

California Drought Update

For July 14, 2016
by Patrick Ruckert

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A Note To Readers

“Here we go again” shall be the subject of this week's report.

The California Natural Resources Agency this week announced a “Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy,” which calls into action everyone but the National Guard. In fact, I am surprised they did not call out the Marines. See the report below for more.

In response, as more water is to be sent through the Delta, agricultural interests are complaining and suing.

In other words, we have the same game with some different players and a new deck of cards-- mostly made up of jokers.

Our second rerun this week is the never ending “does she or doesn't she?,” or, in this case, “will she or won't she,” ever built the reservoirs at Temperance Flat and Sites?

Last year there were many stories on how pot growers were wrecking environmental havoc by diverting streamflow and leaving chemicals all over the place. With pot legalization in California on the ballot in November, a new state law to regulate pot growers is now in place. You will love the new bureaucracy this law has created.

Finally, in our news section, just like last year, Oregon and Washington State join California in experiencing a fifth year of drought.

The feature this week brings us to the point I have often made, that there is no solution to the California water crisis to be found within the state, but only by a top-down reorganization of the economy and a return to a policy of physical economy. Under the title, “LaRouche's Four New Laws to Save the U.S.A. Now!,” this policy document was first issued two years ago and presents the policy required to solve the breakdown of western financial and economic system now underway. In case you have missed it, this article from *LaRouche PAC* reports on the panic now occurring as the world's largest bank, *Deutsche Bank*, is now begging for a \$165 billion bailout to prevent a complete collapse of the global banking system: “Deutsche Bank Officer Says 'Europe Is Extremely Sick,' Demands Bailout Poison.”

larouchepac.com/20160711/deutsche-bank-officer-says-europe-extremely-sick-demands-bailout-

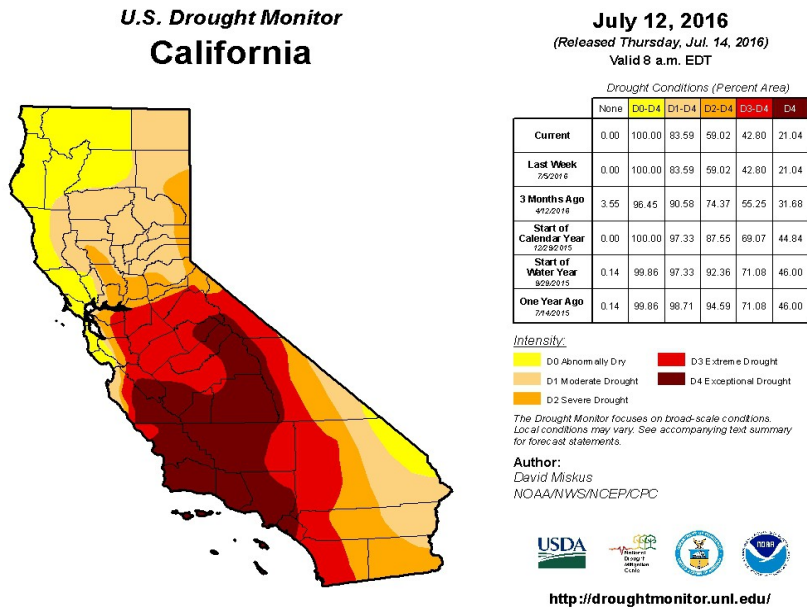
[poison](#)

The flanking attack on the *Deutsche Bank* crisis was presented by Helga Zepp-LaRouche in this article: “Zepp-LaRouche: Deutsche Bank Must Be Rescued, for the Sake of World Peace!”

larouchepac.com/20160712/zepp-larouche-deutsche-bank-must-be-rescued-sake-world-peace

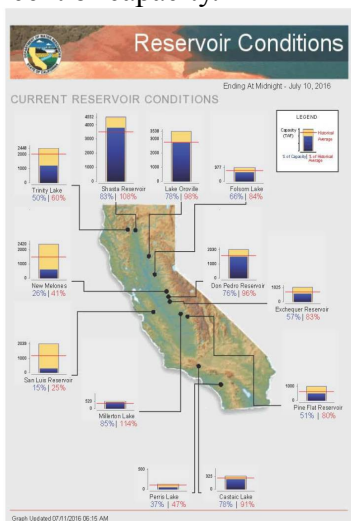
The Drought Monitor

The monitor informs us that the severity of the drought remains where it was last week.



The Reservoirs

Look at San Luis. It is down to 15 percent of capacity.



Here Comes the Calvary to Save the Delta Smelt; and, Like Obama's Drone Killings, There Will Be Plenty of Collateral Damage

The *California Natural Resources Agency* announced on July 8 the release of its “Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy.” Joining in the program will be Fish and Wildlife, the California Department of Water Resources, the Division of Boating and Waterways, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

As you will see in the articles following their statement, the strategy may sent an extra 200,000 acre-feet of water out to the ocean, along with other actions that have more than a few people upset.

Strategies Aimed at Improving Survival of Endangered Fish

From the California Natural Resources Agency:

Under a comprehensive strategy released today, state and federal agencies will work to rapidly improve conditions for endangered Delta smelt, which are close to extinction after several extremely dry years. The strategy represents a management shift for state and federal water and wildlife agencies, which are addressing multiple stressors on Delta smelt in a systematic way while studying the synergy of the actions.

[The Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy is available here.](#)

“This drought has pushed a struggling species too close to extinction,” said California Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Charlton H. Bonham. “With the best available science as our guide, we’re moving fast to improve conditions so that more young Delta smelt survive this year and reproduce.”

The strategy will be implemented by Fish and Wildlife, the California Department of Water Resources, the Division of Boating and Waterways, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The smelt food production action also involves partnering with local agricultural water agencies and farmers.

The *Sacramento Bee* on July 12, runs an article by Ryan Sabalow, “State’s Delta smelt plan calls for more water flowing to sea,” in which some of the collateral damage from the strategy. Excerpts follow. <http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/water-and-drought/article89089322.html>

With Delta smelt numbers at all-time lows, state officials on Tuesday released a list of more than a dozen projects they’re hoping to undertake in the next few years in a last-ditch effort to stave off the fish’s extinction.

One of those plans is sure to be contentious. The “Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy” released Tuesday by the California Natural Resources Agency calls for allowing between 85,000 and 200,000 acre-feet of extra water to wash out to sea this summer to bolster smelt habitat.

That’s no small amount: 200,000 acre-feet is equal to a quarter of Folsom Lake’s capacity, though not all the amount released would come from Folsom.

Federal dam operators say the state's plans are a tad too ambitious.

"I would call that part a little bit strongly worded," U.S. Bureau of Reclamation spokesman Shane Hunt said Monday after reviewing the state's proposal. "We're fairly confident we'll get some water, but I don't think we'll get anywhere close to the top end of this range that's in this document."

The document calls for "a variety of methods" to achieve such large outflows, including buying water from willing sellers, changing how water is exported from the Delta or releasing water stored behind Central Valley dams. The plan also calls for 250,000 acre-feet to be released to the Pacific Ocean next summer.

Agricultural groups in the San Joaquin Valley have fretted for weeks about the first-ever summertime outflows to protect the smelt.

And the farmers are already complaining that they, once again, have been stabbed in the back. Here is the headline and link from an article by *californiaagtoday.com*:

Promised Water Deliveries Could Plummet; Delta Smelt Among Many Reasons for Pumping Constraints <http://californiaagtoday.com/tag/lake-shasta-temperature-plan/>

And in a related fight, *Westlands Water District* and the *San Luis & Delta Water Authority* are suing the *Bureau of Reclamation*, demanding that human needs be considered at least as much as those of fish.

Here is the link from *Maven's notebook*, and the last paragraph of the report of July 8:
<https://mavensnotebook.com/2016/07/08/this-just-in-westlands-water-district-and-the-san-luis-delta-mendota-water-authority-file-suit-against-reclamation/>

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Fails to Consider the Environmental Impacts of Biological Opinions Which Have Been Devastating Communities, they say

From the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and Westlands Water District :

It is inexplicable that Reclamation would pass up the opportunity to reassess the existing measures and make a much more careful and robust analysis than what is found in the EIS. NEPA requires no less. The lawsuit filed today seeks to compel Reclamation to do the right thing and perform the analysis it should have. If successful, the lawsuit may ultimately result in measures that actually help fish, and identify mitigation activities or alternatives that lessen or avoid water supply impacts that millions of Californians in the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project depend on. Many of those affected reside in disadvantaged communities and are already struggling to pay for a water supply made scarce by layers of other, yet equally ill-advised bureaucratic regulations. California's water supply is too precious for Reclamation not to make the best informed decision it can.

Damn, When Are Those Dams Going to be Built?

When it comes to California water nothing is simple, and that goes double for building of water infrastructure. And triple for the Temperance Flat Dam project. First, though, the easier one: The Sites Reservoir.

The *Chico Enterprise-Record* reported on July 11 in an article by Heather Hacking, “More investors asked to join Sites Reservoir planning.”

<http://www.chicoer.com/environment-and-nature/20160711/more-investors-asked-to-join-sites-reservoir-planning>

A short excerpt:

Plans for Sites Reservoir are moving forward, with a deadline of June 2017 to ask the state Water Commission to pay for half of the estimated \$4.4 billion construction cost.

Sacramento Valley water users had the first chance to ask for (and pay for) a future of the water supply pie.



Contributed by California Department of Water Resources

Now, the Temperance Flat project. For those unfamiliar with the project it is the proposed dam on the San Joaquin River, west of the city of Auberry. The intent behind building the dam is to increase the water storage capacity in the upper San Joaquin River basin. The dam would be built above Friant Dam and its storage reservoir Millerton Lake. All the usual fights over projects like this have been going on for years.

On July 1, *Valley Public Radio News* reported that a step forward on the project occurred with an agreement between federal and local officials, with the signing of an agreement to go ahead with a feasibility study. Here are some excerpts from the report.

[Valley Public Radio News](#)

Critical Temperance Flat Agreement Signed

By [Jeffrey Hess](#) • Jul 1, 2016

Federal and local officials have signed an agreement that could bring the Temperance Flat Dam project one step closer to reality.

On a windswept hill overlooking Millerton Lake, local and federal officials signed an agreement to begin a feasibility study of the project.

The study is necessary to draw down money from the state's water bond as well as federal matching

dollars for the multi-billion-dollar dam.

Temperance Flat would build another dam behind the Friant Dam, creating a new reservoir with nearly three times the storage of Millerton Lake.

The feasibility study could be done by the end of the year.

The day before, on June 30, the *Fresno Bee* reported on moves for financing the project. The article by Robert Rodriguez, "Valley groups, feds seek funds to build Temperance Flat dam," is excerpted below. <http://www.fresnobee.com/news/business/agriculture/article87033557.html>

Mario Santoyo, executive director of the authority, said the group will be applying for a portion of the \$2.7 billion in state water bond funds. As part of the bond, successful projects will be awarded a maximum of 50 percent of the total cost of the project.

In the case of Temperance Flat, the expected price tag is \$2.8 billion.

Santoyo said the authority will be asking for about \$1 billion. The remainder of the funds will be requested from Congress.

If authorized by Congress, the dam and reservoir would become part of the federal Central Valley Project and create 1.2 million acre feet of new water storage. That's more than double the current capacity of Millerton Lake.

Dissenting from celebrating these steps is *Families Protecting the Valley* with a statement on July 2. <http://familiesprotectingthevalley.com/news.php?ax=v&n=5&id=10&nid=610>

Here are some excerpts:

Who Gets the Water?

We have no reason to believe that the feasibility report, whether it be a new one or the logical conclusion of the draft report, will be positive for farmers. We wrote about it back in March of 2014 with a newsletter entitled "[Is Temperance Flat the Answer?](#)" It clearly isn't the answer if farmers won't get much water which they weren't going to get according to the draft. The study predicted 41,000 acre feet per year spread over 1.1-million acres. That's way out of line.

Here are how some others wrote about it at the time:

From the Valley Economy blog: "The new feasibility study justifies the dam (Temperance Flat) for its ecosystem benefits to salmon. It values the ecosystem benefits 2-10 times higher than the water supply benefits."

From Brett Walton at Circle of Blue: "For instance, the bureau released a feasibility study last month for the \$US 2.6 billion Temperance Flat project. Contrary to nearly every dam, Temperance Flat's primary justification is not water supply, but environmental restoration. The dam will increase supplies for cities and farmers by a piddling amount, but its main purpose is storing cold water to help revive fish habitat in the San Joaquin River."

Bottom line, Friant Dam is now too small to capture all the water coming from the watershed. So, currently, Valley farmers and communities effectively utilize flood events and other high water times to replenish the underground aquifer. This water is available at very reasonable prices.

With the new Dam, these waters will now be captured and not available. Half of the new water must be used for so called environmental purposes. The other half will be available to those who want to pay for it at approximately \$600/acre-foot.

So, Valley users are in a 'lose-lose' situation, losing the opportunity to use water excess to current Friant storage, and being priced out of the new water. This new organization (Joint-Powers Authority) owes an explanation to the Valley if this situation has changed.

Washington and Oregon Also in 5th Year of Drought

Just to remind people, the drought does impact the entirety of the Western states. The *Associated Press* ran this article on July 8. (Excerpts only) <http://koin.com/2016/07/08/drought-conditions-worsen-in-oregon-for-5th-year/>

Drought conditions worsen in Oregon for 5th year

SALEM, Ore. (AP) – Drought conditions in Oregon are worsening, even though the year's precipitation has been close to average.

The Statesman Journal reports that data released by the U.S. Drought Monitor on Thursday shows half of the state in moderate drought and the rest of it abnormally dry.

It is the fifth consecutive year of drought for Oregon and the West. State officials say several streams are approaching record lows and Oregon has had three unusually dry months in a row after a relatively wet winter and early spring.

Oregon's river basins all have below-average stream flows.

Will California Become a Narco-State?

Over the past two years there have been numerous articles about how the illegal marijuana growers, especially in wilderness areas have done serious environmental damage by diverting streams to their plots and dumping chemicals on the ground and in the streams.

Typically, for California, instead of cracking down on the illegal drug trade, the state in November will be voting to legalize the drug. Now the Department of Water Resources and other agencies of the state will be regulating the water use of the dopesters. What is the difference between the Mexican drug cartels and the California pot growers? The Californians don't kill as many people. Here are some excerpts from the article posted on *Water Deeply* on June 11:

<https://www.newsdeeply.com/water/articles/2016/07/11/water-for-pot-no-longer-unregulated>

Water for Pot No Longer Unregulated

By Matt Weiser

The water consumed by California marijuana growers will now be regulated by state officials under a new program that could be up and running within a year. The goal is to protect wildlife and habitats.

Within less than a year, as many as 50,000 marijuana growers in California could be required to obtain state permits for the irrigation water they consume. It is an unprecedented step aimed at preventing harm to the environment and other water users resulting from the rapid growth of marijuana cultivation in the state.

“Most of them are operating below the radar,” said Cris Carrigan, chief of enforcement at the State Water Resources Control Board. “As a result, we’ve gotten ourselves into an acute problem with streamflow and pollution associated with these activities.”

The ongoing California drought brought new attention to the environmental damages caused by [unregulated marijuana growing](#). And while the amount of water it consumes is still the subject of some uncertainty and debate, there is little question that it has [compromised aquatic habitat](#) in many locations and reduced water access for some property owners with legitimate water rights.

But Carrigan says the rules do not necessarily target marijuana growers. Instead, they’re meant for small agricultural irrigators growing any sort of crop. The intent, however, is to get control of unregulated marijuana irrigation, which has dried up some streams, starved endangered fish of water and contributed to water quality problems caused by erosion, pesticides and herbicides.

“It’s a really significant breakthrough,” said Jay Ziegler, director of external affairs and policy for [The Nature Conservancy](#) in California, which worked with CalTrout and Trout Unlimited to help shape the rule package. “I don’t think it’s lost on anybody that this is our largest value agricultural crop. So we’re long overdue to acknowledge what are becoming increasingly overwhelming impacts of marijuana on the landscape.”

The Four New Laws To Save the U.S.A. Now! Not an Option: An Immediate Necessity

June 10, 2014

larouchepac.com/20141228

1. THE FACT OF THE MATTER

The economy of the United States of America, and also that of the trans-Atlantic political-economic regions of the planet: are, now, under the immediate, mortal danger of a general, physical-economic, chain-reaction breakdown-crisis of that region of this planet as a whole. The name for that direct breakdown-crisis throughout those indicated regions of the planet, is the presently ongoing introduction of a general “Bail-in” action under the several, or more governments of that region: the effect on those regions, will be comparable to the physical-economic collapse of the post-“World War I” general collapse of the economy of the German Weimar Republic: but, this time, hitting, first, the entirety of the nation-state economies of the trans-Atlantic region, rather than some defeated economies within Europe. A chain-reaction collapse, to this effect, is already accelerating with an effect on the money-systems of the nations of that region. The present acceleration of a “Bail-in” policy throughout the trans-Atlantic region, as underway now, means mass-death suddenly hitting the populations of all nations within that trans-Atlantic region: whether directly, or by “overflow.”

The effects of this already prepared action by the monetarist interests of that so-designated region, will,

unless stopped virtually now, will produce, in effect, an accelerating rate of genocide throughout that indicated portion of the planet immediately, but, also, with catastrophic “side effects” of comparable significance in the Eurasian regions.

2. The Available Remedies

The only location for the immediately necessary action which could prevent such an immediate genocide throughout the trans-Atlantic sector of the planet, requires the U.S. Government’s now immediate decision to institute four specific, cardinal measures: measures which must be fully consistent with the specific intent of the original U.S. Federal Constitution, as had been specified by U.S. Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton while he remained in office:

(1) *Immediate re-enactment of the Glass-Steagall law instituted by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, without modification, as to principle of action.*

(2) *A return to a system of top-down, and thoroughly defined as National Banking.*

The actually tested, successful model to be authorized is that which had been instituted, under the direction of the policies of national banking which had been actually, successfully installed under President Abraham Lincoln’s superseding authority of a currency created by the Presidency of the United States (e.g. “Greenbacks”), as conducted as *a national banking-and-credit-system placed under the supervision of the Office of the Treasury Secretary of the United States.*

For the present circumstances, all other banking and currency policies, are to be superseded, or, simply, discontinued: as follows. Banks qualifying for operations under this provision, shall be assessed for their proven competence to operate as under the national authority for creating and composing the elements of this essential practice, which had been assigned, as by tradition, to the original office of Secretary of the U.S. Treasury under Alexander Hamilton. This means that the individual states of the United States are under national standards of practice, and, not any among the separate states of our nation.

(3) *The purpose of the use of a Federal Credit-system, is to generate high-productivity trends in improvements of employment, with the accompanying intention, to increase the physical-economic productivity, and the standard of living of the persons and households of the United States.*

The creation of credit for the now urgently needed increase of the relative quality and quantity of productive employment, must be assured, this time, once more, as was done successfully under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, or by like standards of Federal practice used to create a general economic recovery of the nation, per capita, and for rate of net effects in productivity, and by reliance on the essential human principle, which distinguishes the human personality from the systemic characteristics of the lower forms of life: the net rate of increase of the energy-flux density of effective practice. This means intrinsically, a thoroughly scientific, rather than a merely mathematical one, and by the related increase of the effective energy-flux density per capita, and for the human population when considered as each and all as a whole. The ceaseless increase of the physical-productivity of employment, accompanied by its benefits for the general welfare, are a principle of Federal law which must be a paramount standard of achievement of the nation and the individual.

(4) *“Adopt a Fusion-Driver ‘Crash Program.’” The essential distinction of man from all lower forms of life, hence, in practice, is that it presents the means for the perfection of the specifically affirmative aims and needs of human individual and social life. Therefore: the subject of man in the process of creation, as an affirmative identification of an affirmative statement of an absolute state of nature, is a permitted form of expression. Principles of nature are either only affirmation, or they could not be affirmatively stated among civilized human minds.*