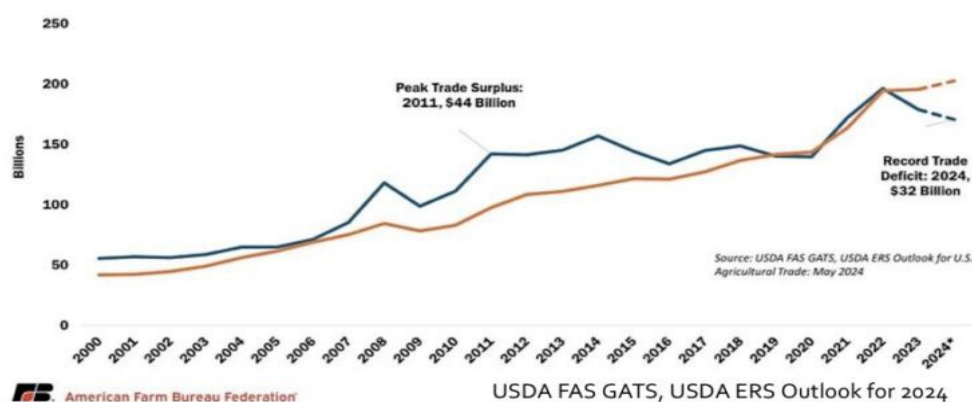


## U.S. Agricultural Trade: Exports and Imports (Fiscal Year)



Water Wars-- the fight for sanity escalates-- articles begin on page 3.

# California Water and Infrastructure Report For September 12, 2024 (With expanded coverage of all the Western States) by Patrick Ruckert

Published weekly since July, 2014

An archive of all these weekly reports can be found at both links below:

<http://www.californiadroughtupdate.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaDroughtUpdate>

## A Note to Readers

Following this week's *U.S. Drought Monitor* for California, we have a 35 minute video: **“California is about to dump 114 billion gallons of water into the ocean.”** While that is the headline grabbing attention-getter, the video is an excellent presentation of the California water management system-- its history, how it works, and what must be done to ensure cities and agriculture have the water they need into the future. Being interviewed is *Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Director of Regulatory and Economic Affairs at Milk Producers Council.*

Despite a very wet winter this year, and increased intention by the state and federal water authorities to restrict water supplies to agriculture, we have a serious eruption of the famous, or infamous “water wars” of California.

Driven by both environmentalist and bureaucratic dominance of the agencies heads and personnel, the largest agricultural producing state in the country is immediately threatened. California produces 50%, or more, of all the fruits, vegetables and nuts grown in the U.S.

Decisions made 50 years ago to not continue to build the water infrastructure the future populations will require, began to affect the water supplies of the state in the 1990s. From 1967 through 1999, farmers and cities received 100 percent of the water that contractors requested. Since 2000, the *State Water Project* and the federal *Central Valley Project* just once delivered the full 100 percent requested.

And in many years delivered just 5 to 20 percent requested.

Now the fight for water, especially for that needed by farmers, is threatened with further restrictions, fines and environmental/ bureaucratic restrictions, and even cutoffs.

Several articles are included in the section of the report titled, “Water Wars-- the fight for sanity escalates.”

Next is, “Fires: An Explosive Eruption of Wildfires the Past Few Weeks.” There have been 6,078 fires that have burned 977,932 acres in the state this summer. And we are now in the most intense fire period of the year. The main article in this section describes a “weather whiplash” driving the huge fires that have erupted the past few weeks. The whiplash is defined as how very wet winters have driven the growth of abundant grasses (some several feet tall), and that being the fuel that drives the rapid spread and intensity of fires-- both over the grassy plains and into the heavy fuel of dense forests.

