

California Drought Update



For December 15, 2016

by Patrick Ruckert

Published weekly since July, 2014

<http://www.californiadroughtupdate.org>

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A Note To Readers

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way - in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.”

Opening paragraph of “A Tale of Two Cities” by Charles Dickens

While we do have this week one headline that mimics the title of Charles Dickens' 1859 great novel of the French Revolution (“A tale of two droughts in California”), more fundamentally, the nation itself reflects, on one hand, the apparent division seen in the Presidential election, but, on the other, actually demonstrates the unity of the American people, well beyond what most commentators are capable of understanding.

The vote on November 8 should have made clear to all that the American people have rejected 25 years of failed policy; 25 years of globalization, bank bailouts, regime change wars, and the idea that, as Francis Fukuyama's 1992 book “The End of History and the Last Man,” asserted, the neo-liberal/neo-con world order shall rule forever.

Like the Brexit vote, the French vote for Presidential candidates who call for the end of sanctions on Russia, the Italian vote against submitting the nation to the European Union super-state, the President of the Philippines telling Obama to go to Hell, the Japanese shift toward Russia, and more, the

American people have had enough of the poverty and degeneracy of globalization.

But, do they understand, and does Trump understand, how to fix the broken system. Unfortunately, not yet. So, this week's report includes our feature on what must be the first thing the new President must do, while he repairs the U.S. relationship to Russia, stops arming the IS terrorists in Syria (as Obama has done), and joins with China in building the New Silk Road. That first thing is to restore the Glass-Steagall banking law, busting Wall Street. Next week I'll discuss the second step: Restoring the Alexander Hamilton American credit system.

Now, on to the drought.

While the northern part of the state is wet, the central and southern sections remain deep in drought. Coverage of this divide made headlines this week, as you will see below.

But, the big news, though I wish to stress it does nothing to solve the long-term water management and water supply system, is that the Congress passed a bill last week, The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, that, it is claimed, will provide more water to farmers and less to fish.

Below I shall summarize the bill and provide excerpts from others' reports.

The final article in the drought section is the celebration of the one year anniversary of the successful operation of the Carlsbad desalination plant.

First, the Drought

Do not forget: It's the snowpack, stupid.

While some who only know what they see may be jumping up and down about all the rain we have been receiving in the northern part of the state, two caveats should cool that down a bit. The articles excerpted below discuss both the lack of a build up of the snowpack, which provides about 30 percent of the water supply the states requires, and how damn dry the south remains. This weeks U.S. Drought Monitor reflects the latter. And the snowpack is less than one-half of what it should be on this date.

Will the wet start to the rainy season put dent in California's drought?

The Sacramento Bee

By Ellen Garrison

December 11, 2016

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/weather/article120270418.html#storylink=cpy>

October was wet, November dry. And December? The soft but steady rains this weekend were enough to push the Sacramento region to 155 percent of normal precipitation for the season.

And there's more to come.

So what does that mean for California's drought, now entering a sixth year? While Northern California has seen a wet start to winter, the situation is more complicated across the state. Central and Southern California continue to experience unusually dry conditions. And even in the north state, it's not clear how the rest of the rainy season will shape up.

"There isn't a strong indicator that could tell us if we're going to have" high levels of precipitation from now through February, said NWS meteorologist Idamis Del Valle.

Most of the state's central and southern reaches, meanwhile, are still gripped in "extreme" to

“exceptional” drought, according to the map, which is produced by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Nebraska.

State water officials are expected to have a better sense of the drought outlook after they conduct the first snowpack measure of the season, later this month or early next. Sierra snowmelt typically constitutes about a third of the state’s water supply, replenishing reservoirs throughout the spring and summer.

