



California Water and Infrastructure Report

Formerly, the “California Drought (and Flood) Update”

For December 6, 2018

by Patrick Ruckert

Published weekly since July, 2014

An archive of all these weekly reports can be found at both links below:

<http://www.californiadroughtupdate.org>

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

patruckert@hotmail.com

“A growing resistance, being provoked by attempts to impose the "Paris Climate Accord's" grim regime of taxes, fees, and shutdowns, is opening the door wider for a new paradigm of progress directly opposed to that regime.”

A Note To Readers

Our quotation above is from a LaRouche PAC statement on the riots and resistance to the “climate change taxes.” “What is really happening here, Schiller Institute President Helga Zepp-LaRouche said yesterday, is the economic and cultural breakdown of an order.”

It is the old order that has brought the state and the nation to the point that more than \$4 trillion is needed to be invested before 2025 just to repair existing infrastructure. Of course that is impossible within the paradigm of bank bailouts for speculators and an ideology held by too many that the state, the government, should have little or no role in such work. Well, that question is addressed in our Feature this week on what monetary system will facilitate, and what one will make impossible, real economic development led by infrastructure building.

In This Week's Report

After a week of rain and snow, and a forecast that El Nino actually may make an appearance this year, some of the forecasters are a little giddy. Well let them enjoy the show. We shall just report on what some are saying. All that is in the first section below.

Those who detest Governor Brown, and there are many of you who do, will enjoy the next section, “And the Never Ending Water Wars In California-- What Is New?” All the environmentalist organizations are accusing him of treason to the cause as he works with the Trump administration trying to save his precious tunnels under the Delta.

I include one article on the National Climate Assessment of the federal government released two weeks ago, which has been dissed by President Trump. While the assessment and the article are alarmist, the article, at least, does address some aspects of water infrastructure.

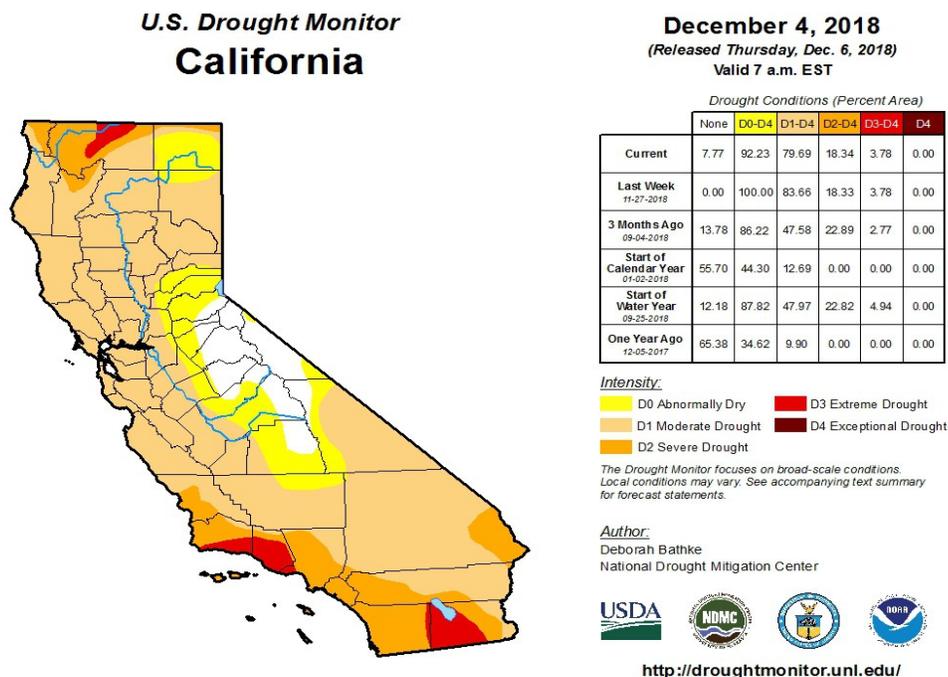
That section is followed by the LaRouche PAC article mentioned above.

