



## Fact Sheet

### Governor Calls for Comprehensive Plan to Fix California's Water Crisis

*Governor Schwarzenegger visited the San Luis Reservoir in Merced County to address crisis water conditions throughout the state and outline his long-term water strategy for California. In January the Governor called for a comprehensive solution that combines conservation, conveyance and storage. He is urging the Legislature to move this critical plan forward.*

**California is facing a long-term water crisis. We must act now.**

Since January, the U.S. Agriculture Department has declared drought disasters in 17 California counties. A hot summer on the heels of a dry winter is forcing communities across the state to take action. Some have already started mandatory rationing.

#### JULY

- Water officials in San Diego County ask residents to curtail unnecessary water use during daylight hours, following a June call to cut daily water use by 20 gallons/person.

#### JUNE

- Water officials in Kings and Tulare County water districts declare a water supply emergency. Soon after the Governor declares a water State of Emergency in Kings County.
- Sonoma County water officials impose mandatory 15 percent water conservation.
- Water officials in Kern County declare a state of emergency due to the San-Joaquin Delta pump shutdown.
- Water officials in Alameda and Contra Costa County ask customers to reduce water use by 10 percent. The Southern California Metropolitan Water District—which provides water to 18 million people in Southern California—calls for users to reduce water consumption.
- Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa asks residents to reduce their personal water use by 10 percent.

#### MAY

- Tuolumne County's largest water district puts water conservation measures into effect and cuts back water to farmers by 20 percent.
- Water officials in Santa Cruz impose mandatory restrictions on water irrigation.

#### APRIL

- The San Francisco Public Utility District asks residential customers to reduce water use by 15 percent. This is the first water conservation action the district has taken in 15 years.

**Another dry season could have disastrous results.**

The Colorado River basin, which supplies water to parts of California is in its eighth consecutive year of drought conditions. We could face a disaster if there's another dry season.

- We're vulnerable now because we couldn't capture last year's abundant rain.** If the two

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reservoirs proposed as part of the Governor's plan existed in 2006, when torrential storms resulted in flood conditions, we could have captured 2.7 million additional acre feet of water. But we couldn't capture this water—which would have provided water for millions of households—because we simply don't have enough surface water storage. As a result, today we're struggling to meet demand.

- **California's last drought had a devastating economic impact.** As a result of our last drought between 1987-1992, California's farmers suffered an \$800 million economic loss; Californians paid \$500 million more for energy as utilities substituted hydroelectric power with more expensive forms of energy. Employers suffered too—the landscape and gardening industry alone lost \$460 million and cut 5,600 jobs.
  - 82 percent of the state's rangeland is currently in "abysmal" condition. "According to the National Agricultural Statistics Services, 82 percent of California's rangeland is in poor or very poor condition, largely due to the lack of rainfall, with some areas of the Central Valley getting as little as 40 percent of normal forage growth this past winter." (Ching Lee, "Drought presses California ranchers," Central Valley Business Times, 6/20/07)
- **Our water system can't support California's booming population.** The existing system, built in the mid-60s, was never designed to meet the needs of a 37-million strong population. As a result, the state's decision last month to shut down the San Joaquin-Delta pumps for just 9 days forced communities to tap into their emergency water supplies.
  - **The state's population will reach 60 million by 2050.** "The number of people in California, already the most populous U.S. state, will rise to 60 million by 2050 from 36 million...California's population boom will put increased strains on already overstretched public works and natural resources." ("California's population to hit 60 million by 2050," Reuters, 7/9/07)

**The Governor's comprehensive water plan will keep California strong and prosperous. It:**

- Protects the environment. The plan will restore the Delta's delicate ecosystem and preserve this critical water resource for the future.
- Supports our economy. The plan upgrades to the state's water system, which supports a \$300 billion share of California's economy.
- Preserves safe, reliable drinking water. The plan's investment in Delta restoration will help ensure drinking water for 25 million Californians. It will also provide new surface water storage.
- Helps communities conserve. The plan funds grants to California communities. These grants will conserve the equivalent of water supplies for 400,000 families.

**THE GOVERNOR'S PLAN FOR CALIFORNIA'S WATER FUTURE**

**Surface and Groundwater Storage: \$4.5 billion**

- If we can't store rainwater and snowmelt, we're more vulnerable during dry spells. The Governor's plan invests \$4.5 billion to develop additional surface and groundwater storage, so we can capture more water from storms and snowmelt run-off and supply cities, farmers and business with water even during drought-conditions.
- Global warming means more floods and droughts. Global warming is producing more and more severe weather in California, meaning California's water system must be prepared to deal with too much or too little water.

**Delta Sustainability: \$1 billion**

- The Delta's ecosystem is on the brink. The Governor's plan invests \$1 billion to protect California's most significant drinking water source, a vital ecosystem and an important center of agriculture.
- Delta Vision is leading the charge. The Governor directed the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Commission Task Force to develop a Delta management plan. The task force will present its findings and recommendations by January 1, 2008 and its Strategic Plan by October 31, 2008. The Bay Delta Conservation Plan is also underway. The \$1 billion will be used to fund their recommendations.

**Restoration and Conservation: \$450 million**

- Conservation is a critical part of the Governor's overall plan. \$250 million will support restoration projects on the Klamath, San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers, the Salton Sea project, and the Delta. \$200 million will provide water grants to California communities to help conserve water for about 400,000 families.

**On The Record:**

**Larry Minor, owner of Agri-Empire in San Jacinto** – "We Don't Have Enough Water": "I am not just concerned as a farmer but as a third-generation resident," Minor said. "We don't have enough water. They need to control the growth." (Kimberly Trone, "Drought emergency declaration to be sought,"

Riverside Press-Enterprise, 7/13/07)

**Robert Twiss, UC Berkeley Environmental Planning Professor** – “We Can’t Maintain” Delta Long Term: “Robert Twiss, an environmental planning professor at UC-Berkeley, says, ‘There is growing recognition that the present layout of the levees and delivering fresh water out of the Delta is something we can’t maintain long term.’” (OpEd, “It’s time to reconsider peripheral canal,” Fremont Argus, 6/23/07)

**Ronald Robie, Former Director, Department Of Water Resources** – Delta Getting “Worse And Worse”: “Ronald Robie, a state appellate court judge in Sacramento and a former director of the California Department of Water Resources, laments that in ‘the last 25 years...the Delta has gotten worse and worse. Nothing they have done has helped.’” (OpEd, “Stop dredging this up,” Stockton Record, 6/20/07)

**Matt Byrne, Executive Vice President, California Cattlemen’s Association** – Industry In Trouble “If Things Continue” : ‘I’ve talked to people who’ve sold a great number of cattle far beyond their normal amount and who have says that if things continue as they are now, they will be completely out of the industry at least for the time being,’ Mr. Byrne says.’ (Ching Lee, “Drought presses California ranchers,” Central Valley Business Times, 6/20/07)

**Larry Massa, Glenn County Rancher– Drinking Water “A Real Challenge”**: “For Glenn County cattle rancher Larry Massa, who had to ship his cattle a month early to their summer pastures in Shasta County, the bigger problem now is not having enough drinking water to keep his cattle where they are...‘That’s been a real challenge,’ he says. ‘I’ve had to pump water all spring and all winter. Normally we’d have groundwater in ponds or reservoirs. So it changed the way we operated this year.’” (Ching Lee, “Drought presses California ranchers,” Central Valley Business Times, 6/20/07)

**Riverside Press Enterprise OpEd** – Delaying A Water Fix “Irresponsible And Dangerous”: “California can no longer afford to ignore the endangered Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The state needs to find a new way to manage the West Coast’s largest estuary, or reconcile itself to water shortages, environmental catastrophe and destructive flooding...Delta issues are a complex tangle of conflicting interests. But delay in finding a solution is irresponsible and dangerous, and the consequences of failure unacceptable.” (OpEd, “Delta danger,” Riverside Press Enterprise, 3/15/07)

**Fresno Bee OpEd** – California Is Facing “Increasing Scarcity”: “The future of water supplies in California can be described in one simple phrase: increasing scarcity. As population grows and demand increases, climate change is almost certain to reduce supplies. That will dramatically alter the landscape, in more ways than one.” (OpEd, “Water will be scarce; We can’t ignore the looming crisis of diminishing supplies,” Fresno Bee, 3/4/07)

**LA Times OpEd** – “The State’s Water System Is In Trouble”: “But make no mistake: The state’s water system is in trouble...The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta provides water for 25 million Californians — including 60% of Southern California’s supply — and supports \$400 billion of economic activity, including fishing and farming. And demands on it will only grow. California’s population is expected to jump 30% in the next 20 years, while global warming could reduce the state’s snow pack (and the water flows it creates) by the end of the century.” (OpEd, “Don’t take the delta for granted,” LA Times, 3/2/07)

**Chico Enterprise-Record OpEd** – “There Has To Be A Fix”: “The status quo will not survive. Nature has the trump card, and it could be played at any time, whether we’re ready or not. A peripheral canal might be the fix, or some other option might be the fix, but there has to be a fix.” (OpEd, “Bold changes needed in delta,” Chico Enterprise-Record, 2/19/07)

**Bakersfield Californian OpEd** – “Best And Perhaps Last Chance” For Action: Californians cannot afford to blow what may be our best and perhaps last chance to develop a rational water policy in California before disaster strikes. The critical finding in the PPIC study is that geographic, environmental and population conditions have changed so much in the past 25 years that the entire system teeters on the brink of disaster. (OpEd, “California’s water system on brink of disaster,” Bakersfield Californian, 2/17/07)

**San Jose Mercury News OpEd** – Delta “On Edge of Catastrophe”: “The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is teetering on the edge of catastrophe. Its aging levees are failing, and the land they protect is sinking. Native fish populations are plunging, with some in danger of extinction.” (OpEd, “Delta’s problems need action now,” San Jose Mercury News, 02/15/07)

**Stockton Record OpEd** – “Radical Change” Needed: “Without some kind of radical change in the amount of water the state stores, California faces an uncertain date with an unpleasant destiny...Without some costly improvements, it’s not a question of if - but when - a time arrives when there won’t be enough water for everyone.” (OpEd, “Saving water,” Stockton Record, 1/21/07)

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