

California Drought (and Flood) Update



For June 8, 2017

by Patrick Ruckert

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

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It is not a surprise that the same economics profession that was oblivious to the coming collapse of the dot-com bubble, the 2007-2008 financial disaster, and the presently looming collapse of corporate debt, is hopelessly wrong about the value of infrastructure. Infrastructure projects are usually treated one at a time, and on a cost-benefit basis. Public-private partnership (PPP) financing is all the rage, with the expectation that private funds can be brought into infrastructure investment, in the hopes that income generated by the completed project will be able to directly repay the investment. This approach to the economics of infrastructure is a total disaster, fundamentally failing to assess the true value of infrastructure.

Rather than trying to build up an adequate understanding of infrastructure from components, it is best to begin afresh. To that end, consider infrastructure not as pieces and not only in the present, but as stages of successive platforms for human economic and scientific activity.

A Future Platform of U.S. Infrastructure, Case Study: New York City

by Jason Ross

Executive Intelligence Review

June 9, 2017

A Note To Readers

About a year and one-half ago as the California Water Resources Board and other water authorities were facing a water emergency and reversed the flow of the Delta-Mendota canal, I wrote that the entire California water management system was now like a juggler attempting to keep too many balls

in the air-- he will fail. Something in the California system will break, sooner or later, I wrote. In February the Oroville Dam spillway broke. But really, it was not the spillway that broke, the entire system is broken. Oroville Dam is just the most visible element of that broken system. Thus, the quote above points to the principle that unless you approach the question of infrastructure as a system, not piece by piece, only then will it be possible to build that which is required today, and more importantly, what will be required by at least two generations to come. Jason Ross's article will be again featured in my report next week.

I have rewritten the article I posted last week on Oroville Dam, "**Oroville Dam Catastrophe: Once Again, A Wake-Up Call For the Nation,**" and it will be found immediately below.

Then following our obligatory U.S. Drought Monitor and Reservoir Graph, the rest of this report includes more reports from Oroville Dam, the Huntington Beach desalination plant, warnings of rationing from the waters of the Colorado River and more warnings of an intense fire season this summer and fall.

These reports are followed by items on President Trump's infrastructure policy and his withdrawing from the Paris Climate Accord, with both areas set in the context of real physical economy.

A new section, "From the Archives" concludes this week's report.

Oroville Dam Catastrophe: Once Again, A Wake-Up Call For the Nation

By Patrick Ruckert

June 4, 2017

When will this nation get back to work, rebuilding itself and building a future? This magazine presented last week the disaster that is the New York City transportation system. We can traverse the nation and find innumerable infrastructure disasters. The Trump administration this week is holding a series of events to focus on infrastructure. The Democrats in the Congress are talking about their proposed infrastructure program, but have yet to submit a bill.

The President under assault by the combined forces of the British Empire, the intelligence community, the loser element of the Democrats, and the incessant noise of the media, nevertheless has redefined the relations of the United States with the rest of the world. That is good.

Now he must deliver on his promise to make America great again. That simply means putting millions of people to work to build a great nation. It can no longer be a nice slogan. It must deliver results.

The promise of the President to build and rebuild America's infrastructure echoes exactly what President Franklin D. Roosevelt did do, along with his other programs, that not only created the physical economic powerhouse that could fight and win World War II, but saved the lives, and changed the lives, of millions of Americans all through the 1930s.

The American people must stand up and demand that the President and the Congress put up or the continued collapse of the nation will shut them up. That should not and must not be where we are going.

While the President has sounded many of the right notes of the symphony required, as specified by Lyndon LaRouche's Four Laws, the lack of action to carry through threatens to demoralize those who

wish him to succeed. President Trump clearly means what he says about returning to the American System of Alexander Hamilton; he clearly means what he says about infrastructure, putting Americans in space again and reindustrializing the nation. He must be pushed to and be allowed to do it.

Yet after decades of mind-numbing environmentalist propaganda, drug usage, and the loss of any sense of being a productive nation, much of our population now accepts that nothing good can be done. Or, if it is done, it won't make much difference anyway.

