

NEWS CLIPS

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Resource Conservation and Public Outreach

Organized by date

Yosemite Park fire leaves trail of ruin

By Tracie Cone Associated Press
Ventura County Star 9/20/2013

SACRAMENTO — A fire that raged in forest land in and around Yosemite National Park has left a barren moonscape in the Sierra Nevada that experts say is larger than any burned in centuries.

The fire has consumed about 400 square miles, and within that footprint are a solid 60 square miles that burned so intensely that everything is dead, researchers said.

“In other words, it’s nuked,” said Jay Miller, senior wildland fire ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service. “If you asked most of the fire ecologists working in the Sierra Nevada, they would call this unprecedented.”

Smaller pockets inside the fire’s footprint also burned hot enough to wipe out trees and other vegetation.

In total, Miller estimates that almost 40 percent of the area inside the fire’s boundary is nothing but charred land.

Using satellite imagery, Miller created a map of the devastation in the wake of the third-largest wildfire in California history and the largest recorded in the Sierra Nevada.

Biologists who have mapped and studied the ages and scarring of trees throughout the mountain range have been able to determine the severity and size of fires that occurred historically. Miller says a fire has not left such a contiguous moonscape since before the Little ice age, which began in 1350.

In the decades before humans began controlling fire in forests, the Sierra would burn every 10 to 20 years, clearing understory growth on the ground and opening up clearings for new tree growth. Fire suppression, combined with cutbacks in forest service budgets and a desire to reduce smoke impacts in the polluted San Joaquin Valley, have combined to create tinderboxes, experts say.

Drought, and dryness associated with a warming climate also have contributed to the intensity of fires this year, researchers say.

Joining in to rid our waterways, beaches of trash

Ventura County Star 9/20/2013

All Ventura County residents are being invited to pitch in Saturday to help clean up our communal front yards — the county's beaches, creeks and rivers.

It's a sad fact, but these precious locations are receptacles for trash. The reason? Too many people don't care enough to do what everyone agrees is the right thing to do: Keep our beaches and inland waterways clean all of the time.

Thus, a crusade was launched in 1985 to not only protect the state's marine life from harm, but to also stop all the trash from polluting our rivers and creeks, contaminating soil and damaging fragile marine ecosystems. In California, organizers say Saturday's cleanup efforts will take place at more than 850 sites, including beaches, bays, rivers, creeks, parks, roadsides and highways. This is the state's 29th annual Coastal Cleanup Day. The first statewide cleanup was begun by the California Coastal Commission after seeing the success of one in Oregon. Nearly 2,500 Californians showed up that first year, and the cleanup campaign has been growing ever since.

Indeed, it's an effort that has come home to Ventura County in a very significant way.

Last year, some 3,300 volunteers helped collect more than 9,000 pounds of trash and nearly 1,999 pounds of recyclable materials from county beaches and inland waterways.

Among the local haul were almost 19,000 cigarette butts, more than 6,450 fast-food wrappers and containers, 46 tires and 10 appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.).

Statewide, more than 65,500 volunteers picked up some 623,000 pounds of trash and in excess of 146,000 pounds of recyclables in 2012.

That's a lot of thoughtless discards.

However, concern for the condition of county beaches shouldn't be limited to folks who live near the coast.

Historically, nine of every 10 Californians visit a beach somewhere in the state each year — and for inland residents of Ventura County the rate of shoreline use is likely much higher than that.

During spells of uncomfortably hot inland weather many east county residents have been known to flock to the cooling solace of county beaches. That's one reason many

of the inland cities are included in Saturday cleanup efforts to de-trash some of the county's creeks and rivers.

Besides the involvement of the county's coastal cities, inland cleanup efforts will take place in Camarillo, Thousand Oaks, Moorpark and Simi Valley.

For a list of county cleanup sites go to www.vccoastcleau.org.

Once you have selected a site, all you have to do is show up from 9 a.m. to noon at one of the designated meeting places. Be sure to have a hat, gloves and sturdy shoes. Sunscreen is especially important at the beach, and insect repellent might be useful at some inland locations.

We all use and enjoy the county's beaches and inland waterways, and participating in Saturday's cleanup is one way we can pay our share of dues for that privilege.

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Water Tank Issue Revisited

The Acorn 9/19/2013

The Las Virgenes Municipal Water District is sending mixed signals to the public regarding the new water storage tank it wants to build in Westlake Village.

Amid growing doubt that a new tank is needed, LVMWD is asking the public to submit alternative ideas on how water can be delivered to the western part of the district during an emergency. But with the water board already having approved plans for the new 5-million-gallon tank in the Three Springs neighborhood, the solicitation of ideas from the public seems like a charade. It appears the board has already made up its mind to build the tank. Proof came last week when board president Charles Caspary tabled an important study about the statistical probability of catastrophic water interruption just as the study was getting underway.

There's no denying the water district's mandate to deliver safe and reliable water to its customers. Without adequate reserves in an emergency, supplies in the west could be depleted in a matter of hours. But there is ample water currently available at the Westlake Reservoir. And if the reservoir's filtration capacity were expanded, an additional, almost \$10-million storage tank would not be needed. (A planned 45 percent increase in water rates over the next five years wouldn't be needed either.)

A water-sharing arrangement with the Calleguas district in Thousand Oaks is another way to give Las Virgenes extra supplies in case of an emergency. Both the filtration plant expansion and the Calleguas connection are viable options that have been on the table for some time, but instead of pursuing those solutions, the water district is asking for additional ideas from a novice public. It's almost as if the district is creating a diversion while the real goal of building a new tank is pursued, and we think it's disingenuous behavior.

It's become increasingly apparent that other, cheaper methods can be used to give LVMWD's western region its emergency water. Consumers ultimately must pay the freight, and with high taxes, high electricity and high health insurance costs already pinching their pocketbooks, the last thing they want is higher water bills—if those bills can be avoided.

So how are costs brought under control and rates kept in line?

Stand up to the unions and reduce high pensions costs. Eliminate more staff positions that are redundant. Sell or lease the vacant space at the district's Calabasas headquarters. And lastly, pursue a cheaper and more sensible course of action in the quest for an emergency water supply. The \$10-million water tank is not a done deal yet

High price tag could block removal of Rindge Dam

\$100-million project under study

By Sylvie Belmond
The Acorn 9/19/2013

Although it's in a remote area, Rindge Dam in Malibu Canyon has gained notoriety over the years as a perfect spot for cliff jumping and other risky activities.