The Feature this week addresses how to organize the financial system to facilitate real economic development and includes two articles (actually one is a nine minute video). The video is titled, “*Who Benefits from the Chaos of the Global Financial System?*” That is followed by what is the pre-eology for GM and GE.

Two more sections complete this week's report: Infrastructure and The Real Economy. Several articles there you will find of interest.

Showdown Time: It is Drought vs El Nino

U.S. Drought Monitor



El Nino teases as Southwestern U.S. remains in drought

Nation's drought has been centered for months now over the region where Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah meet

By [The Associated Press](#) and [Susan Montoya Bryan](#) |

November 30, 2018

<https://www.denverpost.com/2018/11/30/el-nino-southwestern-drought/>

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — National climate experts have been watching and waiting but El Nino has only been teasing, leaving the American Southwest to hang on longer until the weather pattern develops and brings more moisture to the drought-stricken region.

Experts with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center and the National Weather Service on Thursday said the epicenter of the nation's drought has been centered for months now over the region where Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah meet.

The exceptionally dry conditions have affected water supplies throughout the region, said senior hydrologist Royce Fontenot.

Many reservoirs throughout the intermountain west are below where they should be this time of year, and rivers and streams that depend on snow-melt have had some record-low flows, he said.

Series of Pacific storms raises hopes for a wet El Niño season

Dec. 6, 2018 / 2:27 AM PST

By Dennis Romero

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/weather/series-pacific-storms-raises-hopes-wet-el-ni-o-season-n943911>

LOS ANGELES — Southern California was in the midst of its fourth rain event of the season this week and with another expected next week, some experts believe the arrival of the weather phenomenon known as El Niño could be imminent.

While it may be too early to link the Pacific storms to El Niño, the federal Climate Prediction Center's El Niño "diagnostics discussion" could make the call next week on Dec. 13.

If a full-on El Niño weather pattern is forming, it would mean an increased chance of more rain in California and a possible end to a moderate drought that has fueled wildfires throughout the state.

The linchpin of El Niño, consistently above-average warmth in the waters of the equatorial Pacific, is already present, scientists say. Federal forecasters are waiting for those waters to interact with the atmosphere and create storms before they declare El Niño's presence.

"The temps are quite warm on the surface, but we're just waiting for the atmospheric component to give us some storminess," said Andrea Bair, climate services program manager for the Western region of the National Weather Service.

California state climatologist Mike Anderson says the storms that have struck California since late November resemble classic El Niño systems, which often soak up tropical moisture from the central Pacific before blasting the Golden State coast like a fire hose.

Other experts say it's too early in the season to attribute the storms to the weather pattern named for baby Jesus because its telltale warm waters often peak around Christmas.

"El Niño has not formed yet," said Jan Null, a former National Weather Service lead forecaster who is an expert on the phenomenon and believes it's too early to make the call. "It's still in the formative stages. [Determining] whether it's having an effect on our weather now is problematic."

"We have outcomes during El Niño years that are very wet and very dry," state climatologist Anderson said.

Weather experts are betting on the Climate Prediction Center to declare a weak to moderate El Niño. "It is a weak El Niño, but there is some hope for above-normal rainfall," said Jin-Yi Yu, professor of earth system science at the University of California, Irvine.

There hasn't been a classically wet El Niño in California this century, he said.

One of California's Most Important Assets is Off to Great Start This Year

by Jonathan Belles

December 5, 2018

weather.com

<https://weather.com/news/weather/news/2018-12-05-sierra-nevada-snowpack-great-start>

California's Sierra Nevada, the state's increasingly crucial reservoir, is off to a well-above-normal snowpack to begin the wet season.

Many of the peaks are seeing double the normal amount of snowpack compared to early-December averages.