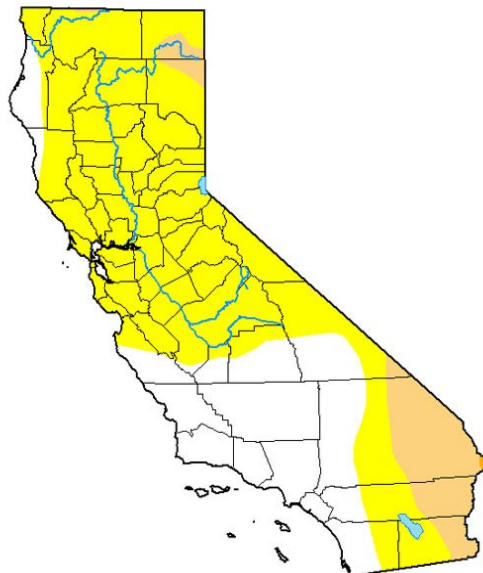
The **Feature** this week: is titled, “*Presidential Campaign News.*”

Since Kamala Harris presents little of substance in her so-far statements of an overall policy on the the economy, outside of a few soundbites, this week we will cover the policy of Donald Trump as he presented it a week ago to the *The Economic Club of New York*. The article is from *Promethean Action*. I will gladly give space to any substantive statement Harris presents in the weeks before the election.

## U.S. Drought Monitor

### California

#### U.S. Drought Monitor California



**September 10, 2024**

(Released Thursday, Sep. 12, 2024)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	28.59	71.41	10.68	0.08	0.00	0.00
Last Week 09-03-2024	45.59	54.41	8.36	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-11-2024	98.79	1.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	96.65	3.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	94.01	5.99	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 09-12-2023	93.54	6.46	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Lindsay Johnson  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

### The West

The West remained mostly dry with little to no precipitation and above-normal temperatures, except for

southern New Mexico where conditions improve mainly on the residual effects of a wet few weeks and aided by below-normal temperatures. Central and northeastern Arizona into southeastern Utah also saw some improvements. Arizona also saw the expansion of moderate drought, overflowing into southern California. Central California also saw abnormally dry conditions expand. Northern Nevada, eastern Oregon and west-central Idaho saw widespread moderate drought expansion due to warm temperatures, lack of precipitation and drying soils. Washington into northwestern Idaho saw severe conditions expand, but extreme dryness was removed in Grant County, Washington as conditions were similar to the surrounding severe drought conditions.

## **Video: A 35 minute interview presenting the structure, history, and Operation of the California Water Management System**

**“California is about to dump 114 billion gallons of water into the ocean.”**

September 12, 2024

35 minute video.

<https://mavensnotebook.com/2024/09/12/daily-digest-9-12-weather-whiplash-helped-drive-this-years-wildfires-ca-about-to-dump-114-billion-gallons-of-water-into-the-ocean-major-habitat-projects-underway-on-sacramento/>

“”The California we know today is really only possible because we move water around—moving water from areas of abundance to areas of need, literally causing the desert to bloom,” says Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Director of Regulatory and Economic Affairs at Milk Producers Council. Siyamak sits down with Geoff Vanden Heuvel, who will explain why this water release may have little impact on the Delta smelt and what it means for the rest of California. “We really cannot afford to waste water in the state. We have to make sure that when we dedicate water to the environment, it does good and protects the environment. We absolutely want to do that and have an obligation to do so, but we must maximize the amount of water we store in wet years so we have it in the dry years,” says Vanden Heuvel.”

<https://youtu.be/fpAynbC6Dk0>

## **Water Wars-- the fight for sanity escalates**

### ***U.S. House of Representatives Committee Members Hearing***

<https://www.farmwater.org/releases/september-6-2024-u-s-house-committee-hearing/>

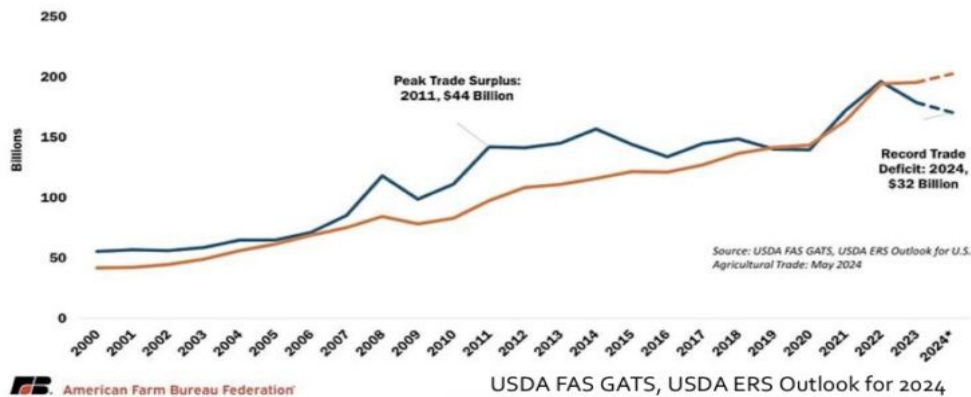
***Santa Nella, CA*** – Today, members of the U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee held a hearing titled “Water Abundance: Opportunities and Challenges in California.”