But the 87-year-old dam will eventually be coming down.

"This is very concerning for us. There are dangerous videos urging people to jump off the dam," said Jamie King, an environmental scientist for California State Parks at a recent Calabasas Environmental Commission meeting where she discussed plans for removal of the dam.

California State Parks and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently announced a plan to remove the old dam, a 100-foot-high structure viewed as obsolete and dangerous.

In the past five years authorities have reported one suicide and four significant injuries at the site. The base of the dam, which holds a deep, year-round pond, attracts cliff jumpers and hikers. In October 2011, 21-year-old Agoura Hills resident Josh Feinberg jumped to his death from the top of the dam.

The Rindge and Adamson families built the dam in the 1920s for cattle and farming. But by the 1950s the reservoir became clogged with sediments and the water was no longer drinkable.

"It was one of the largest private infrastructure projects in the area. At the time, it was an important project to provide water for homes and for grazing and agriculture. But the use of the dam deteriorated within 20 years," King said.

Without removal or maintenance, the aging structure could collapse, she said.

Over the past decade, State Parks and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have considered dozens of options to remove the dam and a number of other barriers within the Malibu Creek watershed to improve the movement of wildlife and restore habitat in the creek.

The 109-square-mile watershed is a "really important area with a lot of interesting communities, both human and biological," King said. Removing the dam will restore natural flow and help revive the endangered steelhead trout population in the creek.

“But it’s not just about wildlife. It’s about reconnecting the waterway so that cobble and sand can flow downstream to Malibu Lagoon and replenish the beach and surf zone habitats. That will also protect the shoreline in Malibu against erosion.”

Alternatives being considered include removing the dam and sediment in 20-foot increments over five years and trucking the debris elsewhere, or removing the material in 5-foot increments over 20 years and allowing the creek’s natural flow to pull the debris downstream.

But the work could cost up to \$100 million. Aside from an environmental study, funding for the project has not been procured.

“Costs are being fine-tuned as we speak and will be available at public review,” King said.

Actual construction is still four years away, but some downstream residents already are worried.

According to the *Malibu Times*, residents in Serra Retreat just east of Malibu Canyon fear that removing the dam will unleash sediment into the creek and disrupt the recently renovated Malibu Lagoon.

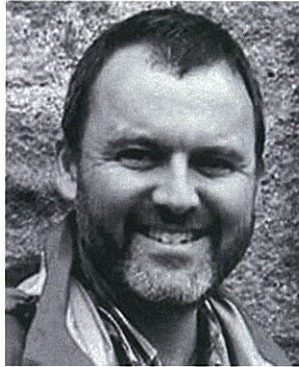
King said the alternatives for dam removal have been designed to minimize impacts and ensure there will be no increased flood risk to downstream communities.

Park officials are preparing feasibility and environmental studies, which they plan to share with the public sometime next year. Some preliminary information will be posted online for public review.

“Our hope is that this will allow a positive informed discussion about the project. We’re going in front of the public because it’s such a detailed project that we want to have people to have a chance to think about it and so that we have a discussion based on the facts,” King said.

Alex Farassati, environmental services manager for Calabasas, said the city doesn’t have an official position on the dam removal. The commission provided the presentation as a public information and education item, he said.

Beach advocate named new chief executive for Heal the Bay



Ruskin Hartley

The Acorn 9/19/2013

Ruskin Hartley has been named the new chief executive officer of Heal the Bay, the nonprofit group that advocates on behalf of Southern California's beaches and oceans.

Hartley comes to Heal the Bay following a six-year stint as executive director and secretary of the Save the Redwoods League, a San Francisco-based organization focused on studying, restoring and protecting old-growth forests in California.

The British-born Hartley held several management positions at the league, which he joined in 1998.

Trained as a geographer at Cambridge University in England, Hartley expanded the league's reputation as a conservation leader, widening its work into ecological science and youth education programs.

"It was an honor and a calling to help protect ancient redwoods, one of California's true natural icons," Hartley said. "I couldn't be more excited to join Heal the Bay and help protect some other special places—our beaches and oceans."

Heal the Bay's board of directors selected Hartley following a nationwide search.

"Ruskin Hartley is a leader who will inspire, motivate and lead Heal the Bay's talented staff," said Stephanie Medina, chairman of Heal the Bay's board of directors.

"He's a noted speaker on environmental issues with a collaborative science-based conservation orientation. His skill as a strategic planner and his ability to bring vision

and clarity to our mission will support Heal the Bay's reputation as an environmental champion," said Medina.

Hartley replaces Heal the Bay executive Mark Gold, who resigned last year to take a job as associate director of the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability.

In assembling a new management structure for Heal the Bay, the board named Alix Hobbs as associate director for the 28-year-old organization. Hobbs, who has held several management roles at the nonprofit, has served as interim executive director since last September. Under Hartley's leadership, Heal the Bay staff will focus on four policy issues in the upcoming months:

Advocating for the implementation of a strong stormwater permit for L.A. County to ensure that polluted runoff is adequately controlled and regional water bodies are protected. Working to uphold the moratorium on oil drilling in Hermosa Beach, which Heal the Bay helped establish in the late 1990s and will be reconsidered in 2014. Developing a predictive beach water quality model to provide ocean users with a more timely assessment of potential bacterial pollution at their favorite beaches. Consulting with cities to advance policies that will help coastal communities in Los Angeles adapt to the future stressors associated with climate change, such as sea level rise, ocean acidification and beach erosion.

Santa Monica-based Heal the Bay has 15,000 members and an annual operating budget of more than \$4 million.

Locally, the organization is locked in a struggle with the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and other government agencies regarding new clean water regulations approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Heal the Bay is advocating for stricter water quality standards in the Malibu Creek watershed. The water district says scientific studies do not support the costly new measures.

Spouting off in the park

WET 'N WILD—A vehicle strikes a water line in the median on Kanan Road near Oak Park High School last Friday, allowing water to shoot more than 40 feet into the air. With temperatures in the 90s the big spray provided some unexpected relief for passersby, although costly in water. The incident was fitting for a Friday the 13th.

