

California Water and Infrastructure Report

Formerly, the “California Drought (and Flood) Update”



For August 2, 2018

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>

patruckert@hotmail.com

"Science and technology as the primary productive powers generate an inexhaustible force that drives the advancement of human civilization. Humanity has made huge leaps from agricultural to industrial civilization, and is now facing renewed scientific and technological revolutions and industrial transformations, and if the states seize the opportunities these offer, they could enjoy dynamic economic growth and a better life for their people."

Chinese President Xi Jinping

Speech to the 10th BRIC heads of state summit in Johannesburg, South Africa

July 26, 2018

A Note To Readers

With an inspiring cultural optimism that has been lost in the U.S. and Europe, President Xi emphasized the crucial role of scientific progress as the engine of economic construction and the pathway for once and for all ending global poverty.

I urge everyone to read his full speech and see how this idea can give real content to the intent of President Trump to rebuild the nation with a new industrialization and infrastructure building vision.

Full text of President Xi's speech at BRICS Business Forum in South Africa

July 26, 2018

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201807/26/WS5b5a80e3a31031a351e90857.html>

In This Week's Report



MARK RALSTON via Getty Images

The photo above illustrates the dominant news story this week, and this report attempts to highlight the more important elements of the story.

That follows some drought and weather news.

Then we have the increasingly bitter and existential fight, covered more extensively last week, of the California State Water Resources Control Board proposal that would require 40 percent unimpeded flows from February to June on the Tuolumne, Stanislaus and Merced rivers, which are tributaries into the San Joaquin River that feeds the San Joaquin Delta. The move, in what it says is an effort to save the Delta's failing ecosystem, angered farmers, politicians and many others throughout the Central Valley.

In the economics section of this week's report we begin with Jamie Dimon saying "I don't want to scare the public," but, he continues, the system might collapse as the quadrillion-dollar bubble built up since the 2008 collapse by Quantitative Easing react to higher interest rates on the speculative garbage.

That is followed by a few of items on California almonds, the tariff developments and the President's very cordial discussions with the new incoming President of Mexico.

The concluding section this week returns us to following the LaRouche's Economics 8-Week Course.

Drought and the Weather

As the California area of drought slowly intensifies, drought is generally the condition of the entire west, including the Northwest.

Western Oregon, southwest Washington blanketed by 'severe drought'

The percentage of Oregon in 'severe drought' more than doubled in one week, according to U.S. Drought Monitor

[Don Jenkins](#)

Capital Press

July 27, 2018

<http://www.capitalpress.com/Water/20180727/western-oregon-southwest-washington-blanketed-by-severe-drought>

Western Oregon and southwest Washington have deteriorated from moderate to “severe drought” in the past week, the U.S. Drought Monitor reported Thursday.

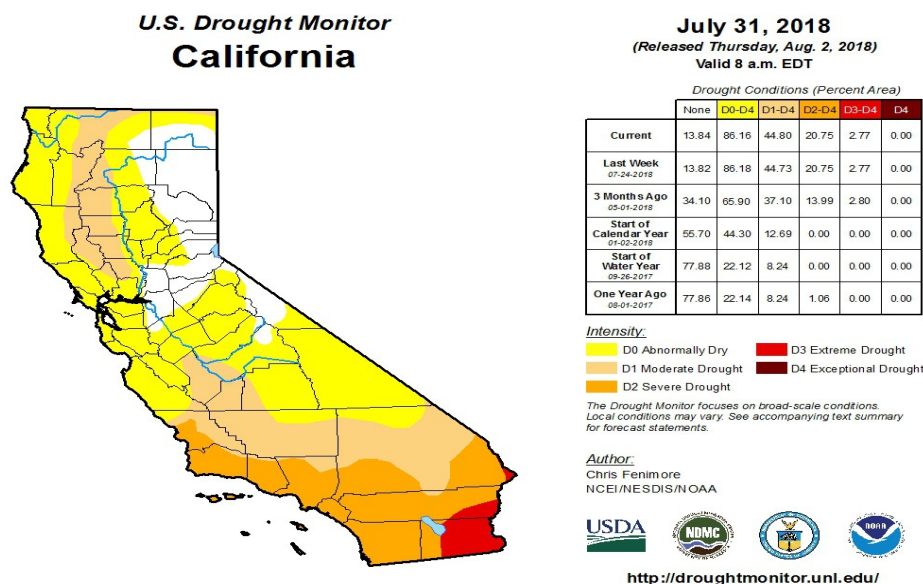
A severe drought that already had covered much of Eastern Oregon crossed over the Cascades into the Willamette Valley and as far south as Douglas County. The percentage of the state in severe drought more than doubled to 55 percent from 25 percent. The southwest corner of Washington, making up 6 percent of the state, moved from moderate to severe drought. It’s the first time any part of Washington has been in a severe drought since late 2015.