Several systems, including the disturbance that became [Winter Storm Carter](#), have dumped feet of snow in the Sierra since late November. Snowfall totals ranged from [three to five feet](#) of snow in Carter alone.

You can see the difference between a rather wimpy late November snowpack and the early December blanket of snow from the Sierra eastward below.

The central and southern Sierra are doing especially well in the powder department due to the recent storm tracks to the south.

The higher terrain of California, including the Sierra Nevada, act as a slow-release water tank that drips water into the lower-elevations and higher population centers across the state.

More than [60 percent](#) of California's water supply comes from the Sierra Nevada. This water is used by 25 million people for sustainability, forestry, power and more.

Snowfall during the winter months is like California putting money into a bank to be used in later months. The more snow that falls during the winter, the less likely the golden state will have water issues later in the year.

Spring and summer snowmelt of Sierra snowpack is crucial to California's water supply.

It recharges reservoirs downstream during the state's dry summer and early fall, so the amount of water content the mountains contain is important.

And to remind everyone that a few rainstorms does not mean the drought is over:

Initial State Water Project Allocation at 10 Percent

From the Department of Water Resources:

Published: Nov 30, 2018

<https://water.ca.gov/News/News-Releases/2018/Nov-18/Initial-State-Water-Project-Allocation-at-10-Percent>



DWR East Branch Aqueduct part of the State Water Project just east of the Pearblossom Pumping Plant in Los Angeles County. DWR/2007.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) today announced an initial water allocation of 10 percent for the State Water Project (SWP) contractors for the 2019 calendar year. Allocations often change as hydrologic and water supply conditions change.

The Department's initial allocation for 2018 was 15 percent. The final allocation for 2018 reached 35 percent. The lowest initial SWP allocation was 5 percent in 2014 due to the record drought.

Reservoir storage, snowpack, precipitation, and releases to meet local deliveries are among several factors used in determining allocations.

Lake Oroville, the SWP's largest reservoir, is at 29 percent capacity and 48 percent of average for this time of the year. Shasta Lake, the Central Valley Project's (CVP) largest reservoir, is at 48 percent of capacity and 80 percent of average. San Luis Reservoir, the largest off-stream reservoir in the United States where water is stored for the SWP and CVP, is at 57 percent of capacity and 96 percent of average.

DWR transports SWP water to 29 SWP contractors which serve more than 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland. The 2019 initial allocation amounts to 427,167 acre-feet of water.

And the Never Ending Water Wars In California-- What Is New?

Not much. Though the governor is pissing off his environmentalist supporters by making a deal with President Trump, they charge.

Delta Tunnels opponents score a victory

- [Tony Kukulich Staff Writer](#)
- Nov 23, 2018

https://www.thepress.net/news/delta-tunnels-opponents-score-a-victory/article_74ea0b70-ef46-11e8-8549-2386d7acc27f.html

In the bitter battle over the future of the California WaterFix Project, opponents recently scored a victory in their effort to stop the construction of Delta Tunnels.

The development occurred when the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) staff issued a preliminary finding stating that WaterFix, as it exists today, is inconsistent with the Delta Plan. Without a

certificate of consistency, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) cannot move WaterFix forward.

The finding read, in part, “Staff recommends that the Council conclude that substantial evidence does not exist in the record to support (DWR’s) findings that California WaterFix is consistent with the Delta Plan. Staff further recommends that the Council remand the matter to (DWR) for reconsideration...”

Obtaining a certificate of consistency is a regulatory requirement for development projects in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The certificate asserts the construction and operation of a project is consistent with the Delta Plan – a comprehensive, long-term strategy for managing Delta resources.

At the heart of the plan is a requirement that the Delta be managed for the co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California while protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. These goals must, according to the plan, be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place. Any project seeking a certificate of consistency must provide evidence that the project balances both sides of that equation.

