

California Drought (and Flood) Update



For April 6, 2017

by Patrick Ruckert

Published weekly since July, 2014

<http://www.californiadroughtupdate.org>

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

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The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

A Note To Readers

First, of note, as this is being written, President Trump is in the first of two days of meetings in Florida with President Xi of China. It should be recalled that China has offered to invest hundreds of billions of the U.S. Treasury bills it holds in building U.S. infrastructure. China has also invited the U.S. to join its One Belt One Road, or New Silk Road, policy, which is already the greatest infrastructure building program in world history. This meeting may be the beginning of something great. Here is an article on it: *Will President Trump Join the New Silk Road?* <https://larouchepac.com/20170404/will-president-trump-join-new-silk-road>

The Preamble to the U.S. Constitution is, unfortunately, something most Americans are unfamiliar with today. And as readers of this report, I am sure have noticed, that with the dramatic shift in the nation's direction with the election of a new President, we have decided that the report no longer needs to be a mere chronicler of the unfolding disaster of the California water management system. We now have the opportunity to take the words of that Preamble and wield the profound intent it gives us, and fix the disaster that system and the nation have become.

It is not my purpose here to expound at length on the Preamble, but to just highlight a few points that its authors, Alexander Hamilton and Gouverneur Morris, intended with this statement that defines the mission and purpose of Constitution itself. The phrase *to form a more perfect union* recognizes that

the idea of perfection is not a fixed thing, permanent and unchanging, but is a process of development. It is the idea, that what was established by this Constitution, provides the foundation for a continuous uplifting and improvement of the nation as a whole and its people. It is a promise to be fulfilled by the generations to come; it defines a future that is to be.

Finally, but by no means does this exhaust what can be said about this compact and profound statement, we are entering a period in which, once again in our history, the phrase *promote the general Welfare* shall define exactly how we will or will not move forward with trillions of dollars of infrastructure projects. For whether we create a government directed national bank-like structure or we flounder with ideological driven “privatization” schemes depends on recognizing the central role of the government's commitment to the general welfare of all the people of the nation.

This Week's Report

This week's report begins with where we are: The status of the drought, the potential of Spring floods, the condition of the reservoirs, or as was said by Anthony Quinn in *Zorba the Greek*, “the whole catastrophe.”

The condition and operation of the Oroville Dam is central to the entire state's water supply, and an update on developments there follows.

It may surprise most in the state that jumping into California with big money is that federal government some love to hate. President Trump has issued four presidential declarations of state of emergency for the state totaling \$540 million. That is for Oroville Dam and the flood damage from the storms this winter.

That leads into a series of reports on infrastructure, including the President's plans, concluding with some of his remarks at the conference of the Building and Construction Trades this week.

To wrap this up I want to present some comments of my colleague Diane Sare from a conference call on April 4, which communicates the quality of spirit I think is necessary for our citizens to exhibit today:

Everything will move very quickly, if we do our job. The population doesn't believe that anyone will give them this opportunity. We don't know what Trump will say when he meets with Xi. But we know the Chinese sovereign investment funds are interested in putting capital behind dealing with the huge U.S. infrastructure deficit. With the labor force we've got, we couldn't handle more than \$2 trillion. This situation forces us to recognize how bad things have gotten. That's good. We see that large portions of the youth are revealed as morons. OK just temporarily morons, if we put CCC-type programs in place, based on construction work. Nothing recruits young males away from doing dumb things faster than physical labor in a project deemed impossible, and having them accomplish it. How fast? Only as fast as our imagination conceives of making it happen.

