

NEWS CLIPS

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**Resource Conservation and Public
Outreach**

Organized by date

Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility
will be closed on the following Saturdays:

November 11 - Veterans Day
November 25 - Thanksgiving weekend
December 23 - Christmas weekend
December 30 - New Year's weekend

**Community Compost or
Recycled Water will not be
available.**

For more information, visit
www.LVMWD.com/community-compost
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44455R



Change
YOUR Clocks

Check
YOUR
Sprinklers



It's that time of the year again - time to fall back. Sunday, November 5 is the official end of daylight saving time. We gain an extra hour of sleep. Use the time change as a reminder to check your sprinkler system for leaks, reset timers and change the backup battery.



44A54B

Where does your drinking
water come from?



Join us for a special tour and learning adventure

Saturday November 18, 2017

8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Go "behind the scenes" to look at the planning, infrastructure and challenges to delivering safe, reliable, high quality water to your home everyday.

Reservations are a must for this *FREE* tour.

Preference given to customers of
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District.



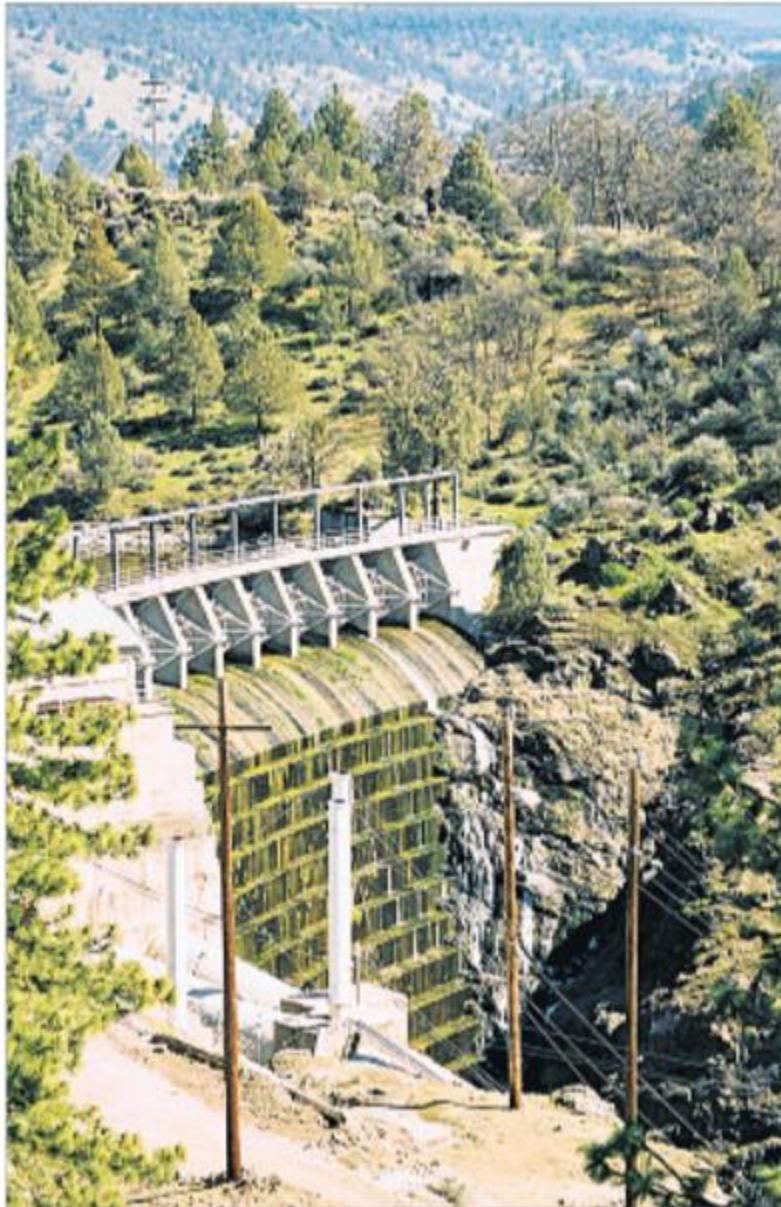
Register on-line at:

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*Continental breakfast and light lunch provided.
Moderate walking and stairways. Restricted to ages 10 and
older; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.*

44 A-50W

A water policy win wrapped in a defeat



JEFF BARNARD Associated Press

THE COPCO No. 1 dam near Hornbrook, Calif.; one of the obsolete Klamath River dams slated for removal in early 2020.

