

# California Drought Update

**For January 14, 2016**  
**by Patrick Ruckert**

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## A Note To Readers

Yes, we will report on the state of the drought again this week, along with El Nino developments and forecasts. But, my usual cautionary word about what some dream of-- the end of the drought-- will be maintained, and the reports this week, I believe, back up that caution.

This report contains a link to the new video, **“Dead Harvest”**-- which chronicles the lack of farm water in California's Central Valley, and which, while of a limited perspective, does provide a vivid picture of both the damage done by the drought and the intention of an environmentalist ideology to shut down California agriculture.

Speaking of “environmentalists,” a new article on the crimes of Governor Jerry Brown-- of his 45-year campaign to destroy the productive economy of the state and to reduce its youth to a mindless, degenerate approximation of human beings, is featured below. This report follows a summary of the January 14 speech by Brown at the Association of California Water Agencies, in which Brown again says the state has too many people.

But, we cannot ignore the real world which will determine all of our futures. As Mr. LaRouche forecast in mid-December, that beginning the first of the year would see the global financial system begin its greatest collapse ever, we are now in it. Commodity prices for oil, coal, and agricultural products are rapidly spiraling downward, and even banks, like the Royal Bank of Scotland, are warning their customers to “sell everything.” That is the context of the dangerous polarization of politics and the spread of war and barbarism, while Obama continues to provoke Russia and China, threatening nuclear extinction.

Here is an editorial from the *Executive Intelligence Review* of January 15, 2016: “No Solution But To Shut Down Wall Street Now.” [http://www.larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2016/2016\\_1-9/2016-03/pdf/02-05\\_4303.pdf](http://www.larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2016/2016_1-9/2016-03/pdf/02-05_4303.pdf)

How many times have you heard that “nothing will ever change,” or “it will never happen?” You would not have heard that complaint from a George Washington or an Alexander Hamilton. In 1821, the English poet Percy Bysshe Shelly, once and for all put a nail in the coffin of such pessimism with his essay **“A Defence of Poetry.”** Read below the last paragraph of that essay; absorb the idea of the power and potential of the creative human mind that suddenly can evoke a revolutionary change in the minds of others, and in the entire society.

# A Defence of Poetry

By Percy Bysshe Shelly

*The second part will have for its object an application of these principles to the present state of the cultivation of poetry, and a defence of the attempt to idealize the modern forms of manners and opinions, and compel them into a subordination to the imaginative and creative faculty. For the literature of England, an energetic development of which has ever preceded or accompanied a great and free development of the national will, has arisen as it were from a new birth. In spite of the low-thoughted envy which would undervalue contemporary merit, our own will be a memorable age in intellectual achievements, and we live among such philosophers and poets as surpass beyond comparison any who have appeared since the last national struggle for civil and religious liberty. The most unfailing herald, companion, and follower of the awakening of a great people to work a beneficial change in opinion or institution, is poetry. At such periods there is an accumulation of the power of communicating and receiving intense and impassioned conceptions respecting man and nature. The person in whom this power resides, may often, as far as regards many portions of their nature, have little apparent correspondence with that spirit of good of which they are the ministers. But even whilst they deny and abjure, they are yet compelled to serve, that power which is seated on the throne of their own soul. It is impossible to read the compositions of the most celebrated writers of the present day without being startled with the electric life which burns within their words. They measure the circumference and sound the depths of human nature with a comprehensive and all-penetrating spirit, and they are themselves perhaps the most sincerely astonished at its manifestations; for it is less their spirit than the spirit of the age. Poets are the hierophants of an unapprehended inspiration; the mirrors of the gigantic shadows which futurity casts upon the present; the words which express what they understand not; the trumpets which sing to battle, and feel not what they inspire; the influence which is moved not, but moves. Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world.*