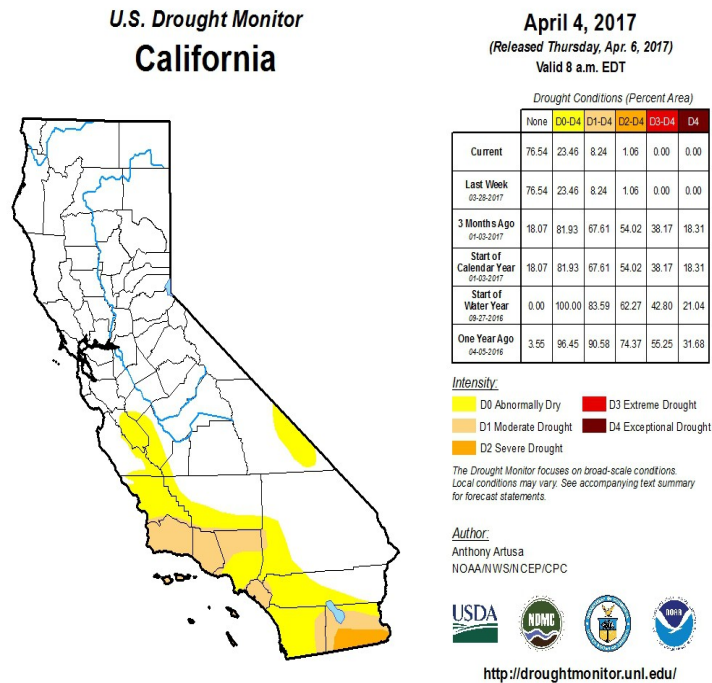
In 2008, you heard how fast the Wall Street bailout was done. Trillions of dollars were mobilized overnight. So for anyone asking how fast can we do this? How fast put Americans to work? here's the answer: Try two weeks.

What I do like, is the idea, that being president is not a popularity contest. Every President, enters office as an imperfect individual. But when you become President, the point is that the better angels of your nature are supposed to kick in. Your powers of thought and action, become subordinated to the position. Its only as real as the American people make it real, when they have that opportunity, to make that change.

You see, we are responsible for the policy of the United States. The President of the United States is responsible for executing policy. But it is no longer believed by the majority of the American citizens that they have the duty to formulate policy, to advocate policy, and to cause policy to become that

which the executive actually carries out. This is no longer believed in the United States.

U.S. Drought Monitor



Series Of Storms Expected To Hit California By End Of The Week

By Bob Moffitt

April 3, 2017

<http://www.cpradio.org/articles/2017/04/03/series-of-storms-expected-to-hit-california-by-end-of-the-week/>

The National Weather Service says a series of storms is supposed to hit California from Thursday through Saturday.

Cindy Mathews is with the weather service. She says this will not be a repeat of the rain and runoff that we had in early February.

"The term 'atmospheric river' is being applied to this weekend's storm, but it is not one of the extreme ones," says Mathews. "Snow levels will start out at pass levels and fall to below 5,000 feet by Saturday. So, it's a moderate-type atmospheric river."

She also says a second storm could arrive Tuesday.

Northern Sierra is now only 5 inches from wettest water year on record

By [Amy Graff](#), SFGATE

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Sierra-8-Station-Index-wettest-on-record-11047045.php>

Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index is now just five inches away from matching 1982-1983

as wettest water year on record.

Only 5 more inches.

That's the amount of precipitation the northern stretch of the Sierra Nevada needs between now and September 30 to become the wettest water year on record.