That may be, but it can be changed in a minute. So, let's look at one of those “minutes” that changes everything, and there we will find that once sacrosanct procedures, laws, regulations and even financing died when it was necessary that they do so.

The Oroville Dam near catastrophe: A wake up call for the nation

My article in the March 3, 2017 issue of EIR, “Oroville Dam’s near catastrophe: A wake up call for the nation,” http://www.larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2017/eirv44n09-20170303/35-38_4409.pdf began with this:

"Late Sunday afternoon on February 12, an emergency alarm was sounded by the Yuba County, California Sheriff:

'This is an evacuation order. Immediate evacuation from the low levels of Oroville and areas downstream is ordered. A hazardous situation is developing with the Oroville Dam auxiliary spillway. Operation of the auxiliary spillway has lead to severe erosion that could lead to a failure of the structure. Failure of the auxiliary spillway structure will result in an uncontrolled release of flood waters from Lake Oroville. Immediate evacuation from the low levels of Oroville and areas downstream is ordered. This in NOT A Drill. This in NOT A Drill. This in NOT A Drill.'

"Soon, 188,000 people were in their cars, jamming the roads and becoming more and more panic stricken as authorities over emergency broadcast networks were warning that the Oroville Dam emergency spillway could collapse within the hour. Had it done so, a 30-foot wall of water would have swept down the valley of the Feather River. The casualties would have been in the thousands."

For those 188,000 people that day was terrifying.



Oroville Dam and spillways

Aerial photo taken Sunday morning, February 12, shows water running over the emergency spillway, at the left, and down the hill into the diversion pool. The broken main spillway flows at center and the dam is at the far right.

The near catastrophe began when on February 9 the spillway of Oroville Dam began disintegrating, sending huge chunks of concrete and millions of tons of earth and rocks into the Feather River below the dam. The Oroville Dam is the tallest dam in the nation at 770 feet and is a lynchpin of the entire California water management system that provides water to nearly 30 million people and irrigates millions of acres of the nation's most productive farm land.

Immediately, the water down the spillway was stopped and the reservoir behind the dam began to rise and then over-flowed into the emergency spillway, which had never been used in the fifty year life of the dam. That was on March 9, and three days later, as it became clear that the foundation of the emergency spillway was being undermined by the water flow, threatening to collapse it, the emergency evacuation order was issued. Only by opening the gates of the damaged spillway once again was the immediate danger alleviated.

Tear up all the rules

While the Oroville Dam spillway collapse has been a wake-up call for the nation that one can ignore deteriorating infrastructure for only so long before disaster strikes, it is what has happened since at the dam that provides us with another wake-up call, this one demonstrating how the rebuilding of the nation must be done.

What has occurred in the four months since the dam's spillway busted goes far beyond the streamlining of regulations called for by President Trump. The entire regulatory structure of the state and federal governments has been thrown in the garbage can, including the normally required and usually obnoxious environmental impact statement. There has been no years long study of the problem, no drawn out court battles delaying construction, and no bureaucratic or other delaying action allowed by the legislature, the Congress or anyone else.

That spillway must be repaired and repaired fast. And so the announcement, bidding and awarding of contracts process, which normally takes years, has been done in less than two weeks. The actual construction work to repair the spillway began in early May, after more than two million tons of rock and dirt washed into the Feather River had been removed. That job was done on a 24 hours per-day, seven days a week schedule.



Excavators remove debris from the Diversion Pool below the main Oroville Dam spillway in this photo from March 29. (Bill Husa-- Mercury-Register)

The construction contract to rebuild both the broken spillway and the emergency spillway was awarded to the Kiewit Corp., an internationally renowned contractor for big jobs. Work is now proceeding on a six-day per week and 20 hours per day schedule.

Earlier, on April 12, as reported by the Chico Enterprise-Record, Bill Croyle, state Department of Water Resources Acting Director said that normally, a project of this size would take years just for the planning. “We need hours and days for approval vs. weeks, months and years,” he said. Rather than have paperwork shuffle back and forth, staff from agencies will meet together, Croyle said.

