

# California Drought Update

**For January 28, 2016**  
**by Patrick Ruckert**

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## A Note To Readers

This week's report continues our coverage of the unconscionable and criminal action by the State Water Board and the Fish and Wildlife Service of sending hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of water flowing through the Delta out to the Bay rather than to storage. Coverage will also include an update on our friend El Nino, the state of the drought and the reservoirs, plus a few odds and ends.

But, first the bigger picture:

What links the water crisis in California and the Flint, Michigan crisis of lead in the drinking water? Simply put, our nation has become a “failed state,” as the term is often applied to nations subject to the British and U.S. regime change policy that has been the hallmark of the Bush and Obama administrations.

Yes, America has failed to invest for decades in the needed infrastructure required for today and tomorrow. An economy based on Wall Street speculation, which ours has increasingly become since President Nixon ended the fixed exchange rate global monetary system established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944, does not give a damn about the future. That is a failed state.

Now we are beginning to pay the price for that criminal turn, with not only inadequate or non-existent infrastructure, but because cities like Flint have been bankrupted by the outsourcing, or just plain shutting down, of our once productive industrial economy. The city was placed in receivership by the state, and the state-appointed controller, to save some money, switched the city's water supply from the Great Lakes to the heavily polluted Flint River, and did not institute a corrosion control program to prevent the release of lead into the water supply. The EPA knew about the situation months ago, and also did nothing. Now, the children of Flint are paying for this austerity policy with brain damage.

In California, added to the de-industrial policy, is 40 years of environmentalist insanity (the 40 years of Jerry Brown I referenced two weeks ago in the excerpt from the article by Robert Ingraham: “Jerry Brown and the Murder of California’s Youth.” <http://amatterofmind.org/ca-drought-pdf/20160114%20California%20Drought%20Update.pdf>).

The destruction of the American population has been highlighted this past week by the publication in the *New York Times* of a series of articles on the expanding and deadly epidemic of drug overdoses that has swept the nation since the year 2,000-- during the Presidencies of George Bush and Barak Obama.

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/01/07/us/drug-overdose-deaths-in-the-us.html>.

Exactly how we had been set-up for this degeneration was the subject of a webcast by LaRouche PAC last Friday, January 22. I urge you all to watch it. The second speaker, Jeff Steinberg, provides, in detail, the 100-year history of how the British Empire deliberately destroyed the minds of the American people. <https://larouchepac.com/20160122/friday-webcast-january-22-2016>.

On top of the “water for fish first” policy of the Brown administration, then comes the austerity, like Flint, that says there is no money for increased storage to capture run-off; there is no money to build a couple of dozen desalination plants; and there is no money, anyway, to do much of anything.

There is a solution. This report, “The U.S. Joins the New Silk Road,” published by LaRouche PAC, shows what we could do, if first we reinstate the Glass-Steagall banking law.

<https://larouchepac.com/sites/default/files/US%20Joins%20Silk%20Road-web.pdf>

## **El Nino, Drought Monitor, Reservoirs**

El Nino keeps doing its thing, dumping rain and snow on the state regularly, though we have not seen any real deluges brought by atmospheric rivers as yet. And, some areas of the state still have not matched last year's level of precipitation for this date.

The U.S. Drought Monitor for January 26 finally registered a measurable decline-- at least one that is more than a few hundreds of a percent. The area of the state in “Extreme Drought,” measured 68 percent last week and 64 percent this week. The portion in the highest category of drought, “Exceptional Drought,” however, only declined from 42.66 to 40.21 percent.

The reservoirs over the past few weeks are slowing filling up, though all of them are still below the average level for this date. Shasta Reservoir comes the closest to where it should be now, sitting at 49 percent, and at 51 percent of capacity. San Luis Reservoir, though, as the major storage facility for the two major water projects is at only 32 percent of the average for this date, and at 41 percent of capacity. Just to mention one more, to highlight how low water storage still is, Trinity Lake, with a near 2.5 million acre-feet capacity, is at 27 percent of average level and 38 percent of capacity.