ANDY MCGINNIS/Acorn Newspapers



Pumpkin patch raises money for water wells

By Anna Bitong
The Acorn 9/19/2013



A FUN FUNDRAISER—David J. Ross, right, collected donations, gathered volunteers and then planted 1,000 pumpkins on land next to his church to raise funds for an overseas mission project. .
Project-Photos by IRIS SMOOT/Acorn Newspapers. Games,

David Ross, a member of Bethany Church on the Hill in Thousand Oaks, was walking his dog one day last summer when he stopped on unused church property, struck by an idea that would provide impoverished Indian villages thousands of miles from his community with access to clean water.

“I was thinking about life,” said Ross, the Thousand Oaks representative on the Santa Monica Mountains Advisory Committee, “and how we can be more effective, how we can be better neighbors. A thought popped in my head: this is fertile soil, we can turn this into something.”

Soon after, Ross went to church members with a plan to grow pumpkins on the land and offer the autumn vegetables to the public in exchange for donations to fund construction of clean water wells in India.

With the help of church leadership, donors and at least 100 volunteers, the project was an instant success. By the end of harvest season in October, \$8,000 was raised for Christian nonprofit Gospel of Asia, which used the money to drill eight wells for \$1,000 each.

About 97 million people in India, which has an estimated population of 1.2 billion, do not have access to drinking water sources protected from outside contamination, especially fecal matter, according to a 2012 report from the World Health Organization and UNICEF.



The 1-acre site had only been used as a parking lot by July 4 fireworks spectators.

The polluted water in the villages used for drinking, cooking and bathing posed a severe human health risk.

“The villages never had clean water before,” Ross said. “The water quality was so bad. The water was infested with feces and dead animals. Some villagers would go blind with dirty water. Using clean water, they can see again and be healthy.”

This year, Ross hopes to donate even more money to provide clean water. Volunteers he supervised planted about 1,000 pumpkins, double the number grown last year. Donors gave supplies such as irrigation equipment and a tractor to move smelly mulch after neighbors complained about its odor during the last harvesting season.

Expenses such as water—the highest cost at \$2,000 last year—are also covered by donations. Growing pumpkins require about

Packages 100 gallons of water an hour, Annual or more if it's a hot day.

“Last year was the big experiment,” said Ross, an avocado and lemon farmer who earned a business administration degree from Azusa Pacific University in 2011. “We turned one acre of nothing into pumpkins. We had no idea what to expect or how much money we would be able to raise. It was such a success that everyone wanted to do it again.”

Bethany Pastor Terrence Sutton said the team effort serves a profound purpose.

“We have multi-generational involvement, from an 80-yearold to a mom with a 4-year-old with a plastic rake,” Sutton said. “Something as unused as a patch of dirt next to a parking lot has brought life and hope to multiple villages in central India.”

The current crop of pumpkins will be cut from their vines the last week of September. The new batch will be celebrated with a Harvest Festival and chili cookoff Sept. 29 next to the pumpkin patch.

“We’re celebrating the idea of taking something that was traditionally not used and using it for something good,” Ross said.

The pumpkins will be offered to the public starting Oct. 1, from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at the church, 200 W. Bethany Court. Donations will be based on pumpkin size.

Water districts sue EPA over clean water standards

The Acorn 9/19/2013

Two local water districts have filed suit in federal court seeking to block the new clean water standards imposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for Malibu Creek and Lagoon.

The Las Virgenes–Triunfo Joint Powers Authority, a joint venture of Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Triunfo Sanitation District, seeks injunctive relief from the EPA’s July 2 “total maximum daily load” requirements for the watershed.

TMDLs are the maximum amount of a pollutant that the creek can receive and still meet water quality standards

The water districts say the TMDL mandate will hit the consumer with millions of dollars in compliance costs without assurance that the watershed would be significantly better off.

“We are filing this action on behalf of the ratepayers who will ultimately bear the costs for facilities that would need to be built, yet may not accomplish meaningful water quality improvements,” said David Pedersen, Las Virgenes general manager.

“As written, the TMDL does not sufficiently recognize native conditions in the watershed and goes far beyond the scope and intent of the (U.S.) Clean Water Act,” Pedersen said.

Native algae that chokes the creek’s oxygen supply and threatens the watershed ecology exists even without the introduction of growth-inducing fertilizers and other pollutants, Pedersen says.

The filing cites numerous instances of inappropriate actions by the EPA in the course of formulating its TMDL document.

Michael McReynolds, chairman of both the Triunfo district and the joint powers authority, said,

“Since we could not reach agreement with the EPA on the process and science behind the regulations, we felt compelled to file a lawsuit.

“In the absence of concrete evidence that the regulations will have the desired effect and in view of the unfair process, the lawsuit was the only course of action left at our disposal. When one considers the staggering costs to the community, it is imperative for sound science and proper process to be at the core of such a significant regulation.” McReynolds said.

In May, the EPA hosted a public meeting on the proposed TMDLs. Nearly 200 people

attended, but the agency did not act on many of the concerns that were brought forth, the water agencies say.

“We support the responsible environmental stewardship of the watershed, but we also believe that water quality goals must be attainable, cost-effective, and produce meaningful results,” said Charles Caspary, president of the Las Virgenes board.

The Las Virgenes-Triunfo J.P.A. provides wastewater treatment, recycled water and composting services to 100,000 people in the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village, portions of Thousand Oaks, Oak Park, North Ranch and surrounding unincorporated areas of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.

—**Acorn staff report**

Wastewater agency for 100K sues EPA

Suit says requirement can't be met

By Teresa Rochester
Ventura County Star 9/19/2013

A wastewater treatment provider serving 100,000 people from Thousand Oaks to Calabasas has asked a federal judge to toss out water quality standards for Malibu Creek mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection.

Officials with the Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority said modifying the Tapia Wastewater Reclamation Facility and operations according to the standards could cost more than \$180 million.

The cost would be passed on to customers without a guarantee that the changes would significantly improve water quality in the Malibu Creek watershed, authority officials said.

"We are looking to have a firm link between any firm actions that EPA may be looking at and outcomes tied to sound science," said Jeff Reinhardt, manager of public affairs and communications for the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District.

EPA officials know about the lawsuit but cannot comment on it, according to a representative.

Algae in Malibu Creek and Lagoon, its eradication and its effects on little organisms without a backbone called benthic macro invertebrates are at the root of the lawsuit.

The water quality standards are called total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, and are meant to fix impairments to recreational use of the water. In Malibu Creek, the impairment is algae and they need to be eliminated, according to state and federal regulators.