Having already spent over one-quarter of a billion dollars in removing the debris, the repair job contract adds another \$275 million, putting the total over \$500 million. That does not include the costs to repair other damages resulting from the emergency not directly related to the dam. Over the two to three years expected to complete the project, the total cost will probably verge on \$1 billion.

From where would that money come? Virtually out of thin air. It certainly had not been budgeted. The Governor, Jerry Brown, requested from FEMA emergency funds for repairing the spillway and other infrastructure damaged by the winter storms. On April 2, the Trump administration announced that the President had approved federal aid to California of \$274 million for Oroville Dam repair and other needs.



Heavy equipment works Wednesday to break up remaining concrete on the lower part of the damaged main Oroville Dam spillway so a replacement can be constructed. (Bill Husa — Mercury-Register)

Who in the Congress is saying that what is being done at Oroville Dam should be done for the New York City subway and train system and another hundred similar disasters all around the nation? Not a one of them. Do we hear that from the Trump administration? Not yet. How about from the American people? If not terrorized by 20 years of hell and destruction that our own government has hit them with, perhaps they are numbed by the drugs and entertainment they ingest.

So what? We have the example of Oroville Dam, so let us use it to shake them all to life once again.

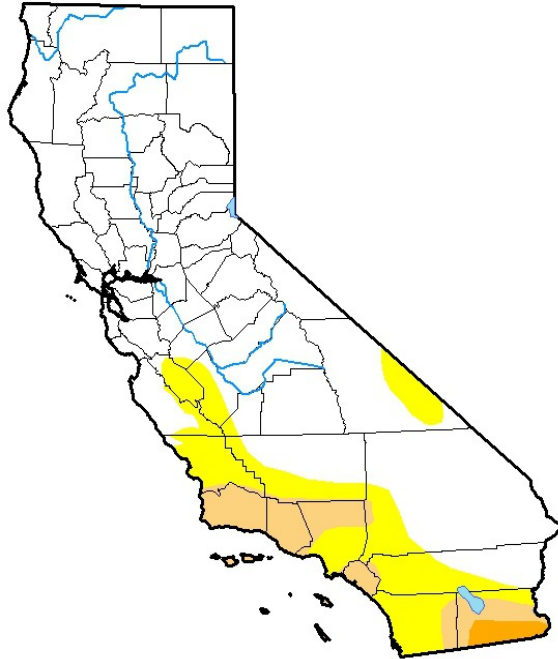
As we have seen in the Oroville Dam case, when something must be done, neither money, nor the EPA, nor the permitting and bidding process will be allowed to hold back getting the job done.

That is the spirit required to rebuild the nation. That is the new wake-up call for the nation from the Oroville Dam catastrophe.

U.S. Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor California

June 6, 2017
(Released Thursday, Jun. 8, 2017)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	76.47	23.53	8.24	1.06	0.00	0.00
Last Week 05-30-2017	76.47	23.53	8.24	1.06	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 03-07-2017	76.54	23.46	8.24	1.10	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2017	18.07	81.93	67.61	54.02	38.17	18.31
Start of Water Year 09-27-2016	0.00	100.00	83.59	62.27	42.80	21.04
One Year Ago 06-07-2016	4.27	95.73	83.91	59.02	42.99	21.04

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

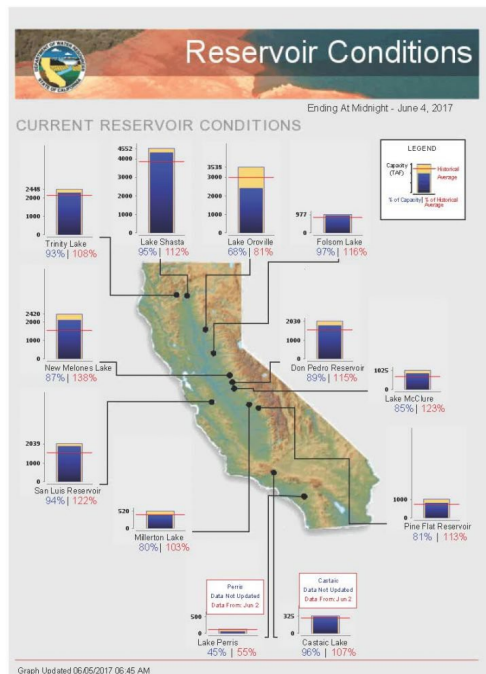
Author:

Deborah Bathke
National Drought Mitigation Center



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

The Reservoirs



Oroville Dam Update

As I stress in the Oroville Dam article above, the potential deadly crisis represented by spillway collapse has provided a lesson that must be applied to rebuilding the entire nation's infrastructure.

That “business as usual” and environmentalist ideology do represent a serious obstacle cannot be emphasized enough. The first item below from March 4 is a good example of such thinking. Two federal agencies a month after the near catastrophe demand that repairs to the spillways be delayed to protect a few fish.

The same mentality is found below in the section on desalination.

The remaining articles in this section discuss the broader questions of the bureaucratic culture that prevents creative thinking about even maintenance of infrastructure, and how the lessons from Oroville are alerting authorities to problems across the spectrum of aging dams in the country.

Federal agencies seek repair delays at Oroville Dam

By Todd Fitchette

Western Farm Press

March 4, 2017

<http://www.westernfarmpress.com/regulatory/federal-agencies-seek-repair-delays-oroville-dam>

Meanwhile, federal concerns over repairs at Lake Oroville were revealed recently when the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) sent letters to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) – those are the folks who license dams and powerhouses – out of concern that repairs to the spillway and river channel at Lake Oroville could harm fish in the river.

One of the regulatory requirements NOAA and NMFS asked for includes a long series of consultations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) – a move that could very well shut down all repair operations for an undetermined amount of time while regulators debate around conference room tables and trade e-mails and phone calls.

Oroville Dam update: Fracture likely caused by ‘multiple factors’

By Dale Kasler

Sacramento Bee

June 1, 2017

The leader of the independent forensics team studying the Oroville crisis said Thursday that the crack in the dam’s main flood-control spillway likely was caused by a combination of problems.

“We do anticipate there will be multiple contributory factors, no single factor,” said dam safety consultant John France in a conference call with reporters.

He said investigation is being closely watched by dam operators worldwide.

“This investigation and what we find is going to be very important to the dam safety community,” he said. “I’m sure there are lessons to be learned in here.”

France and the other five consultants on his team, in [a preliminary analysis](#) released last month, cited

24 possible causes for the spillway failure, including a faulty drainage system, variations in concrete thickness and corrosion in the structure's rebar.

The forensics group's preliminary findings dovetail with analyses performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a separate board of consultants advising the state on repairing the fractured spillway and the dam's emergency spillway.

California Department of Water Resources officials have said that although the forensics probe is in its early stages, they plan to take the group's analysis into account as [the repairs go forward](#).

Dam officials "adopted design measures to mitigate any of the challenges that the forensics team identified as possible contributors (to the crisis)," DWR engineering chief Jeanne Kuttel said last week. That includes thicker concrete and "state-of-the-art drains," she added.

Experts: Lack of warning at Oroville Dam raises alarm

*ELLEN KNICKMEYER
ASSOCIATED PRESS*

June 1, 2017

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/state/7056234-181/experts-lack-of-warning-at>

SAN FRANCISCO — The sudden collapse of spillways at the nation's highest dam has raised alarm among those building, running and regulating big dams around the world because it seemed to come with little warning the spillways were on the verge of failing, dam experts investigating the crisis at California's Oroville Dam said Thursday.

February's breakup of the main spillway and then the backup spillway at the 770-foot-high (230 meters) Oroville Dam stands as an "extremely significant" event among dam disasters and near-disasters in modern U.S. history, said John France, an engineer leading the investigation by two national trade associations representing dam-safety and dam-engineering professionals.

The significance was only partly due to the size of the Northern California dam, France said.

Unlike most dam failures, which happen in flooding and after signs that a structure is being overwhelmed by water, "what happened was a surprise," France said.