The California Department of Water Resources on January 26 reported on its second measuring of the snowpack with this headline, “Officials Say California Has More Snow Than The Drought-Stricken State Has Seen In Five Years,” which shows the snowpack being a little above average for this date. The *Associated Press* article is excerpted below.

<http://www.capradio.org/articles/2016/01/26/officials-say-california-has-more-snow-than-the-drought-stricken-state-has-seen-in-five-years/>

*(AP) - Officials say California has more snow than the drought-stricken state has seen in five years.*

*The state's Department of Water Resources reported Tuesday that the water content of the Sierra Nevada snowpack is at 115 percent of its historical average. The electronic readings are at their highest since 2011, when it reached 129 percent.*

*State water managers say, however, that reservoirs remain far below historical levels, despite the wet winter.*

*They say the snowpack needs to be at 150 percent by April 1 to ease the drought.*

Some headlines really do get excited, as this one from *sfgate.com* on January 20: “Thanks El Niño! 44-foot rise of Folsom Lake offers hope for California's worst ever drought.” The article by Brandon Mercer, though, does have a nice image in the first sentence.

<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/el-nino-california-drought-folsom-lake-6772009.php>

*California lake levels are rising as fast as the stock market is falling, with Folsom Lake east of Sacramento rising an astonishing 44 feet in just over a month and Lake Oroville, the second most expansive water storage facility in the state [rising another 20 feet](#).*

*Early December saw Folsom Lake, just off Highway 50 on the way up to South Lake Tahoe, dwindle to the hydrological equivalent of a mud puddle.*

*It reached its lowest levels since they started filling it up after building the dam of around 349 feet above sea level.*

*By today, it has risen over 44 feet to just under [393 feet above sea level](#).*

Then, *ABC10* really went over the top with this headline on January 26, “Folsom Lake rises 400 feet above sea level,” forgetting to mention that the lake is still at only 42 percent of normal for this date. But, I guess we can forgive them for the omission since photos of a near empty Folsom have been the poster child for the drought.

<http://www.abc10.com/story/news/local/folsom-orangevale/2016/01/26/folsom-lake-rises-400-feet-above-sea-level/79333018/>

Most of the coverage this past week is similar to the *Los Angeles Times* article of January 20, “California has a shot out of the drought’ if El Niño rain persists.” Excerpts follow:

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-el-nino-rain-reservoir-snowpack-averages-20160120-story.html>

*“The recent rains have put us on a good trajectory to perhaps have a shot out of [the drought](#) if it were to continue at the current rate,” said Doug Carlson, a spokesman with the California Department of Water Resources.*

*But not all precipitation is the same, officials caution. The mountains need snow, and lots of it, that can accumulate and slowly melt through the spring and summer, feeding the state’s streams, rivers and lakes.*

*El Nino is living up to the hype and putting a dent in California's drought.*

*“Right now, we’re doing better than last year. But nowhere near the 150% of normal that we had been predicting,” Carlson said. “It remains to be seen if we’re going to be end-of-the-drought happy or better-than-last-year happy.”*

*“We have such a huge deficit, it’s a very large number we have to recoup,” said Craig Shoemaker, a meteorologist in Sacramento.*

## **Still No Water Going To Storage**

As we have reported over the past several weeks, a very small portion of the water flowing into the Delta is being sent to storage. First to raise this was Erik Wilson of the face book group *My Job Depends on Ag*, who continues to monitor this obscenity. Now, others are raising a hue and cry.

Mark Borba posted the following chart on the face book group “My Job Depends on Ag.”

His conclusion:

*Since January 20, less than 10% of daily flows into the Delta have been exported for storage. Nearly 100,000 acre-feet per day is allowed to run into the Pacific Ocean! Nearly 1.4 million acre-feet have run to the sea...or nearly 80% of all Delta Flows since December 28th!*