The EPA started gauging the extent of the impairment in part by looking at the population of benthic macro invertebrates.

In the suit, attorneys for the joint powers authority argue that the federal Clean Water Act's purpose is to restore and maintain the integrity of waterways but that the requirement to get rid of the algae and boost the number of benthic macro invertebrates is impossible.

"'Restore and maintain' does not mean enhance," the suit says. "Enhance is utopian. The TMDL is not attainable."

Reinhardt said Malibu Creek has a unique chemistry. The creek rises back in the Santa

Susana Monterey formation. That land is rich in phosphorus, which leads to algae growth.

“We believe the natural condition of waters in Malibu Creek promotes algae growth, and no TMDLs on our part are going to correct that,” he said.

EPA water quality standards published in 2003 were born out of a 1999 consent decree that stemmed from a lawsuit filed by several environmental groups, including Heal the Bay.

The decree called for the EPA to prepare hundreds of standards. Las Virgenes-Triunfo officials said they were never notified, even though the parties knew the total maximum daily loads would affect the Tapia Wastewater Reclamation Facility.

The joint powers authority has filed a petition in federal court asking to be included among the parties of a consent decree related to establishing water quality standards for the Malibu Creek watershed. The request is still outstanding and awaiting a court decision, according to LasVirgenes.

“During the development of the TMDLs for Malibu Creek and Lagoon, the EPA assessed all available water quality, biological and physical habitat data collected in the past two decades,” EPA public affairs specialist Nahal Mogharabi wrote in an email. “Our scientific analyses of these data confirmed the impaired conditions.”

The lawsuit says the joint powers authority had to spend millions of dollars on upgrades to the Tapia Wastewater Reclamation Facility due to the 2003 total maximum daily loads.

Those levels are included in a permit that lets the authority discharge highly treated effluent from the wastewater reclamation facility and will be in place until 2015. The permit is reviewed and issued by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board every five years.

The suit argues that the EPA lacks jurisdiction to set the total maximum daily loads because the agency has to first disapprove limits established by the state, or the state has to clearly decide not to submit standards to the agency for approval.

“The ratepayers ultimately pay the price for this thing,” Reinhardt said. “It kind of denigrates the good work that can be done when the correct science is applied to whatever the problem is.”

Thousands forced to flee rising water

Four dead from storms in Colorado

By Mead Gruver Associated Press
Ventura County Star 9/19/2013



Associated press photos

Emergency crews rescue Will Pinter on Friday after he spent a night trapped sheltering outside on high ground above his home as it filled with flood waters at the base of Boulder canyon, Colo.

LYONS, Colo. -By air and by land, the rescue of hundreds of Coloradans stranded by epic mountain flooding was accelerating as food and water supplies ran low, while thousands more were driven from their homes on the plains as debris-filled rivers became muddy seas inundating towns and farms miles from the Rockies.

For the first time since the harrowing mountain floods began Wednesday, Colorado got its first broad view of the devastation - and the reality of what is becoming a long-term disaster is setting in. The flooding has affected parts of a 4,500-square-mile area, almost the size of Connecticut.

National Guard choppers were evacuating 295 people - plus pets - from the mountain hamlet of Jamestown, which was isolated by flooding that, scoured the canyon the town sits in.

Mike Smith, incident commander at Boulder Municipal Airport, said helicopters would continue flying in and out late into the night.

The outlook for anyone who'd rather stay is weeks without power, cellphone service, water or sewer.

'Essentially, what they were threatening us with is, 'If you stay here, you may be here for a month,' said 79-year-old Dean Hollenbaugh, who was evacuated by Chinook helicopter from Jamestown, northwest of Boulder.



Rain-swollen Boulder creek flows around a marker that shows historic flood levels on Friday morning, in Boulder, Colo. city officials ordered an evacuation of thousands of residents along the creek the night before.

For those awaiting an airlift, Guardsmen dropped food, water and other supplies in Jamestown and other small towns in the winding, narrow canyons that dot the Rocky Mountain foot hills .

Thousands of evacuees sought shelter in cities that were nearly surrounded by raging rivers spilling over their banks.

One was Mary Hemme, 62, who displayed a pair of purple socks as she sat outside the Life bridge Christian Church in Longmont. They're a memento of the more than 30 hours she spent in an elementary school in the flood stricken mountain town of Lyons. Many evacuees - eventually rescued by National Guard trucks - got socks because most of them had wet feet, Hemme said.

She recalled the sirens blared at 2:30 a.m. Wednesday.

'Mary we have to go, this place is flooding,' she recalled her friend Kristen Vincent saying as they clambered out of a trailer.

'And we stepped out of the trailer, onto the ground where the cars were parked, and it already like this, almost to our knees,' she said. 'It wasn't just sitting there. It was rushing at us.' Soon the trailer, like others in the park where she was staying, was submerged.

Hemme said she walked up at hill at daybreak and surveyed the trailer park.

'The most terrifying thing was when I climbed up on that cliff and looked down. It was the meanest, most - I mean, no wonder it carries cars like toys,' Hemme said. 'I was so afraid that I was going to die, that water came so fast.' The daylong rush of water from higher ground has killed four people and turned towns on Colorado's expansive eastern plains into muddy swamps. Crews used inflatable boats to rescue families and pets from stranded farmhouses. Some evacuees on horseback had to be escorted to safe ground.

Boulder County officials said Friday night that the number of people unaccounted for had risen to 172, according to local television and newspaper reports. The officials said earlier that the unaccounted for figure doesn't necessarily represent missing people.

'It means we haven't heard back from them,' county spokesman James Burrus said.

Near Greeley, some 35 miles east of the foothills, broad swaths of farmland had become lakes, and hundreds of roads were closed or damaged by floodwaters. A 70-mile stretch of Interstate 25 was closed from Denver to the Wyoming line.

Rocky Mountain National Park closed Friday, its visitors forced to leave via the 60-mile Trail Ridge Road to the west side of the Rockies.

It will be weeks, if not months, before a semblance of normalcy returns to Lyons, a gateway community to the park. The town, surrounded by sandstone cliffs whose color was reflected in the raging St. Vrain River, consisted of six islands Friday as residents barbecued their food before it spoiled. Several people set up a tent camp on a hill.

Some 2,500 residents were being evacuated from Lyons, but Hilary Clark was left walking around her neighborhood Friday.

Two bridges that led into the area were washed away. Unlike other parts of Lyons that had been reached by the National Guard in high clearance trucks, no such help had arrived for Clark.