The national Association of State Dam Safety Officials and the United States Society on Dams created the independent panel to try to identify the operational and physical failures that made the two spillways at Oroville Dam give way.

Oroville Dam: Probe of spillway crisis to include DWR's organization, staff

By Heather Hacking

[Chico Enterprise-Record](#) |

June 2, 2017

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/06/02/oroville-dam-probe-of-spillway-crisis-to-include-dwrs-organization-staff/>

Not just concrete and rebar, but "human and organizational" factors that could have contributed to the emergency at the Oroville Dam spillway will be included in the investigation currently underway by an independent team of experts assembled by two national dam associations.

Monday, the Association of State Dam Safety Officials issued a press release stating two experts will

focus on human and organizational factors.

That's exactly what retired UC Berkeley instructor and risk management expert Robert Bea urged when addressing the state Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife Accountability on May 11.

"I'm now surrounded by 20 people who are volunteering their time and experience," to looking into the possible factors that caused the spillway damage, Bea said.

"We are going to come out with another report soon," Bea said, specifically detailing human and organizational factors, he continued.

"My report is saying it was obvious to me back in April that DWR and FERC and the Division of Safety of Dams were following the wrong standards and guidelines, procedures and processes."

When he attended the hearing in Sacramento in May, he said he heard officials from DWR state that safety is the No. 1 priority and that "we manage risks."

"I became personally sick," he said, "because everything I had seen had clearly showed me they did not understand what safety means, nor did they understand what risk means."

The experts who have handled their part of the dam are indeed knowledgeable, he said. But the question is do they have the "right stuff," to have prevented the spillway collapse.

The people at DWR are good people, Bea stressed, and "I wouldn't want to be in their shoes."

However, he doesn't trust the agency to continue to operate the dam.

America's dam crisis—was Oroville just a drop in the bucket?

June 1, 2017 by Lakis Polycarpou

<https://phys.org/news/2017-06-america-crisiswas-oroville-bucket.html#jCp>

But while the Oroville crisis has been averted for the moment, [water](#) experts at the Earth Institute's Columbia Water Center say that the near miss may be a harbinger of things to come—and not just for Oroville.

"There's [a list](#) of some 15,000 dams that are classified as 'high-hazard' in the U.S.," says Columbia Water Center Director Upmanu Lall. "What that means is that if any one of those dams fails, it could be a very big deal."

Lall stresses that the immediate dam crisis is not primarily related to human-caused climate change. He was, in fact, alarmed when the media narrative around the Oroville emergency quickly turned to future climate change risk, rather than focusing on the immediate infrastructure challenge. The current crisis, he says, "has nothing to do with climate change. This is about our total failure at managing risk at a basic level."

'A once in a lifetime opportunity.' Who made money off the Oroville Dam crisis?

By Dale Kasler

Sacramento Bee

June 4, 2017

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/investigations/the-public-eye/article154265149.html>

The fracture of Oroville Dam's main flood-control spillway created a near-catastrophe, spawned

multiple investigations and left lawmakers and locals grumbling about the state's stewardship of the structure. One group isn't complaining, though: the dozens of concrete and gravel contractors, trucking firms, engineering consultants and others that have been paid millions to help the state clean up the mess.

Around \$130 million has been spent so far on emergency work. That figure is expected to grow to something less than \$200 million, said Erin Mellon, spokeswoman of the state Natural Resources Agency. That's down from an earlier estimate of \$274 million. But it doesn't include the \$275 million that Kiewit will earn over the next two years on the permanent repairs.

Desalination

The Huntington Beach proposed desalination plant continues to move toward approval. What grabbed me in this article however is this sentence: "However, the commission concluded that the force of water from the diffuser could put unidentified sea creatures at significant risk, though it said it could not find such special species during its investigation." In other words, we should slow down the permit process because there must be a threat of some kind to some species somewhere at some time. God, this mentality is sick.

