



## Update on Drought Task Force and State Agency Activities

### Background

California is in the third year of a historic drought that is impacting cities, agriculture, and the environment. Reservoir levels, snowpack, and rainfall totals remain extremely low. The Sierra snowpack, which typically provides roughly one-third of the state's water supply, was far below average this winter. Water levels in many of California's reservoirs are also well below their historical averages. As of June 6, Lake Oroville was 58% of its historical average and Lake Shasta was 55% of its historical average. There have been a variety of local and state responses to drought conditions. Actions taken include:

- As of June 4, approximately 56 water suppliers have adopted mandatory water use restrictions, and approximately 149 water suppliers have adopted voluntary water use restrictions.
- On May 27, the State Water Resources Control Board issued diversion curtailment letters to diverters with post-1914 water rights in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River watersheds. This is the first time since 1977 that diversions have been curtailed.
- On May 22, the U.S. Senate passed a drought bill that will have to be reconciled with drought legislation passed by the House of Representatives in February. The Senate bill, authored by Senator Feinstein, is meant to be a short-term solution to California's drought.
- Governor Brown issued an Executive Order on April 25 to redouble drought actions in California. The order featured directives to the Department of Water Resources (DWR), Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Office of Emergency Services, and CALFIRE. It also called upon Californians to take actions to avoid wasting water. In addition, the order provided a limited waiver of the California Environmental Quality Act.
- In the Executive Order, DWR was directed to expedite the review of voluntary water transfer proposals in order to bring water to communities in need. As of May 23, DWR received 12 water transfer proposals and executed seven. A summary of those transfers, and proposals that are pending approval, is attached.
- Last week, the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) released a report titled, "The 2014 Drought: Impacts and Strategies for Resilience." The report outlines the drought's impacts to various sectors and offers recommendations to improve the resilience of California's water supply system.

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Jeanine Jones, DWR's Interstate Resources Manager and Deputy Drought Manager, will update the Commission on the latest drought conditions and actions State agencies are taking to address conditions and impacts in communities throughout California.

**Attachments**

2014 Transfer Proposals Requesting Use of DWR Facilities as of June 4, 2014  
ACWA Report, The 2014 Drought: Impacts and Strategies for Resilience

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