The weekly drought report, a snapshot of current conditions, continues a summer-long trend toward drought developing in the Northwest. The USDA reported this week that while some crops were thriving in the heat, others were showing signs of stress.

The USDA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the University of Nebraska collaborate on the Drought Monitor. The four stages of drought range from moderate to exceptional.

Some 83 percent of Oregon and 29 percent of Washington are at least in moderate drought. Most areas not in drought are “abnormally dry,” according to the monitor.

U.S. Drought Monitor for California



Hot, dry weather prompts level three drought rating for Vancouver Island

Nikita Ganovicheff, CTV Vancouver Island
July 30, 2018

<https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/hot-dry-weather-prompts-level-three-drought-rating-for-vancouver-island-1.4033647>

The hot and dry conditions have prompted a level three drought rating for Vancouver Island and coastal British Columbia.

The drought calls for municipal, agricultural and industrial users to voluntarily reduce water-use from all surface-water and groundwater.



Fire, Fire Everywhere



Terray Sylvester via Getty Images

The explosive outbreak of wildfires throughout the state over the past two weeks shows no sign of letting up. In the early 1960s, when forest and water management had a least a development orientation, President John Kennedy dedicated more than a half-dozen water projects in western states. One of those projects was the Whiskey Town Dam near Redding. And it was near the dam that the present Carr fire erupted which is now the seventh worst fire in California history and still only about 33% contained, so likely to move upward on that worst fire list.

And leave it to Governor Jerry Brown to make the most out of this disaster. You will find his statement toward the end of this section.

So, while we read the bad news, here is a moment of optimism from more than 50 years ago: President Kennedy's speech at that dedication ceremony in 1963:

In 1963, President John Kennedy spoke on the occasion of the dedication of Whiskey Town Dam, in Whiskeytown, CA:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VILMSkIDLqA>



Relentless heat to feed California firestorm as Carr Fire death toll reaches 6

By Renee Duff, AccuWeather meteorologist

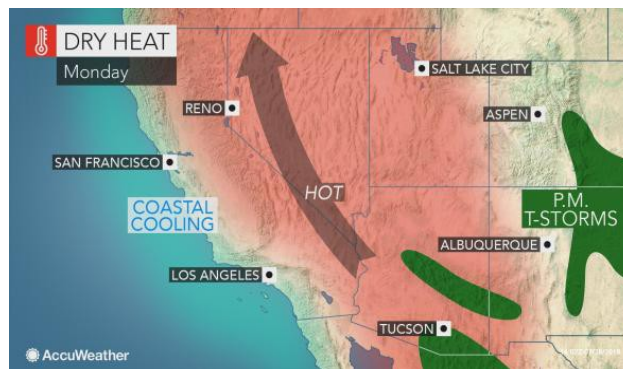
July 30, 2018, 2:55:22 PM EDT

<https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/relentless-heat-to-feed-california-firestorm-as-carr-fire-death-toll-reaches-5/70005629>

The hot, dry weather that contributed to the deadly California firestorm shows no sign of letting up into the first part of August.

"Unfortunately, not much is expected to change in regards to the weather pattern for a majority of the West, with hot, dry weather keeping the wildfire threat at extreme levels through the first days of August," AccuWeather Meteorologist and [western U.S. blogger](#) Jordan Root said.

While [a sweep of cooler air](#) will quell the 90-degree heat in the Pacific Northwest at midweek, Root said the heat relief will not make it south into California or the rest of the Southwest.



Temperatures in the triple digits will remain into the first weekend of August across northern and central portions of California. Temperatures have averaged about 4 degrees above normal this summer.

This includes Redding where the explosive Carr Fire continues to blaze a path of destruction. Highs typically range from the middle 80s at the start of June to near 100 in late July in Redding.