[Breaking: Jerry Brown Backs Deal to Increase Pumping Delta Water to Big Ag](#)

[Dan Bacher](#)

Community

Friday November 30, 2018

<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2018/11/30/1816301/-Breaking-Governor-Jerry-Brown-Supports-Water-Infrastructure-Improvements-for-the-Nation-WIN-Act>

In a move that drew harsh criticism from fishing and environmental groups, California Governor Jerry Brown today announced that he supports the controversial Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act provisions proposed today by House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein.

“I support the 7-year extension of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, including important provisions that House Majority Leader McCarthy and Senator Feinstein have proposed that enable California water users to participate in voluntary agreements and help improve river flows to restore fish populations,” said Brown in a statement.

Fish and Delta advocates say Brown has apparently traded state support for the federal “salmon-killing WIIN Act” for Trump administration support for his widely-opposed Delta Tunnels.

Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, Executive Director of Restore the Delta, also slammed Brown’s support of the WINN Act in a statement, calling it a “betrayal” of the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary and its people and urging Feinstein to withdraw her support of the WINN Act:

“In the final days of his term, Governor Brown has once again betrayed the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary and its people. The WIIN Act was supposed to be a two-year emergency measure during extreme drought. That was what we were promised by Senator Feinstein.

“Governor Brown supports a renewal of the WIIN ACT that includes backroom deals for how water will be managed in California and continuing to make Delta communities and fisheries the losers.

“We call on Senator Feinstein to drop her support of WIIN ACT renewal and to abandon partnering with San Joaquin Valley House Republicans to deplete the San Francisco Bay-Delta watershed.

“To Governor Brown, we say enough. For eight years, your policies have been about wrecking our region and our home.”

This report of a deal between the Trump and Brown administrations shouldn't be surprising, since Governor Brown, while often portrayed by many mainstream media sources as a "climate leader" and "the Resistance to Trump," has collaborated with Trump on both the construction of the Delta Tunnels and the exemption of California oil fields from the Safe Drinking Water Act.

After negotiations between the two administrations on the tunnels reached an impasse in recent months, they began negotiating again to produce the latest deal before Brown leaves office in January.

And while claiming to "oppose" Trump's plan to open new federal leases to offshore drilling on the Pacific Coast, Brown controls 4 times the number of offshore wells that Trump controls — and has overseen the approval of 238 offshore wells in state waters between 2012 and 2016.

The National Climate Assessment

The National Climate Assessment, produced by the federal government and released two weeks ago, was poo-pooed by President Trump and has been used to jack-up the hysterics around climate change. I have no interest in evaluating the report, but I will include the following excerpted article that focuses on water infrastructure.

And then, following that article is one from LaRouche PAC which is summarized by this sentence, "A growing resistance, being provoked by attempts to impose the "Paris Climate Accord's" grim regime of taxes, fees, and shutdowns, is opening the door wider for a new paradigm of progress directly opposed to that regime."

So, have fun with this stuff.

Comprehensive Government Climate Report Warns That Warming Planet Threatens U.S. Water Security

November 23, 2018

<https://www.circleofblue.org/2018/world/comprehensive-government-climate-report-warns-that-warming-planet-threatens-u-s-water-security/>

Water infrastructure was not designed for past climate extremes, let alone future changes, report authors say.



Water infrastructure in the United States is not designed for future climate changes, say authors of a U.S. government climate report. Photo © J. Carl Ganter/Circle of Blue

By Brett Walton, Circle of Blue

Putting human health, life, and jobs at risk, a reliable supply of clean water for cities, farms, industries, and ecosystems in the United States while also managing droughts and floods is “increasingly in jeopardy,” according to an expansive U.S. government report on the consequences of climate change in the country.

The [National Climate Assessment](#), required by an act of Congress and written by more than 300 scientists, half from outside the federal government, is meant to inform U.S. leaders about changes to land, water, and air from a warming planet.