By Jacques Leslie
LA Times 11/02/2017

When a top Interior Department official acknowledged recently that the Trump administration wouldn't try to block removal of four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River, he signaled a monumental victory for local Native American tribes, salmon fishermen and the national dam removal movement.

Yet this development is less momentous than it would have been in 2015, when dam removal was just one component of a broad plan for the Klamath Basin, which straddles the California-Oregon border. That plan included salmon habitat restoration, the return of tribal land and water-sharing among farmers, ranchers and tribes. It was the product of a decade of trust-building and honest negotiation among representatives of the basin's constituencies, whose efforts turned one of the nation's most contentious water basins into a model of collaboration. It helped that big money didn't skew the process: Most of the basin's residents are far from wealthy, and the only corporation involved is PacifiCorp, the utility that owns the dams.

But congressional Republicans declined to support the deal (it required legislative authorization and funding) on the grounds that taking down four obsolete, inefficient and soon-to-be money-losing dams could set a precedent that would eventually threaten, say, Hoover Dam. By espousing an outdated tenet of conservative ideology — all dams are engines of economic development — they sabotaged the interests of their own supporters.

Two years later, the dams are going to come down, but no water-sharing plan will accompany their removal. As a result, the ranchers and farmers in the Upper Klamath Basin, where Republican voters predominate, will not have a reliable source of irrigation water. Upper Klamath farm country is already studded with "for sale" signs. Becky Hyde, an Oregon rancher who courageously fought for a comprehensive basin agreement for many years, says the 2015 plan's collapse "feels like a betrayal." She diplomatically declines to say who she thinks the betrayers are.

The good news is that dam removal is virtually certain. Beginning in late September, Alan Mikkelsen, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's acting commissioner, has repeatedly stated that the Interior Department won't interfere with the application before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to dismantle the Klamath's four dams. FERC approval, widely expected in mid-2019, is the only remaining obstacle to freeing the river.

If the dams come down as planned in early 2020, the event will mark by most measures the nation's — and perhaps the world's — biggest dam removal project. The dams' absence will reopen about 500 miles of river and tributary habitat for salmon, whose numbers have plummeted since the dams were built beginning a century ago. It will end the poisoning of the Klamath River proper, where blue-green algae is now so pervasive that signs warn visitors not to even touch the water for much of its 254-mile length.

Given the president's environmental record, the decision to take down the dams was made despite its benefits to the river, not because of them. What appeals to Interior

Department officials is that removal is the preference of PacifiCorp. The dams' owner faces the straightforward choice of spending \$200 million to take the dams down or spending an unknown multiple of that amount on fish ladders and water quality improvements to secure the dams' re-licensing, all to continue generating an inconsequential amount of electricity. To the Trump administration, it's just a business decision, outside the appropriate purview of government. That puts the last remaining opponents of dam removal, the outspokenly conservative Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors in California, in the awkward position of appealing to federal officials to nullify a private corporation's decision, which stands right-wing dogma on its head.

Some basin farmers and ranchers hold out hope for another round of negotiations and a new water-sharing plan, but developments since the collapse of the 2015 deal have decreased that prospect. For one thing, the senior water right of southern Oregon's Klamath Tribes was recently judicially affirmed, giving them much less incentive to negotiate. Instead of guaranteeing a minimum share of the basin's water to the irrigators in dry years, as the tribes agreed to in the 2015 deal, they have cut off flows to the farms and ranches every year since 2013 so they can provide increased protection to the river's deeply threatened fish populations.

