



# California Water and Infrastructure Report

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

For November 15, 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>

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*“Just look at California, now engulfed by fires of Biblical proportions. We know how to control the water cycle; we can clear and garden forests, but the environmentalists have insisted, instead, on policies which literally set the state on fire. They now seek to blame nature for their murderous arson. The case is similar with respect to the huge floods and damage from hurricanes which have devastated our states and Puerto Rico. We have not built the infrastructure that would make any damage from natural cycles minimal, because Wall Street speculation robs the economy of the financial flows that could build the flood, wind, and water control projects which have been on the books for decades.”*

## A Note To Readers

A perfect storm has created a double fire disaster in northern and southern California; fires that of the writing of this report are still out of control and the destruction and deaths continue to mount.

President Trump will arrive in the state to tour the fire zones and meet with the victims on Saturday.

The report this week focuses on the fundamental conflict that created the conditions that last year's late Fall fires and this year's became as destructive as they are. That conflict is exemplified by the battle of words between President Trump and all his opponents. Discussion of the fires and aspects of those fires is included.

So, this report begins with that. All else follows toward the end of this report. That includes the U.S. Drought Monitor, some coverage of El Nino, the Oroville Dam Update and the potential of a bi-partisan approach to infrastructure between the Democrats and President Trump.

# The Fire This Time is in California

## Human beings Must Never Allow the Whims of Nature to Determine Our Future; Nor Should We Allow the Minions of Zeus To Do So

If we do, then catastrophes like the ongoing fires in California shall always be the consequences.

After more than 40 years of accepting what most call environmentalism, it is not global warming that threatens us, but it is the continued submission to the idea that mankind is not only in opposition to nature, but that “nature rules,” as some put it. We human beings have never submitted to “nature.” We have always used our creative minds to increasingly shape the natural processes of our environment to increase our well-being. Just one example for now: We invented agriculture and ceased to rely on finding our food growing on bushes or hiding from us in holes in the ground.

As Barbara Boyd writes in her LaRouche PAC article of November 14, “Fog of War Clears: Trump Won, Now We Can Freely Change the Engire World:”

*“Just look at California, now engulfed by fires of Biblical proportions. We know how to control the water cycle; we can clear and garden forests, but the environmentalists have insisted, instead, on policies which literally set the state on fire. They now seek to blame nature for their murderous arson. The case is similar with respect to the huge floods and damage from hurricanes which have devastated our states and Puerto Rico. We have not built the infrastructure that would make any damage from natural cycles minimal, because Wall Street speculation robs the economy of the financial flows that could build the flood, wind, and water control projects which have been on the books for decades.”*

<https://larouhepac.com/20181114/fog-war-clears-trump-won-now-we-can-freely-change-entire-world>

Ask yourself, how did the United States more than 150 years ago conquer what nature presented to us of a 3,000 mile trip from the east coast to the west coast? We built the Transcontinental Railroad.

And how did the Central Valley of California, a “natural” semi-arid near desert region more than 400 miles long, become the most productive agricultural region in the world? We built the Central Valley Project and the California State Water Project.

And, of course, we must not forget, how was it that the impossible distance and unknown dangers that nature presented, that we landed human beings on the Moon? President Kennedy inspired a generation to do that with the Apollo Project.

What we have seen this past week in California, and last Fall's other record-setting disastrous fires, if there is not a fundamental change in our thinking, such disasters will be repeated next month or next year.

What are your children taught from a young age, today? That human beings must submit to the power of nature, and worse, that they, these little children, are a pollution to “mother nature.”

This is an ancient idea that every empire has promoted to protect itself from real creative human beings who do not accept that they shall remain ignorant, enslaved, manipulated and subservient.

Learn the story of Prometheus, for Prometheus is truly our destiny and our identity as human beings.

Prometheus defied Zeus, the God of Olympus, who wished to destroy his creation the human race, for, as he said, they were procreating too fast and had become a “pest” to the world over which he ruled. Prometheus, also a God, disagreed with Zeus and acted to save mankind from Zeus, and from his own

ignorance, by giving mankind fire, knowledge of language, an understanding of the world around him and of the processes and inventions to master to increasingly being able to control the “nature” around him. For defying Zeus, Prometheus was chained to a rock by Zeus's minions to forever to suffer the torture of having his liver devoured by Eagles.