The volume of the report that was released the day after Thanksgiving focuses on how those physical changes will dramatically reshape human life and the systems that support it. The report also underscores troubling knowledge gaps about how the projected increase in extreme storms and heat will affect the nation’s water supply.

“We don’t have a very good grasp as a nation what our water-related risks are,” Casey Brown, a co-author on the report’s [water chapter](#), told Circle of Blue. “We seem to keep learning this every time there’s a flood or drought.”

The authors of the water chapter emphasized three elements of the interaction between climate change and man-made systems: water quality and availability will shift; dams, levees, drainage systems, and other components of the nation’s water infrastructure are aging and poorly designed for a topsy-turvy climate; and water managers will need to prepare for a broader set of climate stresses.

“You could talk about a lot of impacts to water,” Upmanu Lall, lead author of the report’s water chapter, told Circle of Blue. “We chose to talk about infrastructure because no one is highlighting that.”

"Climate Accord" Exposed As Macron Raises Truncheon To Enforce It: A New Paradigm of Human Progress Confronts It

<https://larouhepac.com/20181204/climate-accord-exposed-macron-raises-truncheon-enforce-it-new-paradigm-human-progress>

December 4, 2018

A growing resistance, being provoked by attempts to impose the "Paris Climate Accord's" grim regime of taxes, fees, and shutdowns, is opening the door wider for a new paradigm of progress directly opposed to that regime.

This will depend on bold cooperative action by those nations most capable of it — especially the United States, China, Russia, and India — to use the frontiers of technology, including nuclear power and thermonuclear fusion technologies, to give humanity new powers for progress. [The World Land-Bridge infrastructure reports of the Schiller Institute have been prepared for 30 years to guide that new Bretton Woods international development bank, which the leaders of these nations can be organized to create.](#)

Exactly as the "COP24" Climate Conference in Poland is being lavishly praised in much of the world's media, its attempted global "eco-dictatorship" is being exposed as a mix of insanity and austerity. IMF, United Nations, NGO officials in Katowice are demanding a global monopoly of wind and solar by 2035, the conversion of mining and power-production areas into nature parks, the complete elimination of motor vehicles that burn fuels. Having proliferated pollution by trying to shut down all nuclear power, they now claim to attack the pollution by stamping out industry and human households

themselves, calling for a worldwide "two-child limit" for families and other anti-population acts. Demonstrations of climate revellers embrace this human retrogression like Medieval flagellants.

That's the insanity. The governments trying to enforce it, epitomized by Emanuel Macron's in France, lay on the austerity in the form of rafts of "climate taxes" and industry shutdowns.

Thus the resistance to this eco-dictatorship erupting in France, spreading to Belgium, appearing in different form in Germany and Italy, and having brought Macron to the verge of martial law.

What is really happening here, Schiller Institute President Helga Zepp-LaRouche said yesterday, is the economic and cultural breakdown of an order. It began nearly 50 years ago when Richard Nixon was forced into severing the dollar from gold and all others from the dollar, triggering the new, global monetary order of the "floating exchange-rate" system. That meant London had succeeded in destroying Franklin Roosevelt's Bretton Woods system. Lyndon LaRouche quickly forecast then, in August 1971, that the floating-exchange rate system would bring on a new order of international wage cutting, deindustrialization, even imposed by fascism again.

That order is now breaking down, in an attempt at eco-dictatorship but also in the threatened second trans-Atlantic financial collapse within a decade.

It is time for at least those four powers — which are space-faring nations, leaders in nuclear fission and fusion development, with great industrial and infrastructure capacities — to start a new Bretton Woods credit system. China's Belt and Road Initiative, made falsely controversial, is actually the leading step to the World Land-Bridge great projects that system will build.

And President Trump, in his messages yesterday, has shown himself optimistically looking for such collaboration in the aftermath of the Buenos Aires G-20 conference.

Citizens are called on to take a hand in this, and elevate "resistance" to taking responsibility for humanity.