Debate continues over proposed Huntington desalination plant amid latest environmental report

By Ben Brazil

Times Community News Daily Pilot News

June 1, 2017

<http://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/news/tn-dpt-me-poseidon-20170601-story.html>

The long debate over Poseidon Water's proposed ocean desalination plant in Huntington Beach continued this week as the California State Lands Commission released a draft of a supplemental environmental impact report analyzing planned additions to the facility that are meant to reduce potential harm to marine life and increase the plant's efficiency.

The supplement to a 2010 EIR addresses the possible environmental effects of a screen and diffuser added to the intake and outflow pipes, respectively, that would be used by the \$1-billion desalination facility proposed at Newland Street and Pacific Coast Highway.

The State Lands Commission report, published Tuesday, concluded that the screen on the intake pipe would help reduce harm to marine animals. The 2010 EIR had already concluded that the intake wouldn't significantly impact sea life.

The commission report said the salinity of discharges through the diffuser wouldn't pose a significant threat to marine populations.

However, the commission concluded that the force of water from the diffuser could put unidentified sea creatures at significant risk, though it said it could not find such special species during its investigation.

Poseidon Vice President Scott Maloni called that finding “scientifically unsound.”

“We don’t think there is evidence that there will be any significant impact to any species, not to mention a species with special status,” he said.

Lake Mead and the Colorado River

Remember as much as one-third of southern California's water comes from the Colorado River.

As Lake Mead Struggles, Arizona Faces Water Cutbacks

By Sara Jerome

June 4, 2017

<https://www.wateronline.com/doc/as-lake-mead-struggles-arizona-faces-water-cutbacks-0001>

A new report by [Western Resource Advocates](#), a conservation group, identifies the stark challenges Arizona faces.

“Arizona’s bank for 40 percent of its water — Lake Mead on the Colorado River — is being drained faster than it can be filled. Projections show that if no action is taken to address the gap between supply and demand, Lake Mead could reach a critical stage within the next few years, triggering progressively larger, mandatory restrictions on Colorado River water use that could have a devastating impact on Arizona’s communities, agriculture, environment, and economy,” the report said.

This is not a long-term problem, according to the report. Arizona could see consequences in the next couple years.

“As soon as 2019, the water level in Lake Mead on the Colorado River could drop below an elevation of 1,075 feet. That will trigger mandatory cutbacks in water diversions from the reservoir under an agreement negotiated between the federal government and three lower-basin states that rely on the river: Arizona, California and Nevada,” [News Deeply reported](#).

Warnings of a Hot Fire Season

Over 100 Million Dead Trees Pose Wildfire Threat In California

By Devin Fehely

June 2, 2017

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2017/06/02/100-million-dead-trees-wildfire/>

More than 100 million dead trees in California are blamed on years of drought and an epidemic number of tree-eating bark beetles.

It’s a dramatic transformation.

CalFire Division Chief Jim Crawford said, “It’s obviously an historic event that’s occurring in California. Tens of millions of trees are dead or dying.”

Years of drought have left California's forests critically weakened. Vulnerable to bark beetles, tiny insects the size of a grain of rice, that are causing big problems.

CalFire estimates more than 102 million trees have died during the state's historic drought, transforming large swaths of the state's majestic forests into tinderbox.

Crawford said, "Dead is dead. So, they will not come back. There will be no way for them to come back. Removing them will be important for fire danger issue as well as just public safety in general for having trees fall."

CalFire is preparing for what could be a challenging fire season, as the lingering effects of the drought continue to alter the state's landscape and raise the risk of wildfires.

"The death of those trees that's occurring throughout the Sierra is having a major effect and will for decades to come," Crawford said.

Wet winter fuels wildfire concerns across the valley

By Chris Kaufman

June 5, 2017

http://www.appeal-democrat.com/news/wet-winter-fuels-wildfire-concerns-across-the-valley/article_1bef824a-4a59-11e7-bdca-337cca76c41f.html

The excessive growth of grassy fuels in the valley, combined with the higher-than-average number of dead trees due to drought and bark beetle issues, have fire officials on high alert.

"I'm concerned this year because we're already seeing the grass crops are thicker, fuller and taller than what we've seen in the last few years," said Linda Fire Protection District Chief Richard Webb. "When fires do happen, they'll be tougher to put out."