California asks White House for help as fires continue to rage

by Dennis Romero and Andrew Blankstein

July 27, 2018

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/california-asks-white-house-help-fires-continue-rage-n895461>

LOS ANGELES — President Donald Trump on Saturday declared a state of emergency in California due to massive wildfires burning from San Diego to Mendocino County.

A statement from the White House said Trump had authorized the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist firefighters in the state who have been trying to beat back flames feeding off more than a half-decade's worth of drought-starved brush.



Smoke rises from the Carr Fire as it burns along highway 299 near Whiskeytown, California on July 27, 2018. Justin Sullivan / Getty Images

Sixteen Large Wildfires Burn Over 320,000 Acres In California

Posted by: [gina clugston](#) August 1, 2018

<https://sierranewsonline.com/sixteen-large-wildfires-burn-over-320000-acres-in-california/>

CALIFORNIA – Today there are nearly 13,000 firefighters on the lines of 16 large wildfires burning across California.

To date, these fires have burned over 320,000 acres and damaged or destroyed over 1,600 structures. Some 17,000 homes continue to be threatened by these fires, and more than 32,000 residents have been evacuated.

The Carr Fire is now the sixth most destructive fire in state history, surpassing the 2017 Nuns Fire in Sonoma County. California has received resources from over 16 states.

Cooling temperatures will bring some relief, but winds will increase fire danger in several areas of California. In Northern California, humidity will continue to remain in the single digits with little to no overnight recovery. Winds may pick up today increasing to 20-30 mph.

Southern California could see rain in the Riverside and San Diego areas, but temperatures will continue to reach 90 and even triple digits. Humidity will be low in many areas of Southern California reaching as low as 8 to 15 percent in the afternoons.

A new normal for California: Destructive wildfires throughout the state

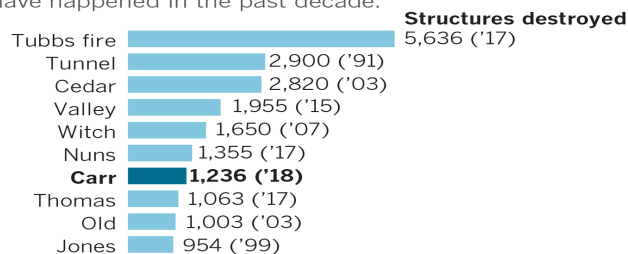
By [Sonali Kohli](#)

Jul 31, 2018 | 10:20 PM

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-california-fires-20180731-story.html>

Carr fire among California's most destructive

Five of the most destructive fires in the state's history have happened in the past decade.



Source: Cal Fire. Structure estimate as of July 31, 2018

@latimesgraphics

(Priya Krishnakumar / Los Angeles Times)

This is the new normal: There are 17 serious wildfires burning throughout California, including one of the deadliest and most destructive in the state's history.

Firefighters this month have been laboring under triple-digit temperatures and dry conditions to gain control over fires that have burned indiscriminately through residential neighborhoods, rolling hills and steep, forested terrain. The flames are stoked by dry brush and areas of dead trees, some of which haven't burned in decades.

How the Carr Fire became one of the most destructive fires in California history: Heat, wind, and drought conspired to create a ferocious, deadly fire.

By Umair Irfan

August 1, 2018

<https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2018/8/1/17637026/carr-fire-california-heat-wildfire-deaths>

The vicious [Carr Fire](#) near Redding, California, has already torched more than 112,000 acres, an area roughly the size of Denver, since igniting on July 23. Flames have destroyed more than 960 homes in and around Redding, a town 200 miles north of San Francisco and home to 90,000 residents. Carr is now the [seventh most destructive fire](#) in state history and the most destructive ever for [Shasta County](#).

The Carr Fire is just one event in an already devastating [wildfire year](#) in the United States, coinciding with vast blazes in other parts of the world, including the [Arctic Circle](#). These fires follow a "global heat wave" of searing, [record-setting heat](#) as well as exceptional drought.

But how did this fire get so acutely bad?

A lot of variables converged to create a sweeping conflagration like the Carr Fire, but in short:

- 1. It's hot.*
- 2. It's dry.*
- 3. It's windy.*
- 4. Just about everything on the ground is flammable.*

Despite some rainfall in the spring, the brush and forests around Redding dried out in the triple-digit temperatures this summer, turning grasses and trees into tinder. "California itself is still trying to recover from drought," Wilkolak said. "We had some dry fuels."