*The committee members heard from California experts on the impacts of compliance with the Endangered Species Act and associated regulatory efforts on local communities, business, and America’s food supply.*

*“Today’s testimony shows how broken our water supply system has become. The U.S. had*

*an agricultural trade deficit in 2019 where, for the first time in 50 years we imported more food than we exported.” said Mike Wade, executive director of the California Farm Water Coalition. “That trend has continued in three of the last five years. When California farms don’t have water to grow our food, we’re depending on other countries to do it. That’s not good for food security or having safe, affordable food choices for the American people.”*

### **U.S. Agricultural Trade: Exports and Imports (Fiscal Year)**



*Testimony heard from the experts is summarized by topic below.*

#### ***Water Scarcity and Infrastructure Challenges***

*Jason Phillips highlighted the inefficiency of California’s current water management system, where overly conservative and ineffective regulations and lack of new infrastructure prevent water from being stored during wet years.*

#### ***Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Regulatory Burden***

*Ronda Lucas, a water and environmental attorney, critiqued the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for its failure to recover species despite being in effect for over 50 years.*

#### ***Water Scarcity and Infrastructure Challenges***

*Jason Phillips highlighted the inefficiency of California’s current water management system, where overly conservative and ineffective regulations and lack of new infrastructure prevent water from being stored during wet years.*

#### ***Economic and Social Impact***

*Ronda Lucas discussed the far-reaching social and economic impacts of regulatory droughts. She pointed to the high unemployment rates, poverty, and increased instances of respiratory illnesses, particularly asthma, as a result of dust from fallowed fields due to water shortages.*

#### ***Technological Solutions and Innovation***

*Josh Weimer, Director of External Affairs at Turlock Irrigation District (TID), presented an optimistic outlook by detailing technological advancements that improve water management.*

**During Valley stop, Congressional reps receive an earful from local farmers, water**

## managers

If California and the Federal government continue their path of water management “the only plausible outcome will be a level of farmland retirement... we have not seen in our lifetimes,” experts said.

[By Daniel Gligich](#)

September 8, 2024

<https://sjvsun.com/ag/during-valley-stop-congressional-reps-receive-an-earful-from-local-farmers-water-managers/>

Without significant changes to how water is managed in California, the state’s future looks grim as it is held hostage by extreme environmentalists.

That was one of the major takeaways from a House of Representatives field hearing held in the Central Valley on Friday.

### ***Valadao, Calif. Republicans push Reclamation to reconsider proposal for long-term water operations***

*The Bureau of Reclamation has proposed a long-term plan for California’s water operations that Republicans fear puts environmental concerns over people and agriculture.*

[By Daniel Gligich](#)

September 5, 2024

<https://sjvsun.com/ag/valadao-calif-republicans-push-reclamation-to-reconsider-proposal-for-long-term-water-operations/>



An aerial view of the path of the proposed tunnels in the Delta on November 1, 2017. Kelly M. Grow/  
California Department of Water Resources

*California Congressional representatives are pushing back against a new proposal from the Bureau of Reclamation’s plan for the long-term operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.*

*The California Republican Delegation, led by Rep. David Valadao (R–Hanford) sent a letter to Reclamation saying its plan prioritizes environmental goals at the expense of municipal and agricultural water needs.*

***Driving the news:*** Reclamation is currently working on an environmental impact statement (EIS) to

govern water operations in California.