Feature

The Financial System-- This One, or A New One, Will Determine the Future

There is no way to separate the financial system from what an economy is able to do. Does that system allow and encourage real investment in the physical economy-- infrastructure, industry, the space program and R&D for fusion? Or does that financial system facilitate speculation and scams like Enron?

The first item below (a nine minute video) shows what happened after the 1971 abandonment of the post-WWII Bretton Woods fixed exchange rate monetary system-- the decoupling of the dollar from gold.

The second item below demonstrates how this post-Bretton Woods system of floating-exchange rates and speculation is about to destroy two of the greatest industrial corporations in American history: General Motors and General Electric.

Who Benefits from the Chaos of the Global Financial System?

<https://larouchepac.com/20181205/who-benefits-chaos-global-financial-system>

Ever wonder what happened to the stable system of fixed exchange rates FDR created after the war? Who dismantled it, and why? What would it take to rebuild a system of stable monetary agreements that would foster economic growth worldwide?

As pointed out in the video, daily, \$5.3 trillion is traded in currencies internationally. Only 1% of that is connected to real physical economic activity of investing in building, manufacturing and buying and selling of real objects and services.

General Motors And General Electric Were Both Victimized By The Same Ponzi Scheme, And They Are Both Telling Us The U.S. Economy Is In HUGE Trouble

<http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/general-motors-and-general-electric-were-both-victimized-by-the-same-ponzi-scheme-and-they-are-both-telling-us-the-u-s-economy-is-in-huge-trouble>



America's twin economic "generals" are both in very deep trouble. General Electric was founded in 1892, and it was once one of the most powerful corporations on the entire planet. But now it is drowning in so much debt that it may be forced into bankruptcy. General Motors was founded in 1908, and at one time it was the largest automaker that the world had ever seen. But now it is closing a bunch of factories and laying off approximately 14,000 workers as it anticipates disappointing sales and a slowing economy. If the U.S. economy really was "booming", both of these companies would probably be thriving. But as you will see below, both of them have been victimized by the exact same Ponzi scheme, and both firms are sending us very clear signals that the U.S. economy is heading for troubled waters.

*Over the past four years, General Motors spent a staggering **13.9 billion dollars** on stock buybacks.*

GM executives were able to prop up the stock price for a while, but at this point the stock is down about 10 percent from where it was four years ago. The following comes from [Wolf Richter](#)...

During this four-year period in which GM blew, wasted, and annihilated nearly \$14 billion on share buybacks, the price of its shares, including today's 5.5% surge – getting rid of workers is always good news for shares – fell 10%.

These stock buybacks are a massive Ponzi scheme, and everyone that was involved in blowing such a giant mountain of cash at GM should be fired.

General Electric has also been victimized by the exact same Ponzi scheme, and at this point they are in a struggle for survival which they are probably going to lose.

On Monday the stock slid another couple of percent, and so far this year it is down [a total of 58 percent](#)...

Not a day passes lately without GE stock getting hit by some unexpected development, and today was no exception.

*GE shares, **which are down 58% YTD**, dropped over 2% on Monday, after sliding as much as 4.1% earlier in the session and approaching its financial crisis low of \$6.66, following a research report by Gordon Haskett analyst John Inch which prompted fresh questions about the treatment of goodwill at GE Capital.*

In the end, GE is probably heading for total collapse.

*But if GE had not blown **40 billion dollars** on stock buybacks in recent years, they would be in far, far better shape. The following comes from [the Marketwatch article](#) that I quoted the other day...*

GE was one of Wall Street's major share buyback operators between 2015 and 2017; it repurchased \$40 billion of shares at prices between \$20 and \$32. The share price is now \$8.60, so the company has liquidated between \$23 billion and \$29 billion of its shareholders' money on this utterly futile activity alone. Since the highest net income recorded by the company during those years was \$8.8 billion in 2016, with 2015 and 2017 recording a loss, it has managed to lose more on its share repurchases during those three years than it made in operations, by a substantial margin.