In the background, the climate is also changing. Average temperatures are rising, and the state of California is increasingly ping-ponging between periods of [severe rainfall and extreme drought](#). The conditions in recent years have led to a massive tree die-off, and scientists expect more woodlands to dry out across the West, contributing to larger, more destructive fires.

Jerry Brown: Fire-Fueling Heat Worst 'Since Civilization Emerged 10,000 Years Ago'

By [Bridget Johnson](#) August 1, 2018

<https://pjmedia.com/news-and-politics/jerry-brown-fire-fueling-heat-worse-than-since-civilization-emerged-10000-years-ago/>

With more than 20 active fires small and very large tearing across the state, California Gov. Jerry Brown warned today that “nature is powerful, and we’re not on the side of nature,” and that devastating blazes are “the new normal.”

At a state Office of Emergency Services press conference today, Brown said firefighters would have to adapt to increasingly severe wildfires in the years to come because of climate change.

“We’re fighting nature with the amount of material we’re putting in the environment, and that material traps heat, and the heat fosters fires, and the fires keep burning,” he said.

The governor added that “since civilization emerged 10,000 years ago, we haven’t had this kind of heat condition, and it’s going to continue getting worse and that’s the way it is.”

“Some people don’t want to accept that, some just outright deny it,” Brown continued. “I don’t say it with any great joy here – we’re in for a very rough ride. It’s going to get expensive. It’s going to get dangerous, and we have to apply all our creativity to make the best of what is going to be an increasingly bad situation, not just for California, but for people all over America and all over the world.”

Brown said the state's budget would also have to figure in the cost of increased fire fury in the upcoming years. “So far, this fire activity is a small part of our very large budget, but it is growing and it will continue to grow as we adapt to the changing weather,” he said.

The governor said that steps to combat global warming can still, eventually, “shift the weather back to where it historically was.”

'Fire vortex' winds reportedly uprooted trees, blew roof off house

By [Filipa Ioannou](#)

July 28, 2018

<https://www.sfgate.com/california-wildfires/article/Fire-vortex-winds-uproot-trees-blow-Carr-Fire-13113747.php>

As the Carr Fire [rages through Redding](#), prompting the evacuation of nearly 40,000 people, it's also believed to be creating its own weather, with winds that have the strength to uproot trees and blow part of the roof off a house, causing damage even in neighborhoods that appear unburnt, witnesses are reporting.

"The wind in Lake Redding Estates was so strong during the Carr Fire on Thursday night that it blew the roof off this house," Mike Chapman, a reporter for the Redding Record Searchlight, wrote on Twitter Friday.

[Elsewhere](#) in Redding, [trees](#) have been [uprooted](#) by the force of the winds, which have drawn comparisons to tornadoes from climatologists and fire officials.

"Wind damage in Redding suggests that fire-induced vortex may have behaved similarly to full-fledged tornado," Daniel Swain, a climate scientist at UCLA, [told Active NorCal](#). "Mature trees uprooted, roofs peeled off, high-tension power pylons down, and windows smashed."

California wildfires are breaking the rules by burning downhill fast

July 28, 2018

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/california-wildfires-are-breaking-the-rules-by-burning->

downhill-fast

Right now, on the outskirts of Redding, a rampaging wildfire is doing something that was once unusual: It's burning fast...downhill.

"Fires are burning almost as fast downhill as they burn uphill," said Cal Fire spokesman Scott McLean, from the scene of the Carr Fire, which by midday Friday had torched more than 44,000 acres and was only 3 percent contained.

That's not typical. One of the first things wildland firefighters learn is that fires burn much faster uphill.

It's simple physics: heat rises, so the heat from the fire warms and dries out the upslope fuels fastest. It's also a case of proximity: if you draw a picture of a flame on a slope, you'll see that there's a much shorter distance between flame and ground on the uphill side than downhill, so the fire can jump directly from one blade of grass to another.

Then there's the wind. During the day, when fires are typically most active, wind tends to blow uphill, carrying heat and embers up the slope. Facing a fire coming up a hill has long been a serious threat to firefighters, and fires moving rapidly uphill have been implicated in many of the deadliest fires for firefighters, such as the [South Canyon Fire](#) of 1994 and the [Mann Gulch Fire](#) of 1949, which killed 14 and 13 firefighters, respectively.

Chris Anthony, a division chief at Cal Fire who has worked on fires for more than 25 years, has observed more examples of fires spreading rapidly downhill. The Carr Fire is just one example. Researchers haven't measured this trend yet, so nobody knows for sure why this might be happening, but Anthony has an idea.

"One of the things that really contributes to that, right now, is we came out of this very long drought period, and we still have a lot of fuels out there, that are very dry or very dead, even," says Anthony. "And so they carry fire much more rapidly than prior to the drought."

Mismanaged, overcrowded forests provide fuel to historic California wildfires, experts say

by [Josh Siegel](#)

July 31, 2018

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/energy/mismanaged-overcrowded-forests-provide-fuel-to-historic-california-wildfires-experts-say>

Neglect and mismanagement have left western U.S. forests overcrowded, firefighting experts say, leaving them more susceptible to the kinds of major wildfires that are currently ravaging California.

California state and federal officials have responded to about 4,500 fires this year that have burned nearly 400,000 acres of land, easily outpacing last year's record burns.

Fires are bigger and lasting longer in part due to hotter and drier weather that most experts say is caused by climate change. But overcrowding has also made the fires more intense: The Department of Agriculture reported in December that about 27 million trees had died statewide on federal, state, and private lands since November 2016.

"Our forests are dramatically overcrowded," said Krystal Beckham of the Little Hoover Commission, an independent California oversight agency that has called for major changes in the state's forest management practices.

“There are some places where there may be four times as many trees as there should be,” Beckham said. “When you have trees that close together, they can’t get the water they need, so they are more susceptible to drought, insects, and disease. And when they start dying, they become a terrible fire threat.”

There are two major ways to prevent fires from starting, experts say. The first is for officials to intentionally set fires to take away ignitable material like brush off the forest floor and give trees more space to breathe.

The other method, called forest thinning, involves crews removing small trees to reduce the amount of fuel in dry forests.

But these activities are expensive. And the U.S. currently faces a backlog of needed forest management projects, as federal and state agencies have used more of their budgets responding to wildfires, rather than preventing them.

“Since both the state and federal agencies have been devoting greater and greater resources to suppression to fight the immediate problem, the trickle down of that is less money for strategies on how to get in front of the fire problem,” said John Barnell, the acting CEO and director of the Society of American Foresters.

The Forest Service for years has taken money from other preventative accounts to make up for shortfalls in firefighting funding.

The California Water Plan from Hell

The California State Water Resources Control Board proposal that would require 40 percent unimpeded flows from February to June on the Tuolumne, Stanislaus and Merced rivers, which are tributaries into the San Joaquin River that feeds the San Joaquin Delta. This is really pissing off a lot of people. The last item in this section is what some would call “balanced coverage.

A week after visit to New Melones, Department of Interior blasts state water plan

By Brian Clark

bclark@modbee.com

July 28, 2018

<https://www.modbee.com/latest-news/article215698545.html>

The Department of the Interior late Friday afternoon [issued a blistering attack](#) against the state’s proposed water grab, saying it would “cripple the Central Valley’s economy, farms and community.”

The comments came a week after Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke [visited Don Pedro](#) and New Melones reservoirs at the request of Congressman Jeff Denham, R-Turlock.

Earlier this month, the California State Water Resources Control Board issued a final proposal that would require 40 percent unimpeded flows from February to June on the Tuolumne, Stanislaus and Merced rivers, which are tributaries into the San Joaquin River that feeds the San Joaquin Delta. The move, in what it says is an effort to save the Delta’s failing ecosystem, angered farmers, politicians and many others throughout the Central Valley.

Opponents of the state's plan pointed to what they say will be massive negative impacts on the valley's economy, agriculture and land values, among other things.

The Interior's comments Friday were part of an [eight-page letter to board chairwoman Felicia Marcus](#), and stated the proposal appears "to directly interfere with the New Melones Project's ability to store water. The Board amendments essentially elevate the Project's fish and wildlife purposes over the Project's irrigation and domestic purposes contrary to the prioritization scheme carefully established by Congress."

It also pointed to the effects on New Melones' water storage and the potential to diminish power generation, as well as issues surrounding the area's recreational opportunities. Water from New Melones, which also provides water for the Central Valley Project, flows into the [Stanislaus River](#).

Marcus, [in an article](#) she wrote for *The Sacramento Bee* defending the plan, said "Yes, leaving more water to flow into the Delta from both the San Joaquin and Sacramento watersheds will be challenging for water users, which is why the proposal sends more water but still less than what is optimal for fish and wildlife. Water users can adapt – by switching crops, becoming more efficient and storing more water in wet times. In contrast, species pushed to the brink of extinction have few options."

State Water Board's Plans Generate Protest Rally Plans



By Tori James, MML News Reporter
July 31, 2018

<https://www.mymotherlode.com/news/local/379739/state-water-boards-plans-generate-protest-rally-plans.html>

Sacramento, CA — Stakeholder groups in opposition to state water regulators' intentions to double the volume of spring fish flows are circling the troops.

Democratic Assemblymember Adam Gray, who represents the Merced area, is busily circulating plans for a "Stop the State Water Grab Rally," scheduled for Monday, Aug. 20 in Sacramento. The gathering is slated to take place from noon until 3 p.m. on the North steps of the Capitol Building, facing L Street. The event date falls a day ahead of the Water Board's currently slated Aug. 21-22 meeting during which is anticipates approving a finalized plan.

Ag groups urge board to reject flows plan

More than 50 groups urge California's water board to renew efforts for voluntary agreements along key rivers.

Jul 31, 2018

<https://www.westernfarmpress.com/water/ag-groups-urge-board-reject-flows-plan>

Urging the state water board to reject a proposal to redirect flows in three Central California rivers, a coalition of more than 50 agricultural, water and business organizations encouraged the board today

to renew efforts for voluntary agreements with affected water users.

“This unified response from groups representing farmers, ranchers, and urban and rural residents alike demonstrates the impact the water board’s proposal would have, and the need for the board to explore alternative methods that would help fish without the severe human cost of its current approach,” California Farm Bureau Federation President Jamie Johansson said.

The State Water Resources Control Board is scheduled to vote on the proposal next month. It would commit much more water in the Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced rivers to “unimpaired flows” intended to benefit salmon and other fish.

The agricultural-water-business coalition said the proposal would have “large and unprecedented” impacts on the affected region and that “alternative pathways exist for the achievement of fish and wildlife goals. Well beyond the impacts to farms and water districts, the coalition said, shockwaves from the board’s proposal “are sure to ripple outward to adversely affect businesses, local governments and disadvantaged communities throughout the northern San Joaquin Valley.”

The coalition also warned that the proposal violates the state Constitution’s requirement that water be used reasonably, “by proposing the extraction of huge volumes of ‘unimpaired flows’ from otherwise legal and beneficial water users, at enormous human cost and without any reasonable and commensurate assurance of benefit to the environment.”

State water plan imperils Chicken Ranch tribe’s plan to use land for agriculture

<https://www.uniondemocrat.com/localnews/6409084-151/state-water-plan-imperils-chicken-ranch-tribes-plan>

Here’s what you really should know about about the state water plan

By Ken Carlson

August 01, 2018 03:06 PM

<https://www.mercedsunstar.com/news/business/agriculture/article215923725.html>

Many farmers are caught in a battle over the State Water Resources Control Board’s final Bay Delta Plan, released in early July, which proposes that dams release 40 percent of the natural flows in rivers to benefit the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta from February through June. Water shortages are the primary threat to agriculture in Merced, Stanislaus, and southern San Joaquin County.

“This has been falsely portrayed as a choice between agriculture and salmon. We can have both,” said Mike Jensen, spokesman for the Merced Irrigation District. “Further, this is about an entire community - from our water supply and water quality to the local environment and our economy.”

What follows is important information on questions posed by readers about elements of the water board plan, which could bring profound changes to the Northern San Joaquin Valley. The board could approve the plan following hearings Aug. 21-22 in Sacramento.

The Economy, the Financial System, Tariffs and More

JPMorgan CEO Calls Monetary Blowout Top Risk

July 31 (EIRNS)—Anti-Glass-Steagall fanatic Jamie Dimon gave CNBC's "Closing Bell" yesterday a song-and-dance about how great economic growth is, but when asked what the single biggest risk to the economy is right now, he alluded to the imminent potential for a blowup of the quadrillion-dollar hyperinflationary bubble created by 10 years of Federal Reserve and Western central bank "quantitative easing" (QE).