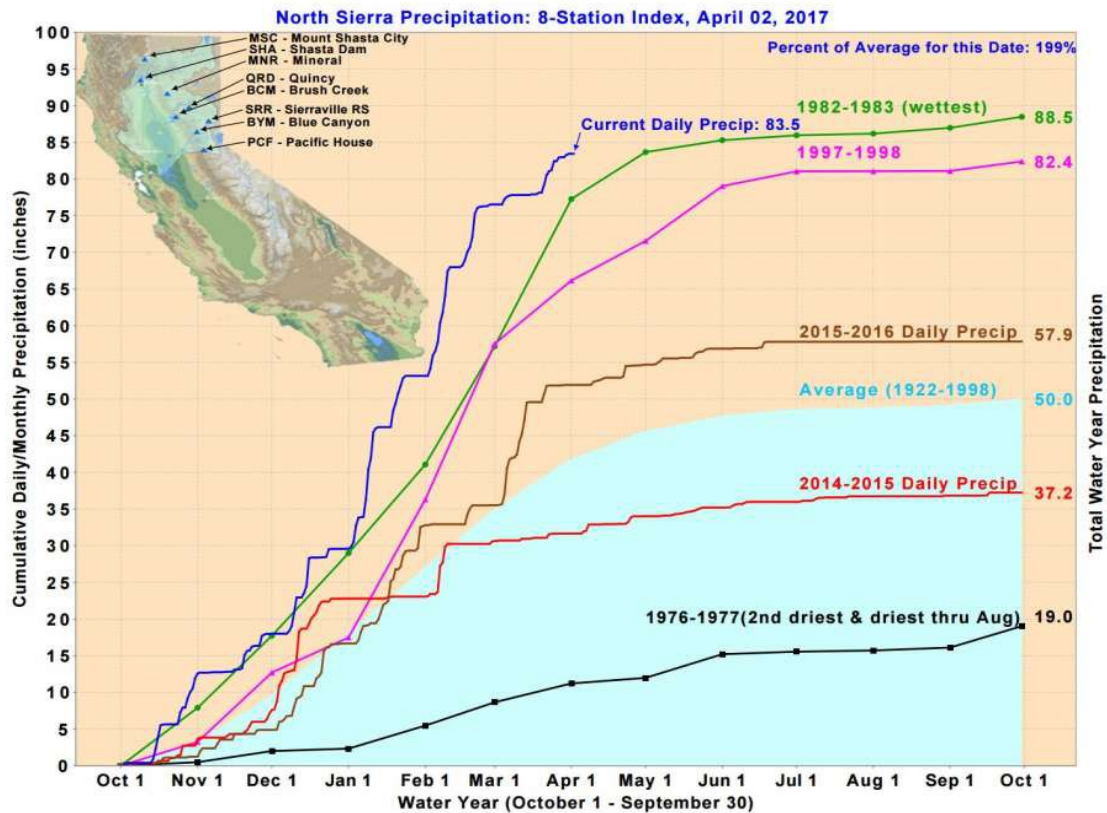


Photo: National Weather Service

Drought expected to continue

By David Louis

Today's News-Herald

April 1, 2017

http://www.havasunews.com/news/drought-expected-to-continue/article_dda25d68-175a-11e7-9bf9-a3fce88b56b9.html

Despite recent heavy rain and mountain snowfall in much of the west, precipitation largely bypassed the long-term drought areas across Southern California and much of the southwest.

Arizona, in general, has fared better with only 15 percent of the state still experiencing drought conditions after the wettest winter in seven years.

Although there has been rain, the threat of a water emergency still looms in the region's future, said Briana Morgan, Lake Havasu City water conservation specialist.

“As everyone knows the southwestern United States is in the midst of an extended drought. We’ve been experiencing this for more than 16 years, and concern is growing,” Morgan said.

That Was the Drought, Now the Flood

Corcoran readies for possible flood when Tulare Lake fills with snowmelt

By Lewis Griswold

April 1, 2017

<http://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/water-and-drought/article142100139.html#storylink=cpy>

Sales of flood insurance are booming here because of fears that the old Tulare Lake will fill when snowmelt comes crashing down the Kaweah, Kings and Tule rivers and pools in the lowest point in the San Joaquin Valley.

Although a levee protects [Corcoran](#), local officials started to worry about flooding when a survey in February showed that it had sunk two feet in two years due to land subsidence.

In a worst-case scenario, a fast snowmelt would overflow the lake and flood Corcoran, said Dustin Fuller, general manager of the Cross Creek Flood Control District.

But College of the Sequoias biology professor Rob Hansen said Tulare Lake was once the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River, and Corcoran is in the old lake bed. Additionally, groundwater pumping in the Valley has caused land subsidence in several areas, including Corcoran, he said.

“Because of that subsidence, they are rightly concerned” about flooding, he said.

Cotton farmer Barrie Boyett has lived in the area for 77 years. He donated land to the flood control district in 1983 to build the levee.

He’s seen Tulare Lake full before.

“This whole place was underwater,” he said from his pickup as earth movers spread dirt on top of the levee. “It very well could happen this year.

“The basic fact is there’s a snowpack up there that has to come down yet – there’s no other place for it,” he said. “Our lakes are full and there’s no other place for the water to go than here.”

Reservoir Conditions

The Big Melt: Here it comes; most reservoirs should be fine

By Alex Breitler

March 31, 2017

<http://www.recordnet.com/news/20170331/big-melt-here-it-comes-most-reservoirs-should-be-fine>

Reservoirs are no longer so frighteningly full, rivers are no longer flowing so fiercely, and it appears the threat of serious flooding has diminished in low-lying San Joaquin County.

But that [snowpack](#).

All eyes are on the Sierra Nevada now, where the snowpack typically peaks about this time each year and begins melting and draining into foothill reservoirs.

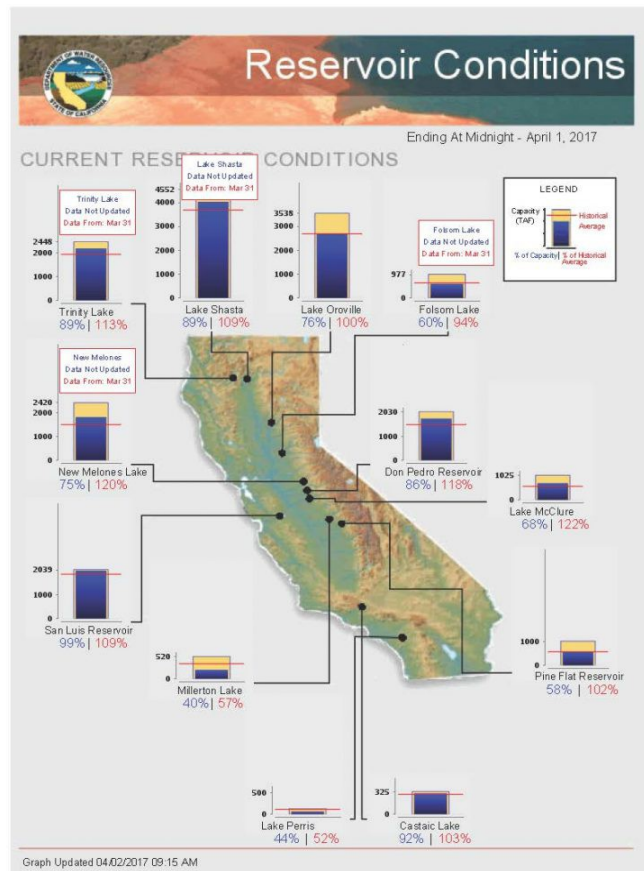
Are we ready?

State officials [estimate](#) that over the next four months, anywhere from [7.3 million to 9.5 million acre-](#)

feet of water will tumble from the mountains into major rivers that ultimately flow through San Joaquin County, past cities such as Manteca, Lathrop, Stockton and Lodi.

That's enough runoff to fill enormous Shasta Lake — maybe even twice.

At the moment there is less than 2 million acre-feet of room available in San Joaquin-area reservoirs to capture all of that snowmelt, but officials are optimistic we can avoid major flooding, as long as the snow melts slowly and consistently. While not the largest snowpack on record, it is 164 percent of normal, storing an estimated 50 inches of water across the central Sierras.



Back to Oroville Dam

Not only will the huge disaster that Oroville Dam has become not be solved or rather repaired this year, and the price tag is now over \$500 million, but again and again the people at the Department of Water Resources are demonstrating a behavior characteristic that can only be labeled cover-up and deception.

The first article excerpted below provides excellent background on the central role Oroville Dam plays for the entire California water management system, being the lynch-pin for the California State Water Project. That system, for example provides up to one-third of the water required each year by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Why Oroville Dam's woes could cut into California water supplies

By Dale Kasler and Ryan Sabalow

Sacramento Bee

March 31, 2017

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/water-and-drought/article142028574.html#storylink=cpy>

The fractured spillway at Oroville Dam has forced the state to spend tens of millions of dollars on emergency repairs, with millions more to come.

Here's another potential cost: a slice of California's water supply.

Dam operators are expected to run Lake Oroville, the state's second largest reservoir, at lower-than-usual water levels this summer as they wrestle with the complicated and lengthy task of fixing the dam's broken spillway. Despite one of the rainiest winters on record, that will mean less water held in storage – and less available for delivery later this year to Southern California, Silicon Valley and portions of the San Joaquin Valley.

“If they can't continue to fill the reservoir and they have to hold it down while they're in the process of making repairs to the spillway ... they'll have less water available to release for export,” said Curtis Creel of the Kern County Water Agency, an agricultural irrigation supplier that's one of the Oroville's major customers.

Creel said he thinks the lake could be held considerably lower, sacrificing several hundred thousand acre-feet of water that would otherwise be available for crops.

Now two articles on legitimate questions being raised about the lack of transparency (to put it in its most generous light) of state officials in regard to Oroville Dam. The first article is fairly extensive and detailed, but I can only put a few excerpts here. The entire article should be read.

Oroville Dam documents kept secret by state, federal officials

By Ryan Sabalow and Dale Kasler

Sacramento Bee

March 31, 2017

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/water-and-drought/article141963119.html#storylink=cpy>

Citing potential security risks, state and federal officials are blocking the public's ability to review documents that could shed light on repair plans and safety issues at crippled Oroville Dam.

One of the secret reports is a memo from an independent panel of experts brought in to guide state officials' repair plans. Another confidential document is labeled a “Project Safety Compliance Report.”

The secrecy on the part of state dam operators prompted state Sen. Jim Nielsen to call for an immediate oversight hearing.

“I'm alarmed and on the verge of outrage. We have an absolute, significant public safety concern,” said Nielsen, a Republican who represents thousands of residents who were evacuated when it appeared the dam might flood the region in February. “We need to know what cause they have to believe that there's such a (security) risk, or is that just cover-up?”

Dam managers at the state Department of Water Resources declined an interview request. In a written statement, spokeswoman Lauren Bisnett cited federal dam-security regulations.

The sealing of the reports comes after The Sacramento Bee reported on a earlier memo by four engineering consultants pointing to troubling design flaws at Oroville Dam's main spillway, flaws that

might have caused a giant crater to form in the concrete chute Feb. 7. The consultants also questioned whether the state could realistically follow through with plans to permanently repair the structure before the next rainy season.

Lake Oroville turbine, out of order since 2015, inoperable for rest of year

By Risa Johnson

Posted: 03/30/17

<http://www.chicoer.com/general-news/20170330/lake-oroville-turbine-out-of-order-since-2015-inoperable-for-rest-of-year>

Oroville >> During the Oroville Dam spillway crisis, the state Department of Water Resources has frequently said the Hyatt Powerplant was releasing flows at maximum capacity, but technically, that's impossible.

Inside the hydroelectric plant are six turbines, machines that produce power by water flowing through a wheel or motor. And one of those turbines has been out of commission since August 2015.

When asked by this newspaper about DWR's claim the plant is operating at full capacity, Lauren Bisnett, a department spokeswoman, said the turbine will be reinstalled by December.



The view from Oroville Dam shows the Hyatt Powerplant hydroelectric facility at the base of the dam in November.

More Evidence That President Trump Is Putin's Puppet (sarcasm)

Putin Rejects Global-Warming Nonsense

March 31, 2017 (EIRNS)--On the sidelines of the annual Arctic Forum conference in Arkhangelsk yesterday, President Vladimir Putin said that it made no sense for mankind to fight global warming, since it was not man-made. The warming had to do with "global cycles on Earth, or maybe even of planetary relevance." Mankind simply had to adapt to the changes, therefore, and, after all, warming also has benefits, particularly in the Arctic region, Putin said. Before the Forum began, Putin had visited the Franz Joseph archipelago in the Arctic Sea, according to accounts in the German press.

Putin also referenced an Austrian scientist who had toured the same archipelago in the 1930s and seen pictures of the same location 20 years later showing that the iceberg melting had already begun, long

before the growth of greenhouse gases had appeared. Putin said that it was more important to develop the Arctic region and to conduct more research in it, than drawing premature conclusions on its ecological situation now. In this context, Putin also wished Trump's new EPA administrator Scott Pruitt, who is a "climate skeptic," good success, adding that one has to look into Pruitt's views.

Unhappy and Happy With Trump

At Trump's EPA, going to work can be an act of defiance

By Evan Halper

April 4, 2017

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-epa-staff-morale-20170404-story.html>

The dim outlook at the EPA is weighing heavily on its 15,000 scientists, engineers, investigators and other employees, many of whom perceive their life's work to be under assault from within. The Trump administration is moving as quickly as it can to diminish the place, with plans to cripple the EPA science office, stop the agency's climate change work, cut its Superfund program in half and outright eliminate 50 programs, down to the voluntary Energy Star stickers that help consumers locate efficient appliances.

Trump approves funds for California relief, including \$274 million for Oroville Dam

By Christopher Cadelago and Jim Miller

April 2, 2017

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article142272894.html#storylink=cpy>

President Donald Trump announced Sunday more than a half-billion dollars would be coming to California to help cover the damage from the winter storms, including \$274 million for repairs to the Oroville Dam spillway.

The fulfillment of the fourth presidential declaration for damage from the winter storms totals an estimated \$540 million.

Trump and Infrastructure

With the summit today between President Trump and President Xi of China, as Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao states in the article immediately below, the United States "could certainly learn from other countries," adding that "there are [infrastructure] technologies and skill sets that we don't possess in the United States."

China holds a couple of trillion in U.S. Treasury Bills and has offered more than once to invest billions of it in U.S. infrastructure.

In this first and the second item in this section, the limited idea so far coming from the Trump administration on the infrastructure question stands out. As LaRouche has specified, just building some roads and bridges, though necessary, will not create the leap in the productivity of the economy required for the 21st Century. Only a science driver policy, led by an expanded space program and an aggressive fusion research policy can do that. The full elaboration of The Four Laws provides the

foundation required today: *LaRouche's Four Laws* <https://larouhepac.com/four-laws>

For further background, this article by LaRouche from 1997 is provided:

In Defense of Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton

<https://larouhepac.com/20170327/defense-treasury-secretary-alexander-hamilton>

Chinese Participation in Trump Infrastructure Program Possible; Legislation Coming Soon

<https://larouhepac.com/20170406/chinese-participation-trump-infrastructure-program-possible-legislation-coming-soon>

In a March 31 interview with Xinhua News Agency, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao announced that President Trump would roll out his infrastructure program in the third quarter of this year.

"We are working on the outlines and possible details of the infrastructure initiative. A package will be coming out later ... in the next several months," she added, without further elaboration. She also indicated that there would be a possibility for foreign companies to become involved in the project.

However, according to The Hill, Chao briefed 45 legislators on the program today, and in an address to 52 business leaders at the White House yesterday, she indicated that legislation could be ready as soon as May. Speaking at the same meeting, President Trump said that the package will be very large and will focus on projects that can get underway soon, Bondbuyers.com reported Wednesday.

"So we have to build roads. We have to build highways. We're talking about a very major infrastructure bill of a trillion dollars, perhaps more," he said. "We're going to be very strong that it has to be spent on shovels and not on other programs. If you have a job that you can't start within 90 days, we're not going to give you the money for it." Gary Cohn, director of the White House National Economic Council, said that Trump's infrastructure program covers a wide variety of projects. "We've taken the broadest possible interpretation of infrastructure."

Chao told Xinhua that the United States "could certainly learn from other countries," adding that "there are [infrastructure] technologies and skill sets that we don't possess in the United States." President Trump has repeatedly praised the up-to-date infrastructure facilities in places like Dubai, Qatar, and China. However, Chao said that whether foreign companies would be allowed to participate in Trump's new infrastructure programs is still a "subject of discussion right now." Even if they are granted access, she added, foreign companies also need to change their old way of doing business in the United States.

LAWMAKERS BRIEFED TODAY ON TRUMP'S INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

April 5-- The Hill

Transportation Dec. Elaine Chao briefed 45 legislators on the \$1 trillion plan, according to Rep. Bill Shuster (R-PA), head of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Shuster said the issue of financing is still under discussion, particularly how to raise revenue for direct federal funding and how to best leverage private sector dollars.

Bondbuyer.com and other sources quote Chao saying that infrastructure legislation could come as early as May. She was addressing a White House town hall CEO meeting with 52 business leaders. Trump told the same meeting that the package will be very large and will focus on projects that can get underway soon.

"So we have to build roads. We have to build highways. We're talking about a very major infrastructure bill of a trillion dollars, perhaps even more," Trump said. "We're going to be very strong that it has to be spent on shovels and not on other programs," he said. "If you have a job that you can't start within 90 days, we're not going to give you the money for it."

Gary Cohn, director of the White House National Economic Council, told the business executives that the administration's infrastructure policy would cover a wide variety of projects, including an upgraded air traffic control system and a modernized electric power grid. "We have taken the broadest interpretation of infrastructure," he said. He added that private investors will be sought to help rebuild rail systems to accommodate faster trains. "We don't have a lack of ingenuity," Cohn said. "We have a lack of desire to really figure out what to do."

It should be noted that the same Gary Cohn, director of the White House National Economic Council, cited in the last paragraph of the article above, is reported by Bloomberg today indicating, like Trump, that he supports the restoration of the Glass-Steagall banking law, a law that is the first step of Lyndon LaRouche's Four Laws for an Economic Recovery. Here is an excerpt from the text of the Bloomberg article:

"In a private meeting with lawmakers, White House economic adviser Gary Cohn said he supports a policy that could radically reshape Wall Street's biggest firms by separating their consumer-lending businesses from their investment banks, said people with direct knowledge of the matter."

"Cohn, the ex-Goldman Sachs Group Inc. executive who is now advising President Donald Trump, said he generally favors banking going back to how it was when firms like Goldman focused on trading and underwriting securities, and companies such as Citigroup Inc. primarily issued loans, according to the people, who heard his comments."

And here is an article (excerpted) that goes part of the way toward what really must be done: A National Bank or a National Infrastructure Bank that can actually fund the level and quality of infrastructure required. Of special interest in this article is that it cites the China-led Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank as an example.

A Smarter Approach to Infrastructure

By Suneel Kamrani

Bloomberg

April 5, 2017

<https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2017-04-05/a-smarter-approach-to-infrastructure>

One promising solution is for states or regional economic zones to lead the way by creating their own infrastructure banks, modelled on successful development banks in other countries. The Northeast has taken the first step, with Massachusetts filing bills in January to establish a [state infrastructure bank](#) and examine a [regional one](#). This model could be easily replicated across the U.S. to accelerate investment and economic activity.

How would it work? Taking the Northeast as an example, states from Massachusetts to Maryland could create a jointly owned entity capable of financing critical projects, including those that cross borders. Each state would contribute part of the initial equity, which could then be leveraged with private debt to invest in revenue-producing projects. The equity could be boosted through annual contributions from

state transportation budgets -- or from other sources -- with every new dollar having a multiplier effect.

This is a tried and tested model. The European Investment Bank, founded in 1958, last reported more than 450 billion euros in disbursed loans, about two-thirds of which were for infrastructure projects. In 2016, China launched the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, with \$100 billion to help accelerate investment across developing Asia. Canada is creating a bank that will leverage C\$35 billion in state funds with private capital to pay for domestic construction.

Remarks by President Trump at 2017 North America's Building Trades Unions National Legislative Conference (excerpts)

Washington Hilton
Washington, D.C.

April 4, 2017

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/04/04/remarks-president-trump-2017-north-americas-building-trades-unions>

Here is the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYR-QtgMRkU>

So it's great to be back with America's builders. So did you ever think you'd see a President who knows how much concrete and rebar you can lay down in a single day? Believe me, I know.

You're the keepers of the great trades and traditions that built our country from the New York skyline to the Golden Gate Bridge. You represent the workers whose hands, skills, and dreams will build the great landmarks of our future.

Washington and Wall Street have done very, very well for themselves. Now it's your turn. And you're going to be also sharing the wealth.

For decades now, we've watched as our factories have shuttered -- almost 70,000 factories -- our jobs have been stolen, and blue collar wages have declined. We've seen the economic pain inflicted on our fellow Americans in Pittsburgh and Detroit and Baltimore. We didn't just offshore our jobs, we offshored a big, big part of the American Dream.

We're going to bring back our jobs -- and, yes, we're going to bring back the American Dream. As I traveled the nation, I heard the pleas of the forgotten men and women of our country -- the people who work hard and play by the rules, but who don't have a voice. Together, we are their voice, and they will never, ever be forgotten again. That I can tell you.

I'm calling on all Americans -- Democrat, Republican, independent -- to come together and take part in the great rebuilding of our country.

That is why, in my address to Congress, I called on lawmakers to pass legislation that produces a \$1-trillion investment in the infrastructure of our country. And we need it. With your help, we can rebuild our country's bridges, airports, seaports, and water systems.

Only miles from the halls of Congress and the newsrooms of Washington, you will find once-thriving cities marred by empty lots and once-booming industrial towns that have become rusted and are in total disrepair. Standing before me today, in this very hall, are the men and women who, if given the chance, can transform these communities. You are the citizens who can rebuild our cities, revive our industries, and renew our beloved country. And I know you will stop at nothing to get the job done.