**The big picture:** *The delegation – which also included Central Valley Republicans John Duarte, Tom McClintock and Vince Fong – said the current approach to Endangered Species Act consultation under the draft EIR prioritizes environmental goals that are unrelated to Endangered Species Act compliance.*

- *They argue that the current preferred proposal from Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources seems to disproportionately favor environmental objectives over water supply objectives.*

**What they're saying:** *“Unfortunately, the current proposed operational approach makes delivering water for consumptive uses, including irrigation, subordinate to the use of water for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of protected fish species in the Delta,” the letter reads.*

## **New California water measures aim to increase fines for violators, protect wetlands**

By [Ian James](#) Staff Writer

Sept. 6, 2024 3 AM

<https://www.latimes.com/environment/story/2024-09-06/new-california-water-measure-aims-to-crack-down-on-violators>

Under California law, anyone caught diverting water in violation of a state order has long been subject to only minimal fines. State legislators have now decided to crack down on violators under a newly approved bill that sharply increases penalties.

[Assembly Bill 460](#) was [passed by the Legislature](#) last week and is among the water-related measures awaiting Gov. Gavin Newsom’s signature. Other bills that were approved aim to protect the state’s wetlands and add new safeguards for the water supplies of rural communities.

Supporters say increasing fines for violations will help the State Water Resources Control Board more effectively enforce its orders to curtail water use when necessary.

The legislation increases fines for violations of state water curtailment to as much as \$10,000 per day, plus \$2,500 for each acre-foot of water diverted. (An acre-foot is 325,851 gallons, or enough to cover one acre a foot deep.)

Other proposals have recently encountered strong opposition from agricultural groups and water agencies.

Phillips and other environmental advocates [supported another bill, AB 1337](#), which sought to clarify the state water board’s authority to issue curtailment orders for all diverters, including senior rights holders that use a large portion of the state’s water. But that bill didn’t secure enough support to pass this year in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee.

“Water is often referred to as the third rail in California politics, and we’ve seen that any changes, even modest changes, like 460 and frankly 1337, are met with ferocious pushback,” Phillips said. “But we can’t avoid these issues — climate change, overallocation, they’ve all led to a system where the way that we deal with water just doesn’t work.”

## **Fires: An Explosive Eruption of Wildfires the Last Few Weeks**

There have been 6,078 fires that have burned 977,932 acres in the state this summer.

## ***INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS: ‘Weather whiplash’ helped drive this year’s wildfires***

*Inside Climate News*

September 12, 2024 <sup>0</sup>

<https://mavensnotebook.com/2024/09/12/inside-climate-news-weather-whiplash-helped-drive-this-years-wildfires/>

***Exceptionally wet winters drove a boom of grasses and shrubs that a record hot summer dried into the fuel powering the Park Fire in Northern California, the Line Fire outside Los Angeles and other conflagrations.***

*By Caroline Marshall Reinhart, Inside Climate News*

*This article originally appeared on [Inside Climate News](#), a nonprofit, independent news organization that covers climate, energy and the environment. It is republished with permission. Sign up for their newsletter [here](#).*



*While many Californians are praying for rain heavy enough to slow the spread of the 6,078 fires that have burned 977,932 acres in the state this summer, firefighters and climatologists recognize that the heavy winter rains are a big part of what have led this fire season to scorch around three times as much total acreage as in 2023.*

*After Northern California's brutal summer of fire, including the massive Park Fire that is now the fourth largest wildfire in state history, Southern California exploded with fires this month. The Line Fire in San Bernardino County northeast of Los Angeles grew to 35,000 acres in the week since it ignited, threatening tens of thousands of homes and forcing the evacuation of thousands of residents.*

*While there were 5,053 fires that burnt 253,755 acres by September 11 in 2023, by that date this year, about a thousand additional wildfires had collectively burned over 3.85 times more acres. Much of the increase can be attributed to what climatologists are calling "weather whiplash."*

*Over the past four years, California's weather has swung from drought between 2020 to 2022 to two excessively wet years in 2023 and early 2024. That moisture fueled a surge of growth of what are known as fine fuels—grasses, small shrubs, moss and twigs that grow quickly and ignite easily.*

*While dry years leave a grassland looking like a dried out lawn, wet years can produce waist- or head-high grasses. When hot and dry conditions return that heavy fuel load of grasses cures quickly, ignites easily and burns hot and fast with flames that race across the landscape far faster than a forest fire to spread the blaze to trees or structures.*

*The previous two years' wet winters and [atmospheric rivers](#) supercharged grass growth, but then the record-breaking summer heat cured vast grasslands into fuel.*

## **More than 36,000 homes and structures threatened as Line fire grows to 20,553 acres on Sunday night**



Smoke from the advancing Line fire rises above a ridge in Mentone in San Bernardino County, Calif., Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024. (AP Photo/Eric Thayer)

By [Beau Yarbrough](#) | [byarbrough@scng.com](mailto:byarbrough@scng.com) | San Bernardino Sun

UPDATED: September 9, 2024 at 12:14 a.m.

<https://www.pressenterprise.com/2024/09/08/line-fire-grows-to-17459-acres-on-sunday-with-no-containment-more-evacuation-warnings-issued/>



[utm\\_email=B51014E1058465721575842378&utm\\_source=litrak&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=https%3a%2f%2fwww.pressenterprise.com%2f2024%2f09%2f08%2fline-fire-grows-to-17459-acres-on-sunday-with-no-containment-more-evacuation-warnings-issued%2f&utm\\_campaign=scng-pe-localist&utm\\_content=curated](https://www.pressenterprise.com/2024/09/08/line-fire-grows-to-17459-acres-on-sunday-with-no-containment-more-evacuation-warnings-issued/?utm_campaign=scng-pe-localist&utm_content=curated)

The [out-of-control Line fire](#) in the San Bernardino Mountains grew to 20,553 acres on Sunday evening, up from 17,459 acres on Sunday morning and from 3,833 acres on Saturday morning, with zero containment. Evacuations and evacuation warnings soared along with the number of people threatened by the blaze.

According to San Bernardino County spokesperson David Wert, by 4:24 p.m., an estimated 23,200 people were under evacuation orders. Another 94,000 were under evacuation warnings.

Cal Fire late Sunday estimated the total number of homes and structures at risk at 36,328.

The fire that started Thursday largely burned in grass up to 2 1/2 feet tall and chaparral up to 6 feet. It generated massive volumes of smoke.

The fire was so intense on Saturday that it created its own storm clouds. The National Weather Service recorded thousands of lightning strikes, including over 280 ground strikes.

Thunderstorms and lightning strikes had created “havoc” for firefighters, according to Carhart.

“They’ll get wind shifts that just happen in a matter of moments,” he said.



## Feature: Presidential Campaign News

Since Kamala Harris presents little of substance in her so-far statements of an overall policy on the the economy, outside of a few soundbites, this week we will cover the policy of Donald Trump as he presented it a week ago to the *The Economic Club of New York*. The article is from *Promethian Action*

### Donald Trump's Triumphant Economics for Everyone

September 8, 2024

<https://www.prometheanaction.com/donald-trumps-triumphant-economics-for-everyone/>

Trump presented many new ideas for an America First prosperous and peaceful future, perhaps the

most interesting being his discussion of creating a sovereign wealth fund to invest in and finance “great national endeavors... all for the future.”

AT THE ECONOMIC CLUB OF NEW YORK—SEPTEMBER 5, 2024... FIRST, President Trump will immediately issue a National Emergency Declaration to achieve a massive increase in domestic energy supply. With these sweeping authorities, he will blast through every bureaucratic hurdle to issue rapid approvals for new drilling, new pipelines, new refineries, and new power plants and reactors. Prices will fall immediately in anticipation of new supply. @DanScavino / Truth Social  
September 08 2024 11:57 AM 7 min read

Donald Trump went to the New York Economic Club on September 5<sup>th</sup> and presented a thoroughly composed program for getting this country out of its present destructive economic spiral where inflation is making life itself unaffordable for much of the country while a galloping federal deficit imprisons fiscal policy. Trillions of dollars are also going to fund endless wars undertaken for the strategic benefit of the modern British led financial empire.

Trump presented many new ideas for an America First prosperous and peaceful future, perhaps the most interesting being his discussion of creating a **sovereign wealth fund** to invest in and finance “great national endeavors, from highways, to airports, to modern transportation and other infrastructure, all for the future.” Needless to say, this bold and exciting speech has been butchered by the national news media if given any coverage at all. We suggest you take in the full speech here as it is well worth your time.