Even more important, GE has now left itself with minus \$48 billion in tangible net worth at Sept. 30, with actual genuine tangible debt of close to \$100 billion. As the new CEO Larry Culp told CNBC last Monday: "We have no higher priority right now than bringing those leverage levels down."

Combined, General Electric and General Motors have blown more than 53 billion dollars on stock buybacks, and now both companies are in huge trouble.

Infrastructure

That a discussion has begun again in the nation about building infrastructure is a good thing. The problem remains that the level and quality of the discussion is pedestrian at best. Jiggle this, tax that, fix this pot hole or bridge.

The first item below is positive. The Trump administration is putting some money in a real water project.

Then the following article from the Los Angeles Times demonstrates the problem. It begins by citing the American Society of Civil Engineers report that bluntly states that \$4.6 trillion is required to just fix existing infrastructure, but then the whole article focuses on a gas tax and a few other insignificant areas.

No one but LaRouche PAC has put forth the comprehensive policy required, and I have posted that here many times. But just for the record, here is the link to the policy required:

The Four New Laws to Save The U.S.A. Now! NOT AN OPTION: AN IMMEDIATE NECESSITY

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

<https://larouchepac.com/four-laws>

USDA Announces Funding for CA Water Infrastructure

November 27, 2018

<http://agnetwest.com/usda-announces-funding-ca-water-infrastructure/>

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing more than \$449 million to help build an innovative water management system that will increase the reliability of the California water supply and create more than 560 jobs in the Sacramento Valley. Secretary Perdue was joined by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Rickey “R.D.” James. The announcement follows on [President Donald J. Trump’s memo](#) to promote a reliable supply and delivery of water out west.



Made possible through USDA’s [Community Facilities](#) direct loan program, the Maxwell Water Intertie (MWI) facilities would connect the existing Tehama Colusa Canal (TC Canal) and the existing Glenn Colusa Irrigation District’s (GCID) main canal. These facilities would increase water management flexibility and improve water supply resiliency for participants during dry years and directly increase the efficiency and reliability of water management in the western Sacramento Valley.

Rebuilding crumbling infrastructure has bipartisan support. But who gets to pay for it?

By [Jim Puzzanghera](#)

Dec 02, 2018 | 3:00 AM

Washington

<https://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-infrastructure-congress-trump-20181202-story.html>

The grades for major U.S. infrastructure would give any parent indigestion if they were on a child’s report card. Roads: D; bridges: C+; dams: D; ports: C+; railways: B; airports: D; schools: D+; public transit: D-.

The nation’s overall grade: D+, which translates to being “in fair to poor condition and mostly below standards” with “significant deterioration” and a “strong risk of failure,” according to an [evaluation](#) last year by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

And it won’t be cheap to fix all that crumbling infrastructure and build badly needed new projects. The estimated cost is as much as \$4.6 trillion through 2025 — and depends on Republicans and Democrats in Washington acing a subject they have been failing: bipartisanship.

But the results of the November elections — particularly California voters refusing to repeal an increase in the state's gas tax to pay for road and bridge repairs — are spurring optimism that a major infrastructure initiative is possible if party leaders can overcome key differences in how it would be structured.

The need to rebuild the nation's highways, dams and other infrastructure is one of the only areas of agreement among President Trump, congressional Republicans and Democrats, who will take control of the House next year. Projects range from filling [dangerous potholes](#) on Interstate 5 in California to the proposed \$30-billion Gateway project to upgrade bridge and tunnel connections between New York City and New Jersey.

Leading business groups have made a significant boost in infrastructure spending a top priority, and the projects could provide a lift to the U.S. economy as the stimulus effect of the recent Republican tax cuts starts to fade. That all has experts pointing to infrastructure as the most likely major legislative accomplishment for both parties before the next elections in 2020.

And the Real Economy

The honest measure of the economy is one that demonstrates a positive direction for an array of demographic elements, like life expectancy, nutrition levels, leaving school age, leisure time, etc.

