn by the central banks to “helicopter money,” we have now reached exactly the moment Lyndon

LaRouche had warned about in August 1971, when he forecast that the monetarist floating-exchange-rate policies adopted by President Nixon, following his abandoning of the Bretton Woods system, would lead to a new depression and the danger of a new fascism. From 1974 on, LaRouche and his science team warned repeatedly and published numerous studies, which pointed to the danger of the reemergence of old diseases and new pandemics as a result of the austerity policies imposed on the developing sector by the World Bank and the IMF.

### [RSVP Today](#)

Helga Zepp-LaRouche has therefore renewed the long-standing proposal of her late husband Lyndon LaRouche, that only the combination of the four most powerful countries — the U.S., China, Russia, and India — can put the agenda for a new paradigm on the table. She has called for an emergency summit of President Donald Trump, President Xi Jinping, President Vladimir Putin, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to initiate the urgent reorganization of the bankrupt financial system through a New Bretton Woods system, and to establish a new level of international cooperation concerning strategic questions, joint science endeavors, physical economy, and a cultural renaissance. **Conference format**

This internet conference will be live-streamed. Speakers will be connected by video, and will have the opportunity for dialogue with each other during the panel discussion periods. Live questions and discussion will be available for conference attendees, in written form, with a possibility for video questions to be determined. Submit questions to [questions@schillerinstitute.org](mailto:questions@schillerinstitute.org).

## **Saturday, April 25**

### **Panel 1: “The Urgent Need to Replace Geopolitics with a New Paradigm in International Relations”**

**7:00am PDT; 10:00 am EDT; 16:00 CEST**

### **Panel 2: “For a Better Understanding of How Our Universe Functions”**

**12:00 noon PDT; 3:00 pm EDT**

## **Sunday, April 26**

### **Panel 3: “Creativity as the Distinctive Characteristic of Human Culture: The Need for a Classical Renaissance”**

**8:00am PDT; 11:00am EDT**

### **Panel 4: “The Science of Physical Economy”**

**12:00 Noon PDT; 3:00pm EDT**

**Go to the link for full details of the panels of the conference:**

<https://schillerinstitute.com/blog/2020/03/29/conference-mankinds-existence-now-depends-on-the-establishment-of-a-new-paradigm/>

## Action Begins Toward LaRouche's Four Laws

While leaders of Latin America and Africa are calling for reduction or outright cancellation of the hundreds of billions these nations owe to the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the parasites of London and Wall Street, new calls for step one of the Four Laws, restoring the Glass-Steagall banking law, are being raised both in the U.S. and other parts of the world. Early this week a call for a New Bretton Woods monetary system was raised by a member of the European Parliament. Lyndon LaRouche in 1997 called for that idea as the necessary reform for the global financial system.



*President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Glass-Steagall banking law in 1933*

Here are two examples from the U.S:

### ***Paul Craig Roberts Declares U.S. Has No Future without Glass-Steagall***

*April 20, 2020 (EIRNS)—Paul Craig Roberts' column on his website, headlined "Are We Brewing a New Feudalism?" on April 16, says the U.S. economy has no future without restoring the Glass-Steagall Act and infrastructure programs. A large share of households have no fallback savings and depend on employment income to pay bills from month to month; they will not survive this employment collapse and will lose their homes to Wall Street. The same is true for thousands of small businesses which will be lost.*

*Roberts calls this the coup de grâce of a long-term process.*

*"The destruction of the U.S. economy has been underway since global corporations moved middle class jobs offshore. It has been underway since the financial sector diverted a larger share of consumer income to the service of debt. It has been underway since corporations invested their profits in buying back their own shares instead of expanding their production capabilities. It has been underway since quantitative easing inflated stock and bond prices beyond realistic values. It has been going on since the rules against concentration were set aside and the Glass-Steagall Act was repealed. It has been going on since endless wars crowded out infrastructure investment and social safety net expansion."*

## **Oil Price Collapse Delivers a Loud Warning**

**By Pam Martens and Russ Martens: April 21, 2020 ~**

<https://wallstreetonparade.com/2020/04/oil-price-collapse-delivers-a-loud-warning/>

On April 17, a devastating report was published in the Immokalee Bulletin titled “[The Day South Florida Agriculture Died](#).” The report came from Gene McAvoy, associate director for stakeholder relations for the University of Florida IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center and president of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.

“R.C. Hatton has plowed under 100 acres of green beans, around 2 million pounds, and 60 acres of cabbage, or 5 million pounds.