Date	--- Outflow & Exports (cfs) ---			--- Exports as a (%) of Inflow ---			--- Outflow & Exports (acre-feet, %) ---		
	NDOI	CVP	SWP	CVP	SWP	Export	NDOI	CVP+SWP	Export (%)
12/28/2015	7485	2751	3893	36.8%	52.0%	88.8%	14,820	13,155	88.8%
12/29/2015	5340	2743	3891	51.4%	72.9%	124.2%	10,573	13,135	124.2%
12/30/2015	4209	2742	3488	65.1%	82.9%	148.0%	8,334	12,335	148.0%
12/31/2015	3993	2731	2998	68.4%	75.1%	143.5%	7,906	11,343	143.5%
1/1/2016	4305	2571	1989	59.7%	46.2%	105.9%	8,524	9,029	105.9%
1/2/2016	5155	1915	1498	37.1%	29.1%	66.2%	10,207	6,758	66.2%
1/3/2016	4967	1069	1485	21.5%	29.9%	51.4%	9,835	5,057	51.4%
1/4/2016	4758	806	1495	16.9%	31.4%	48.4%	9,421	4,556	48.4%
1/5/2016	4155	802	2995	19.3%	72.1%	91.4%	8,227	7,518	91.4%
1/6/2016	9735	1375	4194	14.1%	43.1%	57.2%	19,275	11,027	57.2%
1/7/2016	13167	1960	3592	14.9%	27.3%	42.2%	26,071	10,993	42.2%
1/8/2016	19710	2598	2990	13.2%	15.2%	28.4%	39,026	11,064	28.4%
1/9/2016	27817	2865	3194	10.3%	11.5%	21.8%	55,078	11,997	21.8%
1/10/2016	28952	3412	2393	11.8%	8.3%	20.1%	57,325	11,494	20.1%
1/11/2016	18149	3628	2289	20.0%	12.6%	32.6%	35,935	11,716	32.6%
1/12/2016	13169	3637	2294	27.6%	17.4%	45.0%	26,075	11,743	45.0%
1/13/2016	12155	3647	2398	30.0%	19.7%	49.7%	24,067	11,969	49.7%
1/14/2016	10921	3618	2197	33.1%	20.1%	53.2%	21,624	11,514	53.2%
1/15/2016	12164	2422	1695	19.9%	13.9%	33.8%	24,085	8,152	33.8%
1/16/2016	15143	1901	2299	12.6%	15.2%	27.7%	29,983	8,316	27.7%
1/17/2016	21426	1903	2196	8.9%	10.2%	19.1%	42,423	8,116	19.1%
1/18/2016	28084	1909	2193	6.8%	7.8%	14.6%	55,606	8,122	14.6%
1/19/2016	34285	1912	2243	5.6%	6.5%	12.1%	67,884	8,227	12.1%
1/20/2016	41996	2338	1993	5.6%	4.7%	10.3%	83,152	8,575	10.3%
1/21/2016	45891	2508	1994	5.5%	4.3%	9.8%	90,864	8,914	9.8%
1/22/2016	49119	2517	1990	5.1%	4.1%	9.2%	97,256	8,924	9.2%
1/23/2016	51145	2520	1597	4.9%	3.1%	8.0%	101,267	8,152	8.0%
1/24/2016	52844	2509	1345	4.7%	2.5%	7.3%	104,631	7,631	7.3%
1/25/2016	50159	2494	1297	5.0%	2.6%	7.6%	99,315	7,506	7.6%
1/26/2016	48981	2104	1894	4.3%	3.9%	8.2%	96,982	7,916	8.2%
1/27/2016	48700	1900	2000	3.9%	4.1%	8.0%	96,426	7,722	8.0%
				Total Acre-Feet, (%)			1,382,196	292,676	21.2%

*Western Farm Press* on January 20 asked, in an article by Todd Fitchette, “Why is California not storing more water?” <http://m.westernfarmpress.com/blog/why-california-not-storing-more-water>

Here are excerpts:

*California regulators waste opportunity to capture and store irrigation water*

*Accusing regulators of egging on the current drought to justify not sending irrigation water to growers*

*in 2016 sounds a bit far-fetched until you look at the facts.*

*As I write this, the Sacramento River is at flood stage in northern California. It has nothing to do with the need to make room in Shasta Lake, which sits at about one-third of capacity and about 50 percent of normal for this time of year.*

*Heavy rain in northern California has pushed streams to their limits, sending flood flows down the Sacramento and largely out to sea in what [some might consider criminal](#). What else do you call a willful desire to take fresh water away from human beings?*