Here is a report that gives the truth to the actual state of the U.S. economy:

U.S. Life Expectancy Drops with Rise in Drug Overdoses and Suicides

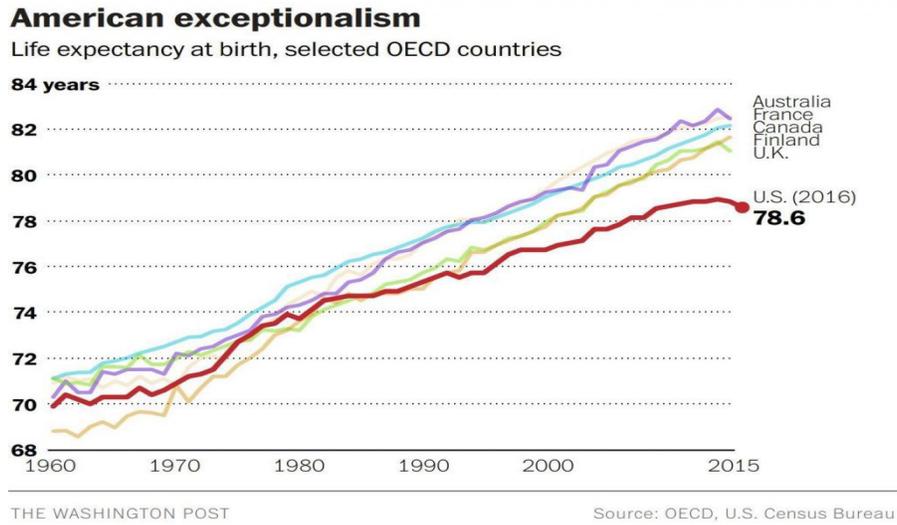
Nov. 30 (EIRNS)—The 2017 statistical studies by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on falling life expectancy in the U.S. released Nov. 29, shows a decline for the second time in three years, an indication of how far the U.S. has declined from its Leibnizian principle of “Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” The detailed report documents increasing rates of death from drug overdoses and suicides, sometimes termed “deaths from despair.” An AP wire on the findings notes that “the nation is in the longest period of a generally declining life expectancy since the late 1910s.”

CDC Director Robert Redfield warned: “Life expectancy gives us a snapshot of the nation's overall health, and these sobering statistics are a wake-up call that we are losing too many Americans, too early, too often, to conditions that are preventable.” Redfield tied the decrease of 0.1% in life expectancy to the rise in deaths from drug overdoses and suicide, sometimes called “deaths of despair.” Dr. Bob Anderson, CDC's chief of mortality statistics, added that cancer deaths, the nation's #2 killer, are continuing a steady decline: “That's kind of our saving grace. Without those declines, we'd see a much bigger drop in life expectancy.”

CDC statistics report that more than 70,000 Americans died of drug overdoses in 2017 alone, a number which marks a nearly 10% rise from 2016, and the highest ever in the United States for a single year (in 1999, only about 17,000 people died of drug overdoses, the earliest statistics gathered by the CDC.)

The CDC's latest reports show suicide rates have also steadily increased, vaulting suicide to the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S.—and second most common cause of death for those aged 10 to 34, showing younger adults in the prime of life hit hardest by drug use and suicide, and lack of a human purpose.

Dr. William Dietz, a disease prevention specialist at George Washington University suggested the CDC data suggest a sense of hopelessness said AP "I really do believe that people are increasingly hopeless, and that that leads to drug use, it leads potentially to suicide," Dietz was quoted as saying.



Documentation:

Suicide, at 50-year peak, and drug overdoses push down U.S. life expectancy

By [Associated Press](#) |
November 29, 2018

By MIKE STOBBE

<https://www.oregister.com/2018/11/29/suicide-at-50-year-peak-pushes-down-us-life-expectancy/>