"I don't want to scare the public, but we've never had QE. We've never had the reversal. Regulations are different. Monetary transmission is different. Governments have borrowed too much debt, and people can panic when things change," JPMorgan's CEO answered.

He also named a trade war as a risk, but the QE blowout is the threat, the big, looming financial "nuclear bomb."

CNBC headlined its report, "The Market Is Dealing with Something It's Never Seen Before That Has Jamie Dimon Worried."

U.S. Almond Farmers Are Reeling From Chinese Tariffs

Prices for California almonds have fallen by more than 10% over past two months

By Lucy Craymer

July 28, 2018 12:00 p.m. ET

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/chinese-tariffs-hit-u-s-almond-exports-1532793600>

Almond Glut Coming?

by [Steve Ringhoff](#) | July 29, 2018

<https://thevalleycitizen.com/almond-glut-coming/>

A glut is typically defined as the point at which supply exceeds demand. It's not that simple, of course, since demand may be cyclical even when supply is consistent. And, a glut can result when supply ramps up past consistent or throttled back demand.

Of the 1,330,000 acres "currently" in almonds, almost one third are so new (young?) they are not yet bearing. Which means one heck of a lot of almonds heading into the production side of the glut equation.

To give you an idea of the size of the almond plantings in California there are almost 2,100 square miles planted in almonds as of the latest figures from the [California Department of Food and Agriculture](#) (CFDA). But, those figures are from 2017 and represent a seven percent increase from 2016.

What, wait! Seven percent times what? That's right, seven percent times 1,330,000. That equals 91,000 more acres in 2018 if plantings grow at the same rate.

The anecdotal evidence does not include Mr. Lionudakis's crew chewing up any almond orchards or any more almond orchards reverting to pasture land.

Other fun numbers include the sheer number of trees. Older orchards were planted at 75 trees per acre, newer ones at up to 180. Using 150 per acre, the number of trees is about 200,000,000. THAT'S ABOUT TWO HUNDRED MILLION, he shouted.

Part of the problem with projecting when a glut might occur is that the demand may be artificially reduced, for example when tariffs are imposed on the import of almonds to a degree that either makes the purchase price to the consumer unacceptable.

This is not a minor issue. About 70 percent of the almonds grown in this region are exported and, thus, subject to tariffs. The almonds go to 90 different countries worldwide, at least some of which, right now, are thinking about imposing tariffs on something being exported by the US.

Mexico President-Elect Tells Trump, We Need a New NAFTA with Development Fund

http://www.larouchepub.com/pr/2018/180723_amlo_trump_nafta.html

July 23, 2018 (EIRNS)—A letter proposing rapid negotiation of a new NAFTA agreement focused on credit for fighting poverty and building infrastructure, was delivered from Mexico’s President-elect Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) to President Donald Trump July 13, via Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and is now on the website of the Mexican political leader.

The letter was highlighted by being read aloud to media July 22 by AMLO’s designated Foreign Minister, Marcelo Ebrard. It said the American and Mexican administrations should work together on trade, migration, development and security. One particularly interesting aspect of the letter is AMLO’s emphasis at the end of the letter, that

“both of us know how to keep our word and we have successfully faced adversity. We have placed our voters and citizens at the center, and displaced the establishment.”

AMLO proposed a new NAFTA—which Trump has also mooted could be agreed by the end of August.

“Prolonging the uncertainty could slow down investments in the medium and long-term. I propose to resume negotiations with the participation of representatives from Mexico, Canada and the United States,”

López Obrador wrote. He also said that his representatives are joining the negotiating team of the current President of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto.

The letter also called on the U.S. to work with Mexico and Central American governments on a development plan to address the root causes of migration, proposing to tackle the poverty and violence that forces people to migrate in the first place, and create jobs while strengthening borders. He announced that Mexico would establish a free trade zone all along the Mexico-U.S. border, and in the rail corridor that will be built across the Tehuantepec Isthmus, as part of his job-creation strategy. With these and other rail and infrastructure projects, “jobs and factories established would create an important number of jobs, and thus prevent the region’s youth from emigrating north in search of work.” And, more broadly, he elaborated,

“every government, from Panama to the Rio Bravo [Rio Grande], would work to make the migration of its citizens economically unnecessary....”

He suggested a fund, that would foster development in the region.