'We're surviving on what we got,' she said. 'Some of us have ponds in our backyard and we're using that water and boiling it.' Boulder County Sheriff Joe Pelle said recovery would be long and expensive - similar to wild fires the state is more familiar with.

'Please be patient. This is an unprecedented event,' Pelle said.

Environmental toll compounds the troubles in flooded Colorado

Two large oil spills are reported as the Colorado floodwaters take aim at drilling and storage facilities. Meanwhile, a ninth person is reported dead and hundreds are still missing.



An image captured Tuesday shows flooding in Colorado's Weld County, where two large oil spills have resulted from inundated drilling and storage facilities. (Jane Pargiter / Associated Press / September 17, 2013)

By Matt Pearce
LA Times September 19, 2013

DENVER — When the worst of the flooding began for Weld County last week, Cliff Willmeng, on a hunch, took his 2003 Subaru and drove east.

The county's roads and bridges had begun to disintegrate under the might of the historic floodwaters, to the point that Willmeng, an environmental activist, had trouble navigating. Yet what his gut had told him to look for had been, as he put it, "unfortunately easy to find."

What Willmeng saw, and also photographed, was the drowning of Weld County's extensive oil and gas drilling operations — hundreds of fracking wells that were underwater, and an unknown number of storage tanks and other industrial facilities assaulted by the untamed waters.

"The farther east I went, the more you would see the condensate tanks tilted, lifted off-anchor," Willmeng said. And on hearing that those tanks have since been responsible for dumping thousands of gallons of oil, he said, "What we're finding now is confirming our worst fears."

In Colorado, the disaster that has throttled the state — claiming as many as nine lives so far and destroying 1,800 homes while damaging 16,000 others — has taken civilization's attempts to harness the land and turned frontier living into a nightmare. The floods, which arrived as a single malady of rain and rivers, have since been divided into environmental and human tragedies separated by the line that joins Weld and Larimer counties.

Once-picturesque Rocky Mountain hideaways in Larimer County have become communities shut in by still-raging waters and wiped-out access roads. It is where the disaster's human toll was still unfolding.

Larimer County officials announced Thursday they now believe a 46-year-old man was swept away with his cabin in the mountain town of Drake. His death would bring the expected toll to nine across the state since the flooding began last week, with hundreds more people still missing.

And officials are worried the seclusion that made such mountain communities so romantic could continue to present life-and-death threats to the scores of residents who are choosing to stay behind: at least 73 people in Pinewood Springs and 120 more in Storm Mountain, according to the Larimer County Sheriff's Office.

"Beyond me, the road is closed," said Joe Dion, 70, a Storm Mountain resident who has one of the area's few escape routes on his property. "The only way those people have been getting out is to walk out, and that's been very tough, because at one point you have to cross the Buckhorn Creek."

A creek that is now about 50 feet wide and about 6 feet deep, he added.

"One person told me when they came out, it took them two days to travel 12 miles," Dion said. Officials have since told him to allow the area's residents to exit through his land, but not to let them back in.

Emergency responders have been hankering for the remaining residents to get out. Larimer County Sheriff Justin Smith on Wednesday and Thursday journeyed on a hearts-and-minds tour in which he visited residents by helicopter to try to persuade them to leave.

"It's going to be difficult or impossible to get them any medical or law enforcement assistance," sheriff's spokesman John Schulz said.

The holdouts are apparently fine with that: On Thursday afternoon, officials estimated that crews were about 85% done with helicopter rescues, with only eight residents flown out to a military airfield for the day.

A different kind of emergency response was unfolding in Weld County, where the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission reported two significant oil spills, of 13,566 and 5,250 gallons, from Anadarko Petroleum Corp. storage tanks.

Officials said the oil appeared to have flowed away with the floodwaters and that absorbent booms laid down by the company had collected only the oiled water still standing around the failed tanks.

"We are working with the appropriate state and federal agencies to clean up the releases to the greatest extent possible," the company said in a statement Thursday.

Anadarko, which runs about 5,800 fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, wells, also said that 600 wells remained sealed off against the lingering floodwaters to prevent environmental contamination.

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper batted down the idea of a moratorium on the oil and gas industry, adding that oil is just one of the many pollutants that have entered the water.

"When you look at the amount of water going through that river, it will process these pollutants very, very rapidly. Not that any pollution is a good thing, but in a flood of this magnitude, to have as little as we had.... The several small spills that we've had have been very small relative to the huge flow of water."

A spokesman for the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission said that most of the state's fracking wells were in the production phase of their operation and that they were not likely to have potentially harmful chemicals on site. Such chemicals are used for creating the well, the spokesman said.

At least one expert, however, was skeptical.

"It's true that most of the wells were in the producing stage," said Rob Jackson, a professor of environmental sciences who has studied fracking at Duke University, responding to the commission's comments. "That isn't especially useful, except for any tanks that rupture at producing sites. What is more relevant is how many wells were being fracked, where they were and whether they flooded."

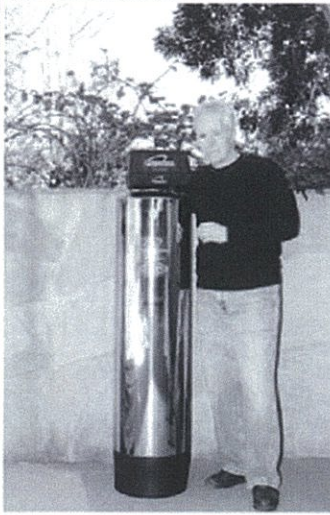
State regulators said they were in the process of evaluating Colorado's drilling sites and were still determining how severe the flood damage was.

Willmeng, the environmental activist who photographed the industrial damage, said he wanted a statewide moratorium on all oil and gas activity.

"Those of us who have been active against this industry's relationship to the public health and the environment have always known that this activity was dangerous from the beginning," Willmeng said, "so this is the most unfortunate turn of events."

THE EXPERTS AGREE—Use a Water Filter

Also featured, host of InSpary, with his LifeSource Water System



Every day, there are more articles being written about the importance of a water filter for overall health. Dr. Oz, The President's Cancer panel and now Prevention Magazine agree that water filtration and good health are related. The President's Cancer Panel recommends that you "filter your drinking water."

Prevention Magazine recently published 13 Everyday Ways to Avoid Cancer. The number one recommendation was Filter Your Tap Water. As stated in the article, "You'll reduce your exposure to known or suspected carcinogens and hormone-disrupting chemicals." A new report from the President's Cancer Panel on how to reduce exposure to carcinogens suggests that home-filtered tap water is a safer bet than bottled water, whose quality often is not higher- and in some cases is worse-than that of municipal sources, according to a study by the Environmental Working Group.

According to Dr. Oz, "You should also shower and especially bathe with toxin-free H₂O. Chlorine- which isn't just found in swimming pools but also in tap water---dries out the hair (as well as the skin). The problem isn't the straight chlorine, but what it turns into stronger toxins called trichloromethanes. These can irritate your skin and eyes, but may also cause other health problems in higher concentrations."

The human body is 70% water, so it is important to have clean water available from every tap and shower in your house. A LifeSource Whole House water filter is the longest lasting, least expensive and easiest way to follow the advice of the experts regarding water. For more information, you can visit www.lifewater.com or call the factory at 800-334-5009. LifeSource Water has been the number one water treatment company since 1984.

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Ventura County Star 9/18/2013
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OXNARD

Council will discuss solid waste plant

Ventura County Star 9/17/2013

The Oxnard City Council will get an update Tuesday night on its plan to take over operations of the city-owned solid waste facility.

The council voted 3-1 in July to have city staff members run the Del Norte Regional Recycling and Transfer Station.

The \$25million facility has been operated by outside companies since doors opened in 1996.

Plans call for the city to run the plant by early next year, after a contract with Republic Services Inc. expires at the end of January.

The brief written report mentions staff tours of three similar facilities and development of plans for staffing, equipment and other elements.

A special closed-door meeting announced Monday afternoon will start at 4:30 p.m. to review negotiations with Service Employees International Union Local 721 and an update on the city's lawsuit against Procter & Gamble.

The suit alleges the company illegally siphoned \$1 million worth of water over a period of years.

A previously announced closed session at 5 p.m. concerns the status of an environmental lawsuit about the SouthShore development .

The council's open session is at 6 p.m. at 305 W. Third St.

Staff reports

Water unaffordable for some in rural areas

By The Associated Press
Ventura County Star 9/17/2013

FRESNO — People living in poverty in California's rural San Joaquin Valley pay more than 2 percent of their income for tap water — above the threshold of affordability set in a state law, according to a new study.

The study, produced by the Community Water Center, Fresno State and the nonprofit Pacific Institute, shows 2 of every 5 households — nearly 4,000 customers — pay more than they can afford for tap water.

Bills climb even higher for those who also buy bottled water to protect their families from the Valley's underground water contamination.

The study sampled 51 small water systems across Fresno, Tulare and Kings counties.

The costs of water are high in these areas due to old infrastructure problems and because the water supply has contaminants such as nitrates and arsenic.

Many of those communities must blend or treat their polluted water, drill a new well or provide an alternative source, passing on the extra costs to ratepayers. In some communities, where no such options are available, residents pay for contaminated water and must buy bottled water out of pocket.

Researchers hope to convince legislators to craft new laws that help people cope with poverty, water supply contamination and the expense of bottled water.

And experts warn that contaminants such as nitrates will only increase in future years, forcing more water systems to upgrade or increase treatment to ensure safe drinking water. The upgrades and cleanup costs will raise rates in many places where people already can't afford to pay water bills.


Already, several communities in central California are fighting utility rate increases.

Earlier this month, residents of Delano filed a lawsuit challenging the city's decision to raise utility rates.

The higher rate, meant to cover debt payments on water system improvements, would raise residents' bills by an average of 75 percent over the next five years.

New Mexico's drought threatens a way of life



Peggy Boney stands above the gate to the acequia -- earthen irrigation canal -- on her farm in New Mexico's Mora County. Engineered to use gravity and the natural contours of the land, the acequias feed arterial channels, which spread out like capillaries in the fields. [More photos](#) 

Communal watercourses called acequias, some of which date to the 1600s, connect people to their land, neighbors and ancestors. But as the channels dry up, farmers consider more efficient irrigation.

By Cindy Carcamo
Photography and video by Cindy Carcamo
Reporting from Mora, N.M.
LA Times Sept. 17, 2013

For 200 years, the earthen water canal has nourished the land where Peggy Boney's farm now sits. It sustains the alfalfa pastures for her cattle and the corn and pumpkins she puts on her kitchen table for supper.

Much of her life has revolved around these acequias, primitive but ingenious irrigation channels invented by the Moors and built in New Mexico by the Spanish.

As a girl, she enjoyed dangling her feet in the acequia maintained by her father. At night, as she lay in bed, he would bid her, "Good night, God bless you," and she would fall asleep to the gentle ripple of the water, the acequia's ancient song.

Now, that song is fading, in some places down to a whisper.

Across the state, a historic drought has reduced the water to a shallow stream in some acequias, a trickle in others. Some channels are parched. Some people, even elders

leery of change, are asking whether it's time to try more modern methods of irrigating the land.

Such an idea was once unthinkable. For Boney and other old families of New Mexico, a land where the past seems ever present, the water crisis threatens not just livelihoods but also the connection they feel to their Spanish ancestors.

New Mexico has more than 800 acequias, some dating to the 1600s, said Paula Garcia, executive director of the New Mexico Acequia Assn. The waterways can be several feet across or as compact as a narrow ditch.

The communal watercourses carry snow runoff to distant fields. Engineered to use gravity and the natural contours of the land, the acequias feed arterial channels, which spread out like capillaries in the fields.

A primitive network of 70 canals conveys water to the Mora Valley here, north of Santa Fe. Boney's acequia runs through the upper half of her farm. Fields of alfalfa stretch out toward the Boney home with a garden full of peas, cabbage and hoop houses bursting with sweet tomatoes and fragrant basil.

Every spring acequias must be cleaned of debris, a drudgery but a chance for friends and family — because many hands are needed — to catch up. Each acequia is maintained by an association of families who draw water from it, headed by a foreman or mayordomo.

The sun is rising. I will keep working to maintain what I love so dearly."

— Lyrics from a song about the acequias

Share this quote

The meaning and romance of the acequias have been captured in a lively song Boney heard for the first time this summer.

"The sun is rising," say the lyrics in Spanish. "I will keep working to maintain what I love so dearly."

"Oh, my God. This is about my dad," Boney thought. "They're talking about my dad." She cried.