Webb said the main issue for people living in the valley is the grass growth.

Infrastructure, the President and More

President Trump this week has made the focus of the White House America's Infrastructure. We shall begin with a quote from American economist Lyndon LaRouche, writing in April 2010:

We should then recognize that the development of basic economic infrastructure had always been a needed creation of what is required as a "habitable" development of a "synthetic," rather than a presumably "natural" environment for the enhancement, or even the possibility of human life and practice at some time in the existence of our human species.... Man as a creator in the likeness of the great Creator, is expressed by humanity's creation of the "artificial environments" we sometimes call "infrastructure," on which both the progress, and even the merely continued existence of civilized society depends.

The President's speech in Cincinnati on June 7 set a good tone for bringing the nation to once again being an industrial, scientific, technological productive economy. But, as yet his administration's Achilles's heel remains the fact that all of its discussion of funding will not work. Only by the full

implementation of Lyndon LaRouche's Four Laws will it be possible to do what the President proposes. http://action.larouchepac.com/know_the_full_story

The second article below shows the limitations of merely leaving the Paris Climate Accord-- it does not guarantee any improvement in the U.S. economy, which as the article reports, is sinking fast.

President Trump on Infrastructure: We Should Be a 'Nation of Builders' Again

June 7 (EIRNS)—In an upbeat speech today in Cincinnati, against the backdrop of the Ohio River, President Trump proposed to make the United States a “nation of builders” again, capable of building projects on a par with the Panama Canal, the Transcontinental Railroad, the Hoover Dam, the National Highway system, etc. In the past, he said, we built those projects in record time. But today, “we don’t do that anymore ... we don’t even fix things.” Whenever anyone proposes fixing things, they’re told there’s no money. That will change, he said.

Before an audience that included representatives of the United Ironworkers, Building Trades, and Laborers Union, among others, as well as many corporate leaders, Trump insisted that people should be inspired by “our legacy of a nation of builders.” We must see into the future, and see that it is bright. Crumbling dilapidated infrastructure—roads, bridges, locks and dams—can no longer be tolerated.

As an example of the “can-do” attitude that used to characterize the way Americans got things done, Trump cited the case of New York Gov. DeWitt Clinton, who 200 years ago had the kind of “bold, daring vision” that built the Erie Canal—even when Thomas Jefferson told him that the project was “madness.” If you want a New Yorker to do something, he said, tell him it’s impossible, and then watch him get it done. Just as occurred when the Erie Canal was built, he vowed, “we will open new paths, just as our ancestors did.” Chastising Democrats for being “obstructionist,” he called on both Democrats and Republicans to come together to rebuild the United States.

Trump made special mention of the importance of the 12,000 miles of inland waterways on which producers, heavy industry, farmers, and others depend. On the river behind him, was a tow of 12 barges.

“Rivers are the lifeblood of our heartland,” he underscored. We depend on our waterways for energy cargo, and yet, our locks and dams are almost half a century old. They are no longer reliable. “There have been no capital improvements.” Americans want to build brand new projects, he said. “Skilled workers are waiting to go back to work.”

Trump made a point of referencing his decision to pull out of the Paris climate treaty, citing it as an example of “outside interests trying to tell us what to do.”

He did not elaborate in detail how he intends to finance his infrastructure program, referencing his plan to generate \$1 trillion in investment in infrastructure, \$200 billion of which, he said, would come from direct federal investment. The federal government must be a responsible partner, he said, which will work with state and local governments to help them prioritize projects.

Paris Agreement Withdrawal, While Needed, Is Not a Growth Plan

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on "Fox News Sunday," talking about President Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, said that the U.S. economy had added 50,000 jobs in coal/oil/gas since January, including 7,000 in May. Pruitt said it is necessary that all power-source industries be stimulated, and that there must be fossil fuel reserve stocks available at power plants in case of interruptions to the grid from accidental or strategic (terrorist) causes.