Like the minions of Zeus, the minions of the British empire and Wall Street, and their intent of reducing the human population to less than one billion people, those minions like Jerry Brown, Al “bloody” Gore and others like them, have sabotaged the projects that had they been carried out over the past 40-plus years would have made the raging fires of California today, maybe not impossible, but certainly dramatically more containable.

One example of such projects is the burying of especially the high voltage powerlines that have been responsible for most of the big fires these past two years. A second example is the potential represented by serious programs, now ongoing for more than a decade, of weather-modification experiments like the artificial ionization of the atmosphere to produce precipitation where it is needed.

## **Zeus reacts to President Trump**

President Trump has once again outraged some people with his tweets over the past weekend on the huge and destructive California fires. Notably, but not surprisingly, it is those like the constituency of California Governor Gerry Brown, and others, who can neither tolerate anything the President does or says, and are dedicated to the mythology of man-caused global warming, who are screaming the loudest.

On Saturday, the President's first tweet blamed "gross mismanagement," for the fires, tweeting that federal funds would be cut off if drastic changes were not instituted, without giving any details.

As is the President's wont, he will intervene into areas of controversy, bad policy, or crises points in the most provocative manner possible. He wishes to shake things up, create a dynamic controversy, and challenge existing institutions and policies that have for decades produced an America and a world that is not “great.” That his critics do not understand that and they fall into his trap and react in the manner they do, just amplifies the power of the President's intervention. That is what he did in regard to North Korea's nuclear weapon threat; what he did with the Paris Climate Change commitment; and what he has done with the TPP and NAFTA.

So the President's first tweet on the California fires elicited the expected outrage. In fact, so outraged was the reaction, most did not notice that on Friday the President approved an emergency declaration for the state, making federal funds for fighting the fires and for recovery from the fire available. And on Monday approved the request from Governor Brown for a federal declaration of a major disaster, allowing even more funds to be sent to the state, and makes additional federal assistance available to victims of the fires.

Over the last week, as the two major fires in the state have gone from disasters to catastrophes, the President send his second tweet Saturday evening, tweeting support for the firefighters, the homeowners and the tragic victims of the wildfires. "God bless them all," he tweeted. But still the media, the president's political opponents, and now some so-called scientists have kept up the attacks on him.

These fires are, as the President said, the result of mismanagement-- a mismanagement produced by more than 40 years of the culture and economy of environmentalism and deindustrialization. After 1971 and the destruction of the Bretton Woods fixed-exchange rate global regulated financial system, the destruction of the greatest industrial, scientific and productive economy in history has had more than four decades to produce a nation that not only cannot do great things, but is incapable of even

thinking of doing great things.

## The Fires

There are two main fires now burning in California. More than 230,000 acres have burned in the past week. Including small ones, there have been more than 500 fires in the state in the past 30 days. More than 300,000 people have been forced to evacuate their homes in the state.

The Camp Fire in Central California's Butte County, north of Sacramento, erupted on Thursday, November 8, and is now the single-most destructive fire in state history. More than 250,000 people have been forced to evacuate. The fire has, as of Thursday, torched more than 138,000 acres, destroyed more than 10,000 buildings and killed at least 63 people. More than 600 people are still unaccounted for, mostly from the 26,000 population town of Paradise, which was 80-90 percent destroyed. As of this morning the fire is 35 percent contained and full containment is not expected before the end of November.

"Paradise was literally wiped off the map," said Tim Aboudara, a representative for International Association of Fire Fighters. He said at least 36 firefighters lost their own homes, most in the Paradise area.

The other major fire is in Southern California. The Woolsey fire in Los Angeles and Ventura counties, as of Thursday morning, has burned more than 98,000 acres, and killed three people so far. It is just over half contained at this time. It has destroyed 504 structures, and 57,000 others are threatened. The entire city of Malibu has been evacuated, along with a 10s of thousands of people in the area.

A second fire near the Woolsey fire, named the Hill Fire, is in Ventura County, had burned 4,531 acres and was 96% contained as of Thursday morning.

## A Perfect Storm

A combination of strong winds, very little moisture in the air and extremely dry ground from months of drought created a volatile moment for these wildfires to rapidly expand. And like the fires last fall, both the Camp Fire and the Woolsey Fire appear to have been sparked by electrical equipment failures.