## **Flash: There Is Too Much Rain to Send to Storage!**

The December 24, 2015 issue of this newsletter included this report: “Water Is Flowing Into the Delta, But Very Little Is Being Stored,” by Erik Wilson of the Face Book page, “*My Job Depends On Ag.*” Erik provided the numbers measuring water flow through the Delta, demonstrating that all the water over and above that required to prevent salinity should be going to storage, but that thousands of acre feet each day that could go to storage were being sent out to the ocean. Erik's report is here: <http://amatterofmind.org/ca-drought-pdf/20151224%20California%20Drought%20Update.pdf>

Now, today, January 14, Erik, responding to the article excerpted below, wrote on the face book page, *My Job Depends on Ag:*”

*I pose this question.....if the flows are to high and the water is to muddy.....is not evidence that we don't have the ability to store it up stream and meter it out so the water isn't wasted because it happened to be muddy. I've been on the delta many times.....the water is always muddy lol. It is never clear.*

The article, “California temporarily curbing water to spare vanishing fish,” from the *Associated Press* on January 14, by Ellen Knickmeyer, is excerpted below. One must ask, can the intention to destroy California agricultural and the people of the state be more blatant?

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/c52e84dfb9db427f91203192656a21c7/california-temporarily-curbing-water-spate-vanishing-fish>

*SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Saying current water conditions pose particular peril for the state's tiny, disappearing Delta smelt, federal officials moved Thursday to temporarily reduce water deliveries for farmers and millions of other Californians.*

*Especially muddy water from winter storms is among the factors that risk sweeping some of the world's few remaining Delta smelt off course and into giant water pumps that draw water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin river deltas, U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials said.*

*The pumps are part of federal and state water projects that provide water for up to 25 million Californians. Wildlife experts believe the pumps are one of the main threats to native fish, including the once-plentiful Delta smelt, now nearly extinct, and endangered runs of native salmon.*

*The federal wildlife service's determination on Thursday means federal authorities will reduce water flows temporarily starting Friday, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation said.*

*Farming representatives said the move is troubling, coming after a series of storms that have brought a surge in both rains and optimism about the drought.*

*"It's obviously very, very concerning at a time when we're supposed to be capturing water," said Ryan Jacobsen, executive director of the Fresno County Farm Bureau.*

*The throttling back of water deliveries is coming during California's winter rains, when water managers and users hope to capture as much water as possible to fill reservoirs in the state, which is in its fourth year of drought.*

## **Dead Harvest**

This new film, produced by the National Alliance for Environmental Reform, is described as a chronicle of the lack of farm water in California's Central Valley. It is a gripping 38 minute tour of both the destruction that has been wrought on the Central Valley's agriculture and its people. While an excellent expose of the environmentalist intent to shut down agriculture in the Valley, the film limits itself to advocating the building more storage capability for when it does rain, and stopping the sending of water to ocean to save a few fish. Regardless, it is well worth watching:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSrRyAYgw34>

## **“Is the California Drought Over?”**

That is the headline, and there have been others like it this past week, from *Planet Editor* on January 9. What this article, and the others reported on in this section, do, is provide some useful statistics.

From the Planet Editor article: <http://www.planetexperts.com/is-the-california-drought-over/>

*But according to Mike Anderson, a climatologist for the state's Department of Water Resources, “This week's storms will help but will not end drought conditions in California.”*

*That's because the state has experienced one mother of a drought so far. Since 2011, California's total water supply has dropped 12 million acre-feet per year. In 2013, the state recorded the driest year in its*

history. In 2014, it recorded its hottest. Over the 2013-2014 period, California received less than 60 percent of its traditional precipitation, which lowered its reservoirs to 36 percent capacity. In 2015, things only got worse. San Francisco had the first rainless January in its history, reservoirs dried up and the state's agricultural industry lost about \$2.7 billion.

Over 97 percent of California has been in drought conditions. According to NASA, it will take about 11 trillion gallons to recover.

