

California Drought (and Flood) Update



For October 19, 2017

by Patrick Ruckert

Published weekly since July, 2014

<http://www.californiadroughtupdate.org>

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

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Tuo Zhen, the spokesman for the CPC, told a press conference yesterday that the Belt and Road Initiative has now been incorporated into several UN documents, that "between 2013 and 2016, Chinese companies have invested about \$560 billion overseas, paid over \$100 billion in various kinds of taxes to the host countries, and created millions of jobs for the local communities." He said the investments have helped the receiving countries to "transform their resources and labor power for development," and that "China has developed partnerships of various forms with about 100 countries, regions and regional organizations. China's circle of friends is widening day by day."

President Trump considers himself among that widening circle of friends, but it is urgent that he take the opportunity of his visit to China in two weeks to fully integrate the U.S. economy into the Belt and Road, both for U.S. industry to participate and benefit from the massive development projects across the globe, and also for China's huge holdings of U.S. debt to be allowed to participate as credit for the rebuilding of the American industrial and scientific greatness of yore. LaRouche's concept of a national Hamiltonian bank for development, one of his Four Laws, has been enthusiastically received by leading Chinese and Japanese economists in discussion with EIR, as a means of putting their vast reserves of U.S. debt into useful, productive investments, and making the U.S. again a partner in global development as it was in the era of FDR and JFK.

CPC National Congress Opens Wednesday, Then Trump Goes to China — The New Paradigm Is Possible, and Urgently Necessary

<https://larouchepac.com/20171018/cpc-national-congress-opens-wednesday-then-trump-goes-china-new-paradigm-possible-and>

A Note To Readers

As noted in the excerpt from the article above, President Trump is heading to Asia in about two weeks. We can hope he will act on the policies his repeated statements over the past year have both excited optimism on the one hand, and hysterical fear from Wall Street and London on the other. Just a couple of days ago did it again, saying that the U.S. government has no business paying off insurance companies with billions of dollars, as his contribution to the otherwise chaotic debate about the health care system.

In This Week's Report

Last week's report was largely focused on the wildfires of northern California, which as of now, are being brought under control. So this week I'll focus on the topic of why these fires in the West are so destructive. While a minor flood of articles on the fires have been whining about global warming as the "cause," serious scientists, forestry officials and fire officials have been warning for years that the forests of the West have been mismanaged for decades. The virtual shutting down of logging over the past three to four decades has created forests that are chock full of trees-- and it is those crowded together trees that are the fuel for the fires.

Immediately below is the weather forecast for the winter, and, simply put, no is claiming to know what that weather will be.

The same can be said about the fate of the Governor's tunnels under the Delta, with more votes by water districts this week, that have sent a clear message: Maybe or maybe not.

The Oroville Dam update includes a construction report from the Department of Water Resources and update videos.

I almost forgot, near the end of the section on the fires and the forests is the delightful item on how the wildfires have destroyed a bunch of marijuana farms. Too bad more could not have burned.

Concluding this week's report are a few items on real economics under my title of The American Credit System.

And Now The Weather

Here's what the coming La Niña will mean for Northern California

Forecasters are scratching their heads for now

By [Patrick May](#) | pmay@bayareanewsgroup.com | Bay Area News Group

PUBLISHED: October 19, 2017 at 8:00 am | UPDATED: October 19, 2017 at 10:22 am

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/10/19/el-nino-la-nina-or-neither-thats-the-question-this-winter-for-northern-californians/>

After enduring the driest stretch of years in our history, and then logging the wettest spell on record this past winter, befuddled Californians have one question on their minds these days:

What's next?

In two words: La Niña.

But whether the water temperature pattern being hatched right now in the Pacific Ocean will leave the Golden State high and dry this winter as it's often done in the past is anyone's guess. Particularly since it's quite similar to the pattern we saw last year, and we know how that turned out.

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The Fires, the Forests, and Criminal Stupidity

What follows a brief update on Northern California's catastrophic fires is a selection of articles, which if you do a search under "U.S. forests mismanaged" you will find thousands. I'll not add any more comments here, but may do so on individual articles. Some of the more recent articles have an obligatory curtsy to "global warming," but most focus on the serious consequences of the environmentalist policy of not cutting down trees these past decades. If you do not harvest trees because you think that will save them, then expect them all to burn.

Firefighters say they're beating Northern California blazes; death toll rises to 43

By Ryan Lillis

October 18, 2017

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/fires/article179572631.html>

After 10 days of battling wildfires throughout Northern California, firefighters are finally beginning to talk about having the upper hand.

Drought and heat, worsened by humans, help fuel California fires

JAMES RAINEY

Oct 11th 2017

<https://www.aol.com/article/news/2017/10/11/drought-and-heat-worsened-by-humans-help-fuel-california-fires/23239738/>

LOS ANGELES — It may take weeks to determine the spark that touched off each of the firestorms that consumed hunks of more than a dozen California communities this week.

But the consensus in the scientific community is that the conditions that cleared a path for the tsunami of flame were made by humans. Decades of aggressive firefighting left too much fuel on the ground. And more than a century of carbon emissions exacerbated the state's drought and the record high temperatures that baked brush and timber to an explosive dryness.

Destructive forest fires are due to – WHAT?

July 31, 2016 by [Paul Driessen](#).

<http://www.cfact.org/2016/07/31/destructive-forest-fires-are-due-to-what/>

Far too many environmentalists, bureaucrats, politicians, and judges would rather let forests burn than

let anyone selectively cut timber, thin out overgrown trees – or even let loggers harvest usable timber left from beetle kills, devastating fires, or volcanic explosions like Mount St. Helens. (Do you suppose they'd alter their policies if loggers promised to use chain saws powered by little wind turbines or solar panels?)

Eco-purists want no cutting, no thinning – no using fire retardants in “sensitive” areas because the chemicals might get into streams that will be boiled away by conflagrations. They prevent homeowners from clearing brush around their homes, because it might provide cover or habitat for endangered species and other critters that will get incinerated or lose their forage, prey, and habitats in the next blaze. They rarely alter their policies during drought years.

The Obama Administration spends billions of dollars annually on manmade global warming “research,” billions more on renewable energy boondoggles for crony corporatist campaign contributors, billions more to convert more private land to federal control. But it never seems to have enough money for expanded or modernized fire control.

Wine Country fires: Brown vetoed 2016 bill aimed at power line, wildfire safety

By [Matthias Gafni](#) and [Emily DeRuy](#)

Bay Area News Group

October 11, 2017

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/10/11/wine-country-fires-gov-brown-vetoed-2016-bill-aimed-at-power-line-wildfire-safety/>

A year ago, a bipartisan bill aimed at reducing the risk of wildfires from overhead electrical lines went to Gov. Jerry Brown's desk.

It was vetoed.

The author of the measure — passed unanimously by both houses of the Legislature — now says the governor missed out on a chance to tackle one of his state's longstanding vulnerabilities: massive wildfires endangering residential communities. But the governor's office and the California Public Utilities Commission say the bill duplicated efforts already underway among the CPUC, Cal Fire and utilities like PG&E.

Now, as a series of deadly fires rages in Wine Country, serious questions are once again being asked about the safety of overhead electrical wires in a state prone to drought and fierce winds.

On Wednesday, Cal Fire said that investigators have started looking into whether toppled power wires and exploding transformers Sunday night may have ignited the simultaneous string of blazes.

But Brown said the bill was unnecessary.

A fresh approach to preventing wildfires

Jim Hartman

October 12, 2017

<http://www.nevadaappeal.com/news/opinion/jim-hartman-wildfires-a-fresh-approach/>

While climatological factors like drought, heat and wind are primary factors in the wildfires currently raging throughout Northern California, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke last month took important steps to begin reversing nearly three decades of federal neglect in prevention of forest wildfires. Zinke issued a memo instructing his land managers and park superintendents to use their "full authority" to begin

clearing the dead and dying trees and vegetation that clog federal lands and are a tinderbox for Western wildfires. His memo notes the Interior Department will now "proactively work to prevent forest fires through aggressive and scientific fuels reduction management."

Zinke is a break from recent Interior Department secretaries. He's the first Montana-native in a presidential cabinet — the son of a plumber, Eagle Scout, college football player, geologist, and the first Navy SEAL elected to Congress. He arrived for his first day of work as Interior Secretary on horseback.