*San Luis Reservoir is a two-million-acre-foot basin built to provide irrigation water to the farms of the San Joaquin Valley, except that it's not used for that anymore.*

*Never mind the words of President Kennedy when he dedicated the dam in the early 1960s or the intent of our current governor's father when he set out to build the State Water Project as the state's chief executive; water has a higher use than for humans. Federal courts have ruled as much.*

*Since Dec. 1, there has been three high-flow periods where much more water could have been captured than was stored. Pumps used to move water into San Luis Reservoir could have been run at capacity on three separate occasions and still provided enough water for salinity control in the Delta.*

*Instead, about 19 percent of Delta inflow was captured based on a 14-day average.*

*In real numbers, about 314,000 acre feet of water was stored while nearly 1.1 million acre feet went out to sea.*

*Now, in addition to sending hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of water out to the Bay, and not into storage, Jerry Brown's State Water Resources Control Board is going to divert more water from the San Joaquin Valley rivers from agriculture to saving some Salmon. Mike Dunbar in the Modesto Bee on January 22 explains. Excerpts follow: <http://www.modbee.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/mike-dunbar/article56177060.html>*

### ***Mike Dunbar: Soon, state will explain why it wants our water***

*The state of California soon will tell us what we're worth. Don't be surprised if the answer is "not as much as south Valley farmers," or "not as much as San Francisco fishermen," or simply "not much."*

*In February, the State Water Resources Control Board will release its long-awaited [revised Substitute Environmental Draft](#), laying out how much water it wants to flow down the Tuolumne, Stanislaus and Merced rivers to the ocean and the board's projections of the costs of those increased flows to our region. Such reports are number-heavy and a bit boring, but stick with us because the state plans to take money out of every pocket in the Northern San Joaquin Valley.*

*The board's first report in 2012 was so pathetically flawed it's taken state number-crunchers four years to get over the embarrassment.*

*Their foremost concern is the welfare of *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* – the king salmon. Of less concern is the welfare of other species – cows, chickens, farmers, etc.*

*The 2016 report is likely to repeat the state's desire that 40 percent of each river be used to restore salmon populations. In the case of farmers in Turlock and Modesto irrigation districts, that means giving up 25 percent of the water they've been putting to beneficial use for generations. It is 15 percent more from the Stanislaus and 20 percent more from the Merced.*

*The state's preferred 40 percent flows would result in only 66,500 acres being fallowed. That, said the state, would cause a \$40 million drop in ag income. Apparently, state economists believed each*

*irrigated acre produced \$600 in 2012. Utterly outlandish.*

*Total farm income in Stanislaus County was \$4.4 billion last year. That means each of Stanislaus County's roughly 540,000 ag acres produced \$8,150 – or 13 times the state's 2012 number. Merced and San Joaquin had similar figures. If the state sticks with its estimate of 66,500 fallowed acres, farmers will collectively lose \$542 million – not \$40 million. That's every year, but that's not all.*

*Each \$1 of farm income generates \$3.50 of economic activity, according to UC Davis. So that \$542 million becomes \$1.9 billion. And that's the best-case scenario. County farm bureaus estimate losing so much irrigation water would result in 100,000 fallowed acres. That would cost farmers closer to \$810 million with an economic impact of \$2.8 billion.*

## **And the Results**

The real world results of the above policy of the *State Water Resources Control Board* were announced on January 26. Excerpts from the Board's statement follows below. The statement does have substantial background material, so I am quoting it at length. An ironic or sarcastic “Whoopie!” has probably been the response from farmers, since they will now get this year a huge 15 percent of the water they contracted for, versus the 20 percent they got last year, and the tentative 10 percent announced in December. The included chart, below, shows that deliveries to contractors have only been 100% once since 2006. Even without drought the state cannot provide enough water to supply the needs of the state. Yes, more storage, but, as I have said again and again, we must produce more water, starting by building a few dozen desalination plants the size of the new Carlsbad plant. The Water Board's statement is reported by *Mavensnotebook.com*:

<http://mavensnotebook.com/2016/01/26/this-just-in-state-water-project-allocation-boosted/>

### ***Early Winter Storms Promising, but State Remains in Drought***

*From the Department of Water Resources*

*With winter storms slowly boosting water supply, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) today increased its water delivery estimate for most recipients from 10 percent of requests for the calendar year, as announced in December, to 15 percent.*

*The State Water Project (SWP) delivery estimate (allocation) may be increased further if storms continue to build rainfall and snowpack totals. The 29 public agencies that receive SWP water (State Water Project Contractors) requested 4,172,786 acre-feet of water for 2016. With today's allocation increase, they will receive 631,115 acre-feet.*

*Collectively, the SWP Contractors serve approximately 25 million Californians and just under a million acres of irrigated farmland.*

*Lake Oroville in Butte County, the State Water Project's principal reservoir, early this morning was holding 1,366,061 acre-feet, 39 percent of its 3.5 million acre-foot capacity and 60 percent of its historical average for the date. Shasta Lake north of Redding, California's and the federal Central Valley Project's (CVP) largest reservoir, was holding 2,138,566 acre-feet, 47 percent of its 4.5 million acre-foot capacity and 71 percent of its historical average. San Luis Reservoir, a critical south-of-Delta pool for both the SWP and*

*CVP, reflects the same trend of lower reservoir storage this year. San Luis was holding 641,729 acre-feet, 31 percent of its 2 million acre-foot capacity and 41 percent of normal for the date. Folsom Lake, a CVP reservoir near Sacramento, is holding 398,523 acre-feet of its 977,000 acre-foot capacity, 79 percent of average for the date.*

*Last year's (2015) 20 percent allocation was the second lowest since 1991, when agricultural customers of the SWP got a zero allocation and municipal customers received 30 percent of requests. In 2014, SWP deliveries were five percent of requested amounts for all customers.*

*The last 100 percent allocation – difficult to achieve even in wet years largely because of Delta pumping restrictions to protect threatened and endangered fish species – was in 2006. SWP allocations in recent years:*

*2015 – 20 percent*

*2014 – 5 percent*

*2013 – 35 percent*

*2012 – 65 percent*

*2011 – 80 percent*

*2010 – 50 percent*

*2009 – 40 percent*

*2008 – 35 percent*

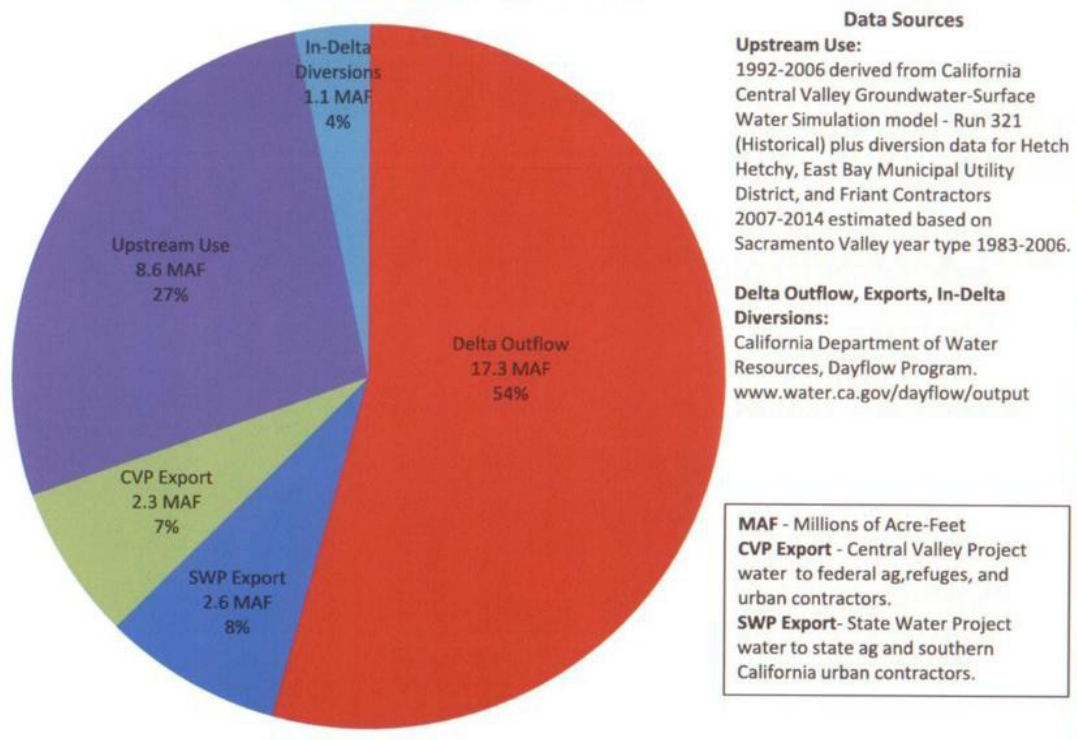
*2007 – 60 percent*

*2006 – 100 percent*

## **What Happens To the Water That Flows Into the Delta?**

This is a good place for the following graphic, that shows that the amount of water, between 1992 and 2014, that was sent to storage only totals 15 percent of the inflow.

## Tributary Flows to the Delta (1992-2014) How The Water Was Used



## More Land to be Fallowed; Fewer Crops to be Grown

Farmers are already preparing for the worse. The *Associated Press* reported on January 22, under the title, “El Nino isn't helping California's water woes,” the following excerpts:

<http://www.cnbc.com/2016/01/22/el-nino-isnt-helping-californias-water-woes.html>

*Johnny Amaral, deputy general manager at Westlands Water District, said federal officials have told his district not to expect any surface water this year. Westlands distributes federal water to hundreds of farms in the San Joaquin Valley — the nation's most productive agricultural region.*

*Federal authorities operate the Central Valley Project, part of a system of canals and reservoirs that delivers water from throughout California.*

*The state Department of Water Resources, which manages part of California's vast water system, said in early December that it anticipated releasing 10 percent of supplies sought by farmers this year — half of the last year's allocation.*

And, [abcnews.go.com](http://abcnews.go.com) reported on January 17, that “California Farmers Brace for Water Shortage Despite El Nino,” written by Scott Smith of Associated Press. Some excerpts below:

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/california-farmers-brace-water-shortage-el-nino-36344244>

*Farmers in California's fertile San Joaquin Valley are bracing to receive no irrigation water from a federal system of reservoirs and canals for a third consecutive year and looking to El Nino to produce*



*the very wet winter they need.*

*While many are celebrating a break to the long dry spell, however, the four driest years on record for California have left their mark, and experts say it will take time for the parched state to recover.*

*"We need a wet winter this winter and next and the following winter probably to get us anywhere close to equilibrium," said Dave Kranz, a spokesman for the California Farm Bureau Federation.*

*State water managers say California's snowpack needs to be at 150 percent of normal on April 1 to signal an end to drought. Friday it was at 110 percent, according to the Department of Water Resources' statewide electronic reading.*

That was the State Water Board. Now for the *Federal Bureau of Reclamation*, which runs the Central Valley Project. The *Sacramento Bee* on January 22, ran this headline: "Feds to farmers: Water reserves low despite recent storms," by Ryan Sabalow and Dale Kasler. [Feds to farmers: Water reserves low despite recent storms](#)

Here are some excerpts:

*Even as steady rains drenched the Sacramento Valley on Friday, federal dam managers issued a bleak proclamation to farmers hopeful that recent rain and snow might translate into more water deliveries for their crops.*

*On Friday, the Bureau of Reclamation issued notice that reservoir levels behind Central Valley Project dams remained unusually low despite recent rains and heavy snowpack.*

*The notice is likely to portend another rough year for the thousands of Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley farmers whose water districts contract with the bureau for deliveries. Last year, the federal Central Valley Project made zero deliveries for the second straight year to many of its customers because of the drought.*

*Farmers with junior water rights in the San Joaquin Valley are bracing for another year with no deliveries, said Johnny Amaral, a deputy general manager for Westlands Water District, which serves farmers over a vast swath of land in Fresno and Kings counties.*

*Bureau officials said Friday that "reservoir carryover storage" at the end of the 2015 water year, which ended in September, was 2.9 million acre-feet. That is 24 percent of the system's total capacity and 47 percent of the 15-year average for six critical Central Valley Project reservoirs: Shasta, New Melones, Trinity, Folsom, Millerton and San Luis.*

*Even with recent rains, officials said the reservoirs remain nearly 1 million acre-feet lower than they were a year ago.*

*Spokesman Shane Hunt said the Bureau of Reclamation is required to notify contractors by Feb. 15 whether 2016 will be another "critical" year for water allocations. The actual allocation figure will be announced in late February. The statistics released Friday represent a more general supply outlook.*

*"It kind of sets the stage for what's coming next month," Hunt said.*

*Amaral, the Westlands deputy director, said he was frustrated that even with recent storms causing regional flooding, water is washing out to sea instead of heading south through pumps in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Last week, state officials said they had to shut down the pumps that divert water to Southern California to protect endangered Delta smelt.*

Here is a link to the Bureau of Reclamation's statement of January 22 from [\*mavensnotebook.com\*](#):

<http://mavensnotebook.com/2016/01/22/this-just-in-bureau-of-reclamation-outlines-water-year-2016-central-valley-project-water-supply-conditions/>

## Our I'll Believe it When I See It Page

The U.S. Congress is still talking about drought relief for the Western States. Some of you may have forgotten that the Congress does play a role. Senator Diane Feinstein, on January 21, released a discussion draft of the *California Long-Term Provisions for Water Supply and Short-Term Provisions for Emergency Drought Relief Act*, a bill to help California deal with the drought emergency as well as future long-term effects of climate change.

While there is little or no possibility of the present Congress agreeing on anything on water, I want to note here two elements of Feinstein's draft. The most comprehensive coverage of the draft is by the *Association of California Water Agencies*. Their report is here: <http://www.acwa.com/news/federal-relations/feinstein-releases-discussion-draft-california-drought-bill>.

Here are the excerpts worth mentioning. Note the total monies proposed. This is for all the Western States, not just California.

*Water storage projects.* The bill authorizes \$600 million for water storage projects in California and other Western states. These funds may be used on federal projects like Shasta as well as non-federal projects like Sites, Temperance Flat and Los Vaqueros. The bill also establishes deadlines for the Bureau of Reclamation to complete feasibility studies to build or raise dams. These funds run through 2025.

*Water desalination projects.* The bill identifies 27 desalination projects in California—which could produce more than 330,000 acre-feet of water—that the Secretary of the Interior must consider funding in addition to other qualifying projects. The list was primarily drawn from the California Water Plan. The bill also reauthorizes the Desalination Act and authorizes \$100 million for feasibility studies and project design as well as desalination research to improve reverse osmosis and membrane technology. These funds run through 2020.

## More on the Sites Reservoir

The proposed Sites Reservoir, north of Sacramento and on the east side of the Sacramento River, is getting more coverage. For a thorough presentation on the Sites Reservoir, the *Northern California Water Coalition* web page is a good place to start: <http://www.norcalwater.org/efficient-water-management/surface-storage/>

The following is from their website:

### ***Time for California to Invest in Sites Reservoir***

*January 20, 2016*

<http://www.norcalwater.org/2016/01/20/time-for-california-to-invest-in-sites-reservoir/>

The *Sacramento Bee* recently stated that “California Needs to Invest in Sites Reservoir.” It added that:

*“California must develop a modern water system and strategy that includes greater flexibility to deal with climate change and a growing demand for an unpredictable supply of water. The proposed Sites reservoir on the west side of the Sacramento Valley fits into that system. It would be an important part of a broad portfolio that includes more wastewater recycling, stormwater capture, desalination, conservation and environmental protection... Proper operation of the reservoir would have downstream benefits for the Delta, waterfowl habitat and for fisheries.”*

*The [Modesto Bee](#) added that “Its Time State Invested in Sites Reservoir.” According to the editorial board, “one project in particular is so clearly in the state’s best interest, that commissioners should find a way to commit to it more quickly – building Sites Reservoir on the west side of the Sacramento Valley. As we first said in 2008, the proposed reservoir will be an integral component in improving California’s environment and water reliability.”*



*Sites Valley. Photo by Brian Baer*