NBC- Los Angeles, on January 14, citing the U.S. Drought Monitor report of January 12, had this headline: "Exceptional' Drought Improves Only 2 Percent After California Storms--More than 42 percent of California remains under exceptional drought after last week's El Niño-influenced storms." <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/california/California-Drought-El-Nino-Storms-Rain-Snow-Water-365280731.html>

The report states:

*Parts of drought-stricken California saw only minor improvement this week after a series of storms marched through the region.*

*This week's California Drought Monitor shows only a 2 percent improvement to the exceptional drought category -- the most severe -- in Northern California following storms that brought rain and snow to the state. Water reservoirs remain below normal as the state's hopes for a degree of drought recovery hinge on the effects of a strong El Niño.*

*"Even with the rain and snow received over the last several weeks, many areas are still running below normal for precipitation and snow for the current water year," according to the weekly report. "Wells, reservoirs, ground water, and soil moisture are all recovering slowly, which is to be expected after three-plus years of drought."*



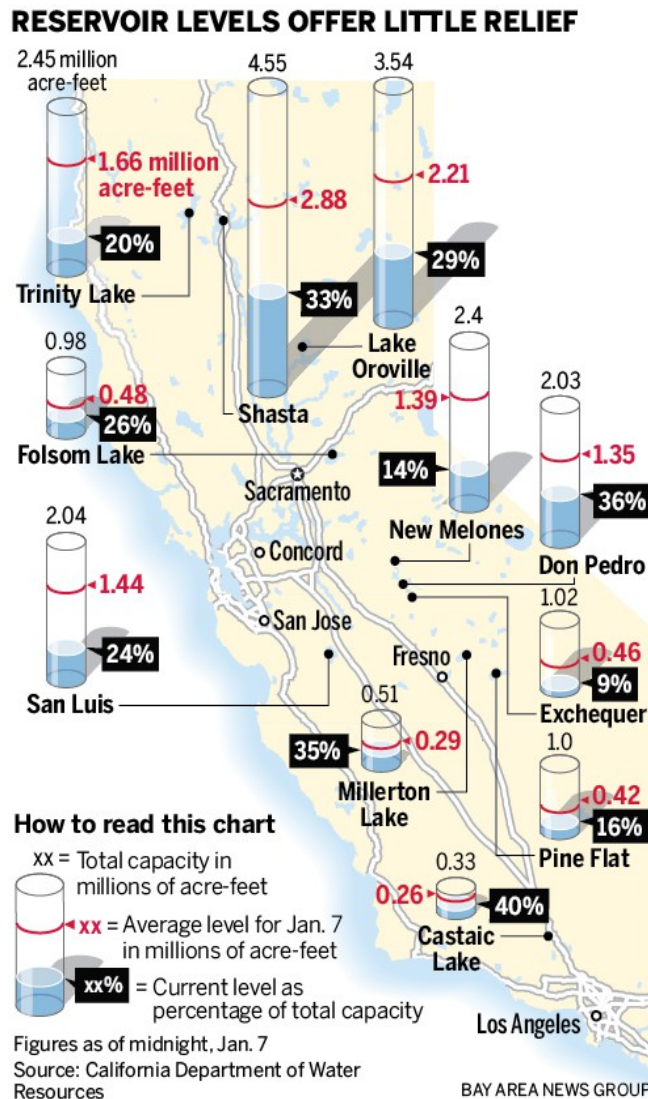
*More than 87 percent of California remains under severe drought.*

Paul Rogers in the *San Jose Mercury News* on January 9, in an article titled, "California drought: How will we know when it's over?," provides a series of answers to his question, starting with, "The answer, water experts say, is more complicated than you'd think."