Fossil fuel industry employment has grown since January with a higher oil price; but the overall U.S. employment picture has remained as stagnant as in Obama's no-growth last year. Manufacturing employment has dropped, construction employment is flat for a year. The U.S. economy's year-to-year job growth is now below 2.1 million, compared to 2.8 million at the start of 2016. More than 600,000 Americans were reported leaving the labor force in May.

The Association of General Contractors (AGC), which is calling for a dramatic new national infrastructure investment program, reported June 2 that both manufacturing construction and public construction are falling. "Manufacturing construction declined 1.9% for the month [of May] and 9.4% year-to-date.... Public construction spending tumbled 3.7% from the prior month and 5.25 for the first five months of 2017. The biggest public segment — highway and street construction — also dropped 3.7% for the month and decreased 3.2% year-to-date. Among other major public infrastructure categories, spending on transportation facilities such as transit and airport construction declined 4.6% year-to-date; spending on sewage and waste disposal plummeted 23.55 and on water supply, 10.9%.

"Association officials urged Congress and the Trump administration to identify new, long-term and sustainable ways to pay to improve and expand aging public infrastructure. They said a budget proposal released last week by the administration should start a debate about the best way to fund and finance new public works projects." That comment came from Stephen E. Sandherr, the AGC's CEO.

Russian Scientists Forecast Global Cooling for Decades or More

June 3 (EIRNS)—A February article in the Bulletin of the Russian Academy of Sciences: Physics, has just come to our attention, in which the Russian scientists dismiss the greenhouse gases and global warming, but predict global cooling for several decades, due to increased cloud cover. The Sun is currently at a solar minimum, with very few sunspots, and relatively little magnetic activity, which allows more cosmic rays to penetrate our atmosphere causing increased cloud cover. Something similar happened in the "little ice age" from ca. 1300 through the early 1800s.

In "Cosmic Rays, Solar Activity, and Changes in the Earth's Climate," authors Stozhkov, Y.I., Bazilevskaya, G.A., Makhmutov, V.S., Svirzhevsky, N.S., Svirzhevskaya, A.K., Logachev, V.I., Okhlopkov, V.P., write:

"Our results could be connected with the mechanism of charged particle fluxes influencing the Earth's climate; it includes, first of all, the effect charged particles have on the accelerated formation of centers of water vapor condensation, and thus on the increase in global cloud cover. The total cloud cover is directly connected with the global temperature of the near surface air layer."

Federal Reserve: 44% of U.S. Adults Cannot Meet a \$400 Emergency, Deems It 'Improvement'

May 28 (EIRNS)—This month the Federal Reserve Board released its fourth annual "Report on the Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2016." Based on surveys conducted in October 2016, the report found:

- Just under one-fourth of adults are not able to pay all of their current month's bills in full.*
- Forty-four percent of adults said they either could not cover an emergency*

expense costing \$400, or could cover it by only selling something or borrowing money. The Fed declared this an improvement, since 50% of adults questioned in 2013 said they were ill-prepared for an expense of that magnitude.

- *Twenty-five percent reported that they had to forgo one or more types of health care in the previous year because they could not afford them.*

From the Archives

President Trump has often invoked the ideas and words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, while never mentioning his name, and it is clear that the President does intent to “Defend the General Welfare” of the people of the United States. On June 4, 1934 President Roosevelt acted to bring relief and lasting policies to the people of the Midwest and the nation in the midst of “Dust bowl” conditions then occurring.

FDR seeks funds for Midwest drought relief, June 4, 1934

By [Andrew Glass](#)

06/03/2017

<http://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/03/this-day-in-politics-june-4-1934-239082>

On this day in 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to appropriate \$52.5 million — about \$7.7 billion in today’s dollars — to mitigate widespread suffering in the Midwest brought on by severe droughts throughout much of the Great Plains.

The economic and social problems that came to the fore as the Dust Bowl in the 1930s actually began in the '20s, triggered in part by poor land-management practices. The area, home to millions of American farm families, already faced difficult conditions in the wake of the Great Depression.



"Abandoned house, Haskell County, Kansas"

By Irving Rusinow, April 1941

National Archives and Records Administration, Records of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics