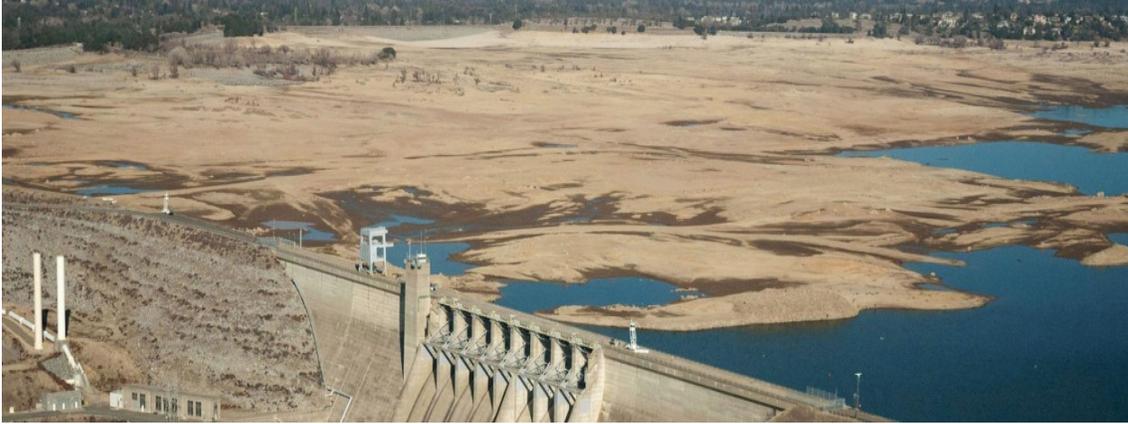


California Drought Update



For October 6, 2016
by Patrick Ruckert

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A Note To Readers

We are one week into the sixth year of the California drought, a first since records have been kept. What shall this year bring to us? No one knows, at least that is what all the climatologists are saying. It may be wet; it may be dry; but, one thing is for sure, the damage done by this drought will not be fixed even if it pours down rain and the heavens unleash its flurries all winter long.

So, we begin this week's report with a review of the past year and the non-forecasts for this year.

Our main focus this week must be termed, "a report from the battlefield," for that is the nature of California water policy now. As Robert Burns, in his poem "To a Mouse," wrote, "All the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry" (which American author John Steinbeck used for the title of his novel "Of Mice and Men,"), all the plans, schemes, and scams planned by the Water Board and the governor are now coming apart. Well, not quite yet, but the articles I include in this report definitely indicate that that is the direction they are going.

To quote from the report below on the state's plan to let 400,000 acre-feet of water just flow down the San Joaquin and out to the Bay: "Since I refuse to use the purported Mark Twain quote about water and whiskey, fighting and drinking, let's just call the current outbreak of hostilities between the Brown administration and everyone who drinks water, an opportunity to demonstrate that we will no longer be stupid cowards." Water managers and farmers are beginning to show some fight, which is reported on below.

The second front in the war, though definitely connected to the first is the governor's "Water Fix," the tunnels under the Delta scheme. Some have noticed that the 400,000 acre-feet to be sent to the Delta from the San Joaquin River just happens to be about the amount of water that would be diverted from the Sacramento River to flow through the tunnels. I mentioned this last week, but now it is an issue coming

to the forefront in both battles.

In addition, members of Congress are now weighing in on the tunnels, writing a letter and throwing back in Brown's face his own state study finding that the only way the tunnels can financially work is if the federal government, and California tax payers, fund about one-third of the \$16 billion cost. Remember, the governor has said for years that not one cent would be required from those sources as the beneficiaries of the tunnels will pay the whole tab. The two main beneficiaries, the Westlands Water District and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, still have not committed one penny to the project as they calculate whether they will get more water than they already do today. The same state report mentioned above clearly states that they will get little or no more water from the tunnels.

So, once again, the best laid plans....

The next to last section of this report is a subject that is irrelevant not only to the water supply, but also to human history: The water conservation scam of the governor's-- it is falling apart and Ms Marcus is on the edge of panic.

Our last report this week is an invitation to Californians to retrace the journey that thousands from Oklahoma took in the 1930s to escape the Dust Bowl. John Steinbeck would have enjoyed the irony, and perhaps reversed the title of his famous novel "Grapes of Wrath" to "The Wrath of Grapes."

Meanwhile, in the world that is shaping the future of humanity: First, Deutsche Bank, which has been inching toward bankruptcy for months issued an ultimatum to the U.S. government this week, threatening that if the U.S. insists on fining the bank \$14 billion for its criminal activities in the last crash of the banking system, then such a move will bring down the entire western banking system. It is coming down anyway, no matter what D-bank does. You can read the report here:
<https://larouchepac.com/20161005/die-welt-deutsche-bank-threatens-us-government-systemic-collapse>

Second, as the Obama administration threatens to bomb Syrian, the Russians have warned that any such act will be responded to by Russia by shooting down any missiles and planes that do launch such an attack. The Russians left vague, deliberately, I am sure, whether they would attack the platform from which such an attack originated. A link to the Russia statement follows the report on the U.S. threat from *EIRNS*. A link to a broader analysis of Obama's insane policy toward Russia concludes this introduction.

Obama's Warmongers Push for Military Action against Syrian Government, Prelude to War with Russia

Oct. 5 (*EIRNS*)---Washington Post columnist Josh Rogin, who now seems to be the preferred recipient of leaks by the war party in the Obama Administration, reported Oct. 4, that there is discussion in the national security establishment to consider the next move by the U.S., now that the Administration (on Oct. 3) has suspended engagement with Russia on how to end the Syrian war. Rogin's leaks promote military action.

Today, there was to be a meeting of the Principals Committee, of cabinet-level officials and the White House. A National Security Council meeting could come as soon as this weekend.

According to Rogin, there is a big push from within the Pentagon, led by Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Paul Selva, and the CIA, for some kind of military action against Syrian government forces.

"There's an increased mood in support of kinetic actions against the regime," one senior administration official said. "The CIA and the Joint Staff have said that the fall of Aleppo [to the sovereign Syrian government] would undermine America's counterterrorism goals in Syria."

In reporting this, Rogin also goes on to spin the fantasy that Obama is the one who is standing in the way of such military action. All of this is nonsense, but it indicates the degree of breakdown of both policymaking and morality in the institutions of government under the Obama Administration.

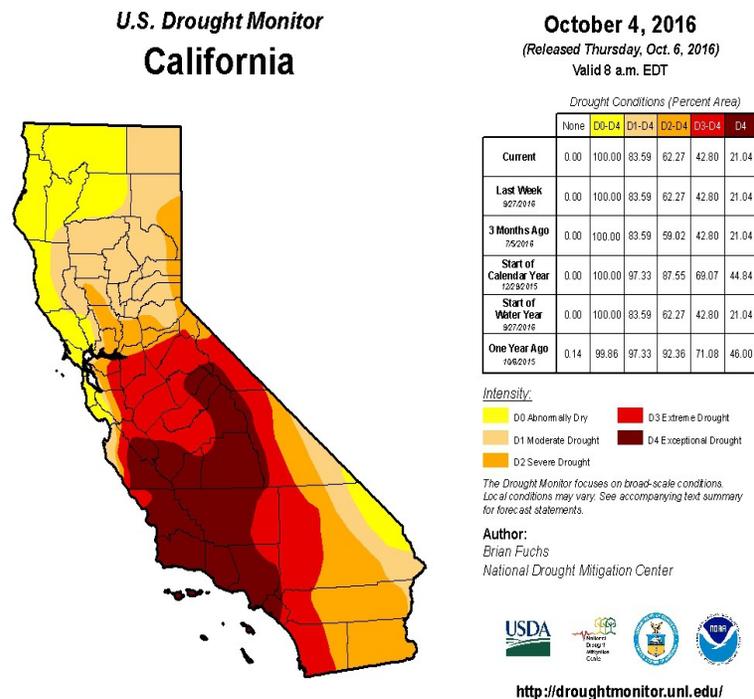
Rogin also claims that the risks inherent in any U.S. action in Syria are purely hypothetical.

Unlike many other observers of this game, Rogin did not report on the warning from Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford, who, when asked, during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Sept. 22, about establishing a no-fly zone over Syria, replied: “Right now, Senator, for us to control all of the airspace in Syria it would require us to go to war against Syria and Russia. That’s a pretty fundamental decision that certainly I’m not going to make.”

Here is the link to the Russian warning: "BREAKING: Russia Will Take Down Any American Airplane or Rocket Targeting Syrian Army (Video):" <http://russia-insider.com/en/breaking-ww3-russia-will-take-down-any-american-airplane-or-rocket-targeting-syrian-army/ri16857>

And here is the link to a broader analysis of Obama's policy toward Russia: “Nero-Obama Pushes Nuclear Genocide In Final Days.” <https://larouchepac.com/20161006/nero-obama-pushes-nuclear-genocide-final-days>

The U.S. Drought Monitor



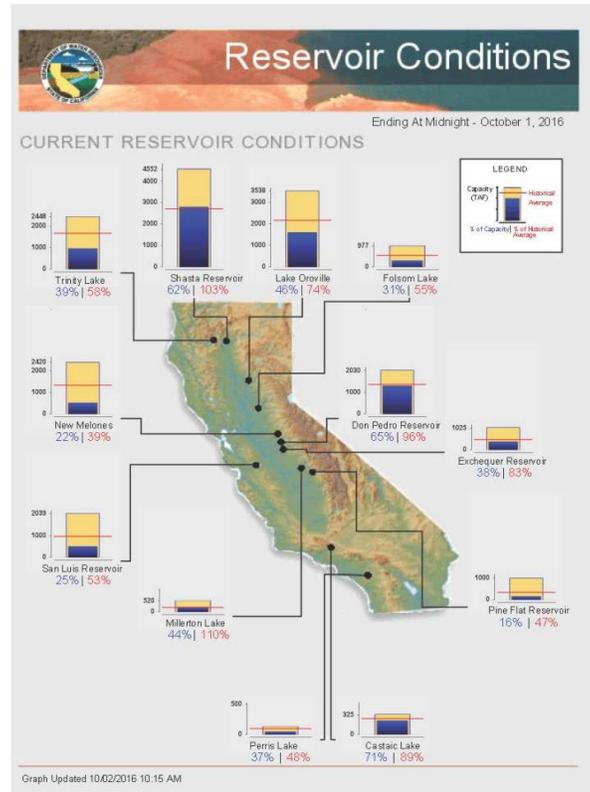
The Reservoirs

Commenting on and comparing the reservoir levels of 2015 to 2016, is this excerpt from an article on [wired.com](http://www.wired.com) by Nick Stockton on September 30:

Happy Droughtiversary, California!

<https://www.wired.com/2016/09/happy-droughtiversary-california/>

The total water supply in the state's reservoirs on October 1, 2015 was 11.9 million acre-feet. Remember that? And do you feel the same sense of doom this year? Hopefully not, because right now the reservoirs have 17.8 million acre-feet—82 percent of the historical average.



And the Sixth Year of the Drought Shall Be?

October 1 began the new water year and the sixth year of California's drought. There were a bunch of notices over the past few days to mark this date, including from the state *Department of Water Resources*. Other coverage focused on what shall the new year bring; and some used the occasion to push the “man-caused global warming” agenda. We shall begin this section with the statement from the Water Board, since it summarizes the fifth year of the drought. This coverage is from the *Association of California Water Agencies*:

California “Snow Drought” Marks Water Year 2016, DWR Says

<http://www.acwa.com/news/water-supply-challenges/california-%E2%80%9Csnow-drought%E2%80%9D-marks-water-year-2016>

by Pamela Martineau
September 29, 2016

California's Water Year 2015-'16 will go down in the record books as “dry” despite parts of Northern California experiencing average to slightly above average precipitation. The water year also will be remembered for its “snow drought” in which much-needed precipitation fell more often as rain than snow, according to a press release from the California Department of Water Resources.

State officials stated in the release from DWR that 60% percent of the state currently remains in severe or extreme drought therefore continued water conservation is critical. Making water conservation a

California way of life remains a statewide goal and a top priority in Gov. Jerry Brown's [State Water Action Plan](#).

Record warm temperatures during 2015-'16 Water Year created an early and below-average runoff that was in large part absorbed by parched soil before ever reaching the state's reservoirs. Warm temperatures also kept the precipitation from falling as snow that in cold years builds the state's critical Sierra snowpack that melts in the spring and summer to fill reservoirs. Hence the phrase "snow drought."

The *Los Angeles Times* also reviews the 2015-2016 water year in an article on September 30:

One word to describe the last water year? Dry

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-water-year-20160930-snap-story.html>

by Matt Stevens

"If you had to put a one-word descriptor on this water year, it would be 'dry,'" said Doug Carlson, a spokesman for the California Department of Water Resources.

"The [precipitation] indexes have been flat-lining since June," he said. "If this was a body, it would be in cardiac arrest."

And if weather-watchers learned anything from the latest cycle, it's not to guess about what might come next.

Experts track the state's hydrology based on a calendar that begins on Oct. 1 — when the rainy season begins — and ends on Sept. 30. Officials say water year 2015 was among the driest on record, so to some, 2016 may have left the impression of being a drought-buster.

Meanwhile, the state's reservoirs — fed by the summer snow-melt — currently are at about 80% of their average storage.

According to water officials, warm temperatures melted a below-average snow pack earlier than usual. And since the water contained in California's snow pack measured only about 85% of average this spring, the state actually had suffered a "snow drought."

As of Friday, Lake Shasta had slightly more water in it than the historical average, but the San Luis Reservoir continued to hover near its lowest level in years. About 62% of the state remains in severe, extreme or exceptional drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Jay Lund of the *UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences* provides more precise numbers of the current conditions in his review and forecast for the new water year.

Drought Prospects in California for the New 2017 Water Year – October 1, 2016

Posted on [October 3, 2016](#) by [UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences](#)

By Jay Lund

Happy New Water Year 2017!

Hopefully everyone has recovered from their celebrations.

The 2016 drought year is over. It was milder year than the four previous drought years. The great wet hope of the "Godzilla" El Nino did not end the drought, but brought only near average precipitation.

Going into the new water year, California remains in a drought.

Here are some highlights of current conditions, with links from the California Department of Water

Resources' California Data Exchange Center (CDEC) at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov>.

Major reservoirs in California begin this new water year about 3.3 maf lower than long-term average surface storage on September 30. Groundwater is likely to be recovering in the northern parts of California, but is probably continuing to drop in large parts of the southern Central Valley which are still receiving less water than expected, and are subject to overdraft even in non-drought years. Cumulative drought groundwater overdraft probably now exceeds 12 maf. (Alas, California does not maintain estimates on long-term groundwater balances, but this will come someday.)

Total water storage is probably depleted 15-20 maf from pre-drought conditions. Soil moisture in much of the Sierras and Central California remains in drought conditions (due to both unusually high temperatures and lower precipitation). Like groundwater, conditions of forests and native fishes are severely depressed and are likely to see substantial drought impacts for years after hydrologic conditions improve.

But this seemingly bad situation is substantially better than in October 2015.

Many reservoirs are in pretty good shape in terms of overall storage, certainly compared with October 2015. Shasta, Oroville, New Don Pedro, and many other sizable reservoirs are entering the new water year with near-average storage levels. Shasta levels must now be viewed more cautiously, however, because of heightened concerns for operational disruptions due to depressed populations of endangered winter run salmon. Most surface storage depletions (current storage relative to their historical average) remain in reservoirs at New Melones (tributary to the San Joaquin River, 800 taf depletion), Trinity (in the north, 700 taf depletion), San Luis (which relies on Delta exports to fill, 450 taf depletion), and Oroville (550 taf) and Folsom (250 taf depletion), which were depleted somewhat to make up for reduced releases from Shasta due to temperature concerns. Lake Cachuma, which serves the Santa Barbara region is also nearly exhausted with only 14 taf remaining and a drought depletion of 135 taf.

So, what kind of winter can we expect? *The Sacramento Bee* article of September 29 by Ryan Sabalow, says it all in the headline: "Will California see a wet winter? Forecasters call it a 'crapshoot.'" Here are some excerpts:

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/water-and-drought/article104812236.html>

Last year at this time, weather forecasters had a pretty good idea of what was in store as California headed into the rainy season. The Pacific Ocean surface was warming, and they were predicting one of the strongest El Niño weather patterns in recorded history.

El Niño ended up making an appearance, but it wasn't the [series of gully washers for which some had hoped](#). This year, the forecast is even less certain.

"It really is a crapshoot," said Michelle Mead, a meteorologist with the Sacramento office of the National Weather Service. "We don't know what exactly we're going to get, and it's going to be storm-by-storm dependent."

The uncertainty lies in what forecasters describe as neutral conditions in the vast area of the Pacific Ocean that creates El Niño or La Niña weather patterns. When the surface of the Pacific warms, it's more likely to lead to the wet years typically associated with El Niño. Conversely, cooler ocean temperatures often produce drier La Niña conditions in California. This year, it's neither warm enough nor cool enough to make a call.

The Northern California rains brought some relief since the region is home to the largest reservoirs. The total statewide reservoir storage is around 82 percent of average, Hinojosa said. That's a rosier picture at the end of September than last year at this time, when storage was 55 percent of average.

Southern California, meanwhile, remains especially dry. The Colorado River Basin, which provides a critical source of water used by Southern California cities and farms, is coming off the driest 16-year period in the historical record.

Forecasters say that, all told, it's going to take a long time before anyone declares California's drought over. (my emphasis)

“Really, to fully erase the drought, you'd need multiple, consecutive wet winters and, ideally, cooler years in terms of getting a nice accumulation of mountain snowpack,” said Daniel Swain, a climate scientist at UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability.

Not to be left out, the hysterics once again warn that man-caused global warming shall bring on the megadroughts. The London *Guardian* and others report on a new study, similar to one released earlier this year or last year (I forget which), that there is up to a 99 percent chance that a drought lasting 35 years or longer will occur in the U.S. west before the year 2100. Some excerpts from the article are immediately below, followed by the Abstract from the study itself. Of course, like all such productions, the underlying assumption is that mankind is just a subject, or a victim, of nature and ignores the reality that real human beings shape our own destiny by intervening in nature with the power of our minds. For California, it is inexcusable to think otherwise, as we have demonstrated that we can move water to where we need it, like 700 miles from Sacramento to San Diego.

Looming megadroughts in western US would make current drought look minor

Warming temperatures and uncertain rainfall mean if more isn't done to slow climate change, droughts lasting 35 years could blight western states, study says

Such a megadrought would bring conditions similar to the 1930s dustbowl to California, Nevada, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah – but over a lengthier period. Photograph: Noah Berger/AP

[Oliver Milman](#)

5 October 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/oct/05/climate-change-megadrought-california-global-warming>

The harsh drought currently gripping [California](#) may appear trivial in the future as new research shows that the south-west US faces the looming threat of “megadroughts” that last for decades.

California is in its sixth year of drought, [which was barely dented by rains brought by the El Niño climate event](#) and sparked a range of water restrictions in the state. But warming temperatures and uncertain rainfall mean that if more isn't done to slow climate change, droughts lasting 35 years are likely to blight western states by the end of the century, according to the study, [published in Science Advances](#).

Using a combination of temperature and precipitation models, the study predicts a 70% chance of a megadrought by the end of the century, should rainfall levels remain the same, with a 90% chance of an elongated drought should rainfall decrease, as most climate models forecast.

Here is the Abstract from the study:

Megadroughts are comparable in severity to the worst droughts of the 20th century but are of much longer duration. A megadrought in the American Southwest would impose unprecedented stress on the limited water resources of the area, making it critical to evaluate future risks not only under different climate change mitigation scenarios but also for different aspects of regional hydroclimate. We find that changes in the mean hydroclimate state, rather than its variability, determine megadrought risk in the American Southwest. Estimates of megadrought probabilities based on precipitation alone tend to underestimate risk. Furthermore, business-as-usual emissions of greenhouse gases will drive regional warming and drying, regardless of large precipitation uncertainties. We find that regional temperature increases alone push megadrought risk above 70, 90, or 99% by the end of the century, even if precipitation increases moderately, does not change, or decreases, respectively. Although each possibility

is supported by some climate model simulations, the latter is the most common outcome for the American Southwest in Coupled Model Intercomparison 5 generation models. An aggressive reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions cuts megadrought risks nearly in half.

The same London *Guardian* has been hysteria-mongering for some time as this article from August 1, 2008 illustrates. Note that the 100 month deadline announced is now upon us.

The final countdown

Time is fast running out to stop irreversible climate change, a group of global warming experts warns today. We have only 100 months to avoid disaster. Andrew Simms explains why we must act now - and where to begin.

[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2008/aug/01/climatechange.carbonemissions?
CMP=share_btn_fb](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2008/aug/01/climatechange.carbonemissions?CMP=share_btn_fb)

The First Skirmishes: The Battle of the San Joaquin River

Since I refuse to use the purported Mark Twain quote about water and whiskey, fighting and drinking, let's just call the current outbreak of hostilities between the Brown administration and everyone who drinks water, an opportunity to demonstrate that we will no longer be stupid cowards.

As I have covered extensively over the past two weeks the State Water Resources Control Board's announced plan to allow 400,000 acre feet more of water in the San Joaquin River system flow through the Delta, thus decimating the Valley's agriculture, and since this threat is not going to go away, I hope you will be patient in having to read more about it again. This will not just go away. What is new this week is how this policy is beginning to sink-in to the minds of water managers and agricultural organizations. They are now deciding that this is the real, serious threat that it is, and are attempting to figure out how to defeat it.

The first item are excerpts from *californiaagtoday.com* published on September 30 by Patrick Cavanaugh, Farm News Director. I have highlighted some parts of this.

[First the Feds, Now The State Plans More Water Diversions From Farms](#)

More Planned Water Diversions From Farms to Fish-Not Just by Federal, but Also State Officials

<http://californiaagtoday.com/tag/phase-one/>

California's **[State Water Resources Control Board \(SWRCB\)](#)**, regulators and environmental organizations want more water diversions to flow into the **[San Francisco Bay Delta Watershed](#)** to help save the declining Delta Smelt and Salmon. They have targeted three tributaries of the lower San Joaquin River; one of which is the Tuolumne River. Phase 1 of the Bay-Delta Plan is a real threat to all **[Modesto Irrigation District \(MID\)](#)** and **[Turlock Irrigation District \(TID\)](#)** customers including ag, urban water, and electric.

Michael Boccadoro a spokesperson for the **[Coalition for a Sustainable Delta](#)**, commented on the SWRCB: "They need to be pushed back. They need to be told no." Boccadoro explained the water in question represents about 400,000 acre-feet taken from communities, businesses and farms. Ironically 400,000 acre-feet is roughly equivalent to the capacity of Hetch-Hetchy Reservoir (360,400 acre-feet) that funnels water, unabated, to San Francisco.

“This is only Phase One of the Boards’ decision,” said Boccadoro. “This is going to eventually encompass the Sacramento River; this is just the beginning. This isn’t by any stretch of the imagination the only potential impact agriculture would feel,” he said.

*Boccadoro noted, “It looks like **Governor Brown** has it in for farmers. We have problems with groundwater and increasing water scarcity in the state, and the result of this [plan] would be increased groundwater pumping—until they tell us we can’t pump groundwater. At that point, they are basically telling us, ‘You can’t farm any more.’”*

“It’s a huge problem, said Boccadoro. “For whatever reason, it appears that the Brown administration has declared war on California agriculture. Enough is enough. We need to push back hard against the Water Board’s decisions,” noted Boccadoro.

A column in the *Modesto Bee* on October 1 continues the theme:

Who will go extinct first, salmon or Valley farmers?

<http://www.modbee.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/mike-dunbar/article105292486.html>

By Mike Dunbar

Here, on the front lines of the state’s recently declared water war, we have more questions than ammunition.

Is the State Water Resources Control Board serious? Is the water board even in charge? Was Gov. Jerry Brown’s call for “voluntary agreements,” instead of regulatory demands, a suggestion or an order? Who will go extinct first – salmon or farmers?

OK, that’s a rhetorical question; salmon have a huge head start. But the race isn’t over. To recap:

- *Battle was enjoined Sept. 15 when the water board re-released its justification for taking more water from the Merced, Tuolumne and Stanislaus rivers – which combine to create the San Joaquin before it reaches the Delta. In the original 2012 Substitute Environmental Document, the state demanded 35 percent of unimpaired flows from all three rivers for salmon’s sake. The re-released version grew (from 1,200 pages to 3,100), as did the state’s water demands. Regulators now want 40 to 50 percent of the rivers – up to 2 1/2 times more than the state takes now.*

Such demands are a clear threat to a way of life that has evolved here over the past 150 years.

- *Howls of outrage arose across the entire Northern San Joaquin Valley – with good reason. The state guessed its water grab [would cause \\$64 million](#) in economic damage across three counties. People who live here say impacts will run into the hundreds of millions in each. Yet, in Sacramento, professional environmentalists insist it’s still not enough – they want 60 percent, farming be damned. Both sides got 60 days to respond.*

On September 30, again from the *Modesto Bee*, Lance W. Johnson, a retired water resources engineer living at Shaver Lake, who worked on Central Valley and San Joaquin Valley water fishery and water rights, including as a water agency general manager, makes clear the intent of the Water Board's policy: *“The environmental community wants to bring an end to – literally shut down – Central Valley agriculture and related industries by cutting off the water that Valley agriculture needs to feed the nation and the world.”*

Here are some excerpts from his column from which the above quote is taken:

Learn from history ... fight to keep your water

By Lance W. Johnson

<http://www.modbee.com/opinion/state-issues/article105182121.html>

At an important meeting last week in Modesto, The Bee reported, [Francisco Canela](#), a member of the Stanislaus County Water Advisory Committee, asked one of the state's top water regulators a great question:

“Where’s the end game for this community? That’s our concern. We’re giving more water and more water, and we aren’t getting anything back.”

The short answer to Canela’s question is that the community will never get back any water or anything else. The history, since 1992, of ever-declining water supplies to farmers on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley provides the proof.

In the 1990s, I was one of a very small group of Delta export water agency staff members engaged in the often overlapping committees and work groups involved in two critical water efforts – the Central Valley Project Improvement Act and the Cal Fed Bay Delta Program, which both began in 1995. These two efforts were made up of 100-plus committees, work groups and task forces, stretching from our Valley to Sacramento to Washington, D.C.

The environmental community wants to bring an end to – literally shut down – Central Valley agriculture and related industries by cutting off the water that Valley agriculture needs to feed the nation and the world. Water that our entire economy depends on. Period!

The Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and a host of other state and federal regulatory requirements and the scientifically discredited flow-centric fishery “science” fostered by regulatory agencies such as the State Water Resources Control Board, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and others are just the straw men being used to achieve that goal.

There are meetings going on throughout the Valley where state officials attempt to “explain” the policy. Here is a link to a September 28 article in the *Modesto Bee* on one of those meetings in Modesto:

Meeting on river flows gets tense at times

<http://www.modbee.com/news/business/agriculture/article104695676.html#storylink=cpy>

By John Holland

Two state officials said Wednesday they are open to alternatives to a proposed boost in river flows, but their Modesto audience remained skeptical.

The farmer-heavy crowd said it has heard such promises before regarding the Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced rivers, only to see the state ignore their concerns.

And another meeting as reported by the *Merced Sun Star* on September 28. That the policy is driven by Governor Brown's “Water Fix” of building the tunnels under the Delta is highlighted here.

Not impressed with state’s explanation

By the Editorial Board

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/opinion/editorials/article104800656.html>

Officials from Stanislaus, Merced and San Joaquin counties listened as state officials explained the revised Substitute Environmental Document – a 3,100-page justification for taking twice as much water from our region as the state takes now.

The SED justifies sending 40 percent of the flows from the Merced, Tuolumne and Stanislaus rivers down the San Joaquin to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta – basically, double current flows.

The state claims the additional water is necessary to save threatened salmon and steelhead trout. There’s no doubt both species are in trouble, but many are questioning the state’s sudden urgency.

After 90 minutes, Walt Ward, Stanislaus County's groundwater expert, finally unmasked "the 800-pound gorilla," noting the amount of water demanded from the tributaries is roughly equal to the water Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed twin tunnels will remove from the Delta.

Is the "Water Fix" Doomed?

I covered the opening shots of this topic a few weeks ago, but as with the San Joaquin River battle, so to with the Delta, the entire water policy of the state is now in probably the biggest crisis ever. With members of Congress now questioning the financial viability of the governor's twin tunnels under the Delta, the answer to the above question is now looking more and more like "yes."

Here are excerpts from and the link to a letter from Reps. Garamendi, Matsui, Thompson and McNerney that asks agencies to provide detailed information about supposed benefits and costs of the tunnels. The link is from *mavensnotebook.com*. The letter cites the analysis done by the state stating that about one-third of the cost of the tunnels will have to be paid by federal and state tax payers, whereas the governor has always said that those who receive the water will bear the entire cost.

Northern California Members of Congress Urge Bureau of Reclamation and California Department of Water Resources to Provide Transparency about Proposed California Water Fix (Link corrected)
October 5, 2016 Maven Breaking News

<https://mavensnotebook.com/2016/10/05/this-just-in-northern-california-members-of-congress-urge-bureau-of-reclamation-and-california-department-of-water-resources-to-provide-transparency-about-proposed-california-water-fix/>

Letter from Reps. Garamendi, Matsui, Thompson and McNerney asks agencies to provide detailed information about supposed benefits and costs

From the office of Congressman John Garamendi:

"Today, Reps. John Garamendi, Jerry McNerney, Mike Thompson and Doris Matsui (D-CA), each of whom represent communities that would be severely impacted by the Governor's California WaterFix, delivered a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources calling for responses to a recent [cost-benefit analysis](#) of the California WaterFix Tunnels project. The analysis, prepared by Dr. Jeffrey Michael at the University of the Pacific, raises key questions about the plan. The letter also raises a number of questions based upon another recent and unofficially released [cost-benefit analysis](#) prepared by David Sunding for the California Natural Resources Agency.

*"The analysis done by Dr. Michael shows that the advertised benefits of the Twin Tunnels simply don't hold water," said **Congressman Garamendi**. "Both cost-benefit breakdowns of the WaterFix that have been released to the public raise major questions about the viability of the project, and its funding sources."*

*"The numbers don't pencil out for farmers south of the Delta," said **Congressman McNerney**. "Delta farming operations could be severely disrupted, and endangered species are at risk of not surviving the consequences of this massive project. The WaterFix plan's costs do not outweigh the alleged benefits and would require a large federal subsidy, while causing irreparable harm to Delta and Northern California communities who have not been adequately included in project negotiations. I urge the state to move away from the flawed*

WaterFix tunnels plan and implement the cost-effective policy solutions already outlined in the California Water Action Plan – like conservation, recycling, increased efficiency, and storage – that will ensure sustainable water supplies for a healthy Delta ecosystem and California’s farmers and communities statewide.”

Another item on the same topic is from *newsdeeply.com* published on October 4.

Growing Evidence Highlights Cracks in California Delta Tunnels Plan

An unpublished analysis shows that Gov. Jerry Brown’s plan to build twin tunnels won’t benefit either farmers or citizens, writes Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, executive director of Restore the Delta.

<https://www.newsdeeply.com/water/community/2016/10/04/growing-evidence-highlights-cracks-in-california-delta-tunnels-plan>

Recently, advocates for the Delta tunnels have been experiencing severe heartache over revelations that undermine their proposal. Using the California Public Records Act, Restore the Delta found that the state commissioned an economic analysis of the proposed tunnels, but it was never published. The Associated Press picked up the [story](#) and put it on their international wire.

“Giant tunnels that Gov. Jerry Brown wants to build to haul water across California are economically feasible only if the federal government bears a third of the nearly \$16 billion cost because local water districts may not benefit as expected, according to an analysis that the state commissioned last year but never released,” the AP reported. “The findings run counter to longstanding state pledges that the districts that would get water from the tunnels would pay the full cost.”

In the economic analysis, Dr. Jeffrey Michael, director of the Center for Business and Policy Research at the University of the Pacific, found [confirmation](#) of problems he had long suspected.

“Because costs exceed benefits for agricultural users, the report actually finds that the tunnels are not economically feasible as this requires benefits to exceed allocated costs for all users,” Michael wrote. “Thus, much of the rest of the report attempts to rationalize public subsidies to lower the costs for agricultural contractors.”

Meanwhile, none of the agencies or water districts who promised to pay for the Delta tunnels have committed to paying for the new proposed project.

It Cannot Just Stay in the Courts

The war for the future of California, and with it 50 percent or more of the fruits, vegetables and nuts produced in the nation at stake, will not be settled by lawsuits. But, lawsuits have already begun, and there will be more. *Mavensnotebook.com* on October 5 reported this article:

THIS JUST IN ... Friant Division Contractors file claim for damages over lack of water deliveries in 2014

<https://mavensnotebook.com/2016/10/05/this-just-in-friant-division-contractors-file-claim-for-damages-over-lack-of-water-deliveries-in-2014/>

Today, 17 Central Valley water agencies and the City of Fresno filed a claim for damages from the federal Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) over water deliveries in 2014. All parties to the claim are water contractors in the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project (CVP). The claim seeks to recover the fair market value of Friant Division water not delivered to the contractors.

In the claim, which was filed in the United States Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C., the plaintiffs allege that in 2014 sufficient San Joaquin River water was available in storage in Millerton Lake to meet the needs of the Friant Division contractors, but Reclamation elected not to provide Friant Division contractors an allocation of water that year. This decision resulted in significant losses of annual and permanent crops and the removal of orchards, substantial groundwater depletion, and emergency measures taken to serve the farms and urban areas that rely on water supplied under Friant Division water contracts.

Big Headlines for That Which Is Irrelevant

Once again we must remind readers that the fanfare, blaring horns, fireworks and the headlines about the governor's mandated 25 percent cutback in water use for the cities is, stealing from Shakespeare, "much ado about nothing." A reminder-- agricultural contractors since 1992 have received their full allocation they contracted for less than one-half of the years since. And over the past few years of the drought they have received between zero and 20 percent, though this year some got more and others, like the Westlands Water District received only five percent.

Since the urban areas use less than 10 percent of the water used by humans, a 25 percent cutback works out to a two and one-half percent reduction of total use of water. Absurd, ridiculous, and a PR fraud on the population, distracting most from coming to grips with the real problem as I presented it two weeks ago in the section of my report titled, "What Is To Be Done." It is the last section of the report for September 22: <http://www.californiadroughtupdate.org/pdf/20160922-California-Drought-Update.pdf>

So, the falling off of levels of conservation as reported for the month of August was reported by CBS on October 5. Threats of more enforcement of the stupid policy are already being made, as the item reports.

As Conservation Dips, California Drought Water Cutbacks May Return

<http://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2016/10/05/as-conservation-dips-california-drought-water-cutbacks-may-return/>

*FRESNO, Calif. (AP) – State regulators said Wednesday they fear some **water** districts in drought-stricken California have abandoned conservation efforts as saving dropped off significantly.*

*Californians saved less than 18 percent in August, down by nearly 10 percent from a year earlier, the State **Water** Resources Control Board in Sacramento reported. The figures are compared to the same period in 2013, a year before a drought emergency was declared in the state.*

*"We're at yellow alert," said Felicia Marcus, chair of the **board**, expressing alarm at the numbers and wanting to know what's going on with increased use. "I'm not ready to go to red alert until we figure it out."*

Finally, Has It Come To This?

State asks California farmers to move (back) to Oklahoma

- *By Janelle Stecklein CNHI State Reporter*
- *Oct 1, 2016*

http://www.enidnews.com/news/local_news/state-asks-california-farmers-to-move-back-to-

oklahoma/article_bc5543ff-a484-5e7b-9d08-c260e3fba986.html

OKLAHOMA CITY— In John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath," a family of impoverished, tenant farmers flee Oklahoma and its drought and dust for greener pastures in California.

Today, as California farmers grapple with their own drought and tougher government regulations, Oklahoma lawmakers hope to write a new, happier ending to the haunting tale.

Their version has thousands of California farmers packing up and heading back east to now-bountiful farmland.

For the first time in history, Oklahoma is preparing an aggressive marketing and recruitment campaign to lure away California farmers and ranchers, said state Rep. Scott Biggs, R-Chickasha.

Some might argue that Oklahoma is late to the game. Kansas, Arizona and New Mexico already have agricultural recruiting efforts in California, Biggs said. Texas has tried, too.