[http://www.mercurynews.com/drought/ci\\_29364616/california-drought-how-will-we-know-when-its](http://www.mercurynews.com/drought/ci_29364616/california-drought-how-will-we-know-when-its)

Some excerpts:

*Simply put: The drought could end this year, according to state water officials. But for that to happen, as California enters the fifth year of the worst drought in the state's history, rains will have to continue arriving in pounding, relentless waves through April to fill depleted reservoirs and dry rivers and push the Sierra snowpack to at least 150 percent of normal.*



*"One week of rain doesn't make up for four years of historic drought. We are in a very deep hole," said Mike Anderson, California's state climatologist.*

*How far do we still have to go?*

*Anderson researched years when other major droughts were widely considered to have ended: 1938, 1978 and 1993. In each case, the Sierra snowpack -- the source of one-third of California's water supply -- was roughly 150 percent of the historic average. And precipitation levels at eight key weather stations in Northern California, located in watersheds that feed Shasta, Oroville, Folsom and other massive reservoirs, also was between 130 percent and 150 percent of normal.*

*His conclusion: If California receives 150 percent snowpack by this April and 150 percent of normal*

*precipitation in the north, that should be enough to fill the biggest reservoirs and probably end the drought.*

*One of the biggest problems statewide is that nearly every major reservoir is at dangerously low levels. Since Dec. 8, rain has boosted the level of Shasta Lake, the state's largest reservoir, by 12 feet, adding 168,000 acre feet of water -- enough for 840,000 people's needs for a year.*

*That's impressive, until you realize that all that water only increased Shasta's storage by 4 percentage points, to 33 percent full.*

*Since the drought began in 2011, most major cities in California are missing at least a year of supply.*

*San Francisco, for example, receives 23.65 inches of rain in an average year. So over five years, it should have received 118.25 inches. But so far, since the drought began, it has received just 72.37 inches. That means that to get "back to normal," the city would need 45.88 inches this rainy season.*

*The record wettest year in San Francisco was 49.27 inches, during the winter of 1861-62.*

*NASA scientists using satellite data estimate that California is 12 trillion gallons of water short because of the drought -- in rivers, creeks, snowpack and, most importantly, in underground aquifers that have been pumped at record levels by Central Valley farmers. Groundwater experts say that will take decades to recover. And it might not ever happen.*

Even with all the rain we have had the last few weeks, believe it or not, at least some areas of the state have had less of it than last year at this time. Bill Disbrow, at [sfgate.com](http://sfgate.com), reported on January 12, that "Despite 'Godzilla el niño' predictions, rainy season still pacing behind last year." He writes:

*This rainy season, Santa Rosa received 13.38 inches of rain between Oct. 1 and Tuesday morning. Last season it received 18.55 inches over that period. The normal amount of rainfall is 16.71 inches.*

*San Francisco has seen 9.45 inches so far this season, compared with 14.45 inches by Jan. 10 last season, weather service officials said. The normal amount is 10.3 inches.*

The *San Diego Union-Tribune* on January 13, in an article titled, "After wet week, where's El Niño? Storm track has shifted north temporarily, weather experts say," by Robert Krier, discussing how the El Niño rains had shifted northward, at least for the time being, does provide an interesting comment on climate/weather forecasting. If they cannot forecast two weeks, or three months, ahead, how can the man-caused global warming proponents have confidence in their 50-100 year forecasts? Excerpts follow:

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/jan/13/el-nino-update/>

*After this spring, it's almost anybody's guess about what will follow weather-wise. Pierce said Scripps' climate model projects the development of La Niña — the opposite of El Niño that often robs Southern California of storms. A La Niña developed after the 1997-98 El Niño, Pierce said.*

*But other climate models disagree about what will happen next. Most of the models predict neutral conditions — neither an El Niño nor a La Niña. Some models foresee a continuation of El Niño.*

And from the farm sector, Bruce Blodgett, the Executive Director of the San Joaquin Farm Bureau, on January 9, wrote a column for [recordnet.com](http://recordnet.com) discussing the reservoirs, groundwater, and the need for more storage. Importantly, he points out that groundwater recharge depends on using surface water that then goes into the ground. His column, "And the rain finally came down," is excerpted below.

[http://www.recordnet.com/article/20160109/NEWS/160109803/-1/A\\_BIZ](http://www.recordnet.com/article/20160109/NEWS/160109803/-1/A_BIZ)

*The drought has had a devastating effect and is far from over. Just look at the reservoirs. Camanche Reservoir is at about 23 percent of capacity. New Hogan and New Melones are at less than 15 percent as of late last week.*

*The New Melones numbers are particularly staggering with a little over 2.4 million acre feet in storage capacity, but only 315,433 acre feet in storage.*

*Facilities throughout California have not fared much better. Folsom, Oroville and Shasta lakes to the north, and those on the San Joaquin River system show that we have just a fraction of the water in storage that will be needed for the year.*

*Increased rain and snowfall are only part of erasing the effects of the drought. Agencies need to quit wasting water by continually increasing “unimpaired flow” requirements for tributaries. Every drop of water that can be stored is critical, and we should not be faced with months of artificial flood flows to drain water out of the system.*

*But rain alone won't solve the water problem; additional storage is needed.*

*Projects such as Sites Reservoir, Temperance Flat and raising Shasta Dam have been on the books for years, but instead of progress on these important projects, we get a new name for the Delta peripheral project (now the California water fix).*

*Add to that a number of groundwater recharge projects that could advance quickly, but the state does not recognize this as a “beneficial use” of water. The state’s apparent translation here is troubling ... yes we think we need to do something about groundwater resources, but we don’t want you to do anything that actually will address the problem. In California, the end game seems to be another government program we will all get to pay for as taxpayers to study what’s going on with groundwater rather than implement projects to address the problem.*

Finally, we have this headline from the *Capital Press*, “El Nino conditions already weakening,” by Tim Hearden on January 12. The content of the article is not quite what the headline communicates. Excerpts below.

<http://www.capitalpress.com/California/20160112/el-nino-conditions-already-weakening>

*SACRAMENTO — As robust storms continue to move through California, El Nino conditions in the Pacific Ocean are already starting to weaken, a National Weather Service expert says.*

*Sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific that serve as a key fuel for the weather phenomenon are starting to cool, although a strong El Nino is expected to persist in the Northern Hemisphere through the winter, said Michelle Mead, a National Weather Service warning coordinator.*

*The current weather pattern, fed by a dominant subtropical southern jet stream, is typical for a strong El Nino winter, Mead said in an email. But uncertainty is emerging as to whether the pattern will remain for the entire winter, particularly for Northern California, she said.*

*“The precipitation and snowpack for this winter are still going to be storm-by-storm dependent,” Mead said. “As we’ve stated before, even an average winter will not save us from a four-year deficit.”*

*Sea-surface and atmospheric conditions are expected to return to neutral by late spring or early*

summer, marking an end to the current El Nino.

## **Governor Brown Blathers On**

Governor Brown spoke at the Association of California Water Agencies event on January 14. As reported by *Mavensnotebook.com*, Brown's topic was his California Water Action Plan, in other words the tunnels under the Delta. But, his theme was the same as it has always been: Mankind must adjust to nature; there are just too many of us; we are causing the climate to change, and that is bad. I will not suffer you with much of what he had to say, but just these excerpts. For the masochists, Maven's full report is here: <http://mavensnotebook.com/2016/01/14/this-just-in-governor-brown-speaks-at-acwa-california-water-2-0-event-about-the-delta-tunnels-drought-and-climate-change/>

*I like to put this in the broader context – that we now have 39 million people, and as best I understand it, there was a fraction of that many who lived in California for more than 10,000 years and so that number was what the norm was until the Spanish colonists came this way, and then after them, the Gold Rush and all the rest.*

*If you look out at the big world, there's 7.3 billion people.... Now we're up to 7.3, and we're probably going to go 9 billion, maybe higher, so when we have that many people, it's a different world than when you had far fewer.*