Ebrard said a response from Trump is expected soon. The subject of a fund for major infrastructure projects south of the border, in part to fight poverty and slow emigration to the United States, was already discussed by Trump and AMLO in two phone calls immediately following Mexico’s election on July 1.

Next-Gen Nuclear Is Coming—If Society Wants It

[Nathanael Johnson](#)

July 24, 2018

<https://www.wired.com/story/next-gen-nuclear/>

But then, at a conference in 2011, he met an engineer with an innovative design for a nuclear reactor cooled by molten salt. If it worked, Irish figured, it could not only solve the problems with aging nuclear power, but also provide a realistic path to dropping fossil fuels.

There are reactors that burn nuclear waste. There are reactors designed to destroy isotopes that could be made into weapons. There are small reactors that could be built inexpensively in factories. So many ideas!

To former Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz, an advisor to Terrestrial, it feels as if something new is underway. “I have never seen this kind of innovation in the sector,” he said. “It’s really exciting.”

Other reactors, like Terrestrial’s molten-salt-cooled design, automatically cool down if they get too hot. Water flows through conventional reactors to keep them from overheating, but if something halts this flow — like the earthquake and tsunami in Fukushima — the water boils off, leaving nothing to stop a meltdown.

Unlike water, salt wouldn’t boil off, so even if operators switched off safety systems and walked away, the salts would keep cooling the system, Irish said. Salts heat up and expand, pushing uranium atoms apart and slowing down the reaction (the farther apart the uranium atoms, the less likely a flying neutron will split them apart, triggering the next link in the chain reaction).

This stuff can sound like science fiction — but it’s real. Russia has been producing electricity from an advanced reactor that burns up radioactive waste since 2016. China has built a “pebble bed” reactor that keeps radioactive elements locked inside cue ball-sized graphite spheres.

Feature: LaRouche's Economics in an 8-Week Course

<https://discover.larouhepac.com/>

Class #6: Dispensing with Monetary Theory (July 27/28)

https://discover.larouhepac.com/6_dispensing_with_monetary_theory_july_27_28

In this class we will focus on the fallacy of monetary theory as a whole. Monetarism in all of its forms is based on the oligarchical model of Aristotle. Monetarism is nothing other than a system of oligarchical, imperial control. All of the theories of monetarism go back to the British East India Company and its paid ideologues, Adam Smith and Jeremy Bentham. The entire method is to deny human creative as the source of wealth and to define human beings as motivated by primitive drives such as hunger, sex, etc. Adam Smith was the author of the free trade dogma, of buying cheap and selling dear, all governed invisibly by the magic of the marketplace. Bentham defended usury and pederasty. Monetarism including in its more modern expressions by von Hayek (Austrian-British) and John Maynard Keynes (British) is an assault on the U.S. Constitutional principle of the general welfare. Money, truly conceived, is not an end in itself, but rather a credit policy designed to facilitate increases in potential population density. This class will be given by Dennis Speed.

Here are links to the first five classes:

Class #1: On LaRouche's Discovery (June 22/23)

https://discover.larouhepac.com/1_on_larouche_s_discovery_june_22_23

Class #2: Potential Relative Population Density and Energy Flux Density (June 29/30)

https://discover.larouhepac.com/2_potential_relative_population_density_and_energy_flux_density_june_29_30

Class #3: Thermodynamics of Political Economy (July 6/7)

https://discover.larouhepac.com/3_thermodynamics_of_political_economy_july_6_7?utm_campaign=2018_econ_3_a&utm_medium=email&utm_source=larouhepac

Class #4: The Definition of Economic Value (July 13/14)

<https://larouhepac.com/20180715/definition-economic-value>

Class #5: How Technology is Produced (July 20/21)

Over the last fifty years in the trans-Atlantic region, we have undergone a counter-revolution against science and technology. This has taken the form of a pseudo-scientific ideology of radical environmentalism promoted by the World Wildlife Fund created and run by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands and Prince Philip of the British Empire. This counter-revolution expanded with the counterculture of the 1960s. Instead of science, the existentialism of Nietzsche and Heidegger became rampant on the universities. In this class we will further explore Plato's principle of the hypothesis of the higher hypothesis versus Aristotle's inductive/deductive method, as the basis for the New Paradigm advocated by Lyndon LaRouche. What changes must be made in the composition of the work force so as to achieve this new paradigm? What changes must be made in our educational system? This class will be given by Will Wertz.