## **Honoring the American System**

*Trump's solutions draw heavily on the unique American System of political economy invented by Alexander Hamilton, championed by Friedrich List, revisited by Abraham Lincoln to win the Civil War, and utilized by presidents through William McKinley to build this country into the most powerful economic force then known to humanity. Franklin Roosevelt used it to win World War II based on superior logistics in depth. John F. Kennedy had begun to revisit and implement its essential features when he was assassinated. It is what the British oligarchs hate about this country as it defeats their free trade, rentier finance system of slavery for the unwashed multitudes. Trump specifically referenced the American System in his 2016 presidential campaign and this speech has the same historical lineage without specific reference to it.*

## **Biden/Harris - A Disaster For The American Family**

Trump began his speech by outlining the economic disaster created by the Biden/Harris administration. In addition to what Trump said about this administration, we note here that they sold themselves to the country as the so-called “adults,” the schooled and competent people who follow the present economic orthodoxy set by the world’s central banks and the international financial blob resident in Wall Street, the City of London, and Brussels. This has been an intentionally caused disaster for American families and the majority of the population as Biden/Harris set all of their economic policies around implementation of the World Economic Forum’s Green New Deal, an economic policy designed to dismantle what is left of American manufacturing, industry, and advanced agriculture and absorb this nation as a failed and backward outpost in the globalist imperial order.

*Trump noted that the average family has lost \$20,000 due to inflation; one in three families have maxed out their credit cards, you now must earn at least \$110,000 a year to afford to buy a home, more in many locations, 8.4 million Americans are working second jobs just to survive. Real wages of minorities have plummeted from where they were under the Trump presidency. Some 21 million*

mostly low skilled workers have entered the country illegally based on the Biden/Harris open border policy and are now creating even further issues with scarce available housing and stretched education and healthcare resources, not to mention their impact on cheapening real wages in the economy as a whole and the criminal havoc many of them are causing in our major cities. Such job growth as Biden and Harris have claimed consists of post-pandemic bounce back jobs or jobs now held by immigrants.

## **The Root Causes Of Inflation**

Trump correctly pinpointed the two major causes of the present inflationary spiral –the Biden/Harris energy policy and the misnamed Biden/Harris Inflation Reduction Act meant to implement the Green New Deal. As he said, high energy costs increase the cost of everything produced particularly where, as here, the reliance on wind and solar results in a drastically lowered energy input into the production process overall. The available energy produced through such means may be adequate for a feudal society. It is grossly insufficient for a modern nation state economy seeking to grow its way out of crisis.

## **A National Energy Emergency**

Trump said he would declare a national energy emergency immediately upon entering office with the goal of cutting energy prices in half during his first year in office. *He envisions using all forms of energy, including nuclear energy, and embarking on an aggressive program to permit “new drilling, build new pipelines, new refineries, new power and electric plants, and reactors of all types.”* The aim is to make the country completely energy independent and vastly increase available electricity for purposes of new manufacturing, industrial growth, AI, and other new technologies.

## **Exit The Paris Climate Accord**

He will withdraw the United States from the destructive Paris Climate Accord and end all policies associated with the Green New Deal, including the electric vehicle mandate, clawing back monies allocated in the Inflation Reduction Act and redeploying them for productive purposes. He estimates that this will save taxpayers around \$1 trillion.

## **Musk To Head A Government Efficiency Commission**

The next steps in his program involve cutting unnecessary regulations which hinder physical economic development, growth, and the ability to build. He will establish a government efficiency commission, led by Elon Musk, to conduct a complete financial and performance review of the federal government. *The aim is to massively cut fraud and improper payments in another major step to reduce the spiraling federal deficit.* Musk has proved himself an expert in harnessing the creativity and mission orientation of his teams to create wholly new and more efficient ways of doing things (witness Space X’s reusable rockets) while producing results on time and on budget.

## **Tax Cuts for Industry and Fundamental Research**

Trump’s tax policy will be based on rewarding fundamental research and development and American industry and manufacturing with low tax rates and punishing those who insist on manufacturing and producing offshore with maximum tax rates in addition to punitive tariffs. *He will end taxes on tips and on social security benefits.*

## **America First Manufacturing**

The heart of the speech was addressed to his America First manufacturing policy and the use of tariffs and incentives to benefit American producers and make the United States a manufacturing superpower once again. *He provided a history lesson on the McKinley tariffs and the huge revenues brought into the country as a result. After McKinley was assassinated, Teddy Roosevelt was able to use the vast funds generated by McKinley's tariff policies to build much of the infrastructure of the country.* Again and again, he returned to the fundamental policy of favorable tax treatment for producers and innovators and punitive tax and tariff policies for those who offshore production and send jobs overseas. He noted that some might call his policy “economic nationalism.” He calls it “common sense.” He noted that much of our defense production is done overseas, an insane practice which he will stop by insisting that anything associated with America’s military be built here in the United States.

## **Protect Free Speech And Restore Justice**

With respect to foreign policy and the current lawfare and censorship jihads being conducted by the Biden/Harris administration, Trump noted that he would return the country to a system of free speech and expression and impartial justice for all. *He said that he would seek an immediate end to the Ukraine war with an additional emphasis on doing the same in the current crisis in the Middle East.* His overarching theme was that he got along and negotiated with other world leaders and did not seek to go to war with them, that the forever wars which are draining our treasury and destroying our national honor must end and he will end them.

## **Housing For All (Citizens), Including Young Americans**

To put a fine point on his overall economic thrust he discussed the issue of housing, which few young Americans at this point can afford. He promised to bring down interest rates and attack the regulations which make it difficult to build. He also said that he would undertake a massive homebuilding program to increase the supply of affordable housing using unused federal lands for new cities, among other measures. He noted that California now has a plan to provide housing funds to illegal immigrants while our veterans lay homeless on its streets. He will prevent this from taking place. He noted that the flood of illegal immigrants is driving up the cost of scarce housing throughout the country. *Under Trump's plan there will be no taxpayer funded assistance of any form extended to illegal immigrants in addition to a deportation program which will thoroughly discourage any further open border invasions of the country.*

## **A Sovereign Wealth Fund for the United States**

Perhaps the highlight of the speech, was his plan for a Sovereign Wealth Fund, a device recently used by China and the Gulf States to build their countries. Trump says that revenues generated by tariffs and other government revenues would be housed here to **“build extraordinary national development projects and everything from highways to airports and to transportation, infrastructure, all of the future. We'll be able to invest in state-of-the-art manufacturing hubs, advanced defense capabilities, cutting edge medical research and help save billions of dollars in preventing disease in the first place.”** The major national projects outlined by Trump reflect the types of projects funded by the First and Second National Banks of the United States. While not using that term here, the concept is similar.

## **Make America Healthy Again**

Toward the end of the speech, Trump acknowledged the endorsement of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and the crucial role he can play in preventive medicine and ensuring that the foods we eat are safe and healthy. It is also obvious, apart from this specific reflection by Trump, that RFK, Jr. can play a huge role in putting our entire medical establishment back on a scientific trajectory and ending the role of major insurers and Big Pharma in destroying the nation's health while massively profiting from that destruction.

## **Q & A - The Overuse of Sanctions**

Trump took questions at the end of the speech. Perhaps the most important was a question about sanctions. He warned that the present overuse of sanctions by the Biden Harris Administration is threatening the role of the dollar as the world's reserve currency. He noted that if that role ends, the economic impact will be massive, "like losing a war." He said that he would use sanctions but would terminate them as soon as possible and that tariffs would be his primary tool in ensuring that trade and economic relations were beneficial to the United States and in stopping wars and achieving peace.

## **Not Global Warming, But Nuclear Warming**

During the question-and-answer session he also again returned to the theme of war and peace. He noted that there was not a problem with global warming but there was a huge problem with "**nuclear warming.**" By that he meant the current dangerous threat of nuclear war engendered through the bad leadership of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. Speaking to Jamie Dimon, the head of JP Morgan/Chase who was in the audience, Trump said, "**You can be head of the biggest bank in the world, but a couple of nukes and your bank does not mean a thing.**" He noted that American presidents have a huge role in preventing such a war from happening, and that "**we have to get along.**" If a president does not do this job right, "**bad things will happen to the world, things like you've never seen before.**"