*We have to recognize the reality that climate is changing. It's changing and for those of you who don't believe that, well then, that will make all our work a lot harder, because I think the science is absolutely overwhelming.*

*We can protect the natural systems, and we can do so, but we have to engineer our way forward because that's the way it is. This land was used to 300,000-400,000 people; now we have 39 million. And we're not running around with simple lifestyle, as it was for 10,000 years.*

*We're all part of nature, but we're manipulating, we're managing nature, but we have to do it within the rules as they are immutable.*

## **“Jerry Brown and the Murder of California's Youth”**

That is the title of a new article by Robert Ingraham, published in the January 15, 2016 issue of *Executive Intelligence Review* (EIR). How and what turned the most productive state of the nation into what it is today has been largely produced by Jerry Brown. What follows are just a few paragraphs from that article. EIR is available by subscription at: <http://store.larouchepub.com/EIR-Online-s/1824.htm>

*Jan. 7—As will be made clear in this report, the current state of youth culture in California represents an existential threat to the very existence of human civilization. Over a 40-year time span, the actual content of what it means to be a human being has been increasingly stripped from the minds and hearts of California youth. Mis-educated, corrupted, degraded, and discarded, California's youth are lost at sea, and no one has offered them a moral or intellectual compass to find their bearings.*



*As for Jerry Brown, the following discourse is not intended as an in-depth personal profile of Brown; rather, it presents a dissection of precisely how his 41-year career has destroyed the State of California, and how it has produced two generations of mentally and morally crippled youth. There is no exaggeration in stating that the overriding constant throughout Brown's career has been his continuing outright Satanic view as to the nature of the human species. This outlook was first announced by Brown during the initial days of his first round as California Governor in 1975, and he has never wavered from this anti-human outlook down to the present day.*

*In November of 2015, Jerry Brown, at the personal invitation of President Barack Obama, attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris as a member of the U.S. delegation. This conference, which followed by five months the release of Pope Francis' Malthusian encyclical *Laudato Si'*, has been the most aggressive effort to date by the British Monarchy to impose a global regime of mandatory human genocide.*

*Although the recruitment of the Vatican to the drive for mass-murder is a new development, Brown has been obsessed with a "defense of nature" against hated human beings throughout the last 41 years. During his first go-around as Governor, Brown was a leading advocate for the Carter Administration's (1977) Global 2000 policy, the first official U.S. government policy statement that called for national population reduction. In 1978, Brown appointed Huey Johnson as Director of Resources for the State of California. During that period, Johnson delivered a speech at the National Press Club, calling on California to adopt a population limitation policy, including tax penalties for large families, immigration restrictions, abortion legislation, and curtailment of low-income housing.*

*Between 1975 and 1983 Brown appointed a whole gaggle of pro-drug, pro-green freaks to leading positions in the California government, including Gregory Bateson, the husband of Margaret Mead, and Willis Harman from the Stanford Research Institute, both of whom were appointed to the Board of Regents of the University of California. Bateson, a British national, began his career as a student of Norbert Wiener's work in cybernetics, and developed his own theories claiming that schizophrenia and other mental aberrations were all the product of chemical and other physical mechanical imbalances in the human brain, which could be corrected through the use of psychotropic drugs.*

*In May of 2015, when Brown announced a mandatory 25% cut in statewide water consumption, he stated: "For over 10,000 years, people lived in California, but the number of those people were never more than 300,000 or 400,000. Now we are embarked upon an experiment that no one has ever tried: 38 million people, with 32 million vehicles, living at the level of comfort that we all strive to attain. This will require adjustment." Compare Brown's sentiments to the words of the royal mad-man Prince Philip, who has avowed, "You cannot keep a bigger flock of sheep than you are capable of feeding. In other words, conservation may involve culling in order to keep a balance between the relative numbers in each species within any particular habitat. I realize this a very touchy subject, but the fact remains that mankind is part of the living world."*