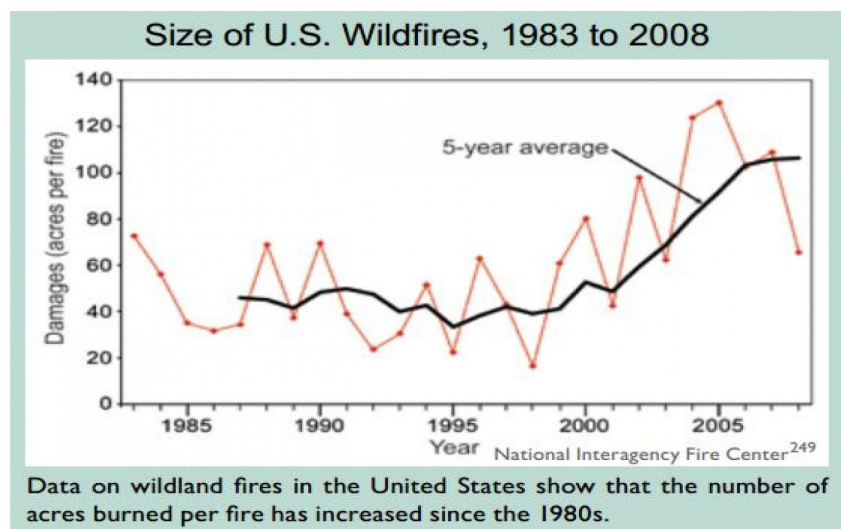
It was clear to Zinke past Forest Service policies have been a cause of fuels buildup, highlighted in the 1990s by policies that greatly reduced logging and road-building in federal forests. In turn, this permitted disease and insect infestations to increase unchecked and the number of wildfires to proliferate.

Beyond Zinke's memo, Congress will need to pass legislation to make it easier to thin excess timber out of forests and to salvage fire-killed timber while it still has value. Congressional reform should also include changes to the environmental review process in the National Environmental Policy Act and reducing frivolous litigation brought under the often misused Equal Access to Justice Act.

Why Western wildfires keep getting worse

By Brad Plumer June 30, 2012 https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2012/06/30/western-wildfires-are-getting-worse-why-is-that/?utm_term=.8b407bd4d7dc

First, the numbers: A 2009 [report](#) (pdf) from the U.S. Global Change Research Program describes how "both the frequency of large wildfires and the length of the fire season have increased substantially in recent decades." Here's a chart showing the sharp uptick since the 1980s:



1) **Global warming.**

2) **Sprawl has pushed more people into forest areas, increasing the odds of fires.**

3) **Changing forestry practices have made wildfires more destructive.** A look at tree-ring data shows that the Southwest has seen massive fires going back for centuries. But, in the past, many of these fires were low-intensity "surface" fires that mostly cleared out underbrush and prevented forests from building up too thickly.

That all changed around the 1900s, when the area's population grew and forest managers began suppressing these natural fires. Southwestern forests became much more dense with trees and brush. And that means when fires do break out, there's more fuel to burn and the fires are often far more destructive. The scale of these "megafires," which can spread all the way up to the tree canopy, appears to be unprecedented in the historical record.

California forests are too dense and dying — they need better care

By Van Butsic, Henry McCann and Jeffrey Mount

October 14, 2017 Updated: October 15, 2017 7:38am

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/openforum/article/California-forests-are-too-dense-and-dying-12278730.php>

The focus now is on saving lives and protecting property, but when the fires are out, the state will have to face up to a major problem: Our forests are too dense and dry, and, in some areas, dying. We need a new way to manage this vital natural resource.

Hallmarks of decline are:

***Dense forests**, the result of decades of fire suppression. These forests are more susceptible to wildfire, drought, devastating insect and disease outbreaks and climate change. The density of small trees in these headwater forests has doubled since 1930, while the density of large trees has been reduced by half. This change is most pronounced on national forest lands, which make up roughly half of the state's headwater region. Improving the health of our headwater forests will require reducing the density of small trees and fuels on an enormous scale.*

***Shrublands replacing conifer forests**, which results from repeated tree-killing events, such as drought or catastrophic fire.*

Forest management options to reverse this decline exist — controlled burns, managed wildfire, mechanical thinning and pest treatments. Yet compared with some other western states, California forest managers are underutilizing these tools. Federal agencies, in particular, need to shift to larger, landscape-scale efforts to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health.

Cal Fire Chief Blames Wildfires on Mismanaged Forests

August 28, 2017 [DEREK FLEMING](#)

<https://www.courthousenews.com/cal-fire-chief-blames-wildfires-mismanaged-forests/>

With the trailer for the new Netflix series "Fire Chasers" playing, Cal Fire chief director Ken Pimlott told members of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Resources and Transportation that California's efforts toward fire preparedness are far from finished.

To combat the expanding risk of devastating wildfires burning out of control, Pimlott said Cal Fire wants to add several new aircraft, including a specially modified Boeing 747 and brand new Sikorsky S-70i helicopters, to its firefighting fleet. The helicopters would replace the aging fleet of modified, repurposed Vietnam-era Huey UH-1 aircraft. The new Sikorskys, based on the famous Blackhawk helicopter, would be able to fly at night – currently a major limitation in fighting fires that can burn through brush at hundreds of miles per hour.

While human error continues to be the leading cause of wildfires, the number of dead trees and densely overgrown brush are responsible for some of the most damaging and difficult to control fires.

State needs to forest management solutions that protect Oregonians

Rep. Sherrie Sprenger, District 17, Scio, Guest Opinion Published 5:51 p.m. PT Sept. 5, 2017

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/opinion/2017/09/05/state-needs-forest-management-solutions-protect-oregonians/635984001/>

With over 353,000 acres burning across Oregon, it's time for our leaders to take action and support reforms to our broken system of federal forest management.

Today's forest management policies are not responsive to the dangerous conditions on the ground where unnaturally overgrown and insect-infested stands are providing fuel for today's mega-fires.

Much of Oregon's forests are classified as being at high risk of catastrophic wildfire. It's estimated more than 350 million individual trees are standing dead in the 14 million acres of Oregon's national forests. Alarming, that's 50 percent more than the live tree volume on all state and local forest lands.

There's abundant science demonstrating the benefits of active forest management to influence the size and severity of fires. Yet Oregon is not harvesting enough timber, nor reducing fuel loads, to ensure the health and natural resiliency of our forests.

Forest management today is driven by environmental lawsuits and agency "analysis paralysis," which reflect the misguided philosophy that the best way to "protect" our public lands is to lock them up and walk away.

Forest-thinning project saved homes but highlights obstacles

By ANDREW SELSKY

October 17, 2017

<https://www.apnews.com/d1b594c4045246b5a88a5a063b8444a6/Forest-thinning-project-saved-homes-but-highlights-obstacles>

SISTERS, Ore. (AP) — Lightning started a forest fire one August afternoon near this Oregon tourist town, and it was spreading fast. Residents in outlying areas evacuated as flames marched toward their homes.

Just a few months earlier, the U.S. Forest Service and a group of locals representing environmental, logging and recreational interests arranged to thin part of the overgrown forest, creating a buffer zone around Sisters.

Workers removed trees and brush with machines, then came through on foot to ignite prescribed burns. That effort saved homes, and perhaps the community of 2,500 on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Range, by slowing the fire's progress and allowing firefighters to corral it.

Scrutiny of the condition of the American West's forests, and of policies that curtailed logging and suppressed wildfires, has intensified amid a devastating wildfire season that has burned a combined area bigger than Maryland and caused widespread destruction in California's wine country.

On a recent morning, Forest Service fire manager James Osborne drove into a section of the Deschutes National Forest outside Sisters that was thinned in May. Widely spaced Ponderosas were blackened to twice the height of a person. But higher up, the bark retained its normal orangey color. Needle clusters shone vibrant green in the sunshine. Four deer trotted through dappled sunlight. This part of the forest looked healthy, not despite of, but due to, the prescribed burn.

“Ponderosa pines are used to low-intensity fires,” Osborne said. “Every five to 15 years, a fire would come through. We’re trying to take it back to low-intensity fires.”



This Sept. 27, 2017, photo shows charred trunks of Ponderosa pines near Sisters, Ore., months after a prescribed burn removed vegetation, smaller trees and other fuel ladders last spring. (AP Photo/Andrew Selsky)

DNR: No Capital Budget puts Forests in Jeopardy

Posted By: [Dylan Carder](#) July 21, 2017

<http://www.kpq.com/dnr-no-capital-budget-puts-forests-jeopardy/>

With no capital budget in place, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources says that leaves forests in the Evergreen State in jeopardy. The proposed budget included \$15 million to remove trees struck by insect blight, disease or drought.

“A century of mismanaged forests has clogged our forests with dead, dry and sick trees that make our summer wildfire seasons as destructive as we’ve seen in the past decade,” said Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz. “We need this funding to undo this mess by thinning these trees from our forests. This problem is only getting worse, and the longer we wait the more we’ll pay both for the restoration and for the increasing costs of suppressing wildfires.”

Dead, dry and sick trees can add to the devastation of a wildfire and DNR officials say not thinning those out makes the problem worse. According to a DNR survey, 2.7 million acres of Washington forests are filled with dead and diseased trees.

The \$15 million dollars that DNR was expecting to receive would have funded a number of forest restoration projects, including the thinning of 15,000 acres of forests in four fire-prone regions; dozens of new Firewise communities; replanting of forests that burned in recent years’ fires, and putting veterans to work on forest restoration projects.

Humans Causing US Southwest Forest Burn Out

July 04, 2012

<http://www.futurepundit.com/archives/008666.html>

Craig Allen of the US Geological Service thinks [human-caused changes to the US southern Rockies forest ecosystem caused fire-burning patterns that are wiping out forests.](#)

But beginning in 1900, when railroads enabled the spread of livestock, cattle devoured the grassy surface fuels and the fire cycle stopped. A decade later, a national policy of forest fire suppression formalized this new normal. Over the next century, forest density went from 80 trees per acre to more than 1,000.

80 trees to 1000 trees per acre is a huge increase in biomass density. The problem: Now when fire comes the heat is so intense that fires no longer stay on the ground. They burn up into the trees and wipe them out.

With so many trees crammed into the forest, fires climbed straight to the canopy instead of remaining on the ground.

Could partial removal of trees before a fire be done profitably to reduce the incidence of fires that totally destroy forests?

[The Ponderosa forests have been mismanaged.](#)

The emerging consensus is that the Ponderosa pine forests of northern Arizona and New Mexico have been mismanaged for more than a century. Small ground fires historically burned through these forests with some regularity, keeping the trees widely spaced. But decades of fire suppression have allowed trees to grow so thick that the forests are now referred to as “dog-hair thickets.”

What Needs to be Done to Stop Wildfires in Drought-Killed Forests

By Matt Weiser

October 11, 2017

<https://www.newsdeeply.com/water/community/2017/10/11/what-needs-to-be-done-to-stop-wildfires-in-drought-killed-forests>

A [new report](#) by the Public Policy Institute of California proposes some different approaches to begin chipping away at the problem. It recommends some changes in state law and new contracting practices, among other things. It also suggests some changes in public attitudes.

To learn more, Water Deeply recently spoke with [Van Butsic](#), the study's lead author. Butsic is a land system scientist with a Ph.D. in forestry; he works as an assistant cooperative extension specialist in the University of California, Berkeley, Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management.

“Recreational drug use,” oh how we have shrunk:

At least 31 legal cannabis farms have been destroyed in the California fires

Oct 18, 2017

*By **Paul Elias**, The Associated Press*

<http://www.thecannabist.co/2017/10/18/california-marijuana-farmers-fires/90325/>

The same fires that destroyed Northern California wineries and threatened to taint grapes still on the

vine also [took a toll on the region's marijuana farms](#), which were about to begin an important harvest less than three months before the nation's largest recreational pot market opens for business in January.

At least 31 marijuana farms were destroyed and many more damaged, according to the pot industry's California Growers Association. That number is expected to rise significantly once evacuation orders are lifted and farmers are allowed back to their property.

The damage is expected to have little impact on the state's overall marijuana economy because thousands of growers were unaffected by the fires, especially in the three-county region known as the Emerald Triangle.

"The impact will be pretty modest statewide," said association President Hezekiah Allen, who put the economic losses in the tens of millions of dollars. "Even though the timing could not have been worse."

State Water Board Adopts Environmental Standards for Cannabis Cultivation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: George Kostyrko

Oct. 17, 2017

http://www.watereducation.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/pr101717_cannabis_policy.pdf

SACRAMENTO

Today, the State Water Board adopted a new statewide policy establishing strict environmental standards for cannabis cultivation in order to protect water flows and water quality in California's rivers and streams.

The Tunnels Once Again; Oh, Will This Ever End?

As more and more water districts vote on whether to throw in their millions (or billions) of their customers money into the California Water Fix, the vote on Tuesday by the Santa Clara Valley Water District probably is indicative of why "Restore the Delta's" analysis is correct. I have excerpted a part of their statement below. But the first item below provides a good overview of the project, where it stands and what is the likely outcome of the fight.

As Water Agencies Cast Votes, Future of Delta Tunnels Remains Unclear

By Alastair Bland

October 16, 2017

<https://www.newsdeeply.com/water/articles/2017/10/16/as-water-agencies-cast-votes-future-of-delta-tunnels-remains-unclear>

Brown administration says it's willing to consider one-tunnel approach to Delta project

By Dale Kasler And Ryan Sabalow

October 17, 2017 4:32 PM

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article179404796.html>

Silicon Valley's water district Wednesday rejected Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to build twin tunnels beneath the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta but said it would support a smaller, less expensive project. A top state official said the Brown administration is willing to consider such an approach.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District's board voted 7-0 to give the Delta plan "conditional support," but only if it involves one tunnel instead of two. The board's vote indicated the district would be willing eventually to commit more than \$200 million to the project. That's well below the \$600 million or more in support it had been considering.

"It's clearly going to be a smaller project than what was originally proposed," said board member Gary Kremen.

Santa Clara's vote appears to fuel the momentum toward scaling back the project, known officially as California WaterFix. Board Chairman John Varela said he was told recently by John Laird, Brown's Natural Resources secretary, that the administration is "open to the idea of a single tunnel as opposed to twin tunnels."

Brown's administration has begun floating the idea of a scaled-back tunnels project in the past few weeks. The go-small approach emerged after major agricultural irrigator Westlands Water District, which gets Delta water from the federal Central Valley Project, refused to back the \$17.1 billion tunnels project. Not a single CVP customer has endorsed the plan, recoiling from a cost allocation plan imposed on CVP agencies by the federal government, leaving a potential funding gap of about \$6 billion.

REACTIONS to Santa Clara Valley Water District vote on California Water Fix from Brown Administration, Restore the Delta, and Delta Counties

[October 18, 2017 Maven Other News Item](#)

<https://mavensnotebook.com/2017/10/18/reactions-to-santa-clara-valley-water-district-vote-on-california-water-fix-from-brown-administration-restore-the-delta-and-delta-counties/>

Yesterday, the Santa Clara Valley Water District voted to join the California Water Fix but with some conditions, a vote that caused confusion and conflicting headlines from the water district and newspapers. Here are reactions from yesterday's vote at the Santa Clara Valley Water District. The statements from the Santa Clara Valley Water District are brought forward from yesterday's 'This Just In' post; reactions follow in alphabetical order.

*From **Restore the Delta**:*

Executive Director of Restore the Delta, Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla released the following statement regarding Santa Clara Valley Water District's California WaterFix vote:

"Yesterday afternoon, Santa Clara Valley Water District [agreed](#) to moving forward with a project named California WaterFix, yet with funding capped at \$600 million in 2017 dollars (minus interest), and for possibly [one tunnel](#).

"The [San Jose Mercury News](#) and [the Sacramento Bee](#) reported that Santa Clara's vote is a rejection of California WaterFix as proposed presently.

"[Governor Jerry Brown](#) and [Secretary Laird](#) released statements that claimed victory because Santa Clara Valley Water District was moving ahead in supporting California

WaterFix to get 'the water they need.'

“These contradictory views of Santa Clara Valley’s vote reveal the deep disarray that this project is in. Governor Brown wants to sell the vote as a win. Yet, Santa Clara’s support, just like the Kern County Water Agency vote of 48.5 percent to pass a motion of support, is for something other than California Water Fix. So many conditions have been placed on the terms of support (including description of a scaled back project) that it feels like a bait and switch is being set in place for a new project.

“The truth is that Metropolitan Water District voted to fund 26 percent of WaterFix, Kern County came up short with approval of 6.5 percent funding at \$1 billion, and now SCVWD has voted for about 4 percent support at \$600 million. That suggests that total State Water Project funding for the project (with other small contributing agencies on board) is shy of 40 percent. In other words, Governor Brown doesn’t even have half the contributions for WaterFix bond sales lined up to move forward. Is this because 40 percent is enough for one tunnel—a project that has not been set to paper?”

Oroville Dam Update

OROVILLE SPILLWAY: Construction update

October 19, 2017

From the Department of Water Resources:



Crews continue placing rebar panels for the new sidewalls and structural concrete on the lower chute at the Lake Oroville flood control spillway in Butte County, California. Photo taken October 16, 2017. Ken James/
California 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.

Construction on the Main Spillway

- *DWR remains focused on meeting the primary objective of the Lake Oroville Spillways Emergency Recovery Project to repair and reconstruct the 3,000-foot gated flood control spillway, also known as the main spillway, to handle flows of 100,000 cubic-feet per second by Nov. 1.*
- *There are 14 days left on the construction timeline to reconstruct 2,270 feet of main spillway*

this year:

- *Placement of reinforced, structural concrete in the upper and lower chutes is 90 percent complete. By Nov. 1 structural concrete will be placed on 870 feet of the upper chute of the spillway and 350 on the lower chute of the spillway.*
- *Crews have also installed 2,877 slab anchors to date in the upper and lower chutes – 100 percent of what is required for 2017.*
- *The 1,050-foot middle section of the spillway chute, including filling in the two scour holes, is now 90 percent complete, with approximately 315,000 cubic yards of roller compacted concrete placed. This middle section will be completed to final design with a top layer of structural concrete in 2018.*
- *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

- *Work at the emergency spillway is also 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 40 percent of the secant pile wall.*

Videos

Oroville Spillway Update October 11, 2017

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tIGTIMeh_1o&list=PLeod6x87Tu6eVFnsyEtQeOVbxvSWywPlx&index=1

California DWR

Published on Oct 13, 2017

Crews continue work on various stages of structural concrete in the upper chute. Rebar mats are moved into place and secured, and recently poured concrete is finished and covered to cure. Slab anchors are placed into pre-drilled holes to secure the concrete to the rock below. Grout is pumped into the slab anchor holes. Work continues in the middle portion of the spillway chute as crews continue to place roller compacted concrete.

Oroville Spillway Update October 17, 2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8w91WJRTjKM>

California DWR

Published on Oct 18, 2017

Crews prepare the roller-compacted concrete (RCC) for the final layer of enriched RCC. Rebar is used to connect the last of the lower spillway walls to the energy dissipator blocks. Shotcrete continues to be sprayed on the RCC walls. RCC is placed below the upper spillway.

DWR plans lower elevation for Oroville heading into flood season

October 16, 2017

Appeal-Democrat

http://www.appeal-democrat.com/news/dwr-plans-lower-elevation-for-oroville-heading-into-flood-season/article_e06afe4a-b2de-11e7-818b-ebd66a03ffb0.html

With just more than two weeks until the initial reconstruction of the main spillway at Lake Oroville is

supposed to be completed, the Department of Water Resources released operations plan for the reservoir for this coming flood season. The state plans to drop the lake's elevation by November to allow enough storage space for inflows this winter.

Feature: The American Credit System

We begin with Class No. 3 of the LaRouche PAC economic class series, and then a couple of articles on how the U.S. is joining the New Silk Road of China, as governors and corporations realize that the future is here now and they better get on board. The last item is on the Glass-Steagall law, which must be step one of a real economic policy for the nation.

Class No. 3: Physical Chemistry: Stages of Development

<https://larouchepac.com/20171018/class-no3-physical-chemistry-stages-development>

Welcome to the third class in our 2017 Economic Class series, investigating Lyndon LaRouche's method of economic forecasting. Building on the concept of the productive powers of labor, we cover the most important shifts in technological level, which, over historical time, have brought about new eras of human history. These incommensurable improvements, based on new knowledge, demand new vocabularies.

For the full syllabus, homework, and access to the teachers, [register here](#).

And here are the links to the first two classes:

Class No. 1: LaRouche's Science of Economics is the Basis for US Joining the New Paradigm
<https://larouchepac.com/20171004/class-no1-larouches-science-economics-basis-us-joining-new-paradigm>

Class No. 2: https://action.larouchepac.com/2017-econ-class-series-second?utm_campaign=2017_econ_3&utm_medium=email&utm_source=larouchepac

Belt and Road Establishing Itself in California

Oct. 8 (EIRNS) -- CNTV, a China-based Internet TV broadcaster, reported that a Chinese-American taskforce has been formed in San Francisco to increase Chinese involvement in infrastructure projects in the state. "China To Accelerate Bid for California Infrastructure Packages" was reported Oct. 7. In his June trip to China, both Gov. Jerry Brown and Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that California was joining China's Belt and Road Initiative; their emphasis at that time was on "clean energy" infrastructure projects. In a subsequent interview with {Rolling Stone}, Brown said of China, "They're not only building at home, they're building abroad. Do we have a One Belt, One Road? Are we building freeways or railroads in Africa or Asia? No, we're not even building them here. We're not building abroad, and we're not building at home."

CNTV reported that the task force was launched in San Francisco Oct. 4 at a meeting attended by some of the largest Chinese construction companies, including China Communications Group and China

Railway Construction Corp. Ltd. During the event, China's Consul General in San Francisco Luo Linquan the objective was to increase Chinese participation in the state's plans to renovate its transport system, and to explore cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative. Such investments in California already total nearly \$7 billion; but there have also been setbacks in the Western states and in New York, such as the exclusion of China from bidding on high-speed rail lines from Las Vegas to Los Angeles, Denver and other cities.

Xi Jinping Meets with Governor of California State Jerry Brown of the US

2017/06/06

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1468754.shtml

On June 6, 2017, President Xi Jinping met with Governor of California State Jerry Brown of the US at the Great Hall of the People.

Xi Jinping pointed out that since the establishment of China-US diplomatic relations, bilateral relations have gone through wind and rain, and kept forging ahead, which not only brings great benefits to the two peoples, but also vigorously promotes the peace, stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region and the world. China will adhere to peaceful development and open development, and follow the path of green development. In the new circumstance, the two countries enjoy broader fields when conducting exchanges and cooperation. Both sides should enhance communication and expand cooperation, in a bid to push China-US relations for a healthy and stable development.

Xi Jinping stressed that local-level exchanges and cooperation are an important pillar for China-US relations, which are of great significance to promote bilateral relations. In recent years, bilateral local-level exchanges and cooperation have enjoyed prosperous development, achieving fruitful outcomes. Provinces of China and states of the US should enhance the alignment of development strategies, create more highlights for cooperation, and forge local-level exchanges and cooperation into a new growth point of bilateral relations, in a bid to better benefit the two peoples. Having important economic and social influences in the US, California is expected to make more contributions to advancing local-level exchanges between both countries, promoting bilateral cooperation in such areas as science, technology, innovation, and green development. The Chinese side welcomes California to actively participate in the "Belt and Road" construction.

Jerry Brown expressed that cherishing the traditional friendship between California and China, the Californian state government has actively engaged in dialogues and cooperation with Chinese local governments for a long time. He highly appreciates President Xi Jinping's important speech at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting early this year. Highly appraising the "Belt and Road", California is willing to actively participate in its joint construction, and expects to, together with Chinese local governments, enhance cooperation in economy, trade, investment, clean technology, low carbon, environmental protection and other fields, and advance people-to-people and cultural exchanges, so as to make greater contributions to the development of US-China relations.

State Councilor Yang Jiechi and others attended the meeting.

Law Professor's Glass-Steagall Case: Thorough and Authoritative

Oct. 10 (EIRNS)—A new research paper by George Washington University law professor Arthur Wilmarth, "The Road to Repeal of Glass-Steagall," presents the hard facts for policymakers as to how that "Road" led to the global financial crash of 2007-08, and should be reversed before another crisis.

Wilmarth is an attorney and teaches banking law and U.S. Constitutional history at George Washington. He says his article “sheds further light on that debate [whether eliminating Glass-Steagall caused the crash], by describing Glass-Steagall’s positive impact on the stability of the U.S. financial system from World War II through the 1970s and the adverse consequences of Glass-Steagall’s disappearance.”

He presents a detailed chronology of the cancellation of Glass-Steagall regulations, from permitting non-banks to offer uninsured substitutes for checking accounts (money-market mutual funds) in the 1980s, to allowing banks to securitize their commercial loans, to allowing banks to deal in the over the counter (OTC) derivatives markets—ending in permitting American “universal banks” for the first time in 65 years, and full repeal.

Wilmarth then takes on the arguments that these speculations did not lead to the crash. “All three innovations were leading catalysts for the destructive credit bubble that led to the financial crisis of 2007-2009.” By “all three,” he refers to the non-banks’ uninsured “deposit accounts”, the asset-backed securities, and the banks’ broker-dealing OTC derivatives.

The laws which consolidated these regulatory attacks on Glass-Steagall—the Riegle-Neal Act of 1994, Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999, and Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000—“were highly consequential laws because they (i) allowed large banks to become much bigger and more complex, and to undertake a much wider array of high-risk activities, and (ii) permitted securities firms and insurance companies to offer bank-like products (including deposit substitutes), and (iii) provided a blueprint for light-touch supervision of large financial institutions. All of those factors helped to fuel the destructive credit boom of the early 2000s. I therefore disagree with commentators ... who argue that those laws did not have any significant connection to the financial crisis.”

As to the “reforms” which can prevent a repeat crash, Wilmarth concludes, “At a minimum, those reforms should (i) shrink the shadow banking system by prohibiting nonbanks from offering deposit substitutes, and (ii) establish a regime of strict separation between FDIC-insured banks and the capital markets. The second reform should include a prohibition that bars FDIC-insured banks from entering into derivatives....”

Reinstating Glass-Steagall accomplishes those ends.