



**Update on Drought Conditions and Drought Funding**

**Background**

California remains in a historic drought that is now in its fourth year. As the state enters what is typically the warmest part of the year, there is almost no snow remaining in the Sierra Nevada, which traditionally serves as a major source of natural water storage. Precipitation totals are far below average throughout the state; most monitoring stations have recorded precipitation totals of less than 50% of average. Additionally, water storage levels in California's reservoirs remain extremely low and below average for this time of year.

The state has taken a variety of actions to respond to the ongoing drought, including allocating funds to deal with drought impacts. In March, Governor Brown signed a \$1 billion emergency drought legislation package. The legislation accelerated funding for emergency food aid, drinking water, water recycling, conservation awareness, water system modeling, species tracking, infrastructure, and flood protection planning. The Governor's revised budget proposal, released May 14, also included \$2.2 billion for programs to conserve water, respond to emergency conditions, and expand local water supplies.

Jeanine Jones, DWR's Deputy Drought Manager, will update the Commission on current conditions and the status of drought response funding.

**Contact**

Rachel Ballanti  
Acting Executive Officer  
California Water Commission  
(916) 657-7937