The collapse of the 2015 deal also soured the Klamath Tribes' governing council on negotiations. "Our congressional folks told us that if we could come up with an agreement that works for all, that it would move through Congress," Don Gentry, the Klamath Tribes' chairman, told me over the phone. "We expended a lot of time, developed relationships and reached a solution, and Congress didn't move it forward. So the question is, what opportunity is really there? Our members have been very frustrated."

The dams' dismantling will hearten environmentalists, but the collapse of the grass-roots Klamath Basin plan should hearten no one. Congress undermined an agreement that balanced conservation and agriculture, fish and farmers — a model the West will need in the future. As our water resources dwindle, the Republicans' reputation for nihilism grows.

Jacques Leslie is a contributing writer to Opinion.

Storm raises threat of toxic runoff in areas ravaged by fire

Northern California officials scramble to contain debris and prevent flooding.



THE FIRST major storm of autumn could dump up to 3 inches of rain in Yosemite Valley, raising the danger of rockslides and flooding. (Mark Boster Los Angeles Times)

By Joseph Serna
LA Times 11/02/2017

With the first major storm of autumn threatening to dump snow and rain over Northern California this weekend, environmental officials are scrambling to contain potentially toxic runoff from the ash and debris of wine country burn zones.

The storm — a soggy cold front flowing south from Vancouver, Canada — will reach the state by Friday and drop up to 4 inches of rain in the northern Sierra Nevada, said Chris Hintz, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Sacramento.

In addition to raising concerns about the runoff from neighborhoods devastated by wildfires, heavy rains also could trigger rockslides in Yosemite, officials say.

Up to an inch and a half of rain could fall across Napa and Sonoma valleys, where last month a series of wind-driven wildfires ripped through several communities, killing dozens of people and destroying thousands of homes.

The flames, authorities say, were fueled by an abundance of light, flashy vegetation that sprang up after one of the wettest winters on record and then was dried out by the hottest summer on record.

Residential areas scorched by the wildfires are littered with melted metals and plastics that pose a potential health hazard, authorities say. Several local, county, state and federal agencies have banded together to try to mitigate the threat, they announced Tuesday.

Local agencies have created a model of the possible paths rain runoff will take after soaking hard-hit burn areas such as Santa Rosa, and a regional water board is piling sandbags and installing straw wattles to contain debris. The water board also is helping to clean storm drains to prevent flooding.

In rural areas, agencies are installing debris-capture devices in culverts and ditches to block debris and downed trees from clogging waterways. Water control officials and scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey are teaming up to monitor water quality amid the rain.

A second cold front is expected in Northern California on Monday but probably will pack less rain, Hintz said.

As the first storm moves south this weekend, it will dump up to 3 inches of rain in Yosemite Valley, which was hit hard by rain and experienced flooding over the summer, said Kevin Durfee of the National Weather Service's Hanford office.

"It's more good than bad. The bad part is we have some wildfire burn scars," Durfee said, referring to the 81,000 acres burned by the Detwiler fire in Mariposa County that destroyed 63 homes over the summer.

El Portal Road, a continuation of Highway 140 through the park, may close because of the danger of rockslides, Durfee warned. A massive slide this year dumped 4,000 tons of rock onto the road, damaging a 100-foot section that was closed for a week in June. More rain could trigger another fall, he said. Park officials had not announced a road closure as of Wednesday.

The rain, or what's left of it, likely will reach Southern California by Sunday and disappear by Monday. It should amount to less than an inch, the National Weather Service said.

Drought may have aided Maine storm

Patrick Whittle ASSOCIATED PRESS
Ventura County Star 11/02/2017

PORTLAND, Maine – Drought conditions, recent rainfall and an unusual storm path in Maine may have contributed to the large numbers of trees that toppled during a storm that walloped the Northeast this week, officials said.