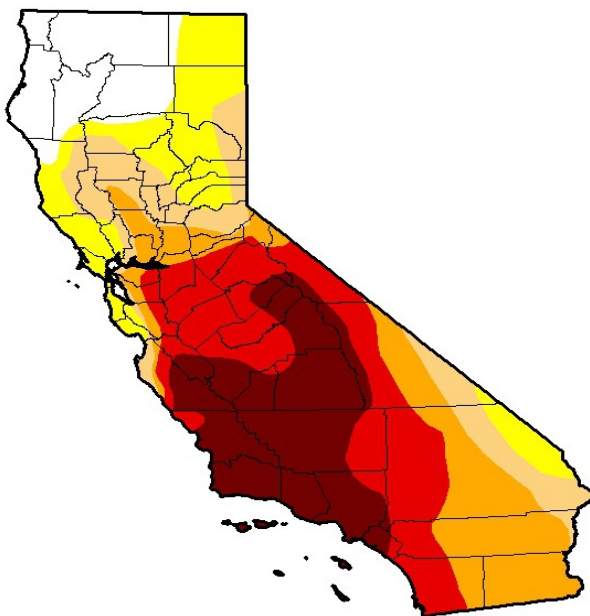
This weekend’s storm likely wasn’t good for the snowpack. NWS meteorologist Johnnie Powell said it was a warm storm that washed away at least a foot of snow below 5,000 feet of elevation.

U.S. Drought Monitor California

December 13, 2016

(Released Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016)

Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	12.16	87.84	73.04	60.27	42.80	21.04
Last Week 12/6/2016	12.03	87.97	73.04	60.27	42.80	21.04
3 Months Ago 9/13/2016	0.00	100.00	83.59	62.27	42.80	21.04
Start of Calendar Year 12/29/2015	0.00	100.00	97.33	87.55	69.07	44.84
Start of Water Year 9/27/2016	0.00	100.00	83.59	62.27	42.80	21.04
One Year Ago 12/15/2015	0.14	99.86	97.33	90.63	69.09	44.84

Intensity:

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

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

Author:

Anthony Artusa
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



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

A tale of two droughts in California: Wetter in the north, still bone dry in the south

The Los Angeles Times

December 14, 2016

By Matt Stevens

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-drought-divergence-rain-20161214-story.html>

When California water officials assess [the drought](#), the first place they look is the northern Sierra Nevada mountains.

Rain and snowmelt from the area feed into a complex system of rivers, canals and reservoirs that send water across the state. And by almost all measures, the drought picture in Northern California has dramatically improved over the last two months, as a series of storms have helped replenish the state’s two major water projects. So far this season, rain levels in the northern Sierra are 180% of average,

with 23.5 inches of rain falling — and more on the way this week.

But the story is more grim in Southern California, which remains historically dry. Now water officials must figure out how to deal with the disparity and its implications for managing the drought. While Southern California still gets some water from the Sierra, about 50% of its supply comes from local sources such as groundwater and reservoirs.

Los Angeles marked a sober milestone earlier this year, when the [National Weather Service](#) announced that the last five years were the driest ever documented in downtown L.A. since official record keeping began almost 140 years ago. Precipitation during that period totaled just 38.79 inches — roughly half of normal.

The so-called Key Well, which measures groundwater levels in the San Gabriel Basin, hit a historic low in October. Meanwhile, Lake Perris in Riverside County is holding less than half the amount of water it usually does at this time of year. Castaic Lake in Los Angeles County is faring only marginally better, filled to only 74% of its normal levels.

“We have some systems that are back in their normal operating range,” said State Climatologist Mike Anderson, “and we have other areas that are in the thick of things as much as they’ve ever been.”

Warm Winter Storms Melting Sierra Snowpack

December 12, 2016

By Drew Bollea

<http://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2016/12/12/warm-winter-storms-melting-sierra-snowpack/>

*SODA SPRINGS (CBS13) — Warm storms at high altitude are washing away **snow** in the Sierras and the runoff is filling up reservoirs throughout the northern part of California.*

State workers at the Department of Water Resources are also taking notice.

“So you’re getting rains in areas that you should be getting snow,” said David Rizzardo, the Snow Survey Chief with the Department of Water Resources.

*While experts are encouraged by the rainfall, their enthusiasm melts away with disappearing **snow**.*

The Sound and the Fury, Or, Will It Be Much Ado About Nothing

The expectations and the dread were broadcast loud and clear since the Congress passed the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act last week. Our coverage begins with my analysis, which is followed by reports and commentary from many others.

My Summary

The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act just passed by Congress and awaiting Obama's signature or veto, is a large and complex piece of legislation that protects safe drinking water, provides upgrades to infrastructure like ports, and provides \$558 million dollars in drought relief for California. The Flint, Michigan water crisis was a major driver of the momentum that ensured its passage.

Senator Diane Feinstein is one of the sponsors of the bill, of which the California provisions were put together over the past three years in collaboration with California Republican House members. California's other Senator Barbara Boxer, reflecting the Bay Area environmentalist outlook strongly opposed what Feinstein and the Republicans put together.

What is the affect the California elements of the bill will have on water distribution in the state? Simply, the language of the bill allows for an altering of the complex rules regulating the pumping of Northern California water from the rivers that flow into the Delta, located in the northern part of San Francisco Bay, to the Central Valley and Southern California.

The current rules place strict regulations on how much water can be pumped from the Delta. Water managers must take into account rainfall, the presence of fish, water temperature and other factors and then decide how much water will be allowed to be pumped out of the Delta to the aqueducts going south.

Something called the “biological opinion” is the check list created in 1993 when the Delta smelt was listed by the Endangered Species Act, which since that date has ensured that maximum flow of water through the Delta out to the ocean has been the priority, rather than pumping water south for agriculture and other human use.

Each year the water contractors who buy the water from the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project submit their requests to both institutions. Beginning after the 1993 ruling on the Delta smelt there has not been one year in which the full request by the water contractors has been allocated, and most years they received less than 50 percent of their requests. That is due to not only the pumping restrictions described, but also because of the periodic droughts that hit the state.

The new bill states that “maximum pumping” from the Delta, within the criteria of the Endangered Species Act, must be assured. Since the “biological opinion” is relatively subjective, the environmentalists and the farmers in the Delta are screaming bloody murder, believing that the Trump administration will interpret the new criteria in a manner that will kill the fish and harm their farms. The farmers in the Central Valley are cautiously optimistic that they will be receiving more water this coming year.

Of course, what all of this ignores is that even with normal precipitation, the existing water management system is incapable of providing all the people in the state with the water they need, especially to the agricultural sector. There are now 39 million people in the state and the last major water infrastructure project was completed more than 40 years ago when the population was one-half of the current numbers.

Obviously, the only way the ongoing California water problem can be solved is as part of a national policy of advanced infrastructure building in the context of LaRouche's Four Laws.

The Rest of the story, at least according to some:

The best of the articles on the bill is this one excerpted from the *Sacramento Bee* on December 12:

What does the new federal water bill mean for California? For one, a big win for farmers

By Dale Kasler and Ryan Sabalow

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/water-and-drought/article120528073.html#storylink=cpy> California farmers and Southern California cities were aghast last winter when much of the heavy rainfall that fell in Northern California washed through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and out to sea. In their view, it represented [a lost opportunity](#) to capture high river flows and pump water to arid regions south of the Delta.

This winter could prove dramatically different. Upending a fragile, decades-long balance between human needs and the environment, Congress passed a [wide-ranging water bill](#) last weekend that is likely to result in greater pumping of Northern California water to farms and cities in the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California. The bill, co-authored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., passed with bipartisan support in both houses of Congress, despite furious opposition from Feinstein's longtime Senate ally, fellow Democrat Barbara Boxer.

With [more storms heading](#) toward Northern California this week, the bill could affect operations in the Delta right away if signed by President Barack Obama. The bill is designed to route more of the Sacramento River's flows to the giant government-run pumping stations near Tracy, which deliver water to California's dry interior and southern expanse via the State Water Project and Central Valley Project. That would mean less water in the rivers for fish and wildlife, and less flowing to the San Francisco Bay and out to the ocean.

Farm groups and south state cities called the controversial bill a long-overdue course correction that puts human needs on an even footing with fish and other environmental purposes.

"The intent really is to avoid the absolute catastrophe that was the 2016 operations, where you had days and days and days on end of massive amounts of water flowing through the Delta" and out to the ocean, said Johnny Amaral of the Westlands Water District, the massive agricultural district that spent \$1 million lobbying Congress over water the past two years.

Environmentalists, however, said by authorizing increased pumping in the Delta, the legislation will bring further ruin to the dwindling fish populations that are protected by the Endangered Species Act.

If Obama signs the bill, which is no sure thing, it could put the federal government on a [collision course with California](#) regulators. The state has strong laws in place to protect endangered species and Delta water quality. The State Water Resources Control Board, which has broad authority over the allocation of water coursing through the Delta, already has begun [updating its standards](#) for water quality and restricting the amount of river flows that can get pumped south.

Along with the pumping provisions, the bill would funnel money into an array of California water projects. Among them: \$415 million for watershed restoration and other environmental aid for Lake Tahoe; up to \$335 million for two proposed reservoirs in California, including the [Sites reservoir](#) north of Sacramento; \$880 million for flood-control projects on the American and Sacramento rivers in Sacramento; and \$780 million for flood-control projects in West Sacramento.

The bill doesn't gut the Endangered Species Act or do away with the influential recommendations federal scientists issue about the risk levels to fish from Delta pumping. But it does require pump operators to push the limits on how much water can be pumped.

The bill says the water projects must be managed to "maximize water supplies for the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project." The projects' customers include most of the state's major

agricultural water agencies and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which supplies water to 19 million people in the Los Angeles and San Diego regions.

How would they get more water? One example is in the regulation of the “reverse flow” limitations on the San Joaquin River. The Delta pumping stations near Tracy are so powerful, they disrupt river flows and pull migrating fish toward predators that await them at the pump entrances and the pumps themselves.

Under current law, biologists from the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decide how strong the reverse flow can be. The new law would require the federal government to ramp up the pumps to the maximum allowed under the Endangered Species Act unless there's evidence of “additional adverse effects” on the fish.

After years of drama, farmers score a big win in California water battle

By Michael Doyle

December 10, 2016

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/congress/article120131428.html#storylink=cpy>

The California water bill now ready for the president's signature dramatically shifts 25 years of federal policy and culminates a long and fractious campaign born in the drought-stricken San Joaquin Valley.

The following excerpted commentary from *Agalert* on December 14 includes some history of how we got into the current crisis of masses of water just flowing to the ocean.

Commentary: Drought-bill coverage reflects regional differences

<http://agalert.com/story/?id=10400>

By Dave Kranz

The parallels are striking: Significant California water legislation is folded into a larger bill, passed by Congress over the objections of one of its senators and sent to a president near the end of his term.

In 2016, the legislation is the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, which gained final approval from Congress late last week despite a filibuster threat and "no" vote from Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif. Provisions intended for California drought relief were inserted into a larger water-infrastructure bill that passed both houses of Congress by wide margins, to be sent to President Obama in the final weeks of his term. (See [story](#).)

In 1992, it was the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, which was attached to a larger Western reclamation bill and passed over the objections of Sen. John Seymour, R-Calif. It was sent to President George H.W. Bush, who signed the bill days before the presidential election he ultimately lost to Bill Clinton.

The CVPIA, sponsored by Rep. George Miller, D-Martinez, and Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J., reallocated 800,000 feet of Central Valley Project water to fish and wildlife, and made additional environmental requirements.

At the time, the California Farm Bureau Federation, other farm organizations and individual farmers warned the bill would lead to reduced water deliveries for farmers in the western San Joaquin Valley and elsewhere in the CVP service area, especially during drought years—predictions that turned out to

be accurate, as farmers have seen all too often.

With the tables seemingly turned this year, environmentalists and their allies in Congress—and sympathetic newspaper editorial boards—have criticized the WIIN bill as a "poison pill" within larger legislation. If any of them are aware of the parallel history of the CVPIA, they haven't mentioned it. And, of course, the WIIN Act would restore only part of the water redirected to fish by CVPIA and subsequent actions.

The Modesto Bee took a similar editorial stance, saying the drought legislation "will have profound positive impacts on our valley while preventing an assault on environmental-movement priorities."

If politics is about compromise, the Modesto paper said, "we believe this is a good one."

The Modesto editorial linked the drought provisions in the federal legislation to the current efforts by state regulators to require more flow in the lower San Joaquin River and its tributaries—requirements that could cause severe economic consequences in the northern San Joaquin Valley.

"More than anything, we appreciate that human needs have been given weight" in the federal legislation, the Modesto Bee said.

The big water bill and what you need to know about it

December 9, 2016

<http://www.recordnet.com/news/20161209/big-water-bill-and-what-you-need-to-know-about-it>

By [Alex Breitler](#)

Record Staff Writer

By now you've heard that California's two longtime U.S. senators are [seriously at odds](#) over legislation to address the drought.

Who's right? The dust devil is in the details.

Here are six themes from [Sen. Dianne Feinstein's bill](#), and why they matter.

- 1. Turning up the pumps***
- 2. Water for sale***
- 3. Predator watch***
- 4. Something for northerners***
- 5. Beyond the drought***
- 6. Environmental needs***

Water Bill with Drought Relief on President's Desk

Published December 12, 2016

<http://agnetwest.com/2016/12/12/water-bill-presidents-desk/>

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield and Senator Dianne Feinstein of San Francisco negotiated the rider to the bill in an effort to help California as it braces for a sixth year of drought. "The goal of the short-term provisions in the bill—which will sunset after five years—is to run California's water system based on good science, not intuition," Feinstein said. "The provisions

include daily monitoring of fish in turbid water, ending the winter storm payback requirement, requiring agencies to explain when they pump less than biological opinions allow, maximize water supplies consistent with law, a pilot project to see if the Delta Cross-Channel Gates can be opened for longer, extend the time period for voluntary water transfers, allow 1:1 transfer ratios in certain conditions and allow expedited reviews for projects to improve water quality.”

“The long-term provisions are vital for California to not become a desert state,” Feinstein continued. “We absolutely must hold water from wet years for use in dry years, and this bill will help accomplish that by investing more than \$500 million in projects. The water bill directs \$30 million to desalination projects, \$150 million to water recycling and water conservation projects, \$335 million to groundwater and surface storage projects and \$43 million to projects that benefit fish and wildlife.”

Congress sends major California water policy to President Obama, despite Sen.

Barbara Boxer's objections

Los Angeles Times

By Sarah D. Wire and Bettina Boxall

December 9, 2016

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-ca-senate-water-policy-20161209-story.html>

House approves California water plan that splits state's Democratic senators

By Michael Doyle

December 8, 2016

<http://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/water-and-drought/article119711038.html#storylink=cpy>

ACWA Statement on Passage of Federal Water Legislation

December 10, 2016

<http://www.marketwired.com/press-release/acwa-statement-on-passage-of-federal-water-legislation-2182291.htm>

SACRAMENTO, CA--(Marketwired - December 10, 2016) - Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Executive Director Timothy Quinn issued the following statement today regarding passage of comprehensive water legislation by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives this week. ACWA supported passage of S. 612, which addresses the nation's water infrastructure needs and includes provisions to address lead in drinking water, California drought, and long-standing water settlement agreements with Native Americans.

"This legislation is important to California's water future and is consistent with our state's policy of managing water resources for the coequal goals of enhancing ecosystem health and improving water supply reliability.

The Drought-Busting Bill Congress Just Passed Might Screw the Endangered Species Act

- [Marley Walker](#)

- December 13, 2016
- <https://www.wired.com/2016/12/drought-busting-bill-congress-just-passed-might-screw-endangered-species-act/>

And most of that stuff is uncontroversial. Overdue, even. But not all. Of particular concern, if you are a biologist, fish-lover, or fish, is language that authorizes increased pumping from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to farms in drier Southern California drought-stricken south.

Current water policy in California places strict regulations on how much water can be pumped from the Delta: Water managers have to pay attention to rainfall, the presence of fish, and set up ranges for how much H₂O can be pumped. But the bill calls for maximum pumping. And this could doom the Delta smelt—and several other endangered, endemic fish—to extinction. It could also weaken the Endangered Species Act altogether, opening it to legal attacks from anyone who prioritizes resource extraction over the existence of thousands of currently listed critters.

In the early 1980s, biologists studying the Delta smelt noticed that its numbers had dropped drastically. “If it disappeared, you probably wouldn’t notice,” says Peter Moyle, biologist at UC Davis, and one of the first scientists to study the smelt. But the Endangered Species Act protects any threatened group of animals, even small, boring, fish. So, in 1993, Moyle and others successfully petitioned to have the Delta smelt listed. As a result, state and federal water regulators who operate the pumps have had to check a number of boxes—including the smelt’s current population numbers and the Delta’s salinity level—before operating the pumps. That means farmers and cities to the south sometimes don’t get the water they are allotted. That’s where maximum pumping, or “maximum diversions,” in water policy parlance, comes in. The new water bill says the pumps’ state and federal managers must send out all the water they can.

Our view: Thanks for nothing, DiFi

December 13, 2016

<http://www.recordnet.com/opinion/20161213/our-view-thanks-for-nothing-difi>

For those who truly care about the San Joaquin Delta and the future of the vital estuary, one thing is abundantly clear: The wrong longtime U.S. senator from California is retiring.

Barbara Boxer, who has served in the upper house since 1993 and is retiring in January, has the backs of conservationists and others who value the Delta and view it with long-term concern and hope.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who also has been served since the early 1990s, chose to play sleight of hand in attaching a rider to a \$558 million bill that would, among other things, give more water to farmers, slow the potential construction of dams and pour more money into desalination and recycling projects.

The bill would lead to significantly increased Delta export pumping and flows of water. That’ll make southern Valley farm interests happy, but could decimate salmon and other fishing and impact the delicate environmental balance of the Delta.

Does water bill override biops? Sure looks like it.

http://blogs.esanjoaquin.com/san-joaquin-river-delta/2016/12/13/does-water-bill-override-biops-sure-looks-like-it/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+san-joaquin-river-delta+%28Alex+Breitler%27s+San+Joaquin+Delta%2C+Delta+College+Blog%29

By [Alex Breitler](#)

December 13, 2016

There was much talk Friday night on the floor of the U.S. Senate about whether the [controversial California drought legislation](#) now awaiting the president's signature overrides the biological opinions that protect Delta fish or, by extension, the Endangered Species Act itself.

Depending on which senator was doing the talking, it definitely does or it definitely doesn't.

The Carlsbad Desalinating Plant Celebrates One Year of Operation

Desalination Plant Anniversary Bodes Well for California

The one-year anniversary of Carlsbad desalination plant provides an opportunity to look at its positive impact in the region, writes Mark Muir of the San Diego County Water Authority.

<https://www.newsdeeply.com/water/community/2016/12/14/desalination-plant-anniversary-bodes-well-for-california>

By Mark Muir

December 14, 2016

When the nation's largest seawater desalination plant started commercial production last December, it was a historic victory for San Diego County and an entire drought-weary state.

One year later, the Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant has produced nearly 15 billion gallons (57bn liters) of drinking water, representing the best of our collective efforts in California to solve complex and sometimes confounding water challenges.

Consider:

- *The plant generated about 10 percent of San Diego County's water supply during its first year, providing a valuable resource during one of the most severe droughts in modern California history.*
- *It reduced state emergency water-use mandates across San Diego County in March, and helped the county pass the state's stringent water supply stress test in June – ending the state's emergency water-use mandates in the region.*
- *It was heralded as the International Desalination Plant of the Year by Global Water Intelligence for "the most impressive technical or ecologically sustainable achievement in the industry" and by the San Diego County Taxpayers Association for "stretching taxpayer dollars through cooperation between the public and private sectors."*

What's often overlooked is that the Carlsbad plant also relieved pressure on the State Water Project and the ecologically sensitive Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta by reducing the amount of imported water San Diego County needs. The plant is a core supply for decades regardless of the weather. Every drop it produces is a drop that we don't need to import from sources impacted by long-term drought.

The Carlsbad Desalination Plant Process



Feature

To Solve California's Water Problem, First Reinstate the Glass-Steagall Banking Law

President-elect Donald Trump has indicated that he wants to spend one trillion dollars on building infrastructure in order to fix the nation and to put people to work. To be able to do that he must first do what he said he favors-- restore the President Franklin D. Roosevelt 1933 Glass-Steagall banking law.

What follows is both the broader context of what Glass-Steagall represents and some background on the law itself.

Every American must see it as their personal responsibility to be at least familiar with this policy.

A New Era for the United States

<https://larouchepac.com/20161209/new-era-united-states#.WFB5GAZ8Ufo.facebook>

Lyndon LaRouche's concise 2014 policy document entitled, "[Four New Laws for the USA Now: Not an Option, an Immediate Necessity!](#)" outlines the basis for mankind to progress forever. No more economic recessions! This video covers LaRouche's 'Four Laws' rooted in Alexander Hamilton's original guiding economic principles for the USA: Glass-Steagall, National Banking, Federal Credit for improving productivity and a crash program for fusion power.

The major political shifts occurring around the world, including the election of Donald Trump in the United States, reflect an international shift away from the broken and rotten system of the trans-Atlantic, towards the exciting new paradigm of economic and scientific progress coming from China and Russia. Lyndon LaRouche's "Four Laws" policy is the means to reverse the economic decline of the Bush and Obama presidencies and join Russia and China to develop an entirely new paradigm of cooperation between nations. Jason Ross of the LaRouchePAC Science Research Team (aka. The Basement) outlines how we can implement LaRouche's concepts in the United States today.

The only solution, at this point of deep breakdown, is to implement [LaRouche's four laws recovery program](#) on an emergency basis,

1. [Reinstate FDR's Glass-Steagall banking separation](#)
2. [Return to a Hamiltonian System of national banking](#)
3. [Invest federal credit for productive employment](#)
4. [Launch a crash program for fusion power](#)

No single one of these measures alone can work, only the integrated implementation of the entire program as the single totality Mr. LaRouche presents in his [Four Laws policy document](#). Economic growth is a product of the mankind's unique capabilities for creative discovery — setting mankind apart from all lower forms of life, and ensuring there are no limits to mankind's growth (other than those self-imposed by degenerate policies). LaRouche's Four Laws program is rooted in this scientific insight into the source of economic progress, as understood by Franklin Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln, and the great genius of Alexander Hamilton.

LaRouche's Four Laws provides the only basis for the United States to save itself from collapse and join in collaboration with China, Russia, India, and other nations participating in the global economic renaissance centered around China's New Silk Road program.

Glass-Steagall

The 1999 repeal of the original "Glass-Steagall Act" of 1933 was perhaps the single greatest criminal act committed against the economic welfare of the American people in the 20th Century. Despite all claims to the contrary, the repeal of Glass-Steagall laid the groundwork for the creation of a monstrous derivatives bubble which burst during the financial crisis of 2007-2008. All subsequent monetarist games of bail-out, bail-in, quantitative easing, etc. have failed, and we must return to a strict separation of commercial and investment banking with Glass-Steagall—ensuring legitimate commercial banks continue to receive federal protection, but Wall Street's speculation and gambling is cut off. Currently there is massive support for the reinstatement of Glass-Steagall, including live bills in the Congress with dozens of co-sponsors.

For more on Glass-Steagall, including the text of bills to restore the law now in Congress:

<https://larouchepac.com/glass-steagall>