“Florida’s tomato growers target 80% of their production to restaurants and other food service companies, rather than to supermarkets. In this sector, growers are walking away from big portions of their crop.

“Tony DiMare estimates that by the end of the growing season, about 10 million pounds of his tomatoes will go unpicked.”

The demand destruction has also impacted cattle ranchers. The article notes that “The cash market and futures prices are lower than anyone can remember. One local rancher sold calves last week and averaged \$250 per head at the Arcadia auction barn. A few weeks ago he would have received \$450 per head average, and that constitutes below break-even.” That’s a 44 percent price decline.

Hog farmers are also facing a crisis. The Associated Press [reported yesterday](#) that “...almost overnight millions of hogs stacking up on farms now have little value.”

There is growing evidence that all of this demand destruction leading to collapsing prices cannot be blamed on the coronavirus outbreak. Treasury yields were plunging in August and September of last year, long before there was a coronavirus outbreak anywhere in the world. The Federal Reserve had to step in on September 17, 2019 – four months before the first coronavirus case in the U.S. – to shore up a liquidity crisis on Wall Street. The crisis was so bad that the Fed had to pump hundreds of billions of dollars weekly into the trading houses on Wall Street for months on end. (See the [more than six dozen articles](#) we penned on that topic from September 17 onward.)

U.S. manufacturing [had already entered a recession in 2019](#) and the International Monetary Fund announced in October of 2019 that it was downgrading its global outlook and “[predicted that growth in advanced economies would slow from 2.3% in 2018 to 1.7%](#)” in 2019.

The U.S. had a previous warning of what causes this type of demand destruction. It is now known as the Great Financial Crisis of 2007 to 2010. The roots of that era of collapsing prices and today’s date back to November 12, 1999 when President Bill Clinton signed the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act repealing the Glass-Steagall Act. Clinton’s signature on that legislation ended the 66-year long ban against Wall Street trading houses owning federally-insured banks holding the deposits of moms and pops across America.

Nine years later, the U.S. financial system collapsed along with iconic, century old names on Wall Street as the U.S. entered the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression. This is round II.

## **Infrastructure Failing As Supply Chain Slams into a Wall**



## ***U.S. has 230,000 bridges that need major repairs or replacement, new report says***

By [Ian Duncan](#)

April 13, 2020 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/us-has-230000-bridges-that-need-major-repairs-or-replacement-new-report-says/2020/04/13/499718c0-7db4-11ea-a3ee-13e1ae0a3571\\_story.html?fbclid=IwAR36veIDGhYJ3sua9yGc2beIQzNOiS2mqAVdAmrwrFXtSwbTufMoAXQOMGU](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/us-has-230000-bridges-that-need-major-repairs-or-replacement-new-report-says/2020/04/13/499718c0-7db4-11ea-a3ee-13e1ae0a3571_story.html?fbclid=IwAR36veIDGhYJ3sua9yGc2beIQzNOiS2mqAVdAmrwrFXtSwbTufMoAXQOMGU)

*The United States has some 230,000 bridges collectively stretching 6,300 miles that need to either be replaced or undergo major repairs, according to a new analysis of federal data by a trade group for road builders.*

*The group estimates the cost of the job at \$164 billion.*

*The findings, issued Monday by the American Road & Transportation Builders Association, highlighted the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge connecting Virginia and the District as one of 46,000 deemed “structurally deficient,” the worst rating.*

*The report once again underscores the aging nature of much of the nation’s road infrastructure as Congress faces a Sept. 30 deadline to reauthorize the federal highway funding program. Lawmakers and interest groups have their eye on a building package tied to that program as one way to boost the economy once it begins to recover from the effects of the [coronavirus](#) pandemic.*

*“Economic recovery from coronavirus begins with strategic road and bridge improvements,” ARTBA President Dave Bauer said. “Increased transportation investments support direct job creation and retention, while putting in place capital assets that will enhance U.S. productivity for decades to come.”*

*While the connotations of the term “structurally deficient” might be scary, it does not mean a bridge poses an imminent danger to the public.*

*Nonetheless, ARTBA concluded that 81,000 bridges should be replaced and that conducting the recommended work would take more than 50 years at the current rate.*

*Reaching an accord on boosting spending on infrastructure [has eluded President Trump and congressional leaders](#), despite both sides’ stated desire to strike a deal.*

*The issue briefly received new attention when Trump tweeted last month that he would like to see a \$2 trillion spending package to help with the recovery from the coronavirus. House Democrats quickly [branded an existing \\$760 billion program](#) they have been working on as fitting the bill, only for Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) to [back away for the time being](#) in the face of Republican resistance.*