Her father, Pete Apodaca, was the mayordomo of the acequia in San Jose, about 50 miles southwest of here, for 15 years. The retired supervisory groundskeeper spent almost every day from sunup to sundown tending what he grew — jalapeno peppers, blue corn, squash.

"Those who do not work do not eat," he repeatedly told Boney.

She remembers how she loved watching her father open up the acequia. He lifted a small gate. The water crept into the furrows, brightening up the peppers and peas.

It's not the most efficient method during drought — farmers inundate the furrows. Slow and deliberate drip irrigation saves water and provides the plants with steady sustenance.

About four years ago, Boney heard friends at the association talk about testing other methods of irrigation. She never took them seriously.

"We always have water," Boney recalled thinking. "Why worry about it?"



This year was different. Townspeople began talking about the water shortage and their fears the drought would worsen. Newscasters led nightly broadcasts with reports of a statewide water crisis. New Mexico was the driest state in the nation, the reporters declared.

"Really? Us?" Boney said to herself. Most who draw from the acequias (pronounced ah-SEH-kee-ahs) are small farmers who grow food just for themselves. Others, such as Boney, sell their fruits and vegetables but consume some of the harvest.

This year she noticed that her acequia had been flowing lower than in the past.

The acequias, primitive but ingenious irrigation channels invented by the Moors and built in New Mexico by the Spanish, have always been a part of Peggy Boney's life.

"I need to listen a little more," she thought. "Maybe there is a better way."

Slowly, she became convinced.

Her husband, John, the mayordomo of the acequia at their farm, was also reluctant at first. By May, friends with the acequia association persuaded the Boneys to set aside a test plot — 100 feet long and 70 feet wide — and install drip irrigation to grow lettuce, chard and other vegetables. It's the first time such irrigation is being considered for wide use in the county.

"If it doesn't work, I can always go back to the old ways," said Boney, 54.

Antonio Medina, who encouraged Boney to try drip irrigation, was once uncomfortable with straying from the old ways. But the 75-year-old Medina has never seen a drought like this.

"You can't have it your way all the time," he said.

Medina remembers he was about 4 years old when he first heard his mother talk about the acequia — he had just jumped into the canal to cool off.

"Dile que no se meta en la acequia," she told his father. Tell him to stay out of the acequia.

She explained that he needed to respect the waterway and the animals and plants that drank from the ditch. It was then that he understood.

"All of life needs water," he thought.



On warm days decades ago, Boney would sit with her father on a footbridge over the acequia of her childhood. The pair would lower their feet into the cool water and catch up on the day's events.

In the spring, she watched the men clean the channel, some shoveling out the muck, one taking a chainsaw to stubborn willows. Boney kept her father's books, documenting each person's task.

The drought has forced acequia associations to make tough decisions when parceling out the dwindling water. Family gardens and livestock get first priority. Garcia, of the statewide association, said many fields had gone without.



Although reluctant, Peggy Boney agreed to try drip irrigation on a small plot of land. It's the first time such irrigation is being considered for wide use in the county. [More photos](#) 

One afternoon this summer, Garcia toured the drip irrigation plot on Boney's land. Dark clouds formed in the north, but even a torrential storm wouldn't be enough to quench the land and refill the acequias to what they once were.

So far, the drip system has been a success, with a few green lettuce buds sprouting from the dark soil. The water comes from the acequia but is released slowly through black plastic irrigation tubing. About 50 people have come to visit the test plot, Boney said.

Even as the duo studied the parcel, they couldn't resist the allure of the acequia as it burbled nearby. They chatted about its soothing sound and smiled after seeing its banks so green, sprouting with white wildflowers after the latest downpour.

The day after Garcia's visit, Boney's father died. Pete Apodaca was 102 years old. Boney asked Garcia to find someone to sing the "*Canción de las Acequias*" at the funeral.

At the service, mourners were given cards with the lyrics, which spoke of corn and chile, seeds and gardens, of autumns and stars shining above winter snows.

Garcia stood next to the casket, strummed her guitar and sang the song of the acequia. Soon Boney and others joined in.

Methane still leaking at Hawthorne well; 37 families remain evacuated

By Angel Jennings

LA Times September 16, 2013

A well in Hawthorne continues to spew methane even after crews were able to stop the flow of water, authorities said.

Monday morning, a well-capping company blasted 208 barrels of high-pressured water into the well spout to try to stop the flow of water and methane.

They felt they had it under control, but it began leaking methane again, authorities said.

Officials briefly shut down a two-mile stretch of the 105 Freeway, between Crenshaw Boulevard and the 405 Freeway, for the project. A small part of Imperial Highway, between Inglewood and Firmona avenues, remained closed, said California Highway Patrol Officer Francisco Villalobos.

Crews with Golden State Water Co. last Thursday were trying to plug the retired well when they discovered an unexpected flow of water. Tests revealed that methane gas had mixed with the well water.

"This situation and repairs have no effect on the local water supply, which continues to meet all drinking water quality standards," Patrick Scanlon, vice president of Golden State Water Co., said Monday in a statement.

Thirty-seven families in the immediate vicinity were evacuated as a precaution, Jordan said, and have been staying in a hotel since Thursday.

Golden State Water Co. hired the well-known capping company Boots & Coots International Well Control to control the mixture of high-pressure water and methane gas.

Boots & Coots "will fabricate a metal structure to secure the well valve that is under high pressure," Jordan said in a prepared statement. "After the valve is secure, forward progress will continue."

Methane gas can be deadly if inhaled in a confined space, officials said, and can cause a massive explosion if ignited.

Officials are unsure what caused the leak or how long residents will be displaced.

Across the nation

NEW MEXICO

More rainfall moves across flooded area

Ventura County Star 9/16/2013

ALBUQUERQUE — Another round of rainfall moved across New Mexico on Sunday, renewing the threat of heavy runoff from already saturated soils and flooding in low areas as residents faced a major cleanup effort from damage left in the wake of days of relentless rain.

The National Weather Service issued a flash flood watch for much of central and northern New Mexico.

In the northeastern corner of the state, where the chance for heavy rain was greatest, residents who live along the Gallinas River were being warned that the waterway could swell again.

Across the state

LOS ANGELES

River restoration would cost \$453M

Ventura County Star 9/15/2013

A federal study recommends spending \$453 million to restore part of the concrete-line Los Angeles River to nature - but critics say it doesn't go far enough.

The Army Corps of Engineers on Friday unveiled four options for restoring an 11-mile stretch of the river, a flood control channel that runs from the San Fernando Valley to the ocean in Long Beach.

The agency recommended an option that would strip the concrete from 588 acres of river between Griffith Park and downtown Los Angeles. It's one of the cheaper options.

Advocacy groups say it's not enough and they'll push for broader rehabilitation of the 51-mile-long channel. The LA City Council also backs a more extensive option.

Lawsuit is filed over proposed interpretive center at Ballona Wetlands

Ballona Wetlands Land Trust sues the state Department of Fish and Wildlife over access to documents related to the Annenberg Foundation project.

By Martha Groves
LA Times September 15, 2013,

The Ballona Wetlands Land Trust has sued the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to force resolution of a months-long dispute over access to records related to the Annenberg Foundation's proposal to build an interpretive center in a portion of the Ballona Wetlands.

The suit alleges the agency violated the spirit and intent of the state Public Records Act by "willfully avoiding possession of critical project documents and allowing the private foundation to retain sole possession of those documents in order to circumvent its responsibility to keep the public informed," the nonprofit land trust said in a statement.

The suit was filed last week.

Walter Lamb, the land trust's president, said in the statement that presentations by Annenberg and the state to neighborhood groups have been "widely criticized as misleading in how they portray the project and the foundation's motives for pursuing it."

Lamb and other wetlands activists contend that much of Annenberg's motivation for proposing the interpretive center would be to include a "companion animal center" that would help facilitate the adoption of dogs and cats.

The Annenberg Foundation has said its plans for the center were a "work in progress" and not yet ready for circulation.

The foundation has proposed to build a center in what is known as Area C of the Ballona Wetlands. It would include an auditorium, classrooms, exhibits on wildlife and domestic animals, facilities for an animal adoption and care program and veterinary facilities for animals.

Under state law, the project must undergo an environmental review.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



News for Immediate Release September 5, 2013

Contact: Jeanine Jones, DWR Interstate Resources Manager (916) 653-8126
Ted Thomas, DWR Information Officer (916) 653-9712

Preparing for the possibility of a dry 2014

SACRAMENTO -- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is sponsoring events throughout the fall in preparation for the possibility that water year 2014 could be a third consecutive dry year. Preparing for the potential of continued dry conditions is also the focus of a joint California State Board of Food and Agriculture – California Water Commission meeting next week.

Water year 2012 ranked as the 25th driest year in terms of statewide runoff, based on a measured record of 112 years. Good reservoir and groundwater basin storage from a wet 2011 lessened impacts of dry conditions for many water users. Water year 2013, which ends on September 30, began with above-average precipitation but then turned dry. Sacramento Valley and San Joaquin Valley watersheds experienced record dry conditions in January through May. Although the water year's wet early start helped replenish storage in many reservoirs, subsequent ongoing dry conditions especially affected non-irrigated agriculture and contributed to an increased wildfire risk.

If 2014 is dry, its impacts are expected to be more widely felt due to reduced carry-over storage statewide. Advanced preparation for dry conditions helps water suppliers put in place actions to help mitigate impacts -- such as enhanced water conservation programs or water transfers -- and helps agricultural water users consider risk management tools such as crop insurance.

“While we hope that water year 2014 will mark a return to better water supply conditions, we must be prepared for the possibility of another dry year,” said DWR Director Mark Cowin. “Dry conditions are a recurring feature of California’s hydrologic cycle, and lessons learned from responses to previous dry periods have improved our ability to be ready in the future.”

Scheduled upcoming events are listed below.

September 10, Sacramento

Joint meeting of California State Board of Food and Agriculture – California Water Commission.

Agenda and meeting information:

https://cwc.ca.gov/Pages/2013/09_September/091013agenda.aspx.

September 24, San Diego

Drought preparedness training for small water systems, co-sponsored with the California Rural Water Association (CRWA) and the federal National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) program.

Information: http://www.calruralwater.org/product/nidis_workshops/?oid=808

September 25, Riverside

Drought preparedness training for small water systems, co-sponsored with CRWA and NIDIS.

Information: http://www.calruralwater.org/product/nidis_workshops/?oid=808

October 8, Fountain Valley

Urban drought workshop, co-sponsored with the National Water Research Institute.

Agenda and registration information coming at: <http://www.nwri-usa.org/events.htm#register>

October 8, Palmdale

Drought preparedness training for small water systems, co-sponsored with CWRA and NIDIS.

Information: http://www.calruralwater.org/product/nidis_workshops/?oid=808

October 9, Bakersfield

Drought preparedness training for small water systems, co-sponsored with CRWA and NIDIS.

Information: http://www.calruralwater.org/product/nidis_workshops/?oid=808

December 17, Fresno

Agricultural drought workshop, co-sponsored with the Center for Irrigation Technology at CSU, Fresno.

Agenda and registration coming at : <http://www.fresnostate.edu/jcast/cit/announcements-events/>

Additionally, DWR expects to release an experimental forecast for this winter's water supply conditions in late November. This forecast is the product of a DWR-sponsored science workshop at which climate science and meteorology researchers use best available information to characterize potential seasonal conditions. The status of El Niño-Southern

Oscillation (ENSO) conditions is a primary source of skill in making seasonal climate forecasts. Presently, ENSO-neutral conditions persist in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

Background on dry conditions in water years 2012 and 2013

As of September 4, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has included all but one of California's counties (San Francisco) in its list of 2013 drought-related agricultural disaster designations. These designations allow agricultural producers to qualify for federal financial assistance programs, such as low-interest loans.

DWR's State Water Project allocations are 35 percent of water contractors' requested deliveries in 2013 and were 40 percent in 2012.

The federal Central Valley Project (CVP) allocations for 2013 are:

100 percent to water rights contractors, north of Delta urban contractors, wildlife refuges, and Eastside contractors

75 percent to north of Delta agricultural contractors, American River urban contractors, and in-Delta contractors

70 percent to urban south of Delta contractors

50 percent to Friant contractors

20 percent to south of Delta agricultural contractors

In 2012, CVP allocations were 100 percent to contractors, except for:

75 percent to south of Delta urban contractors

50 percent to Friant contractors

40 percent to south of Delta contractors

California received full Colorado River deliveries in 2013 and 2012.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.



Reservoir Conditions

Ending At Midnight - September 9, 2013

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS

