

# California Drought Update

**For June 30, 2016**  
**by Patrick Ruckert**

<http://www.californiadroughtupdate.org>  
<https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaDroughtUpdate>  
[patruckert@hotmail.com](mailto:patruckert@hotmail.com)

## A Note To Readers

Avoid the following at your own risk. You have been warned.

When a system, of government, an economy, or a water management system, begins to break down, not only are people unmoved from the institutions that they had lived within for years, or decades, but, an opportunity then exists to create a new system that replaces the dying one.

Responses to such a breakdown can be one of the following three possibilities: First, an unleashing of the heteronomic impulses, in which it becomes “every man for himself;” or, second, leadership emerges that brings people together on the basis of creating a new system that is appropriate to the crisis; or, three, an exterior power (and sometimes an internal one) imposes a new order whether it is better or worse than the one it replaces.

About 25 years ago, the Soviet system broke down and collapsed. It was an opportunity to create a world based on cooperation and real development, as was proposed by Lyndon LaRouche. LaRouche's proposed Eurasian development then, unfortunately, was instead superseded by imposing Wall Street and London parasites on the former Soviet block nations, and the unleashing of more than two decades of war-- the third of the options listed above. This video presents that history: “*The Lost Chance of 1989: The Fall Of The Wall.*” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLKY2yJDvcc>

That did not stop LaRouche and his wife Helga Zepp-LaRouche as they proposed a greater good than the evil that had been imposed, and is known today as China's New Silk Road policy, uniting the entire world in the greatest infrastructure building process in history. Now, the people of the United States have the choice of collapsing into chaos or joining with that policy of China. I have posted this before, but must do so again here, for unless the American people adopt “*The U.S. Joins the New Silk Road,*” we shall shortly end up with something worse than Obama and continue down the road to World War III. Then, crises, like that of California's water, will be irrelevant.

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

Last weekend, June 25-26, in Berlin Germany, speakers from four continents and 22 nations engaged in a dialogue to bring into being the vision and policies of the LaRouche's. I urge you to watch this conference: <http://newparadigm.schillerinstitute.com/conference-berlin-2016-june-25-26/>

# And Now, the Drought

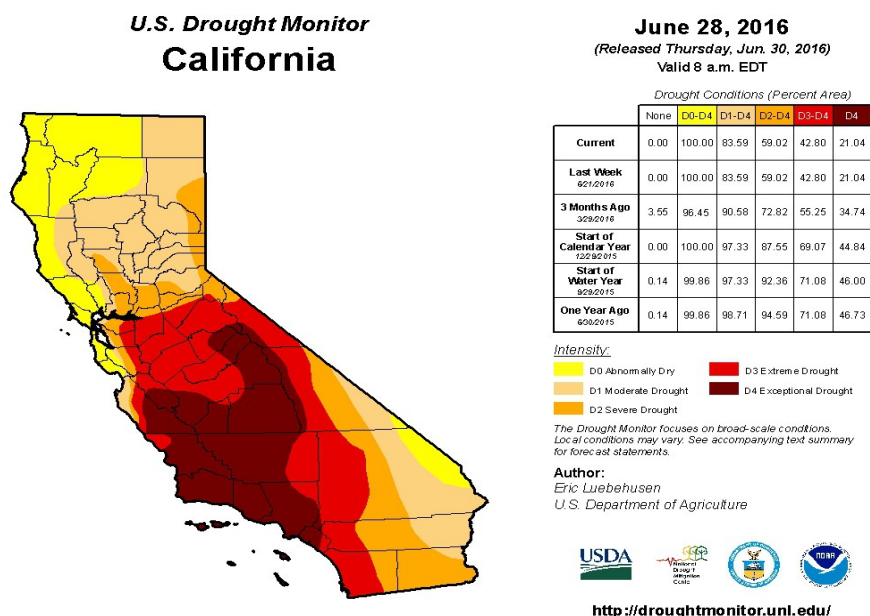
“*Much Ado About Nothing*” by William Shakespeare, is a play in which everyone thinks they are fooling everyone else, but really are just making fools of themselves. So, here in California, we have the state, the water districts and agencies, the cities, the counties, and maybe most of the people of the state engaged in just such an exercise. The state Water Board has led the pack by announcing that everyone can decide for themselves whether to conserve water this year, abandoning the mandatory restrictions of last year. Water districts have thus announced that all their customers can water their lawns as much as they wish. The media, with few exceptions, are wringing their hands, complaining that this should not be. It is perhaps not Shakespearean, but it is a great game they play.

Yes, it is much ado about nothing, since it makes little difference, as all the participants know, whether the citizens or the cities save a little water or not. To remind everyone, if they have forgotten, only about ten percent of the water flowing through the state is consumed by urban areas, saving 25 percent of that ten percent does not add up to much. So, all the noise and clamor really is much ado about nothing. Some examples you will find below.

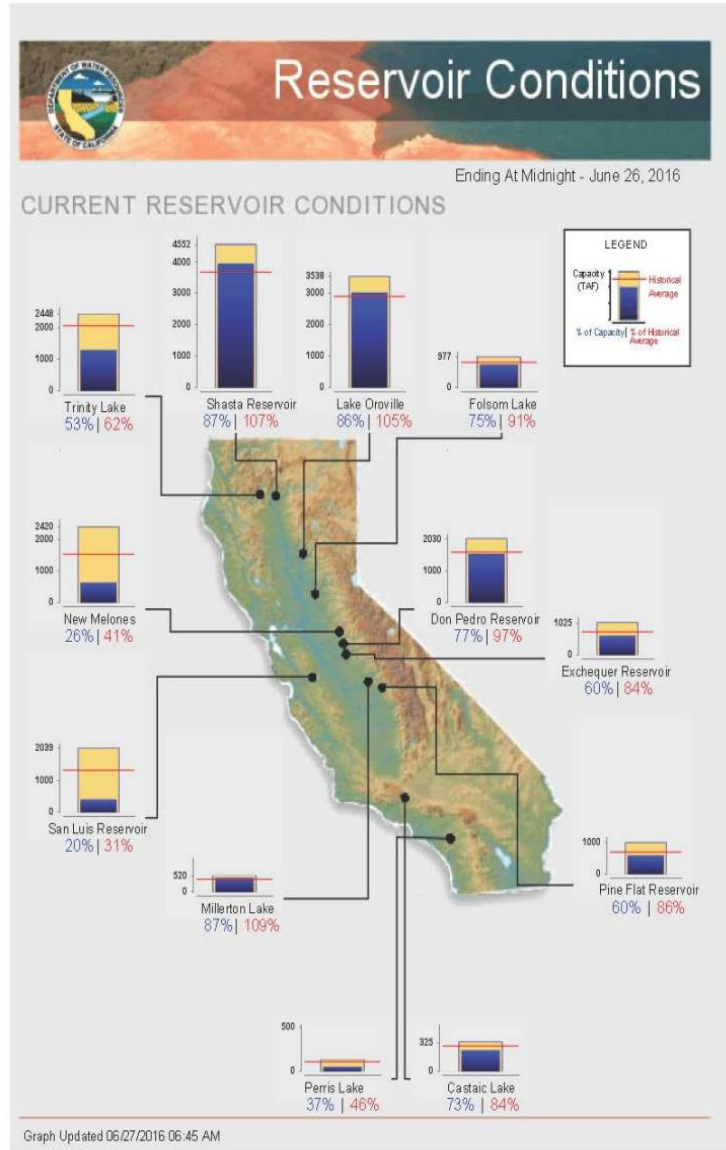
Other topics covered this week include, of course, the Drought Monitor and reservoirs. But, there is more. A new study claims that the Central Valley groundwater reserves are three times larger than previously known. Also, a new agreement between the states sharing the Colorado River is coming into being. Finally, the Erskine Fire, east of Bakersfield, has more than doubled the acreage lost to fires this year thus far.

## Drought Monitor and Reservoirs

As you can see, there is no change in the drought severity this past week for the state. Don't worry though, the 100 degree temperatures which we have been blessed with will dry things out fairly quickly.



Again, this week, not much of a change in the reservoirs, except for San Luis, which just keep going down.



Here is what San Luis looks like:



*San Luis Reservoir (Image: California Department of Water Resources)*

## **A Voice From Afar Tells It Like It Is**

The *Jerusalem Post* on June 29, covers some of what the Israelis are contributing in dealing with California's drought, quoting Oded Distel appropriately saying that the state's policy must damn well change. The article, "Israel leading a 'water revolution' in arid California," is excerpted below.

<http://www.jpost.com/Business-and-Innovation/Environment/Israel-leading-a-water-revolution-in-arid-California-457930>

*Having made the desert bloom and become the world leader in water management, Israel is now helping parched California solve its water problems.*

*Oded Distel, who heads Israel NewTech, expressed hopes that the partnerships and joint projects that will come out of the conference will "lead a revolution in water conservation."*

*Speaking to The Jerusalem Post on Sunday, he said that Israel is the world's shining example of smart water technology.*

*"We are no longer dependent on nature to get our water." More than 50 percent of Israel's water come from desalination and water recycling.*

*Though Distel would not expect a similar, extreme situation stateside, he noted that the situation will deteriorate rapidly "unless policy is changed. Nobody is looking at the broader picture," he lamented.*

## **Here is the Much Ado About Nothing**

All the articles about the state's policy of dropping mandatory cuts get repetitive, so I'll not include excerpted texts from any but the first one below. Otherwise you will find the headlines and the links.

Here is an excerpt from an editorial from the *Los Angeles Times* on June 22, which is characteristic of most of the media's message.

### ***California needs to conserve water like the drought is here to stay***

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-water-20160622-snap-story.html>

*It's tempting to believe that the state has weathered some dry years and that the brimming northern California reservoirs will now allow us to return to wet-year habits and lifestyles, but those days are gone forever. If the drought emergency is over, it's only because drought is no longer an emergency, but a permanent reality. Mandatory state-imposed water restrictions have been lifted for now, but wasteful uses of water remain under a permanent ban, and water agencies and their customers would be wise to be ever more respectful of water and ever more parsimonious in their use of it.*

Now, the headlines and links for those who care to read further.

**What drought? Many Californians no longer required to curb water use**  
<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-water-conservation-20160624-snap-story.html>

**How much water are top California suppliers committing to save this year? Zilch**  
<http://www.oregister.com/articles/water-720685-state-agencies.html>

**Sacramento region to California: We've got plenty of water**  
<http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/water-and-drought/article86115867.html>

**Brian Hamilton: Mixed messages on the drought**  
<http://www.theunion.com/news/22693698-113/brian-hamilton-mixed-messages-on-the-drought#>

## **New Study Triples Central Valley Groundwater Reserves**

But, don't hold your breath waiting for it to water your crops this year. The study published this week by *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, reports on how these “new” reserves may be as much as 2,700 cubic kilometers of fresh water. That is 713 trillion gallons. The problem is that these new reserves are very deep-- as much as 2,000 to 3,000 meters below the surface. Currently, most wells are 500 meters or less, and the deeper the drilling, the more expensive it is.

The *Circle of Blue* article on this has the most thorough technical discussion of the ocean of water under our feet (way under our feet). The article is excerpted here.

<http://www.circleofblue.org/2016/groundwater/california-fresh-groundwater-reserves-triple-new-assessment/>

### **California Fresh Groundwater Reserves Triple in New Assessment**

June 27, 2016

By Brett Walton

*California's breadbasket has more water than once thought. The water is just far deeper underground — nearly two miles in some cases — than researchers, farmers, and cities typically search.*

*Only oil and gas companies explore these depths, where hydrocarbons also reside. Stanford University researchers used the industry's drilling logs, gathered from a state regulatory agency, to estimate the volume and quality of fresh and brackish water beneath eight counties in the Central Valley, a major food producer, and the South Coast, near Los Angeles.*

*What they found was surprising. These deeper reserves triple the amount of fresh groundwater present in the counties. Add in the moderately salty sources and the quantity is four times greater than the current estimate, which dates to 1989. [The assessment](#) was published online today in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.*

*Though too deep for current use and saltier than rivers or shallow groundwater, the deep water could*

*be a future source for California, where a terrible drought has called into question the state's capacity to meet water demands as the planet warms.*

## **Delta Plan Declared Invalid**

The ongoing war over the Delta took a significant turn this past week with the ruling by a Sacramento Superior Court judge. It is, and will be, a virtually never ending story. Here is an excerpt from the commentary by the *Chico Enterprise-Record* on June 27:

<http://www.chicoer.com/opinion/20160627/editorial-water-fights-favored-over-water-fixes>

### ***Editorial: Water fights favored over water fixes***

*Given the history of California's water wars, it is not surprising that when a judge issued a ruling last week to clarify a decision he made last month, both sides immediately disagreed what the latest ruling meant.*

*So much for clarity.*

*What Sacramento Superior Court Judge Michael Kenny did seems pretty unambiguous: He declared the Delta Plan "invalid."*

*That apparently means either "it's dead," or "there are a couple of minor flaws we have to fix."*

## **New Colorado River Agreement in the Works**

With Lake Mead at its historic low, and expected to reach mandatory rationing levels in the next year or two, negotiations between the southwestern states may be leading to a new agreement on the division of the water, with California giving up some of its water now to avoid giving up even more later. The *voiceofsandiego.org* covers the story on June 28. Some excerpts:

<http://www.voiceofsandiego.org/topics/government/with-doomsday-in-mind-california-officials-are-ceding-water-to-arizona-nevada/>

### ***With Doomsday in Mind, California Officials Are Ceding Water to Arizona, Nevada***

By [Ry Rivard](#)

*Twenty-six million people in California, Nevada and Arizona rely on the Colorado River, but this magnificent source of water that carved a continent is drying up.*

*Representatives of the three states have been huddling behind closed doors and, for the first time ever, California water officials are offering to give up some of the state's strongest claims to the river – at least temporarily.*

*The thermometer of the river's health is Lake Mead — the lake formed behind Hoover Dam. The lake is now lower than it's been since it was first filled back in the mid-1930s.*

*For 16 years, drought has chipped away at the Colorado. If Mead continues to fall, there will not be enough water there to meet all the demands of the Southwestern United States and Mexico.*

*Most significantly to Southern California's immediate interests, California representatives have offered to forgo part of the state's claims to river water, at least temporarily and under certain conditions. Such voluntary cuts to California's Colorado River access would be unprecedented.*

*Under current law, California has first dibs on much of the river's water. California's rights to the Colorado are so secure that the Central Arizona Project—a 336-mile series of canals and pipelines that brings river water to 80 percent of Arizona's population—would have to run dry before California has to lose a single drop.*

## **Fire Season Is Getting Serious**

This past week's Erskine Fire, which has more than doubled the acreage lost to fire this year to more than 65,000 acres, underlines the warning from Ken Pimlott, director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in an interview with Amy Goodman on June 28. Excerpt follows.

[http://www.democracynow.org/2016/6/28/california\\_fires\\_burn\\_at\\_exponential\\_rates](http://www.democracynow.org/2016/6/28/california_fires_burn_at_exponential_rates)

**KEN PIMLOTT:** *Yes. Good morning. The Erskine fire is in Kern County, which is in the south end of the San Joaquin Valley, just north of Los Angeles. And many of the rest of the fires—we have about eight fires, large fires, burning right now. The majority of those are in the southern half of the state. But conditions are changing throughout the state as we speak. The heat wave that Dr. Mann talked about is rapidly drying the vegetation throughout California, and so our fire activity is increasing throughout the state. Just last week, we had almost 300 new fires, those initial attack fires that we're aggressively fighting every day. And that—so that count of fires every day is going up. And several of those fires then are escaping that initial attack and becoming these larger fires that we're seeing. And so, really, no real relief from the heat wave. We anticipate these well-above-normal temperatures to continue for the days to come. And again, that's just already—it's parching already parched fuel, drying that down even more. And again, we're really getting into peak fire season conditions right now.*

Here is an excerpt from the article by *Indian Country Today Media Network* on June 29.

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2016/06/29/fire-destroys-more-250-homes-kills-two-lake-isabella-area-164960>

### ***Fire Destroys More Than 250 Homes, Kills Two in Lake Isabella Area***

*By Richard Walker*

*A fire swept across traditional Tubatulabal, Kawaiisu and Paiute lands this week, destroying more than 250 homes and buildings and killing two people.*

*Authorities said the so-called Erskine Fire began on June 23 near Erskine Creek; the cause is under investigation. The fire, fueled by drought-parched brush and short grass, had consumed more than 46,000 acres by June 28.*

*The Erskine Fire is California's largest this season; all told, 13 fires have consumed 66,616 acres to date in 2016. The fire is a reminder of the safety risks posed by California's drought. Some 33.7 million people live in areas affected by drought in the Golden State, according to the USDA.*

## **In Conclusion**

The pathway to solve problems is through human creativity. There is no better pathway to evoking that creative power in the population than great classical culture. Enjoy and be inspired by the following:

### **In Praise of Sylvia Olden Lee: Schiller Institute Symposium & Musical Tribute**

<https://larouhepac.com/20160630/praise-sylvia-olden-lee-schiller-institute-symposium-musical-tribute>

On June 26 the Schiller Institute and the Foundation For The Revival Of Classical Culture co-sponsored a symposium/concert, "In Praise of Sylvia Lee". This concert will begin a one year celebration and commemoration of the life of one of America's great classical musicians and vocal teachers, Sylvia Olden Lee (June 29, 1917-April 10, 2004), a member of the Schiller Institute Advisory board from the 1990s until her death. Our goal is that at the end of that period—by June 2017—the 1500-person Schiller Institute Community Chorus project will be achieved.