## **COVID-19 pandemic exposing America's water infrastructure crisis**

By Laura Rubin, opinion contributor — 04/15/20 03:30 PM EDT

[https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/492942-covid-19-pandemic-exposing-americas-water-infrastructure-crisis?fbclid=IwAR3l4kNZjQ7wiLpdWv7c-NTur52cY0a2xHDE\\_jqg0lhNDl2idgp6WTW81R8](https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/492942-covid-19-pandemic-exposing-americas-water-infrastructure-crisis?fbclid=IwAR3l4kNZjQ7wiLpdWv7c-NTur52cY0a2xHDE_jqg0lhNDl2idgp6WTW81R8)

The COVID-19 pandemic is revealing another humanitarian crisis that is afflicting millions of people across the United States — [the lack of safe, affordable water](#).

The reasons vary. A leading cause is persistent environmental degradation. Toxic chemical pollution. Farm runoff from fertilizer and animal waste. Mining contaminants. The list goes on.

Yet, even in cities and towns with safe water, many families do not have access. Why? They cannot afford to pay their water bills and [have had their water shut off](#).

Less attention has been focused on the reason that people can't pay their water bills.

How is it that in the world's largest economy, millions of people are having their water shut-off? How is it that in the Great Lakes region — home to upwards of [20 percent of the world's surface freshwater](#) — there [are tens of thousands of people](#) without access to affordable water?

Look no further than the federal government, which has failed to adequately invest in water infrastructure for decades.

In 1977, [63 percent of total capital spending for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure came from the U.S. federal government](#). Today that number is less than nine percent.

As federal investment has dwindled, cash-strapped states and local communities have failed to make up the difference, leading to an enormous backlog of work.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that nearly [\\$743 billion is needed over the next 20 years](#) to maintain, upgrade, and build adequate [drinking water](#) and [wastewater](#) infrastructure. And that estimate may be low: The American Water Works Association estimates that needed investments for drinking water infrastructure alone top [\\$1 trillion over the next 25 years](#).

The dilapidated state of U.S. infrastructure – and increasing backlog of work – led the American Society of Civil Engineers, in their quadrennial assessment of the country's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, to hand out grades of “[D](#)” and “[D+](#)” respectively.

## **But at Least Our Remaining Nuclear Power Plants Work Well**

America's 96 commercial nuclear power plants generated a record 809.4 million MWh of electricity in 2019, the highest in the era of commercial nuclear power since 1957, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) reported. The 2019 figure represents nearly 20% of all electricity generation, with 38.4% for natural gas, 23.5% coal, 7.3% wind, and 6.8% hydro. The NEI also said average total generating costs have decreased from \$44.57 per MWh at their 2012 peak to \$30.42 per MWh in 2019, a reduction of nearly 32%. This includes fuel, capital, and operations costs, and is the lowest average cost recorded by the Electric Utility Cost Group.

## **A Comprehensive Policy Statement on the COVID-19 Pandemic and Financial Meltdown**

### **LaRouche's 'Apollo Mission' to Defeat the Global Pandemic: Build a World Health System Now!**

<https://larouchepac.com/20200411/larouche-s-apollo-mission-defeat-global-pandemic-build-world-health-system-now>

Here is a PDF version:

[https://larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2020/2020\\_10-19/2020-16/06-19\\_4716.pdf](https://larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2020/2020_10-19/2020-16/06-19_4716.pdf)

**Here are the first few paragraphs of Part I**

At the time this urgent call to build a World Health System was published, the world had confirmed over 1.75 million cases of COVID-19, and the number of deaths attributed to the pandemic was over 100,000. This disease, first active in humans in December or November 2019, has spread, within a matter of months, to nearly all nations of the world, with a ferocious rate of growth in populations not taking strong measures to arrest its advance. The mortality rate among those infected is estimated to be an order of magnitude greater than that of the seasonal flu. At the time you are reading this call to action, the numbers will be greater, possibly much, much greater.

Gravest of all, we could be witnessing an explosion of infections and deaths in the so-called less-developed sector or Third World, especially in Africa — whose underdevelopment is the Achilles Heel of the entire human species, which requires special attention, as we specify below.

Defeating this deadly virus will require immediate, coordinated global action: intensive public health measures, including extensive testing and isolation of those found to be infected; a huge increase in the availability of healthcare facilities and equipment; significant investment and resources devoted to finding cures and a vaccine; great strides in sanitation measures, especially in less-developed nations; and an end to the historically unnecessary lack of development — and outright looting — in the world. This global pandemic emphatically requires a global response, as reservoirs of the virus in any part of the world could cause resurgences for years

*It requires a World Health System covering every part of the planet.*

Such a global response requires, most centrally, the coordination of the United States, China, Russia, and India, a Four Powers alliance open to all nations of the planet. The leaders of those four nations should hold a summit as soon as possible to work out common approaches to addressing the enormous health, material, and infrastructural needs of the world, as a first step towards creating an entirely New Paradigm to replace the bankrupt old system.

There is no other way, no lesser course, that will actually defeat the pandemic.

Although COVID-19 is the disaster currently inflicting itself on humanity, it is only one of many to which the world is susceptible, due to a failure of the international order over the past fifty years, most especially the deadly looting of developing sector nations. A solar coronal mass ejection could knock out most of the world's electricity grids — why have they not been hardened against this, even in the so-called “developed” countries? An as-yet-undiscovered asteroid or comet could destroy an entire continent — why have we developed no defenses against this threat? There are 800 million people on this planet who lack adequate food — why has this been tolerated? A plague of locusts currently menaces the lives and livelihoods of tens of millions. Another disease could spring up any week — why do we not have better defenses against viruses?

The world community must create a resiliency for successful long-term survival, not just in the short-term while hoping that no unusual events occur, but prepared for true safety and security. This cannot occur under the neo-liberal economic paradigm that is now failing. It cannot occur under a regime of bailout and treating financial values as sacrosanct. That system, with its \$1.8 quadrillion speculative bubble, is now thoroughly bankrupt, and must be put through a process of bankruptcy reorganization long specified by the American economist Lyndon H. LaRouche, along with the simultaneous requirement to build a new Hamiltonian credit system, nationally and internationally, to put humanity back on the track of science-driven physical-economic development. The long-term successful survival and flourishing of the human species requires a world system that recognizes the divine spark of potential genius in each individual and which seeks to foster that potential through economic, cultural, and scientific development.

Below, we take up the task of delineating the needed World Health System. This is a first

approximation of the requirements, which we hope will be enriched by input from international experts and concerned people in the immediate weeks ahead.

We begin by posing, and answering, two questions:

1. What is the cause of this, possibly the worst crisis humanity has ever faced?
2. What is the full set of measures that should be taken on all fronts, both in the United States and worldwide, to defeat the pandemic?



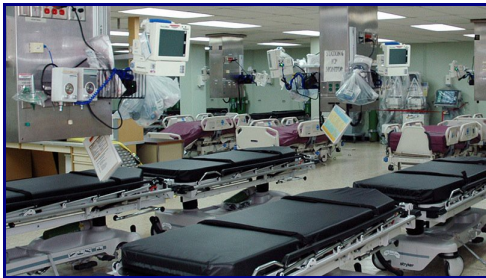
## LaRouche's 'Apollo Mission' to Defeat the Global Pandemic: Build a World Health System Now! | LaRouchePAC

Part I. At the time this urgent call to build a World Health System was published, the world had confirmed over 1.75 million cases of COVID-19, and the number of deaths attributed to the pandemic was over 100,000.

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## Defeating the Pandemic, Part II: Public Health Measures

<https://larouhepac.com/20200413/defeating-pandemic-part-ii-public-health-measures>



## Defeating the Pandemic, Part II: Public Health Measures | LaRouchePAC

In Part I, we laid out our overview of tackling the global pandemic from a global standpoint. Here in Part II, we will discuss necessary health measures in more detail. Part III will take up the physical, economic, scientific, and political changes needed to make these measures possible on a...

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## Defeating the Pandemic, Part III: Industry, Infrastructure, and Political Requirements



## Defeating the Pandemic, Part III: Industry, Infrastructure, and Political Requirements | LaRouchePAC

Providing the health measures in Chapter 1 will require major investments into manufacturing and into basic economic infrastructure. Here in Part III, we take up the physical, economic, scientific, and political changes needed to make these measures possible on a global scale. The inexcusable...

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## **Some Crises and Some Solutions**

### **CDC's Redfield Plans Increased Public Health Capacity for Combined Winter COVID-19 and Flu Threat**

April 22 (EIRNS)—In an interview yesterday with National Public Radio and the *Washington Post*, Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), outlined his plan for rapidly expanding the magnitude of what he called “functional public health capacity” in the U.S. that will be required beginning in November and extending into February 2021, to deal with both another wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and seasonal influenza.

Mainstream media chose to blare out headlines claiming that Redfield was predicting another wave of COVID-19 next winter. The *Washington Post* blared its headline “CDC Director Warns Second Wave of Coronavirus Is Likely To Be Even More Devastating,” and quoting Redfield as saying, “There’s a possibility that the assault of the virus on our nation next winter will actually be even more difficult than the one we just went through.”

President Trump intervened with a tweet denouncing the fake news, and had Redfield and medical advisor, the State Department’s Dr. Deborah Birx with him at the very beginning of this afternoon’s White House Task Force Briefing, to put down the media sensationalism. In his correction, Redfield repeated that he was warning of the combined threat of COVID-19 and influenza and the need to prepare for both threats, and emphasized that he didn’t say next winter would be “worse,” but “more difficult.” He continued, “We can’t let the public health system get overwhelmed ... the centerpiece of our response needs to be the tried-and-true, proven-to-work public health response to early case recognition, diagnosis, isolation and contact tracing” in the months immediately ahead.

Public health officials, he said, must prepare for what’s coming, and urge people to get flu shots. If COVID-19 had hit in the U.S. before the flu season had peaked, he told the *Post*, “it could have been really, really, really, really difficult in terms of health capacity.”

Now, what is required, he continued, is to vastly increase public health personnel in the states, including medical experts, to work on contact tracing and other tasks. There will be a COVID Response Team of CDC personnel in each state, he explained, but in addition, “we’re prepared to expand the public health workforce for contact tracing to the extent that we need it, whether it’s 10,000, 20,000, 30,000, 50,000. We need to begin to define that number of public health contact tracers we need across the nation.”

CDC is right now in the process of talking with state officials about the possibility of using Census Bureau workers, and Peace Corps and AmeriCorps volunteers to build “an alternative workforce.” Census Bureau workers could be trained “to be part of a comprehensive contact-tracing effort,” Redfield said. The idea is to determine the best strategy. The *Washington Post* pointed to estimates by the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (representing state health departments) that 100,000 more contact tracers are needed than currently work in states, which will require \$3.5 billion in emergency funding from Congress.

### ***World Food Program Exec Warns UNSC of ‘Hunger Pandemic’ Catastrophe in 36 Countries***

April 22 (EIRNS)—In an address to the United Nations Security Council April 21, World Food Program Executive Director David Beasley warned that 36 countries are facing famine. “Millions of civilians living in conflict-scarred nations, including many women and children, face being pushed to



*the brink of starvation, with the specter of famine a very real and dangerous possibility,” Beasley told to an online session of the UNSC.*

*“Forgive me for speaking bluntly,” he said, “but I’d like to lay out for you very clearly what the world is facing at this very moment. At the same time while dealing with a COVID-19 pandemic, we are also on the brink of a hunger pandemic.”*

*Citing the book-length [2020 Global Report on Food Crises](#) which the WFP and 15 other humanitarian organizations released on April 20, he reported that altogether there are 821 million people who go to bed hungry and an additional 265 million facing crisis levels of hunger or worse. “That means 135 million people on Earth are marching towards the brink of starvation. But now the World Food Program analysis shows that, due to the coronavirus, an additional 130 million people could be pushed to the brink of starvation by the end of 2020. That’s a total of 265 million people,” he said.*

*The WFP director stressed that “the economic and health impacts of COVID-19 are most worrisome for communities in countries across Africa as well as the Middle East, because the virus threatens further damage to the lives and livelihoods of people already put at risk by conflict.” Beasley said that WFP is prioritizing efforts to help children.*

*Currently, there are “1.6 billion children and young people ... out of school due to lockdown closures. Nearly 370 million children are missing out on nutritious school meals—you can only imagine, when children don’t get the nutrition they need, their immunity goes down. Where nutritious school meals have been suspended by school closures, we are working to replace them with take-home rations, wherever possible.” But more must be done, he urged. “First and foremost, we need peace. As the Secretary-General recently said very clearly, a global ceasefire is essential.”*

*There are no famines yet, Beasley said. “But I must warn you that if we don’t prepare and act now ... we could be facing multiple famines of Biblical proportions within a few short months.” Thus, “the actions we take will determine our success, or failure, in building sustainable food systems as the basis of stable and peaceful societies. The truth is, we do not have time on our side, so let’s act wisely—and let’s act fast.”*

## **Save Agricultural Capacity, Dump the Dead ‘Markets’ System**

by Marcia Merry Baker and Robert Baker

*This article appears in the [April 17, 2020 issue](#) of **Executive Intelligence Review**.*

[https://larouchepub.com/other/2020/4716-save\\_agricultural\\_capacity.html](https://larouchepub.com/other/2020/4716-save_agricultural_capacity.html)

April 11—President Donald Trump announced on April 9 that he had ordered Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to intervene in the farm crisis, after Perdue, the day before, had met with reporters, saying that he was reviewing measures to be taken. Trump tweeted,

I have directed @SecretarySonny to expedite help to our farmers, especially to the smaller farmers who are hurting right now. I expect Secretary Purdue to use all of the funds and authorities at his disposal to make sure that our food supply is stable, strong, and safe. We will always be there for our Great Farmers, Cattlemen, Ranchers, and Producers!

What it means for government action to “be there” for farmers and ranchers right now, is: emergency action to *save agriculture capacity*, and to look to longer-term measures to establish a secure, family-farm based system. Action for farmers is equally action in the public interest, because it guarantees a reliable food supply, both at home and in collaboration with other nations for places of need around the world.

The American Farm Bureau Federation summed up the crisis in an April 7 [press release](#):

Nearby futures prices for nearly all the major crops have dropped by double-digit percentages. Pushed down by a 40% plunge in ethanol prices, corn prices have fallen 15%. Soybean prices are down 10%, while the price for cotton, which is heavily dependent on foreign manufacturing capacity, sank nearly 30%. Buoyed by demand in the U.S. and China, wheat prices have declined only 3%.

On the livestock front, since the beginning of the year, both beef and pork futures prices have declined more than 30%. Milk futures prices have also fallen sharply, with the price for milk used to make cheese down 28% and the price for milk used to make nonfat dry milk falling by 34%.

The resilience of farmers and ranchers has been nothing short of stunning, but we must not take for granted their ability to hold on with prices spiraling, taking all hope of breaking even with them....

A letter to President Trump March 18, from Bill Bullard, CEO of R-CALF, the Montana-based Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund United Stockgrowers of America, stated, "America's largest segment of Agriculture—the U.S. live cattle industry, is in a {catastrophic crisis already}, and has been, since 2015. We pray for your attention."

## And In California

### ***Food system tries to match demand, supply (excerpts)***

*April 22, 2020*

*By Christine Souza*

*California Farm Bureau Federation*

<https://www.agalert.com/story/?id=13943>

*The nation's complicated and essential food system continues to adjust to the sharp, sudden shift in demand spurred by stay-at-home orders and food-service shutdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic. For farmers and others in the food supply chain, the immediate and long-term future remains uncertain as peak harvest season nears for many commodities.*

*California Farm Bureau Federation President Jamie Johansson said farmers and ranchers are feeling the effects from lost or disrupted markets, plant closures or added on-farm safety requirements.*

*"Our farms and ranches are not left unaffected by this," Johansson said. "A Farm Bureau survey that we're doing is finding that more than half of responding members have lost off-farm income because of the shutdowns, and this is on top of plummeting commodity prices. In some cases, there may be no market for crops this harvest. There simply won't be enough (relief) money to cover all the losses or to make everyone whole."*

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced plans to distribute \$16 billion in direct payments to farmers and ranchers affected by pandemic-related losses, plus another \$3 billion in food purchases for food banks and other charitable organizations ([see related story](#)).*

*With about half of the state's vegetable crops sold to food service such as restaurants and the other half to retail grocers, Cory Lunde of Western Growers said, "If we don't turn this around in fairly short order, then it could be a very, very difficult season for California farmers."*

*Growers of winter vegetable crops have seen immediate losses, Lunde said, and as production shifts to the Central Coast, concerns arise about farmers who have staggered plantings in the ground heading into peak harvest.*

*"The great unknown is: How long will this pandemic last and how long will the impact last on the market?" Lunde said. "It could be a completely lost year for California growers who harvest in the summertime or, if we're able to turn this around, maybe there could be a short, four-to-six-week window where we can get the tail end of the season."*

*At the same time, food banks have seen a surge in demand as unemployment rates rise.*

*Steve Linkhart, who directs the Farm to Family program for the California Association of Food Banks, said by mid-April the program had "already shipped the normal month's worth of products, over 12 million pounds." He said food banks are not running out of food, but said he expects demand at food banks to continue to increase.*

*(Christine Souza is an assistant editor of Ag Alert. She may be contacted at [csouza@cfbf.com](mailto:csouza@cfbf.com).)*