

California Drought (and Flood) Update



For September 7, 2017

by Patrick Ruckert

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<http://www.californiadroughtupdate.org>

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

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All future generations, and this is a cliché you have heard many times, always surpass the previous ones, and achieve more. This is true. This is only natural, because new generations build on the foundation created by their predecessors.

You, who are now entering active life, need to bear this in mind, be aware of it and not just do better than previous generations, but do better on a new level, and not only in comparison with what was done in our country, but in comparison with our competitors all over the world. I am not talking about enemies of every stripe. Now is not the time to talk about sad things. I am referring to competitors, and the competition is always strong.

That is why the step you are taking today— choosing your profession and your path in life— is so important for you. You saw them on the screen.

They include space exploration, innovative energy sources, transport, biology, and cognitive science. They are about the synergy of various areas of knowledge and technology that produce the maximum effect, nature-like technologies, and so on. Medicine and education, too, by the way. You have to choose your own path.

Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin

At the “National open lesson Russia Focused on the Future,” speaking to students in the Yaroslavl Region, and with more than one million other students watching on TV.

<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/55493>

A Note To Readers

With back to back hurricane disasters throwing the nation into a whole new world-- one that requires serious and profound changes in the system that let nature wreck the country because we did not build what could have been built decades ago-- it is time for President Trump to cease being a cheerleader for “issues” that elicit the cheers, and instead, become the leader and educator of citizens.

The quote above from President Putin demonstrates such leadership.

The moment is still ripe for Americans to take a lesson from the immense human and economic loss of Hurricane Harvey: Build the new infrastructure which was many decades overdue, to prevent these disasters from robbing Americans of homes, jobs, untold wealth and even their lives. Reverse the slow-motion collapse of the obsolete infrastructure platforms on which the U.S. economy has been working.

Some 50 years ago the State of Texas drafted plans for a comprehensive water and flood management system that would protect its Gulf coastal cities from flooding — and its extreme southeastern coast and upper plains from drought — by linking many dams and reservoirs with a long coastal canal to move excess water between river basins. This was the same decade that JFK and RFK worked for a Western water management plan called the North American Water and Power Alliance — a dozen times the Tennessee Valley Authority — to defeat desertification and irrigate farmland.

The need for building such new and higher technology infrastructure platforms does not diminish because a Wall Street-run economy and many wars have blocked them. Another historic moment arrives when they must be done. That is the point we have been brought to, with three major U.S. cities having been entirely devastated by hurricanes in just over a decade, and losses far exceeding the costs of these great projects. And over the next days more cities shall be devastated by hurricane Irma.

It was ten years ago that the U.S. Congress in two days passed a law to give the Wall Street banks \$700 billion in bailouts, despite the overwhelming uproar against it from the American people. So, don't tell me the nation cannot create a credit system, perhaps like the FDR-utilized Reconstruction Finance Corporation used to build great projects like the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Grand Coulee Dam. And unlike bailing out the parasites of Wall Street, we issue a trillion or two (to begin with) to rebuild the nation.

That is what the President must be leading cheers for.

That tragedy opens the potential for change is made clear in this message from Dan Leach, one of my colleagues in Houston:

A Sublime Moment in Houston

Those of us in the LaRouche movement office in Houston were witness not only to a terrible tragedy over the last week, but also to the manifestation of a powerful and profound principle. Not only did literally thousands of first responders—police, firemen, National Guard, Coast Guard, etc. from as far away as New York and Boston pour in to help in the rescue operations, risking their lives repeatedly, but many thousands more ordinary people from all over the country came with boats, canoes, trucks or anything that could get through high water, to help save the lives of people they never met. One policeman and several civilians did, indeed, lose their lives. It was truly inspiring to see the many examples of selfless giving, cooperation and downright heroism emergency brought out. Everyone from news reporters to ordinary people sensed that, in that moment, there were no differences, there were only human beings who were in danger or suffering and needed help. People who had just been evacuated and lost their homes were out there immediately helping to get others to safety. Perhaps the most emblematic image was that of a redneck, maybe part of the famous so-called “Cajun Navy” who came over from Louisiana with their boats, big Confederate flag on the side of his boat, rescuing

African-American and Hispanic families. Any notion one may have had less than a month ago, in the aftermath of the events in Charlottesville, that America was hopelessly divided and engulfed in hate and paranoia, seemed to vanish.

In this week's report

Skipping the U.S. Drought Monitor and the Reservoir Graph this week, we shall go straight to some reports on The Weather, the Climate, Drought and Hurricanes.

That is followed by the Oroville Dam update, which includes a report by Oroville Dam Spillway Incident Independent Forensic Team.

Then we have the Dam Safety Report reporting on the state of California's dams.

California and all of the West, including British Columbia are burning up as the report on wildfires this week reports.

The Weather, the Climate, Drought and Hurricanes

I hope you like the first item excerpted below on the forecast for California's coming winter. They cover all the bases, so one of them will get it right.

And California's weather, like a lot of its population, is weird. So reports the second article below.

Montana has one hell of a drought underway now, as seen in the third item in this section.

Two articles follow on hurricanes. The first on the possible affect that Solar eruptions may intensify hurricanes, and the second ridiculing the idea that hurricane Harvey was caused by global warming or climate change.

'Winter is coming': What do climate scientists predict for Southern California?

By [Steve Scauzillo](#), San Gabriel Valley Tribune

Posted: 09/04/17, 7:23 PM PDT | Updated: 1 day ago

<http://www.sgytribune.com/general-news/20170904/winter-is-coming-what-do-climate-scientists-predict-for-southern-california>

Several climate experts, flummoxed by [the failure of a widely predicted El Niño to make a dent in Southern California's drought during the winter of 2015-16](#), are saying they are unsure what this winter will bring.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says December-January-February in California will be a winter [with equal chances of normal, below normal and above normal rain](#).

"That means they do not know. There is no strong signal," said Bill Patzert, the expert climatologist from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in La Cañada Flintridge, [who incorrectly predicted tons of rain from the "Godzilla El Niño" for the 2015-2016 winter](#).

For this coming winter, however, with no El Niño in sight, he's making a not-so-bold prediction: It's

going to be either wet or dry.

To be fair, Patzert's prediction was true for Northern California and Texas. If it weren't for [a stubborn ridge of high pressure pushing the Jet Stream storms north and south of Los Angeles](#), he would have been accurate.

The fact that Los Angeles received 131 percent of average rainfall the following winter — Oct. 1, 2016 through April 30 — and the Sierra Nevada received record levels of snowpack is inexplicable, he said.

“Either we slip back into drought or we have a repeat of last winter,” Patzert said.

Ken Clark, expert meteorologist with AccuWeather.com, who has been studying Southern California weather since 1996, took a stab at predicting upcoming winter weather.

“We are looking at more of a moderate winter with a decent amount of storms, perhaps better if you go farther north than south (in California). But a decent amount of precipitation,” he said.

Record heat, lightning, fires, intense rain: California's extreme weather gets wilder

By Joseph Serna

September 1, 2017

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-lightning-weather-extreme-heat-20170901-story.html>

The heat wave that has gripped California for a week took a dramatic turn Thursday as lightning storms sparked brush fires, knocked out power to thousands and caused downpours across the region.

Forecasters said the extreme weather will continue through the weekend, with some parts of Northern California flirting with all-time record high temperatures.

The heat wave is part of a larger high-pressure system that has settled over the Great Basin and has been broiling states from California to Utah and Arizona to New Mexico.

The weather pattern is also at least partially responsible for the behavior of Hurricane Harvey in Texas, said Bill Patzert, a climatologist with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The system acted as a barrier that blocked Harvey's path inland. The storm was stopped in its tracks right over Houston, where it continued sucking up moisture from the Gulf of Mexico and raining it down on the flooded landscape below.

“Until the large-scale pattern changes, it will continue to soak Texas,” Patzert said.

Crop Loss, Fishing Bans: Montana Becomes Epicenter of Drought in West

By Matt Weiser

September 1, 2017

<https://www.newsdeeply.com/water/articles/2017/09/01/crop-loss-fishing-bans-montana-becomes-epicenter-of-drought-in-west>

A wet winter in 2017 pulled most of the West out of a long and serious drought. But one state was left behind: Montana.

Andy Fjeseth, a spokesperson for the Montana Department of Agriculture, said some officials are calling the drought a “100-year event” in the state. It has hit the eastern part of the state particularly hard.

Wheat and hay farmers have lost crops, he said, because normal spring rains never came. Many cattle ranchers have been forced to sell off their animals early or move them long distances to find decent grazing conditions.

The National Drought Mitigation Center recently shifted a large swathe of northeastern Montana into [exceptional drought](#) status, the most severe category – and it bleeds across into parts of North Dakota, as well. Some 17,500 square miles of Montana are now categorized as suffering exceptional drought.

Will Hurricane Irma Be Strengthened by Space Weather?

Sept. 6 (EIRNS)—How many people know that the tragic devastation of Hurricane Katrina was amplified by space weather conditions? How many people know that we might see similar conditions playing into Hurricane Irma?

Over the next 24 to 48 hours (beginning around 02:00 UTC Sept. 7), NOAA forecasts a strong geomagnetic storm (G3) will rattle and compress the Earth's magnetic field. This will likely lead to what's called a Forbush depression (a decrease in the galactic cosmic radiation flux reaching the Earth's atmosphere). According to the Henrik Svensmark cosmoclimatology theory, this should lower the ionization rate of the upper atmosphere, reducing the rate of water vapor condensation. As Professor Sergey Pulinets and his colleagues have noted, this should also reduce the rate of latent heat release, resulting in a colder upper atmosphere (and, therefore, a greater temperature difference between the ocean and upper atmosphere).

These conditions can lead to stronger cyclones and hurricanes, as shown in earlier studies of Hurricane Katrina and other tropical cyclones: See "Role of Variations in Galactic Cosmic Rays in Tropical Cyclogenesis: Evidence of Hurricane Katrina," Bondur, Pulinets, Kim (2008); and "Effect of Mesoscale Atmospheric Vortex Processes on the Upper Atmosphere and Ionosphere of the Earth," Bondur, Pulinets (2013).

When comparing the current conditions surrounding Irma with the case of Katrina, we note that Irma will be a couple days farther offshore of the U.S. mainland when the geomagnetic storm hits, and the coming geomagnetic storm is expected to be a little weaker than the one that hit before Katrina made landfall. We're also seeing a higher rate of galactic cosmic ray flux in the current approach to the minimum of a generally weaker solar cycle.

It is unclear what the exact results will be, but this is certainly a development worth keeping an eye on.

Global Warming Fraudsters Try To Make Hay from Hurricane Harvey

Sept. 2 (EIRNS)—As expected, many man-made global warming fear-mongers are shamelessly trying to use the Harvey tragedy to push their propaganda. As just one example, the Sept. 1 Houston Chronicle ran an article, "Harvey Highlights How Climate Is Changing." Climate fraudster Prof. James "Hockey Stick" Mann of the University of Pennsylvania appeared on BBC Aug. 31 to claim that climate change was causing "more, and more intense storms in the Gulf of Mexico."

One useful, qualified source to debunk this junk is "climate skeptic" Dr. Roy Spencer. He has a doctorate in meteorology (1981), was a Senior Scientist for Climate Studies at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center until 2001, and then became a Principal Research Scientist at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where he led a program to develop accurate global temperature readings from satellite measurements (he received an "Exceptional Scientific Achievement" medal from NASA for this work). Dr. Spencer's research has been entirely supported by NASA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA), and the Department of Energy. He continues to work for NASA on global temperature measurements with satellite data.

It's worth quoting from his Aug. 28th blog post, "Why Houston Flooding Isn't a Sign of Climate Change."

Under the subhead "Floods Aren't Just Due to Weather," he writes, "Major floods are difficult to compare throughout history because the ways in which we alter the landscape. For example, as cities like Houston expand over the years, soil is covered up by roads, parking lots, and buildings, with water rapidly draining off rather than soaking into the soil. The population of Houston is now ten times what it was in the 1920s. The Houston metroplex area has expanded greatly and the water drainage is basically in the direction of downtown Houston. There have been many flood disasters in the Houston area, even dating to the mid-1800s when the population was very low. In December of 1935 a massive flood occurred in the downtown area as the water level height measured at Buffalo Bayou in Houston topped out at 54.4 feet. By way of comparison, as of 6:30 a.m. this morning [Aug. 28], the water level in the same location is at 38 feet, which is still 16 feet lower than in 1935. I'm sure that will continue to rise." (As of Sept. 2, it has reached a new record of 63 feet.)

Under the subhead, "Was Harvey Unprecedented in Intensity?" Spencer explains, the "U.S. has had only four Category 4 (or stronger) hurricane strikes since 1970, but in about the same number of years preceding 1970 there were 14 strikes. So we can't say that we are experiencing more intense hurricanes in recent decades. Going back even earlier, a Category 4 hurricane struck Galveston in 1900, killing between 6,000 and 12,000 people. That was the greatest natural disaster in U.S. history. And don't forget, we just went through an unprecedented length of time—almost 12 years—without a major hurricane (Category 3 or stronger) making landfall in the U.S.

"And don't pay attention to claims of 500-year flood events, which most hydrologists dislike because we don't have enough measurements over time to determine such things, especially when they also depend on our altering of the landscape over time."

Oroville Dam Update

"The Oroville Dam Spillway Incident Independent Forensic Team delivered the second interim status memo to the California Department of Water Resources, giving a summary of findings and opinions to date regarding the chain of conditions, actions, and inactions from the February 20, 2017 Oroville incident."

That is the big news about the Oroville Dam this week, and a summary and highlights of that report can be found below, plus links to the report itself.

But, we begin with the videos of the construction of the new spillway, which I find interesting to follow. Then a progress report from the Department of Water Resources.

The final report in this section is on the "green spot" on the dam.

Videos

Oroville Spillway Update August 29, 2017

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=dChPI8y6hOU

California DWR

August 31, 2017

Work continues around the clock on the Oroville spillway, with concrete taking center stage during the night. Structural concrete is poured for the lower spillway, roller-compacted concrete (RCC) is laid to fill the void in the middle chute, and leveling concrete goes in on the upper spillway. The crew carries on during the day, installing forms for the upper spillway walls, and laying more RCC in the middle chute.

Oroville Spillway Update August 30, 2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1GOAfA5AGM>

California DWR

September 1, 2017

Oroville Spillway construction is progressing at a fast pace, as large volumes of concrete are placed in multiple areas of the flood control spillway throughout the day. The large void in the central area of the chute is being filled with roller-compacted concrete, while leveling concrete is poured in the upper chute.

Spillway Flyover September 2, 2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5SV2p3znI4&index=1&list=PLeod6x87Tu6eVFnSyEtQeOVbxvSWywPlx>

Oroville Spillway Update September 6, 2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9UU0f7lr44>

California DWR

Published on Sep 6, 2017

Roller-compacted concrete continues to fill the erosion area in the middle of the Oroville Spillway. Rock cleaning continues on the upper spillway, anchors are placed, and side walls are framed, with the first structural slab erected on the upper spillway.

Spillway Flyover September 6, 2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTvp0QLHfOw>

California DWR

Published on Sep 7, 2017

OROVILLE DAM SPILLWAY: Construction update

September 7, 2017 Maven ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Department of Water Resources:

Today the Department of Water Resources (DWR) provided an update on construction work on the Lake Oroville Spillways Emergency Recovery Project.

Continued Construction on the Main Spillway

- *Construction efforts at the Lake Oroville spillways remain focused on repairing and reconstructing the gated flood control spillway, also known as the main spillway, by November 1.*
- *There are 56 days left on the construction timeline to reconstruct the 2,270 feet of main spillway that will be completed this year:*
 - *Placement of reinforced, structural concrete is 20 percent complete. By November 1 there will be 1,220 feet of spillway chute with structural concrete – 870 feet on the upper chute of the spillway and 350 on the lower chute of the spillway.*
 - *The 1,050-foot middle section of the spillway chute, including filling in the two scour holes, is now 33 percent complete, with approximately 100,000 cubic yards of roller compacted concrete placed. This middle section will be completed to final design with structural concrete in 2018.*
 - *Crews have installed more than 5,000 feet of underdrains in the structural concrete sections.*
- *The 730 feet of main spillway leading to the radial gates will be patched, reinforced and left in place this year. It will be removed and reconstructed with structural concrete in 2018.*



Construction at the Emergency Spillway

- *DWR continues to make progress at the emergency spillway, and is still on schedule to complete construction of the secant pile wall, or cut-off wall, in late December 2017 or early January 2018.*
- *Crews have completed 15 percent of the secant pile wall.*

Other Updates

- *Yesterday, the Independent Forensics Team released an [interim memo](#) summarizing its current findings on the physical factors that caused the Lake Oroville spillway failure. A full report that will include human factors is expected later this fall. After reviewing the memo, DWR released a [statement](#) reiterating that protecting public safety is the state's top priority and expressing its commitment to apply lessons learned from the Lake Oroville spillways incident. DWR agrees with the Forensic Team's conclusions that dam owners need to reassess current procedures as visual inspections would not have caught what happened in February.*
- *Last week, DWR released the [Assessment of the Vegetation Area on the Face of Oroville Dam](#), which explains the cause of vegetation that occasionally grows on the face of the dam. Based on five decades of data and observation, the Department has concluded the vegetation area does not pose a threat to the integrity of the dam.*
- *The independent Board of Consultants met for the eleventh time with DWR on August 24 and 25. DWR presented the findings and conclusions of the Assessment of the Vegetation Area on*

the Face of Oroville Dam to the BOC members, who agreed the cause of the vegetation area does not pose a threat to the integrity of the Oroville Dam. The BOC's eleventh memo, which will contain this conclusion, will be posted soon after it is transmitted to DWR.



*Crews continue the placement of rebar panels for the new side walls on the lower chute of the Lake Oroville flood control spillway in Butte County, California. Photo taken September 5, 2017.
Ken James / California Department of Water Resources, FOR EDITORIAL USE ONLY*

Poor design, construction blamed in damage to California dam

*By ELLEN KNICKMEYER
Associated Press*

September 5, 2017

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_DAMAGED_DAM?
SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_DAMAGED_DAM?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -- Bad design and construction of the tallest U.S. dam a half-century ago and inadequate state and federal oversight since then led to a disastrous spillway collapse in February, an independent national team of dam safety experts said Tuesday as they urged tougher safety reviews nationwide.

The experts investigating February's spillway failures at California's Oroville Dam say the state probably could have detected the problems that led to the collapse if dam managers had assessed the original construction flaws in the 1960s-era structure in light of modern engineering standards.

Clues to the crisis "were all in the files" of California officials, showing the original flaws in the spillways' foundation, concrete and drainage, said John France, speaking for the expert panel formed by national dam-safety associations.

At Oroville Dam, "there has never been an evaluation completely that went back thoroughly in the files," as far as the outside experts could determine, France said.

Tuesday's report says water entering through cracks or repair seams in the main spillway may have

triggered crumbling of the spillway. It cites a series of problems with the original construction of the spillway in the 1960s, including thin concrete, poorly placed drains and inadequate foundations.

Inspections alone would not have been enough to deal with the original flaws, the experts said.

However, a thorough review of flaws built into the dam originally "would likely have connected the dots ... by identifying the physical factors that led to failure," the report said.

Oroville Independent Forensic Team Releases Preliminary Findings

September 5, 2017

<https://damsafety.org/sites/default/files/files/Oroville%20Press%20Release%20-%20September%202017.pdf>

The Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) and the United States Society on Dams (USSD) released the following statement on September 5th, 2017:

[*Oroville Independent Forensic Team Releases Preliminary Findings*](#)

The following document accompanied the September Release:

[*IFT Interim Status Memorandum*](#)

Those green, wet spots on Oroville Dam aren't worrisome, state insists

By Ryan Sabalow

August 30, 2017

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/water-and-drought/article170309392.html>

State dam operators have issued a new report that refutes troubling allegations raised by a catastrophic engineering expert [who contends Oroville Dam may be dangerously leaking](#).



View of vegetation on the downstream face of Oroville Dam. Taken on March 9, 2011 near the end of the rain season. Photo / California Department of Water Resources.

On Wednesday, the Department of Water Resources reiterated what state dam managers have insisted for months: that the public is in no risk from the persistent green wet spots near the top left abutment of the nearly 770-foot-tall earthen dam. The report says they're nothing more than natural vegetation growth caused by rainfall that becomes "temporarily trapped" inside the dam's outer-most layer and

then seeps out.

The spots are currently brown because of the lack of rain.

A team of independent consultants brought in to monitor repairs after February's spillway failure reviewed the state's findings and concurred with them, the DWR says.

The DWR's rebuttal is in response to a report released last month by Robert Bea of the [Center for Catastrophic Risk Management](#) at UC Berkeley.

Bea's report contended the dam was "facing a breach danger from a serious and a dangerous form of a slow-motion failure mode" from persistent leaks in the main dam, perhaps caused by internal shifting of dam fill.

Bea is a retired engineer whose credentials include conducting an independent investigation into why the levees around New Orleans failed in 2005 during Hurricane Katrina.

Dam Safety Report Released

The Department of Water Resources report is excerpted below.

California Division of Safety of Dams releases updated information on state's dams
[September 1, 2017 Maven Breaking News](#)

Data Will Further Guide Efforts to Strengthen Critical Infrastructure

From the Department of Water Resources:

The California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) today released [updated information](#) on 1,249 dams under its jurisdiction, including downstream hazard classification, condition assessment, and reservoir restriction status for each dam.

Condition Assessments and Reservoir Restrictions

DSOD dam condition assessments are based on five condition ratings from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Inventory of Dams, with some minor modifications. The ratings include satisfactory, fair, poor, unsatisfactory, and not rated. Dams rated as satisfactory have no identified deficiencies. Dams rated as fair, poor or unsatisfactory have at least one identified deficiency.

- *Currently 1,151 dams (92 percent) within DSOD's jurisdiction are rated satisfactory, meaning they have no identified deficiencies. Ninety-seven dams (less than 8 percent) within DSOD's jurisdiction have a deficiency with a current condition assessment of fair, poor, or unsatisfactory. Forty-four of those dams have a seismic deficiency.*
- *Of the 97 dams with deficiencies, DSOD records show repairs are underway by the owners on 63 dams. Records show repairs are delayed or progress unsatisfactory on the remaining 34 dams.*
- *Dam condition assessments may change from year to year as repair work is completed or new deficiencies are identified.*
- *DSOD may require that reservoir storage be reduced (restricted) to a specific level if unsafe*

conditions exist.

Wildfires Burning Up the West

Some may remember a few week's back that I wrote, "once a fireman, always a fireman." My two summers of fighting forest fires more than 50 years ago has made that phrase mine. So, this week, since it is a hell of a week of fires, we have lots of coverage of the flames.

Wildfires Rage in the West Burning Nearly 1.5 Million Acres

By [Wyatt Bechtel](#)

September 05, 2017

<http://www.cattlenetwork.com/news/industry/major-wildfires-rage-west-burning-nearly-15-million-acres>

Wildfires have burned wide swaths of the western U.S. the past week forcing evacuations of communities, cattle to move pastures and highway closures.

Fires are currently active in nine states throughout the West, according to the [National Interagency Fire Center](#). Here is a breakdown of the acreage burnt so far in active wildfires reported by the National Interagency Fire Center since Aug. 28:

- Arizona, 1 wildfire, burning 48,443 acres
- California, 22 wildfires, burning 354,316 acres
- Colorado, 1 wildfire, burning 1,405 acres
- Idaho, 19 wildfires, burning 248,141 acres
- Montana, 26 wildfires, burning 544,583 acres
- Nevada, 7 wildfires, burning 111,379 acres
- Oregon, 9 wildfires, burning 146,418 acres
- Utah, 1 wildfire, burning 5,097 acres
- Wyoming, 2 wildfires, burning 4,766 acres

For those active fires reported on since Aug. 28 it amounts to 1,464,548 acres actively burnt or burning.

Fire or volcano? Ash from Oregon blaze compared to eruption

By GILLIAN FLACCUS and NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press

September 6, 2017

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_WESTERN_WILDFIRES?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

The National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, a federal agency that coordinates wildfire-fighting, said 80 large fires were burning on 2,200 square miles (5,700 square kilometers) in nine Western states.

Ten homes burned, hundreds threatened by another wildfire in Oroville area

By [Kurtis Alexander](#)

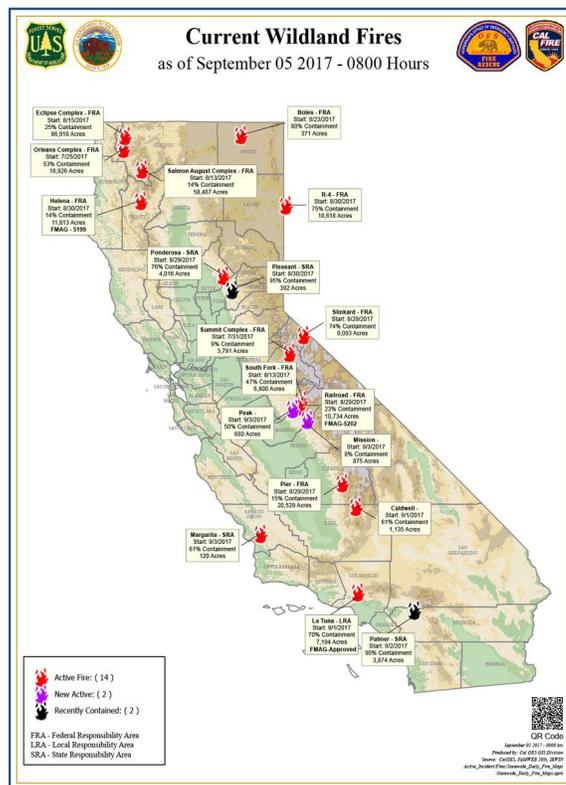
August 30, 2017

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Ten-homes-burned-hundreds-threatened-by-another-12162566.php>

The fire is the latest in a string of wildfires that have flared across California recently as temperatures across the state have soared to near-record levels. Several are burning in and around Yosemite National Park, including one that has closed the park's southern entrance.



This Monday photo provided by KATU-TV shows a wildfire as seen from near Stevenson Wash., across the Columbia River. The fire is burning in the Columbia River Gorge above Cascade Locks, Ore. (Tristan Fortsch/KATU-TV via AP)



LA County declares state of emergency for La Tuna fire, joining city, state

By [Daily News](#) | |
September 5, 2017

<http://www.dailynews.com/2017/09/05/la-county-declares-state-of-emergency-for-la-tuna-fire-joining-city-state/>

As of late Tuesday, fire officials said the blaze scorched 7,200 acres of brush around the Verdugo Mountains, affecting Glendale, Burbank, Sun Valley and the Sunland-Tujunga area since Friday. The fire is now about 80 percent contained and its cause is still under investigation, but officials said arson is not suspected.

'Sustained' rain needed to end devastating B.C. wildfire season: officials

The Canadian Press

Published on: September 6, 2017 | Last Updated: September 6, 2017 5:42 PM PDT

<http://vancouver.sun.com/news/local-news/sustained-rain-needed-to-end-devastating-b-c-wildfire-season-officials>

Oregon fires stretch from Columbia River to Southern Oregon

September 05, 2017

http://www.oregonlive.com/wildfires/index.ssf/2017/09/oregon_fires_stretch_from_colu.html

Feature: Will the American People Learn the Real Lessons of Houston?

What follows are some excerpted articles and statements that address that question.

Americans Respond to Houston Disaster — Will They Act to Save the Nation?

<https://larouchepac.com/20170907/americans-respond-houston-disaster-will-they-act-save-nation>

September 7, 2017

As the disaster of Harvey in Houston lingers on, the largest Atlantic hurricane in modern history, the category-five Irma, is blasting through the Caribbean, expected to hit Haiti, Cuba, and Puerto Rico by the time you are reading this, and reaching Florida soon thereafter. A competent infrastructure plan had been proposed for Texas during the Kennedy Administration which would have eliminated the worst of the horrors of the past week — had it been implemented. In the case of these Caribbean islands, where the existing infrastructure is decrepit or non-existent, the capacity to survive Irma is in doubt.

Across the U.S., the 16 years under Bush and Obama saw trillions of tax dollars thrown into bailing out gambling casinos on Wall Street, while trillions more were spent destroying countries in the Middle East, turning them over to terrorist gangs, driving millions out of their homes as refugees across the region and into Europe. Today, the Korean Peninsula, according to left-over neocons from the Bush

and Obama era, must be the next target of their failed military adventures — even while virtually every sane human being is warning that the results would be catastrophic for the entire human race.

And yet, most of the world is now beginning to learn first-hand how China lifted 700 million people out of poverty in thirty short years, as the New Silk Road is bringing infrastructure, industry, health facilities, and hope, to the nations and populations subjected to colonial and post colonial looting and warfare for the past several centuries under Western domination.

The response of the vast majority of the American people to the disaster in Houston was to put aside the media-created "issues," issues created to the purpose of making people small, creating artificial conflicts over petty or irrelevant concerns, while their world is collapsing into economic decay and permanent warfare. But after Harvey, thousands of people went to Houston, offering their support to save people in distress, Republican or Democrat, White or Black or Brown, even risking their own lives.

From Helga Zepp-LaRouche

On Aug. 26, Helga LaRouche addressed a Manhattan conference on "Reviving Alexander Hamilton's American System through LaRouche's Four Laws," which itself brought together overlapping circles of Trump activists and Chinese-American activists, along with engineers and citizens organizing to rebuild the New York region's crumbling transportation system.

"Just think what enormous potential is opening up if the United States would cooperate with the Belt and Road Initiative," Helga told the conference. "This could rebuild its own middle-level industry. They could invest in all of the projects in Latin America, Africa, and along the Eurasian Land-Bridge. It would just completely change the situation and also rebuild the United States. You could have complete change in the United States. You could have 50 new cities. Why not build 50 new cities? Basically, between the coasts, there are many states which are completely thinly populated, almost no cities; you could connect those cities with those of the coasts with the fast train system, you could have science cities...."

"I think it is really important to imagine a completely different system. If the United States would now do what Franklin D. Roosevelt did — a New Deal, Glass-Steagall, cooperate with China — the United States could experience an industrial revolution bigger than any time in its own history. People just have to imagine that we are right now at the end of a system, a system which cannot be saved. We need to replace it with a completely new system, and most people have just a hard time to imagine that, but there are examples of such changes. For example, the Marshall Plan in Europe was such an example, and the Meiji Restoration in Japan was such an example — what Roosevelt did with the New Deal; so people have to just think that such a dramatic change is absolutely possible today."

Xi Jinping Hammers Away: 'Abject Poverty Is Absolutely Conquerable'

Sept. 3 (EIRNS)--The full text of Chinese President Xi Jinping's June 23 remarks at a symposium on poverty relief in north China's Shanxi Province, was made available on Aug. 31--right before the start of BRICS summit today--Xinhua reports in an article headlined "Eliminating Poverty, The Chinese Way."

Xi was emphatic about China's campaign to lift out of poverty the remaining 43 million Chinese who are still poor, by 2020: "Our experiences have proven that abject poverty is not formidable. As long as we pay great attention, think correctly, take effective measures, and work in a down-to-earth way,

abject poverty is absolutely conquerable." The task of pulling the last 43 million Chinese out of poverty, has to be approached with specific approaches to the different problems faced, he emphasized. "The weak birds must start earlier than others.... Constant drops wear away a stone." He continued, "Eradicating poverty has always been a tough battle, while eradicating poverty in extremely poor areas is the hardest fight of all."

The article concludes: "What sounds like a tall order is becoming reality, step by step ... [ensuring] that the rural poor will at least have food to eat, clothes to wear, and places to live by 2020.... When China prospers, it will leave no one behind."

Make America's Infrastructure Great Again: Join In China's Global Initiative, Drop the War Threats

<https://larouchepac.com/20170906/make-americas-infrastructure-great-again-join-chinas-global-initiative-drop-war-threats>

September 6, 2017

The moment is still ripe for Americans to take a lesson from the immense human and economic loss of Hurricane Harvey: Build the new infrastructure which was many decades overdue, to prevent these disasters from robbing Americans of homes, jobs, untold wealth and even their lives. Reverse the slow-motion collapse of the obsolete infrastructure platforms on which the U.S. economy has been working.

Some 50 years ago the State of Texas drafted plans for a comprehensive water and flood management system that would protect its Gulf coastal cities from flooding — and its extreme southeastern coast and upper plains from drought — by linking many dams and reservoirs with a long coastal canal to move excess water between river basins. This was the same decade that JFK and RFK worked for a Western water management plan called the North American Water and Power Alliance — a dozen times the Tennessee Valley Authority — to defeat desertification and irrigate farmland.

The need for building such new and higher technology infrastructure platforms does not diminish because a Wall Street-run economy and many wars have blocked them. Another historic moment arrives when they must be done. That is the point we have been brought to, with three major U.S. cities having been entirely devastated by hurricanes in just over a decade, and losses far exceeding the costs of these great projects.

This requires more than just large expenditures voted by Congress for disaster relief — although FEMA's available disaster funds will be gone by the end of this week, with another severe hurricane, Irma, approaching. It will be necessary to issue national infrastructure credits in the trillions in the coming few years, something that can only be done by national banking on Alexander Hamilton's model, and by the kind of large-scale project credit provided by President Franklin Roosevelt's Reconstruction Finance Corporation.