

- SWP/CVP Coordinated Operations under the Governor's Drought Declarations

Summary

In response to Governor Schwarzenegger's June 12, 2008 Proclamation of a State of Emergency in nine Central Valley counties caused by the current and continuing severe drought conditions ([Attachment 1](#)), the State Water Contractors (SWC) and Metropolitan are working with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) on coordinated State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) operations that will permit additional water deliveries to the San Joaquin Valley through the summer of 2008.

Attachments

[Attachment 1: State of Emergency Proclamation](#)

Detailed Report

Background

On June 2, 2008, the USBR reduced the supply allocation to its CVP agricultural contractors from 45 to 40 percent for the calendar year and also limited delivery capability through the summer to address concerns with levels in San Luis Reservoir. This cutback would reduce CVP agricultural contractors deliveries this summer by 300,000 acre-feet. As of June 29, CVP storage in San Luis Reservoir was less than 160,000 acre-feet and was projected to be depleted by mid-July. The Governor directed DWR to explore options and take actions to mitigate impacts, including:

- Transfer groundwater of appropriate quality through the use of the California Aqueduct to benefit farmers in the San Joaquin Valley, and
- In cooperation with USBR, make operational changes to SWP facilities, including the San Luis Reservoir and Southern California reservoirs that will permit additional water deliveries to the San Joaquin Valley.

Staff has worked jointly with DWR, USBR and other water users in the development of a multi-faceted plan to supplement water supplies for San Joaquin Valley agriculture through the summer focused on limiting impacts to Metropolitan and the other SWCs. Three principal actions of this plan are as follows:

- A short-term loan to CVP of 37,500 acre-feet of SWP supplies presently held in storage at San Luis Reservoir in excess of SWP contractors' allocation this year,
- Wheeling of up to 30,000 acre-feet of groundwater pumped into the California Aqueduct from within the Westlands Water District (Westlands) for conveyance and delivery to other locations within Westlands, and
- Metropolitan deferring delivery of 25,000 acre-feet of its SWP supply during the months of July and August thereby freeing up water in San Luis Reservoir to help meet demands in the San Joaquin Valley.

Short-term Loan of SWP Water Stored in San Luis Reservoir

Under the existing Coordinated Operations Agreement between USBR and DWR, USBR will borrow up to 37,500 acre-feet of water from SWP water stored in San Luis Reservoir that is in excess of the amount needed to deliver the SWP contractors' allocation this year. Metropolitan staff worked with DWR and USBR to ensure that a low-risk approach was used in the determination of available supplies. USBR will repay the borrowed water from Delta pumping after August 2008.

Board Report (SWP/CVP Coordinated Operations under the Governor's Drought Declarations)

Wheeling of Groundwater within Westlands Service Area Using the California Aqueduct

Metropolitan has worked with DWR, USBR, Westlands and downstream users to limit Westlands wheeling to 30,000 acre-feet of groundwater that it is now pumping into the California Aqueduct. Groundwater from up to 70 wells within Westlands during July and August will be subject to the following conditions:

1. The pumped groundwater shall not exceed primary drinking water Maximum Contaminant Levels. Prior to pumping, Westlands shall expedite the analysis of six constituents of concern—Arsenic, Bromide, Boron, Nitrate, Sulfate and Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). A full Title 22 water quality analysis for each well will be provided to Metropolitan within 2 weeks.
2. The TDS of any well shall not exceed 1,100 mg/L.
3. Westlands will compensate downstream SWP contractors for adverse water quality impacts by providing CVP water to those downstream SWP contractors equal to 10 percent of the groundwater pumped into the Aqueduct.
4. After August 2008, Westlands will cease groundwater pumping into the California Aqueduct.

Metropolitan Source Shift of 25,000 acre-feet

Metropolitan has agreed to reduce its demands for SWP water during the months of July and August by approximately 25,000 acre-feet, thereby leaving water in San Luis Reservoir for delivery to Westlands. Westlands has agreed to pay Metropolitan \$35 for each acre-foot of water deferred. The deferred water would be returned to Metropolitan this year after August, from either shifted SWP supplies or Westlands' CVP supplies.



Office of the Governor

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

06/12/2008

State of Emergency - Central Valley Region

PROCLAMATION

by the
Governor of the State of California

WHEREAS on June 4, 2008, I issued an Executive Order proclaiming a statewide drought; and

WHEREAS in my June 4 Executive Order, I called on all Californians to conserve water, and I directed state agencies and departments to take immediate action to address the serious drought conditions and water delivery reductions that exist in California; and

WHEREAS in issuing my June 4 Executive Order, I said that I would proclaim a state of emergency in any county where emergency conditions exist due to the drought, in an effort to protect the people and property of California, including the businesses, workers and communities that depend on water deliveries for their livelihood and survival; and

WHEREAS since issuing my June 4 Executive Order, I have determined that emergency conditions exist in Central Valley counties caused by the continuing drought conditions in California and the reductions in water deliveries; and

WHEREAS statewide rainfall has been below normal in 2007 and 2008, with many Southern California communities receiving only 20 percent of normal rainfall in 2007, and Northern California this year experiencing the driest spring on record with most communities receiving less than 20 percent of normal rainfall from March through May; and

WHEREAS California is experiencing critically dry water conditions in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River basins and the statewide runoff forecast for 2008 is estimated to be 41 percent below average; and

WHEREAS water storage in many of the reservoirs serving the Central Valley are far below normal including San Luis reservoir which is at 53 percent of capacity, Lake Shasta at 61 percent of capacity and Lake Oroville at just 50 percent of capacity; and

WHEREAS diversions from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta for the State Water Project (SWP) and federal Central Valley Project (CVP) are being greatly restricted due to various factors including federal court actions to protect fish species, resulting in estimated SWP deliveries of only 35 percent, and CVP deliveries of only 40 percent, of local agencies' requested amounts for 2008; and

WHEREAS the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) recently announced an unexpected reduction in its water supply allocations to Central Valley Project (CVP) contractors within the San Luis Delta Mendota Water Agency Service Area from 45 percent to 40 percent; and

WHEREAS this unanticipated reduction will result in crop loss, increased unemployment and other direct and indirect economic impacts to Central Valley counties; and

WHEREAS water rationing has been ordered by the City of Long Beach, the City of Roseville, and the East

Bay Municipal Utility District, which serves 1.3 million people in Alameda and Contra Costa counties; and

WHEREAS on June 10, 2008, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which supplies water for 26 cities and water agencies serving 18 million people in six southern California counties, declared a water supply alert in an effort to sustain their water reserves; and

WHEREAS some communities are also restricting new residential and commercial development because of unreliable or uncertain water supplies, and this is causing harm to the economy; and

WHEREAS dry conditions have created a situation of extreme fire danger in California, and these conditions resulted in devastating fires last year, with wildfires causing millions of dollars in damages; and

WHEREAS San Joaquin Valley agriculture constitutes a \$20 billion industry, and serves as an essential part of California's economy; and

WHEREAS the lack of water will cause devastating harm to the communities that rely on this important industry, as growers lack sufficient water to finish the growing season, are forced to abandon planted crops, and are forced to dismiss workers; and

WHEREAS the lack of water is causing agricultural workers in the Central Valley to lose their jobs, resulting in a loss of livelihood, an inability to provide for their families, and increased negative social and economic impacts on the communities that depend on them; and

WHEREAS San Joaquin Valley agricultural production and processing industries account for almost 40 percent of regional employment, and every dollar produced on the farm generates more than three dollars in the local and regional economies, and the loss of these dollars is devastating communities; and

WHEREAS almost 20 percent of San Joaquin Valley residents already live in poverty, and it consistently ranks as the top region in the nation in foreclosures; and

WHEREAS as workers lose their jobs because of the lack of water, they often move their families away from the communities, resulting in further harm to local economies, lower enrollments in local schools and reduced funding for schools; and

WHEREAS the city of Fresno received only 54 percent of normal rainfall in 2007 and 76 percent of normal in 2008, and had its fourth driest spring on record; and

WHEREAS on June 11, 2008, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution declaring a local state of emergency due to the severe drought conditions, stating among other things that the lack of water has resulted in water rationing by Fresno County water districts; that these reductions are causing abandonment of current planted seasonal crops and permanent crops; that the cumulative crop reductions will result in job losses in Fresno County communities; that the loss of revenue has negatively impacted Fresno County businesses and Fresno County government tax revenue; and that there will be a substantial negative economic impact to the community; and

WHEREAS the Fresno County Board of Supervisors also requested that I declare a state of emergency due to the drought conditions; and

WHEREAS the Central Valley cities of Bakersfield, Modesto, Stockton, and Sacramento experienced their driest spring on record in 2008, and additional Central Valley counties are experiencing similar emergency conditions caused by drought and lack of water deliveries; and

WHEREAS to date, almost \$65 million in losses have been reported by 19 counties due to reduced rangeland grasses that are used to graze livestock, and those reductions have been caused by drought; and

WHEREAS statewide and local conditions collectively have led to the rationing of water by affected water districts to their member farmers and these further reductions are resulting in abandonment of current planted seasonal crops and permanent crops; and

WHEREAS the crop losses will cause increased food prices, which will negatively impact families and economies throughout California and beyond our borders; and

WHEREAS the lack of water deliveries has forced local communities to draw water from their emergency water reserves, putting communities at risk of further catastrophe if emergency reserves are depleted or cut off; and

WHEREAS the circumstances of the severe drought conditions, by reason of their magnitude, are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of any single county, city and county, or city and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 8558(b) of the California Government Code, I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist within the counties of Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern, caused by the current and continuing severe drought conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the California Constitution and the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, section 8625 of the California Government Code, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist within the counties of Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of my Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the State Emergency Plan, and that OES provide local government assistance under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act, and that the emergency exemptions in sections 21080(b)(3) and 21172 of the Public Resources Code shall apply to all activities and projects ordered and directed under this proclamation, to the fullest extent allowed by law.

I FURTHER DIRECT THAT:

1. OES shall provide assistance under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act, by assisting public water agencies with drilling of groundwater wells or the improvement of existing wells and water delivery systems for human consumption, sanitation, and emergency protective measures, such as fire fighting.
2. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) shall transfer groundwater of appropriate quality through the use of the California Aqueduct to benefit farmers in the San Joaquin Valley
3. DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) shall expedite the processing of water transfer requests.
4. DWR, in cooperation with USBR, shall make operational changes to State Water Project facilities, including the San Luis Reservoir and Southern California reservoirs, that will permit additional water deliveries to the San Joaquin Valley.
5. DWR shall prepare and file necessary water right urgency change petitions to facilitate surface water transfers and the use of joint point of diversion by the SWP and Central Valley Project.
6. SWRCB shall expedite the processing and consideration of water rights urgency change petitions filed by DWR and other water agencies to facilitate water transfers to the San Joaquin Valley.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this proclamation.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 12th day of June, 2008.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor of California

ATTEST:

DEBRA BOWEN
Secretary of State