

U.S. Drought Monitor for February 20, 2022

California Water and Infrastructure Report For February 22, 2024

**(With expanded coverage of all the Western States)
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>

For a free subscription to the weekly report: Send me an email-- patruckert@gmail.com

A Note to Readers

I call your attention to this week's **Feature** by including the introduction to it here: The **Feature** begins on page 12.

Feature: Return to the American System

In honor of Presidents' Day this week, we present an article published in 2007 by LaRouche PAC. Henry C. Carey was one of the top economic advisors to Abraham Lincoln. And after the assassination of President Lincoln, Carey continued the fight for the American System. It is that American System that once again must be embraced by the United States. That is even more important for Americans to now understand, as the British are now invading the Trump campaign, attempting to impose on the new Trump administration, beginning in January next year; the same damn British System of free trade, rejected by both Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Also, see the addendum to this report.

The Rest of This Week's Report

FLASH: Moon landing: US lander successfully touches down in 'giant leap forward for all of humanity.

The *U.S. Drought Monitor* for the Western States shows that despite more than a month of storms, the drought still has a hold on significant areas of the West.

Under my title, "*The California Snowpack and Reservoirs*," you will find an update on the improved snowpack after the last two weeks of storms, and virtually all the reservoirs in California are now full.

Next, a brief history lesson demonstrating that while this winter's storms are serious, they still have not done the damage the 1986 series of storms did to the state.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) today announced an increase in the State Water Project (SWP) allocation forecast for 2024. The forecast allocation is now 15 percent of requested supplies. That is matched by the Bureau of Reclamation for the Central Valley contractors.

As the saying goes, "better late than never," but not much better, yet. Had the *Sites Reservoir* been built years ago, when it was proposed, then more than 1.2 million acre feet of water would be stored there from last year's and this year's storms.

Similarly with desalination, and we remember well Governor Newsom's *Coastal Commission* more than a year ago rejecting the building of a large plant in Huntington Beach.

Still in drought, the Colorado River Basin and the two major reservoirs, Lake Mead and Lake Powell, while rising a little do to the recent storms are still at only about 34% of capacity. Once again, as last year, the remainder of the year will avoid major imposed rationing, still the future, as forecast by the Bureau of Reclamation, is one of a steadily declining flow of water into the reservoirs.

Moon landing: US lander successfully touches down in 'giant leap forward for all of humanity'

It has landed closer to the moon's south pole than any other craft.

Friday 23 February 2024

<https://news.sky.com/story/us-lander-successfully-touches-down-on-moon-for-first-time-in-over-50-years-13078510>

The Odysseus lander has successfully touched down after a "nail-biting" descent saw the first ever privately owned craft reach the moon's surface.

The Intuitive Machines' lander is also the first US lander to successfully reach the moon in more than 50 years - since the last of NASA's Apollo programme in 1972.



*Image: The Odysseus spacecraft passes over the near side of the Moon Pic: Intuitive Machines/via REUTERS
There was applause and cheers in the Houston control room as landing success was confirmed after a few tense minutes.*

"I know this was a nail-biter, but we are on the surface, and we are transmitting," Intuitive Machines CEO Steve Altemus said.

"Welcome to the moon."



Image: Flight controllers at Intuitive Machines in Houston celebrate the landing Pic: Intuitive Machines via AP

U.S. Drought Monitor

February 20, 2024

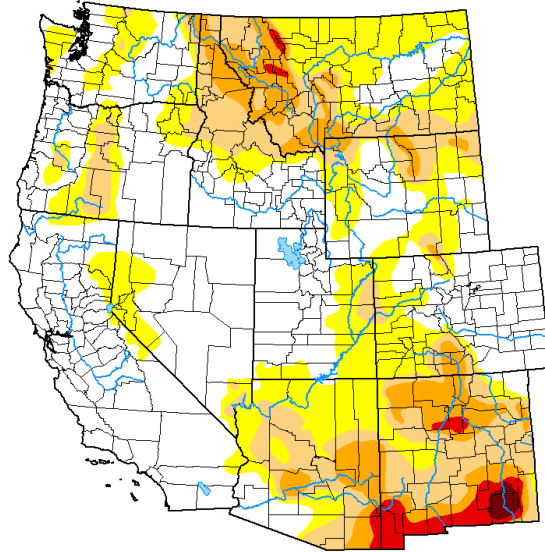
The West

Five inches or more of precipitation fell along the California coast, across much of northern California, and in southwestern coastal Oregon, with 2 inches or more inland to the Sierra Nevada, Oregon Cascade mountain range, and over southwestern coastal Washington.

Half an inch to an inch of precipitation fell across southern parts of the Pacific Northwest inland to the Rockies and a few areas to the north, with up to 2 inches falling from the Great Salt Lake area to Yellowstone National Park.

Another area of 1 to 2 inches of precipitation occurred over the Colorado Rockies into adjacent Wyoming. Parts of California have received over 10 inches of precipitation during February and the Sierra Nevada range has received 1 to 3 feet of new snow since the end of January.

But even with a wet February, much of the Sierra Nevada still has a below-normal snowpack. As of February 16, the northern Sierra snow water content (SWE) was 83% of normal, the central Sierra SWE was 74% of normal, and the southern Sierra SWE was 72% of normal. So, the D0 along the California-Nevada border was left unchanged.



U.S. Drought Monitor for February 30, 2024

While this week was dry across New Mexico, precipitation from the last 2 weeks to 3 months prompted the elimination of the D4 in southwestern New Mexico and the northwest D2, and contraction of the D3 in north central and D2 in southwestern parts of the state.

In northern parts of the West, precipitation for the water year to date (October 1, 2023-February 18, 2024) has been largely below normal and the winter snowpack is significantly below normal. Parts of the northern Rockies have record low SWE values, according to SNOTEL data.

D0 expanded in parts of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington; spots of severe drought (D2) were added in north central and northeast Wyoming; and D2 was expanded and new D3 added in parts of Montana, especially the western and southern mountains, where the last 3 to 4 months have been dry and SWE values are record low.

The California Snowpack and Reservoirs

Here's how much California's snowpack has improved after recent storms

By [Jack Lee](#) Updated Feb 21, 2024 9:50 a.m.

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/weather/article/california-snowpack-storm-ski-18678270.php>

After a slow start to the year, the Sierra Nevada snowpack has grown by leaps and bounds in recent weeks, thanks to a [series of heavy storms](#) with especially big impacts in the northern Sierra.

The latest measurements from the [California Department of Water Resources](#) places the statewide snowpack at 85% of normal for this time of year, according to data as of Tuesday. In comparison, the snowpack was just [52% of average](#) on Jan. 30 and a paltry [25% of average](#) on Jan. 2.

But the gains haven't been evenly distributed.

“Recent storms have provided a boost (to) the snowpack, but the Central and Southern Sierra still have not caught up from the deficit accumulated earlier this season,” said Michael Anderson, state climatologist with the Department of Water Resources, by email.

Still, the improvement is good news for the [state's water supply](#), which relies on snowmelt for [steadily providing water](#) during the spring and summer.

“These last several storms have really helped,” said Andrew Schwartz, lead scientist and manager of the lab. The warmer temperatures this year also mean that snow has been denser, with more water per inch of snowfall.

But it will still take more storms to get the snowpack to its average size for April 1, when the snowpack typically peaks.

“The snowpack's statewide water equivalent is only 67% of the April 1 average peak, which would be significantly below average if California were to miss out on additional storms between now and the end of the season,” Anderson said.

A History Lesson: Lots of Rain and Snow, But Not the Worst in the Last 40 Years

Revisiting one of the costliest storms in NorCal history 35 years later-- 1986 storms led to levee breaks, flooding



Updated: 9:13 AM PST Feb 19, 2021

[Mark Finan](#)

[Chief Meteorologist](#)

<https://www.kcra.com/article/1986-flood-revisiting-one-of-the-costliest-storms-in-norcal-history-35-years-later/35553920>

SACRAMENTO, Calif. —

It is the 35th anniversary of one of the costliest and devastating storms in the history of Northern California.

From Feb. 11 to Feb. 20, 1986, a series of three storms, each stronger than the previous, brought record-setting rain that, in some areas, overwhelmed flood control measures.

In the end, the storms claimed 13 lives, and the damage was estimated at \$400 million.

The storm also brought eventual changes to California's existing flood control system.

This Years Allocation of Water to Water Contractors is a Warning of a New Drought Ahead

DWR Announces Increase to Anticipated State Water Project Allocation for 2024

Published: Feb 21, 2024

https://water.ca.gov/News/News-Releases/2024/Feb-24/DWR-Announces-Increase-to-Anticipated-State-Water-Project-Allocation-for-2024?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_content=ap_8hjysljzct&fbclid=IwAR3JMEeDUq3o-LcuRAznuTdGP7AuYPvU-dQ33p0Lw-MCOZmNpo4P5lUIzFQ



A drone view taken above Merced County, shows both a section of the Dinosaur Point Boat Launch Ramp and some of the San Luis Reservoir, about 12 miles west of the city of Los Banos in California. Photo taken February 16, 2024.

Allocation update takes into account hydrology conditions up to February 1 and latest spring runoff forecasts

Forecasted allocation expected to be revised next month based on recent storms

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The Department of Water Resources (DWR) today announced an increase in the State Water Project (SWP) allocation forecast for 2024. The forecasted allocation is now 15 percent of requested supplies, up from the 10 percent initial allocation announced in December. This translates to about 200,000 acre-feet of additional water for the 29 public water agencies that serve 27 million Californians.

This assessment does not include the results of any of the storms that hit California earlier this month. The State Water Project will review conditions and may revise the forecasted allocation in mid-March. The February allocation forecast update takes into account snow survey measurements and data up until February 1 and spring runoff forecasts outlined in the first [Bulletin 120](#) of the season.

While California has seen a series of winter storms the past two months, those storms have been warmer and brought historic rainfall to Southern California. Northern California, the headwaters of the State Water Project, has seen less of a benefit from these storms and precipitation for that region was below average.

The State Water Project has been able to take advantage of these storms, increasing storage at both Lake Oroville and San Luis Reservoir. Lake Oroville has increased 460,000 acre-feet and San Luis Reservoir has increased 85,000 acre-feet since January 1.

As of today, the statewide snowpack is 86 percent of average for this date, and 69 percent of its April 1 average, which is considered the peak snowpack for the season.

State Water Project reservoirs remain above average for this time of year, as the state continues to benefit from last winter's historic snowpack and efforts to capture and store as much water as possible. Lake Oroville, the State Water Project's largest reservoir, is at 134 percent of average for this date.

California reservoir managers could sharply limit water to farms and cities this year

By [Kurtis Alexander](#)

Feb 21, 2024

https://www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/federal-central-valley-water-18679074.php?utm_source=marketing&utm_medium=copy-url-link&utm_campaign=article-share&hash=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc2ZjaHJvbmljbGUuY29tL2NhbGlmb3JuaWEvYXJ0aWNsZS9mZWRLcmFsLWNlbnRyYWwtdmFsbGV5LXdhdGVyLTE4Njc5MDc0LnBocA%3D%3D&time=MTcwODYxNjU1MDg1Nw%3D%3D&rid=OWU3MmE4YmItMmFIMy00MGQ5LThiODAtODZhMTdhNDViM2Rk&sharecount=MQ%3D%3D

Even after all the rain and snow in California this month, state and federal water managers have announced that they're planning to limit deliveries from the state's biggest reservoirs this year because seasonal precipitation has lagged. Their plans, however, don't fully account for the recent storms.

The State Water Project, with Lake Oroville as its centerpiece, said Wednesday that it expects to ship 15% of the water that was requested by the mostly urban water agencies it supplies, including many in the Bay Area. The estimate is up from 10% in December but still low.

The federally run Central Valley Project, which counts Shasta Lake among the many reservoirs it operates primarily for agriculture, expects to send 15% of the water requested by most irrigation agencies in the San Joaquin Valley and 75% to most in the Sacramento Valley.

Because the numbers don't reflect the wet weather in recent weeks, they'll probably change in coming months when shipment levels are finalized. Still, several communities expressed disappointment about the projected supplies, notably growers in California's farm country.

Building For the Future: 50 Years Too Late

PRESS RELEASE: New Analysis Finds Sites Reservoir Would Be 80 Percent Full After Recent Storms If It Were Operational Today

[Press Release/Notice](#)

[Press Release/Other](#)

<https://mavensnotebook.com/2024/02/17/press-release-new-analysis-finds-sites-reservoir-would-be-80-percent-full-after-recent-storms-if-it-were-operational-today/>

February 17, 2024

2023 and 2024 storms combined would have yielded 1.2 million acre-feet of water

From the Sites JPA

The [Sites Project Authority \(Authority\)](#) announced that with the recent storms, Sites Reservoir could have diverted and captured 1.2 million acre-feet of water in 2023 and 2024 to date. Based on 2023 flows and significant storms this January and February, it is estimated that Sites Reservoir would be 80 percent full today following the critically dry prior years when Sites water would have been depleted.

*“These latest storms show the need for Sites Reservoir to capitalize on California’s rainy season and store excess stormwater for the betterment of communities, farms, and the environment,” said **Fritz Durst, Chairman of the Sites Project Authority Board of Directors.** “While the exact amount of water will vary from year to year, we need to be prepared to capture water from major storms when they happen and save it for the next inevitable dry period. With hotter and drier weather threatening California’s water supply, we have no time to waste.”*

Sites Reservoir is specifically designed to capture and store water generated by extreme storm events, like the [atmospheric rivers](#) that seasonally make landfall in California, to increase water flexibility, reliability, and resiliency in drier years.

State Report Identifies Future Desalination Plants to Meet Statewide Water Reliability Goals

Published: Feb 21, 2024

<https://water.ca.gov/News/Blog/2024/Feb-24/State-Report-Identifies-Future-Desalination-Plants-to-Meet-Statewide-Water-Reliability-Goals?fbclid=IwAR3lFbSdPFTe-eINXUVfYWGYnZEyJ0i8CiChJdcBBjhBE0zdupUOE0ssDCg>



Photograph of a skid of reverse osmosis membranes installed at the Alameda County Water District Newark Desalination Facility. These membranes, installed in 2010, remove salts from brackish groundwater to provide high quality water to local customers.

As California continues to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate, the State must work to identify future sources of safe, reliable water for all. This week, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a [report](#) identifying future planned desalination projects to help meet the brackish water supply goals identified in [California’s Water Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future](#).

As a key strategy in the Water Supply Strategy, desalination is the process of removing salts and minerals from brackish water and seawater to produce water suitable for drinking water, irrigation and other supply needs. Brackish water is a mix of freshwater and saltwater and occurs in a natural environment that has more [salinity](#) than [freshwater](#), but not as much as [seawater](#). In 2020, over 100,000 acre-feet of brackish water was desalinated for drinking water, which was two-thirds of the desalinated

water produced and used in California.

One of the State's goals in the Water Supply Strategy is to increase its water supply by implementing new brackish desalination projects that would provide 28,000 acre-feet of water per year by 2030 and 84,000 acre-feet per year no later than 2040.

The [Projected Brackish Water Desalination Projects in California report](#) helps State water managers by identifying existing and projected brackish desalination projects to evaluate if the state can achieve the strategy's desalination goals by 2030 and 2040. The report only identifies desalination projects sourcing brackish groundwater and brackish surface water, not sea water. The [report](#) projects that the State will achieve the 2030 goal.

"From coastal cities to inland farms, desalination brings water security within reach for communities where traditional water supplies are limited," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. "This is just one piece of the puzzle as we work to invest in strategies that help replenish and secure our state's water supply for future generations."

The Colorado River

Still in drought, the Colorado River Basin and the two major reservoirs, Lake Mead and Lake Powell, while rising a little do to the recent storms are still at only about 34% of capacity. Once again, as last year, the remainder of the year will avoid major imposed rationing, still the future, as forecast by the Bureau of Reclamation, is one of a steadily declining flow of water into the reservoirs.

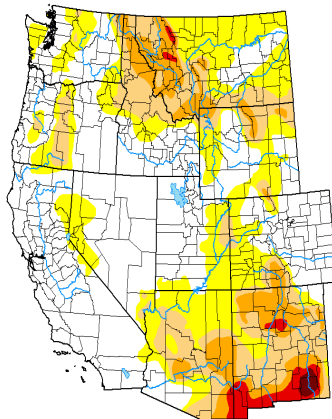
Why extreme rain pouring into Southwest US hasn't fully eliminated the region's megadrought

The extra rain has not been enough to eliminate the multi-decadal drought.

By [Max Golebo](#), [Julia Jacobo](#), and [Daniel Manzo](#)

February 22, 2024, 7:19 AM

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/extreme-rain-pouring-southwest-us-fully-eliminated-regions/story?id=107423058>



U.S. Drought Monitor for February 20, 2022

The record-breaking rain soaking the Southwest U.S. in recent weeks still won't be enough to eliminate

the megadrought status in the notoriously arid region completely, according to researchers.

The extra precipitation fueled by several rounds of atmospheric rivers and an El Niño event has improved parched conditions in the Southwest, which was previously suffering from a decadeslong megadrought. The U.S. Drought Monitor is currently indicating no drought throughout the state of California.

However, drought conditions are still persisting in parts of the Southwest, according to maps released by the Drought Monitor.

In addition, the rain has not been enough to increase water availability in the Southwest, especially for major cities such as Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Phoenix, according to experts.

Before the recent years of heavy moisture, the Southwest was experiencing a precipitation deficit of about two decades long, Matthew Lachniet, a professor of geoscience at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, told ABC News. Therefore, getting back to "normal" would require many more years of above-average rainfall, Lachniet said.

Currently, the combined water from Lake Powell and Lake Mead -- the largest reservoirs in the country -- is only about 35% full, according to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. An upcoming forecast calls for snowmelt runoff to deliver only 70% of normal water to the reservoirs in the coming months, Paul Miller, service coordination hydrologist for the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center, told ABC News.

In order to completely fill up many of the reservoirs in the West, it would take another six years of normal precipitation combined with a total break from using water from the Colorado River Basin, Miller said.

But not using water from the Colorado River would be impossible for much of the Southwest, which relies heavily on the watershed.

Colorado snowpack up to 96% of normal after February snowstorms

Colorado is three-quarters of the way through its snowpack season, and more snow is needed to maintain good conditions

[Shannon Mullane](#) 3:36 AM MST on Feb 22, 2024

<https://coloradosun.com/2024/02/22/colorado-snowpack-normal-february-snow/>

The Trust Project



Mount Aetna, with a 13,745-foot summit on the left, in its current snow conditions, Feb. 5, 2024, near Monarch Pass in Chaffee County. (Hugh Carey, The Colorado Sun)

After this winter's faltering start, the snowstorms in January and February boosted Colorado's

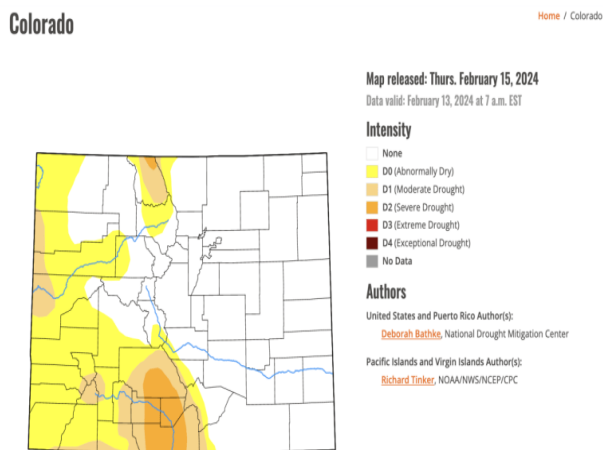
snowpack from around 10% to nearly 100% of normal accumulation for this time of year.

The slow-melting mountain snowpack in Colorado is a key water source during warm and dry months for communities around the state and across the West. Locally, the recent buildup, alongside improved drought conditions and full reservoirs, is a cause for optimism among water managers. Farther afield in the Colorado River Basin, this year's snowpack is a much-needed drop in a very large bucket.

So far, Colorado's snowpack has reached 96% of normal for this time of year, Domonkos said.

The Colorado River Basin, which provides water to 40 million people across the West, receives much of its water supply from the mountain snowpack in Colorado and other Upper Basin states.

As of Feb. 13, the Front Range and Eastern Plains were free of drought. Parts of the Western Slope were still experiencing abnormally dry conditions, with a few areas dropping into moderate drought mainly in Rio Blanco, Garfield and San Juan counties.



(Courtesy: U.S. Drought Monitor)

Current water levels

SOURCE: *U.S. Bureau of Reclamation*

Updated: 2/21/2024, 12:00 AM MST

This year, Powell is expected to release more than it catches, sending about 7.48 million acre-feet downstream to Lake Mead in compliance with interstate rules created in 2007, [according to the Bureau of Reclamation](#).

Powell's storage is expected to drop by 236,000 acre-feet to 8.49 million acre-feet by the end of September. The reservoir's total capacity is about 26 million acre-feet.

Lake Mead started the water year at about 8.8 million acre-feet in October 2023, and it is forecasted to drop to 8.2 million acre-feet by the end of September. Mead's total capacity is 28.9 million acre-feet.

Significant changes in Lake Mead outlook explained

by: [Greg Haas](#)

Posted: Feb 16, 2024 / 10:09 AM PST

Updated: Feb 16, 2024 / 10:24 AM PST

<https://www.8newsnow.com/news/local-news/significant-changes-in-lake-mead-outlook-explained/>

February projections show levels exceeding month-old numbers

LAS VEGAS (KLAS) — Updated projections released on Thursday show Lake Mead rising another foot by the end of February and then crashing in April, eventually dropping 20 feet by November.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's February 24-month study shows Lake Mead hanging onto about 2 feet more water this year than projections showed just a month ago. And the outlook for 2025 is even more positive. The study is updated monthly to summarize expected river flows, and charts reflect the "most probable inflow" based on scientific models.

On Wednesday, [Lake Mead's surface reached 1,075 feet above sea level](#) — a benchmark level used when the federal government formally declared a water shortage in August of 2021. The Lower Colorado River Basin states — Nevada, Arizona and California — remain in a Tier 1 water shortage and Lake Mead is expected to drop below 1,058 feet as August arrives this year.

Improvements, and why they are happening

The February report has some significant improvements compared to January's 24-month study. Snow conditions in the Upper Basin along with [recent wet weather produced by atmospheric rivers](#) that drenched Southern California have allowed Reclamation to continue to fill Lake Mead. All the rain in California reduced demand for water from the Colorado River in the state that uses more than any other.

Feature: Return to the American System

In honor of Presidents' Day This Week, we present an article published in 2007 by LaRouche PAC. Henry C. Carey was one of the top economic advisors to Abraham Lincoln. And after the assassination of President Lincoln, Carey continued the fight for the American System. It is that American System that once again must be embraced by the United States. That is even more important for Americans to now understand, as the British are now invading the Trump campaign, attempting to impose on the new Trump administration, beginning in January next year, the same damn British System of free trade, rejected by both Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Henry C. Carey: The American System Vs. The British System

<https://larouchepac.com/20140407/henry-carey-american-vs-british-systems?fbclid=IwAR3-2cZaj3uu5drkKwImqdwTg8HOvyWeXtfeDUZ4USVFrCnIwIQPt-4O6s>

Below are excerpts from American System economist Henry C. Carey's book, [The Harmony of Interests](#), written in 1851, in which he elaborates the difference between the American System and the British System. Henry Carey, the son of Mathew Carey, who had begun his career as an agent of Benjamin Franklin in Ireland during America's revolution against the British, became the leading economist within Abraham Lincoln's new Republican Party and the intellectual author of Lincoln's program to save the Union and defeat the British-backed civil war. The "American System" embodied the principles of physical economy and credit founded by Alexander Hamilton, the first Treasury Secretary of the United States.

"Two systems are before the world; the one looks to increasing the proportion of persons and of capital engaged in trade and transportation, and therefore to diminishing the proportion engaged in producing

commodities with which to trade, with necessarily diminished return to the labour of all; while the other looks to increasing the proportion engaged in the work of production, and diminishing that engaged in trade and transportation, with increased return to all, giving to the labourer good wages, and to the owner of capital good profits. One looks to increasing the quantity of raw materials to be exported, and diminishing the inducements to the import of men, thus impoverishing both farmer and planter by throwing on them the burden of freight; while the other looks to increasing the import of men, and diminishing the export of raw materials, thereby enriching both planter and farmer by relieving them from the payment of freight. One looks to compelling the farmers and planters of the Union to continue their contributions for the support of the fleets and armies, the paupers, the nobles and the sovereigns of Europe; the other to enabling ourselves to apply the same means to the moral and intellectual improvement of the sovereigns of America. One looks to the continuance of that bastard freedom of trade which denies the principle of protection, yet doles it out as revenue duties; the other to extending the area of legitimate free trade by the establishment of perfect protection, followed by the annexation of individuals and communities, and ultimately by the abolition of custom-houses. One looks to exporting men to occupy desert tracts, the sovereignty of which is obtained by aid of diplomacy or war; the other to increasing the value of an immense extent of vacant land by importing men by millions for their occupation. One looks to increasing the necessity for commerce; the other to increasing the power to maintain it. One looks to underworking the Hindoo, and sinking the rest of the world to his level; the other to raising the standard of man throughout the world to our level. One looks to pauperism, ignorance, depopulation, and barbarism; the other in increasing wealth, comfort, intelligence, combination of action, and civilization. One looks towards universal war; the other towards universal peace. One is the English system; the other we may be proud to call the American system, for it is the only one ever devised the tendency of which was that of elevating while equalizing the condition of man throughout the world.

"Such is the true mission of the people of these United States.... To raise the value of labour throughout the world, we need only to raise the value of our own.... To improve the political condition of man throughout the world, it is that we ourselves should remain at peace, avoid taxation for maintenance of fleets and armies, and become rich and prosperous.... To diffuse intelligence and to promote the cause of morality throughout the world, we are required only to pursue the course that shall diffuse education throughout our own land, and shall enable every man more readily to acquire property, and with it respect for the rights of property. To substitute true Christianity for the detestable system known as the Malthusian, it is needed that we prove to the world that it is population that makes the food come from the rich soils, and food tends to increase more rapidly than population, thus vindicating the policy of God to man."

Carey attacked British Free Trade economics as a system that destroys national agro-industrial productivity, reduces consumption, destroys freedom, and causes war:

"Two systems are before the world: on the one hand, that which is denominated protection, and on the other that which is denominated free-trade.

"A great error exists in the impression now very commonly entertained in regard to national division of labour, and which owes its origin to the English school of political economists, whose system is throughout based upon the idea of making England 'the workshop of the world,' than which nothing could be less natural. By that school it is taught that some nations are fitted for manufacturers and others for the labours of agriculture, and that the latter are largely benefitted by being compelled to employ themselves in the one pursuit, making all their exchanges at a distance, thus contributing their share to the maintenance of the system of 'ships, colonies, and commerce.' The whole basis of their system is conversion and exchange, and not production, yet neither makes any addition to the amount of things to be exchanged. It is the great boast of their system that the exchangers are so numerous and

the producers so few, and the proportion which the former bear to the latter, the more rapid is supposed to be the advance towards perfect prosperity. Converters and exchangers, however, must live, and they must live out of the labour of others: and if three, five, or ten persons are to live on the product of one, it must follow that all will obtain but a small allowance of the necessaries or comforts of life, as is seen to be the case.

"The object of free-trade is proclaimed to be the increase of commerce, but commerce withers under it.

"We thus have here, first, a system that is unsound and unnatural, and second, a theory invented for the purpose of accounting for the poverty and wretchedness which are its necessary results.

"The object of what is now called free-trade is that of securing to the people of England the further existence of the monopoly of machinery, by aid of which Ireland and India have been ruined, and commerce prostrated. Protection seeks to break down this monopoly, and to cause the loom and the anvil to take their natural places by the side of the food and the cotton, and that production may be increased, and that commerce may revive....

"The object of protection has been, and is, to restore the natural tendency by which industrial manufacturing takes its place by the side of the producer of food (national self-sufficiency), thus reducing substantially transportation fees and middle men sales costs and bringing about the stabler self-sufficient communities and nations."

Addendum:

I include only the last paragraph, which provides the policies necessary today to begin to restore the American System. Of course, a link to the full article is provided.

CPAC—A Collision of Conservative Dinosaurs with MAGA’s Principles

By [LaRouchePAC Posts](#)

February 23, 2024

https://www.larouchepac.com/cpac_a_collision_of_conservative_dinosaurs_with_maga_s_principles

“American System economics is premised on the idea that the Federal government and an associated system of national banking only invests in productive, capital intensive projects like major infrastructure and frontier space exploration and fundamental science which yield huge gains in the overall productivity and wealth of the economy. These investments, like the Apollo project, are at a scale and a duration which private investment cannot match. They result in the generation of new knowledge and new technologies, and fundamental scientific revolutions, expanding the economy and paying for the social safety net. Perfection of fusion energy, as an example, would transform every aspect of our economy because it would yield cheap and abundant energy while ushering in a new era of spinoff technologies in materials production, space travel, water management, and other vital infrastructure production. But Wall Street paper pushers and accountants, like Walker, who only know rentier finance and can’t figure out how to expand the economy or even how to produce simple goods. Thus, Walker argues, in defiance of every major economic expansion of the United States historically, there will never be enough of a density of new ideas or creative breakthroughs to overcome the debt. Perhaps this new Wall Street financier gambit explains the new funding behind Convention of the States efforts.”