The storm cut power to nearly 1.5 million homes and businesses in the region at its peak. It left more Mainers in the dark than even the infamous 1998 ice storm, but the long-term effects likely will be much different.

Because of dry conditions, the trees' roots weren't healthy, and ground conditions and foliage that remained on the trees made them more susceptible to wind, said Peter Rogers, acting director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency.

Virtually all of New England is either experiencing a moderate drought or abnormally dry conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The driest conditions are along the coast, where the wind gusts were the strongest. "It was kind of a perfect storm," Rogers said.

Maine's two major utilities were still reporting more than 200,000 customers without power Wednesday afternoon. But they said favorable weather and extra crews will allow them to complete the task of restoring power this weekend.

Across the Northeast, more than 440,000 people were still without power Wednesday.

Several factors came into play to knock down so many trees: The dry fall stunted the growth of tree roots, recent soaking rain softened the soil, and powerful winds came from a different direction, said William Livingston, professor of forest resources at the University of Maine.

In Maine, nor'easters create northeastern winds, and thunderstorms blow in from the west and north, but these powerful winds came from the southeast, Livingston said. And the winds were exceptionally powerful, with four times the force of a common wind storm, he said.

NATION & WORLD WATCH

Drought may have aided storm that pummeled Northeast

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Ventura County Star 11/02/2017

SCIENCE FILE

When more ink leads to less water use



GOOGLE SEARCHES for the phrase “California drought” rose and fell with news coverage. (Brian van der Brug Los Angeles Times)

KAREN KAPLAN
LA Times 10/30/2017

What does it take to get Californians to save water during a severe drought? Apparently, a lot of ink and newsprint helps.

Extensive news coverage of the state’s historic drought prompted residents to conserve water, new research out of Stanford University suggests. The more that major newspapers wrote about the drought, the more people in the San Francisco Bay Area cut back on their personal water use, according to a report last week in the journal *Science Advances*.

Indeed, the overwhelming volume of news stories appears to have motivated Californians to conserve even before Gov. Jerry Brown ordered mandatory water restrictions on April 1, 2015.

The fact that people reduced their water use when they didn't absolutely have to caught the attention of Newsha Ajami , director of urban water policy for Stanford's Water in the West initiative. Ajami wondered whether the media had anything to do with it.

To find out, she teamed up with Kimberly Quesnel , a graduate student in Stanford's department of civil and environmental engineering.

The pair searched the story archives of six California newspapers (the Los Angeles Times, San Diego Union-Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, San Jose Mercury News, Sacramento Bee and Orange County Register) and three others (USA Today, the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal) to tally all the drought-related stories that were published.

Their target period of July 2005 to June 2015 included not one but two droughts.

The first occurred from 2007 to 2009, brought about by a combination of "record low precipitation" and "increased demand from urban areas," the study authors explained. By February 2009, the drought had become so bad that then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a statewide drought emergency .

The second drought began in 2011, kicking off the driest four-year stretch in California's recorded history. By 2014, "exceptional drought" conditions were widespread in the state .

Relief finally arrived with El Niño rains in 2016 and atmospheric river-fueled storms in 2017.

If only one of these droughts sounds familiar, that may be because only one of them rated as a big news story. (Hint: It wasn't the first one.)

Back in 2007, 2008 and 2009, the drought "received limited media attention," the study authors wrote. Newspapers published "a few" stories in the summer of 2008, after Schwarzenegger issued an emergency proclamation for certain counties in the Central Valley. When that emergency was extended to the entire state in 2009, the story count was even lower.

Ajami and Quesnel noted that at the time, newspapers — and their readers — were preoccupied with other big stories. Among them: the presidential election that put Barack Obama in the White House and the country's worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

The situation was different by 2012, when newspapers began paying attention to another worsening drought. The number of stories on the subject began "rapidly increasing" in January 2014, when Brown declared a state of emergency.

Was anyone actually paying attention to all those stories? The answer, it seems, is yes.

Ajami and Quesnel turned to Google Trends to see how often people conducted internet searches for the term “California drought” during the 10-year study period. They found a very high correlation between the number of Google searches and the number of newspaper stories — when one was low, the other was too. Ditto when both were high.

To see whether that had any effect on water usage, the researchers examined customer records in the areas served by the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency . The pair focused on water use by single-family residences.

When they compared news coverage to water use, they found a distinct pattern: The more that newspapers wrote about the drought, the more people searched for it on Google and the more residential water use fell.

How much? For every 100-story increase in the number of drought-related newspaper stories published over a two-month period, residential water use fell by 11% to 18%, according to the study.

Other factors appeared to influence water use as well. For instance, when unemployment went up, water use went down, presumably because people were trying to cut household expenses, the researchers wrote. Changes in the temperature also predicted changes in water use.

But the effect of newspaper articles was distinct.

“The 2011-2016 California drought was unprecedented not only hydrologically but also in terms of widespread political action and publicity,” the study authors wrote.

“Residential water use decreased at the fastest rate after media coverage of the drought ramped up.”

Winters are growing ever shorter

Cold weather is arriving later and leaving earlier each year, analysis shows.



BOSTON UNIVERSITY biology professor **Richard Primack** looks over his still-blooming garden last week in suburban Boston. (Margaret Primack)

Associated press

LA Times 10/29/2017

WASHINGTON — Winter is coming ... later. And it's leaving ever earlier.

Across the United States, the year's first freeze has been arriving deeper and deeper into the calendar, according to more than a century of measurements from weather stations nationwide.

Scientists say that it is yet another sign of the changing climate, and that it has good and bad consequences for the nation. There could be more fruits and vegetables — and also more allergies and pests.

"I'm happy about it," said Karen Duncan of Streator, Ill. Her flowers are in bloom because she's had no frost this year yet, just as she had none last year at this time. On the other hand, she said just last week that it was too hot to spend time outdoors — in late October, near Chicago.

The trend of ever later first freezes appears to have started around 1980, according to an analysis by the Associated Press of data from 700 weather stations across the U.S.

going back to 1895 compiled by Ken Kunkel, a meteorologist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Centers for Environmental Information .

To look for nationwide trends, Kunkel compared the first freeze from each of the 700 stations to the station's average for the 20th century. Some parts of the country experience earlier or later freezes every year, but on average freezes are coming later.

The average first freeze over the last 10 years, from 2007 to 2016, was a week later than the average from 1971 to 1980, which is before Kunkel said the trend became noticeable.

This year, about 40% of the Lower 48 states had had a freeze as of Oct. 23, compared with 65% in a normal year, according to Jeff Masters, meteorology director of the private service Weather Underground.

Duncan's flowers should be dead by now. According to data from the weather station near her in Ottawa, Ill., the average first freeze for the 20th century was Oct. 15. The normal from 1981 to 2010 based on NOAA computer simulations was Oct. 19. Since 2010, the average first freeze is on Oct. 26. Last year, the first freeze in Ottawa came on Nov. 12.

Last year was "way off the charts" nationwide, Kunkel said. The average first freeze was two weeks later than the 20th century average, and the last frost of spring was nine days earlier than normal.

Overall, the United States' "freeze season" of 2016 was more than a month shorter than the freeze season of 1916.

The aberration from normal was most extreme in the Pacific Northwest. Oregon's freeze season was 61 days — two months — shorter than normal.

Global warming has helped push the first frosts later, Kunkel and other scientists said. Also at play, though, are natural short-term changes in air circulation patterns — but they too may be influenced by man-made climate change, they said.

This shrinking freeze season is what climate scientists have long predicted, said University of Oklahoma meteorology professor Jason Furtado.

A shorter freeze season means a longer growing season and less money spent on heat. But it also hurts some plants that require a certain amount of chill, such as Georgia peaches, said Theresa Crimmins, a University of Arizona ecologist. Crimmins is assistant director of the National Phenology Network . Phenology is the study of the seasons and how plants and animals adapt to timing changes.

Pests that attack trees and spread disease aren't being killed off as early as they normally would be, Crimmins said.

In New England, many trees aren't changing colors as vibrantly as they normally do or used to because some take cues for when to turn from the temperature, said Boston University biology professor Richard Primack.

Clusters of late-emerging monarch butterflies are being found farther north than normal for this time of year, and are unlikely to survive their migration to Mexico.

Kevin Trenberth, a climate scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, said natural variability, especially an El Niño, made last year exceptional for an early freeze, but "it represents the kind of conditions that will be more routine in a decade or two" because of man-made climate change.

"The long-term consequences are really negative," said Primack, because shorter winters and hotter temperatures are also expected to lead to rising seas that cause worse flooding during heavy storms.

In suburban Boston, Primack and his wife are still eating lettuce, tomatoes and green beans from their garden. And they are getting fresh figs off their backyard tree almost daily.

"These fig trees should be asleep," Primack said.

Construction set for fall 2018 on Camarillo water desalter

Selection of site awaits certification

JEREMY CHILDS

Ventura County Star 10/29/2017

Construction on a Camarillo desalter plant could begin in fall 2018, pending certification of the site's environmental impact report.

The site is in the northeast corner of the city, northwest of the intersection of Lewis and Las Posas roads.

The 4.7-acre parcel was unanimously approved for the project during the Camarillo City Council meeting on Aug. 23.

The site selection requires an updated certification to the project's supplemental environmental impact report. After a period of public review, the document will be certified at the Dec. 13 City Council meeting. It can be viewed on the city's website.

Discussion of building a groundwater desalter plant in Camarillo has been around for the better part of a decade. In 2013, the Camarillo City Council was awarded a \$5 million state grant toward the project.

The plant will cost an estimated \$30 million to create, partially funded by the \$5 million grant from the state, according to city documents. In September, engineering consulting firm Brown and Caldwell began the yearlong process of designing the plant.

A public information meeting regarding updates to the project took place Oct. 17 at the Camarillo Public Library. It was led by Tom Fox, the assistant city manager of Camarillo and former public works director.

"It was, I think, a very good meeting," Fox said.

According to Fox, the desalter plant has several purposes: in addition to providing an independent source of clean drinking water, it will also restore water quality to the Pleasant Valley groundwater basin.

"The water that we've pumped from the ground historically has been very high-quality, but surface flows from Calleguas Creek of brackish water are now percolating into the ground, into the aquifer, and starting to reduce the water quality," Fox said. "This is a project to intercept that brackish water and remove the poor quality water that's percolating into the basin."

Camarillo Mayor Jan McDonald and Councilman Tony Trembley were also at the meeting, along with about a dozen attendees, according to Fox.

"I think most people were already pretty informed on the project, and we didn't have a really large turnout because of that," Fox said.

Along with the supplemental environmental impact report certification on Dec. 13, the city still needs to hire a contractor to construct the project.

Current timetables indicate construction will begin in late 2018, with a projected completion in late 2019.

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older; children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.*

Page 2, Valley News Group, October 26, 2017

No Drugs Down the Drain!

Protect our water – Dispose of drugs properly

National Take-Back Day

Saturday, October 28

at

Lost Hills Sheriff Station
27050 Agoura Road, Agoura

Ventura County Sheriff Station
2101 E. Olsen Rd, Thousand Oaks

Unused or expired drugs pollute the environment when they are flushed down the drain. Everyone should use pharmaceuticals as directed, but if you have unused or expired prescription drugs, they must be disposed of properly.



The best way to control water pollution is to prevent it in the first place. For more information visit: www.nodrugsdowndrain.org.



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