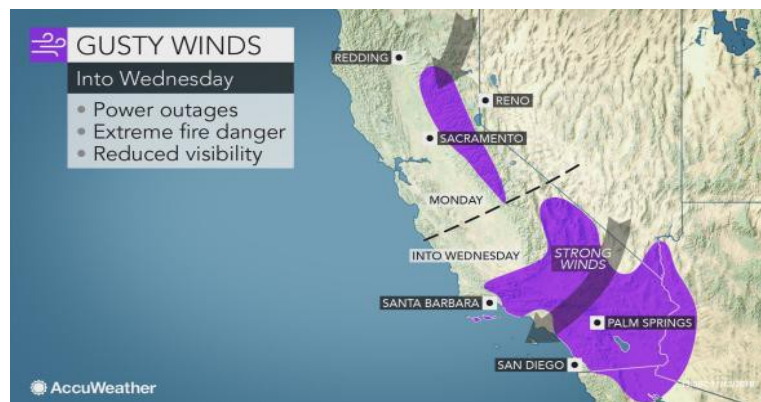


Image: Accuweather

The winds at the time of the outbreak of the Camp Fire included gusts of over 50 mph. Continued strong winds on Monday and Tuesday, kept the pace of the spread of the fire as fast as burning 80 football fields per minute.

Similarly, the Southern California fires were driven by strong Santa Ana winds that have continued for days. According to AccuWeather Meteorologist Alyson Hoegg, "Winds can gust 50-60 mph in wind-prone passes and canyons and 60-70 mph in the mountains," she said, as reported by Renee Duff on

AccuWeather on November 12. <https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/strong-winds-threaten-further-spread-of-devastating-california-fires/70006598>

## **Governor Brown doubles down**

The governor, both in response to the President's intervention and the governor's own fanatical worship of Zeus and the “power of nature,” has really outdone himself in some of his statements over the past few days.

On Sunday, directly responding to the President, the governor's press secretary told ABC news, “Our focus is on the Californians impacted by these fires and the first responders and firefighters working around the clock to save lives and property — not on the president’s inane and uninformed tweets,”

The governor himself in a Sunday press conference said that wildfires have become more ferocious because of severe drought and climate change. He added that this “new abnormal” will only get worse over the next 10 to 20 years, threatening California's entire way of life. He said that the federal and state governments must do more forest management, but added that's not the source of the problem.

“Managing all the forests in everywhere we can does not stop climate change,” Brown said.

And then Brown really went ballistic: “And those who deny that are definitely contributing to the tragedies that we're now witnessing, and will continue to witness in the coming years.”

At that point he requested help from those he just blamed for the disaster, asking President Trump for a presidential declaration of disaster, which of course, the President granted.

One more quote from Brown's press conference:

“This is not the new normal, this is the new abnormal,” This will continue in the next 10, 15 to 20 years. Unfortunately, the best science is telling us that the dryness, warmth, drought, the fires are going to intensify.”

One would think he was right on the verge of screaming, “We're all going to die!”

## **More attacks on the President**

Even Hollywood's so-called “stars” are blaming the President for their homes burning down.

Neil Young, after his home burned, called out Trump for his refusal to believe in climate change. “California is vulnerable – not because of poor forest management as DT (our so-called president) would have us think. We are vulnerable because of climate change; the extreme weather events and our extended drought is part of it,”

More seriously, and usually with less polemics, some of the state's fire officials criticized the President's initial statement focused on “forest mismanagement,” and like the governor and others, completely missing the President's intent of provoking a discussion of how to actually solve the never-ending problem of fire disasters every year.

California Professional Firefighters President Brian K. Rice said, “The president’s message attacking California and threatening to withhold aid to the victims of the cataclysmic fires is ill-informed, ill-timed and demeaning to those who are suffering as well as the men and women on the front lines,” in a statement to *The Hollywood Reporter*.

Rice did make some useful points in his statement:

“Wildfires are sparked and spread not only in forested areas but in populated areas and open fields

fueled by parched vegetation, high winds, low humidity and geography," he said.

He added, "Moreover, nearly 60 percent of California forests are under federal management, and another two-thirds under private control. It is the federal government that has chosen to divert resources away from forest management, not California."

The Pasadena Fire Association responded to the president. "The fires in So. Cal are urban interface fires and have NOTHING to do with forest management."

## **So, what about climate change?**

Yes, there is climate change as a factor in making these fires more intense and destructive. But, the climate has always, and will always, be changing. As seen in the studies by paleoclimatologists of the history of California's climate, megadroughts and megafloods are the normal periodic conditions for this part of the world. Droughts and warming lasting centuries have occurred over the past 2,000 years here. What is not established, but which governor Brown and some scientists like to claim, is that the primary cause of present climate change is due to mankind's activities.

My review of the book, "*The West Without Water: What Past Floods, Droughts, and Other Climatic Clues Tell Us About Tomorrow*," by B. Lynn Ingram and Frances Malamud-Roam, is a good introduction to the topic: [https://larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2014/eirv41n19-20140509/48-52\\_4119.pdf](https://larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2014/eirv41n19-20140509/48-52_4119.pdf)

While pointing to climate change as the driver of the increased intensity of wildfires, the scientist in this article makes many useful points. (excerpts)

### ***Scientists: Wind, drought worsen fires, not bad management***

By *SETH BORENSTEIN*

*Associated Press*

November 12, 2018

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/scientists-wind-drought-worsen-fires-not-bad-management>

*The dean of the University of Michigan's environmental school, Jonathan Overpeck, said Western fires are getting bigger and more severe. He said it "is much less due to bad management and is instead the result of our baking of our forests, woodlands and grasslands with ever-worsening climate change."*

*Wildfires have become more devastating because of the extreme weather swings from global warming, fire scientists said. The average number of U.S. acres burned by wildfires has doubled over the level from 30 years ago.*

*From 1983 to 1999, the United States didn't reach 10,000 square miles burned annually. Since then, 11 of 19 years have had more than 10,000 square miles burned, including this year. In 2006, 2015 and 2017, more than 15,000 square miles burned.*

*The two fires now burning "aren't that far out of line with the fires we've seen in these areas in recent decades," Dennison said.*

*"The biggest factor was wind," Dennison said in an email. "With wind speeds as high as they were, there was nothing firefighters could do to stop the advance of the fires."*

*These winds, called Santa Ana winds, and the unique geography of high mountains and deep valleys act like chimneys, fortifying the fires, Thornicke said.*

And the excerpts from this article are also useful:

### ***Why the California wildfires are spreading so quickly***

Nov 10, 2018

<https://www.abc15.com/news/national/why-the-california-wildfires-are-spreading-so-quickly>

#### ***Powerful winds are spreading the fires***

*In Southern California, Santa Ana winds gusting at 50-70 mph in Ventura and Los Angeles counties are expected to ease Saturday.*

*In Northern California, a classic offshore flow has been set up that's similar to the Santa Ana winds.*

#### ***Lack of rain creates dry conditions***

*There's a lot of dry vegetation for the fires to burn.*

*More than half the state is in a moderate drought or worse and 18% of the state, including the area near the Woolsey fire, is in severe drought, according to the US Drought Monitor.*

*Over the past month, much of the state has received less than 5% of its normal rainfall.*

#### ***The terrain makes it hard for firefighters***

*The hills and canyons of Southern California are beautiful, but they can make it difficult for firefighters to gain access to wildfires.*

*The canyons can accelerate fires. They act as funnels for the wind, which pushes already heated air upward.*

Often mentioned is the Santa Ana winds. This article summarizes the phenomena:

### ***What Are the Santa Ana Winds, and Why Are They Such a Wildfire Hazard?***

*Rebecca Worby*

Nov 9, 2018

<https://psmag.com/environment/what-are-the-santa-ana-winds>

*As the [Hill and Woolsey Fires spread in Southern California](#), the Santa Anas are once again making headlines. But what exactly are they? And why are they such a hazard?*

*Most likely named for Orange County's Santa Ana Canyon, the winds (also known colloquially as "devil winds") blow from the Great Basin and Mojave Desert through the mountain passes of Southern California's Transverse Ranges. The winds dry out as they are lifted into the mountains, and, as they funnel through the passes, pick up speed. And as they descend to lower elevations, they heat up.*

*All in all, it's a recipe for strong, fast, and dry winds—which makes the parched chaparral of the region, especially in times of drought, extremely vulnerable to fire. Santa Ana winds can occur anytime from September to May, but they tend to be most dangerous in the fall, when summer droughts typically create the driest conditions, essentially turning the land into a tinderbox.*

### **The cause of the fires**

For both the Camp Fire and the Woolsey fire, the most likely cause is from electrical equipment of the utility companies for the area. Which points to what should be an obvious method of fire prevention--bury, especially, those high-voltage powerlines. But, that, of course would cost billions of dollars. The Camp Fire, still burning, most likely caused by a powerline failure, will cost tens of billions.

For the Camp Fire, PG&E reported that it submitted an “electric incident report” to the California Public Utilities Commission on Nov. 8, just before the wildfire. The report indicated a power failure on a transmission line in Butte County at 6:15 a.m. PST that day. The fire was reported at approximately 6:30 a.m. PST, according to state records.

For the Woolsey Fire, Southern California Edison reported on Friday that at 2:22 p.m., about two minutes before the fire began, it experienced an outage involving a relay circuit at a substation in the San Fernando Valley.

In 2017 the most destructive fires were also electrical utility problems or downed powerlines. Here is one report of the findings of the fire investigation:

### ***Probe finds cause of deadly 2017 California wildfires***

<https://www.theweathernetwork.com/us/news/articles/california-wildfire-fire-weather-2017-cause-power-line-thomas-fire/104628>

*Thursday, June 14, 2018, 11:19 - (Reuters) - A dozen of the wind-driven blazes that swept northern California's wine country last fall, killing 46 people in the deadliest firestorm in state history, were sparked by PG&E-owned power lines, state officials said on Friday [June 8].*

*The agency's investigation covered 12 individual blazes accounting for much of the conflagrations that erupted the night of Oct. 8 and raced across several counties north of San Francisco, collectively dubbed the North Bay Fires, or the October 2017 Fire Siege.*

*The firestorm claimed 46 lives, scorched at least 245,000 acres (99,148 hectares), and incinerated 8,900 homes and other structures....*

*The state's insurance commissioner put insured losses from the tragedy at \$9 billion.*

*Causes cited by CalFire included downed power lines and trees blown into electrical wires -- all equipment owned by PG&E -- during the course of fierce winds that roared through the region to spread the resulting flames with unprecedented speed.*

### **Also in 2017, The Thomas Fire**

The Thomas Fire in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties burned more than 280,000 acres in December, 2017. It destroyed more than 1,000 structures, causing more than \$2 billion in damages. The cause still has not been officially determined but electrical equipment failure is suspected.

CAL FIRE investigators determined the **fire** was **caused** by the failure of a PG&E owned power pole, resulting in the power lines and equipment coming in contact with the ground.

### **And the Tubbs Fire**

The Tubbs Fire started in Calistoga on Oct. 8, 2017, and the front raced across miles of landscape in its first three hours. The inferno spread across Sonoma and Napa Counties, burning hundreds of homes in Santa Rosa and when it was finally contained on Oct. 31, 2017, it had ravaged 36,807 acres and destroyed 5,643 structures. The death toll was 22.

"One fundamental difference that occurs to me is that the Tubbs fire broke out late at night, which made notification and evacuation particularly difficult," says Keith Gilliss, professor of Forest Economics and Dean Emeritus at UC Berkeley's College of Natural Resources.

The deadly Tubbs Fire was the most destructive in state history until the Camp Fire roared to life early Nov. 8, 2018, among the pine forests and steep granite walls of the Feather River Canyon. Within three hours, it had blackened 3,000 acres and went on to wipe out nearly the entire town of Paradise. Cal



Fire's Wednesday report revealed the fire was 35 percent contained and had blackened 135,000 acres.

For the Woolsey Fire, Southern California Edison reported on Friday that at 2:22 p.m., about two minutes before the fire began, it experienced an outage involving a relayed circuit at a substation in the San Fernando Valley.

## **Enhancing Precipitation Where It Is Needed**

This is the field of Prometheus-- the creative power of the human mind to discover ever more perfectly the lawful ordering of our universe and creating the technologies and processes required to put nature at the service of mankind.

Here is an excerpt from an article by my colleague Ben Deniston on some of these experiments:

*“New Perspectives on the Western Water Crisis,” by Benjamin Deniston in Executive Intelligence Review of April 3, 2015*

[https://larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2015/eirv42n14-20150403/41-47\\_EIR14.pdf](https://larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2015/eirv42n14-20150403/41-47_EIR14.pdf)

### *B. Ionization-Based Weather Modification*

*Another avenue exists, one that is less explored, but holds greater potential if successfully developed: tapping into atmospheric moisture directly. As stated above, 90% of all the ocean water evaporated by the Sun precipitates back into the oceans, without participating in any productivity activity on land. This precipitation over the ocean is well over three times the amount of total precipitation which occurs over the land.*

*Since the Sun has already expended a tremendous amount of energy evaporating (desalinating and transporting) this water, the potential exists for this to be a much more efficient resource, if we can figure out how to tap into it.*

*This brings us back to our galactic perspective of the global water system. If high-energy galactic cosmic radiation has an important influence on processes of condensation of atmospheric water vapor and cloud formation, through the process of ionization, why can't we generate similar and related actions?*

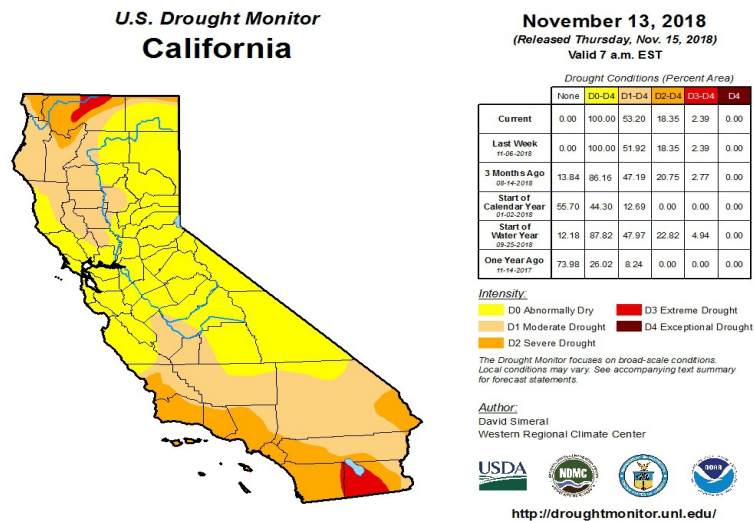
*One method has been developed and demonstrated in a number of locations (Mexico, Australia, Israel, Oman, Abu Dhabi, etc.) utilizing ground-based atmospheric ionization systems. These systems require running only a relatively small amount of power through a system of wires connecting a small array of towers, altering the ionization of the local atmosphere.*

*The challenge is tuning the system to provide the correct ionization and electrical effects required to tap into these atmospheric reservoirs. From what has been demonstrated already, some of these systems can induce condensation and rainfall over a 100 kilometer radius, and, perhaps most important, can utilize a small array of such stations to create pressure gradients which draw more atmospheric moisture inland (from over the ocean).*

*Perhaps additional methods and technologies (other than ionization) could be developed to enable further control over, and development of these reservoirs of the sky. This would be another method for generating new water cycles, bringing more water on to land, to participate in productive biological and economic activity, before returning to the ocean in a cycle which can be potentially more steady and sustainable than what nature provides alone.*

# El Nino, the U.S. Drought Monitor, and More

## U.S. Drought Monitor



## *El Niño has an 80% chance of forming this winter, scientists predict*

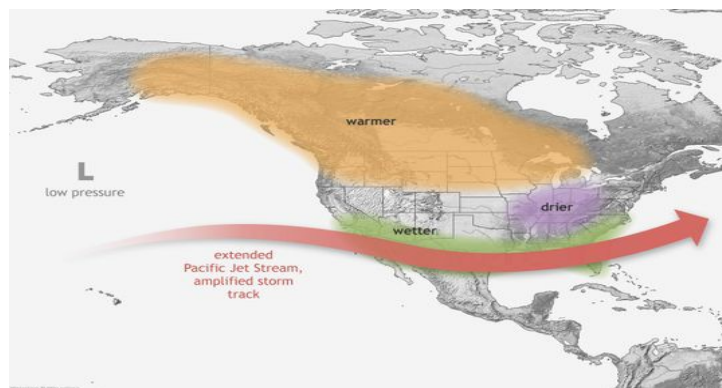
[Doyle Rice](#)

USA TODAY

Nov. 8, 2018

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2018/11/08/el-nino-given-80-percent-chance-forming-winter/1929602002/>

*Climate troublemaker El Niño has an 80 percent chance of developing this winter, federal scientists announced Thursday.*



Here's how El Nino typically impacts U.S. winter weather. However, not all impacts occur during every event, and their strength and exact location can vary. (Photo: Climate Prediction Center)

*"The official forecast favors the formation of a weak El Niño," NOAA's Climate Prediction Center said in its [monthly forecast](#). The center gives it an 80 percent chance of continuing through the winter.*

*The chances have increased since early October, when climate scientists gave it a 70 to 75 percent chance of forming.*

*El Niño is a natural climate pattern that's defined as unusually warm seawater in the central Pacific Ocean. It affects weather patterns in the USA and around the world.*

*Although forecast to be on the weak side, El Niño "may still influence the winter season by bringing wetter conditions across the southern United States and warmer, drier conditions to parts of the North," Mike Halpert, deputy director of the prediction center, said in a statement last month.*

## ***El Nino holds weather uncertainty for California***

*National Weather Service sees equal chances of dry, wet or normal winter.*

*[Tim Hearden](#) | Nov 14, 2018*

*<https://www.westernfarmpress.com/weather/el-nino-holds-weather-uncertainty-california>*

*Forecasters are confident that weak El Nino atmospheric conditions will set in as the winter progresses, and in California, that can mean anything.*

*While El Nino conditions are known for producing wet, warm storms from the south, state and National Weather Service forecasters say there's an equal chance of below-normal, normal or above-normal precipitation in California this winter.*

*The Golden State has a good chance of seeing warmer-than-average temperatures, but that doesn't mean there won't be any cold storms or freezes, says Cindy Matthews, a NWS forecaster in Sacramento.*

*The state's water year started Oct. 1. It looked promising in some areas, as some decent showers moved through Northern California and some remnant tropical storm moisture appeared over southeastern California and the Southern Sierra Nevada range, Matthews notes.*

*But no storms have come through since then, getting most areas of the state off to a slow start in terms of season precipitation. For instance, Fresno usually accumulates over an inch of rainfall by mid-November, but it had only recorded 0.1 inches as of Nov. 13, according to the weather service. Likewise, Sacramento had only accumulated 0.04 inches, well below its average 1.65 inches.*

*As such, most of the state is shown as being abnormally dry or in moderate drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. More severe drought conditions exist along the Southern California coast, the border with Mexico, and the California-Oregon state line.*

*Many key reservoirs are dipping below their historical averages, according to the state Department of Water Resources. Shasta Lake, the centerpiece of the federal Central Valley Project, was at 47 percent of capacity and 80 percent of its seasonal average as of Nov. 12. Lake Oroville, the State Water Project's chief reservoir, was at only 31 percent of capacity as the DWR was still keeping surface levels low to accommodate crews finishing up their work on the dam. A year ago in November, most reservoirs were comfortably above their seasonal averages.*

## ***Developing El Niño and California's Upcoming Wet Season May Be Good News for the Fire Risk***

*By Linda Lam*

*November 9, 2018*

*weather.com*

*<https://weather.com/forecast/regional/news/2018-11-09-california-dry-pattern-fall-el-nino-winter/>*

### ***Precipitation Outlook Into This Winter***

*The [precipitation outlook](#) through January from NOAA indicates that most of California has an equal*

chance of seeing above-or-below-average precipitation.

The exceptions to this are far northeastern California which has a higher chance of seeing drier-than-average conditions and southeastern parts of the state have a greater chance of experiencing above-average precipitation.

The [drought outlook](#) from NOAA through January suggests that drought will likely persist in much of southern California, with far southeastern areas possibly seeing some improvement. Some areas of the Coastal Ranges in northern California are likely to see drought removal during this period.

Since Oct. 1, Sacramento has only measured 0.04 inches of rainfall which is 1.37 inches below average, as of Nov. 8.

Downtown Los Angeles has received just over a half inch of rain this wet season but remains more than 6.5 inches below average year-to-date.

A pattern change is expected to emerge later this month and the chance for precipitation may increase in California during Thanksgiving week.

## **California Fires Fueled by Drought So Bad It's Called 'Negative Rain'**

**Victoria Albert**

11.12.18

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/california-fires-fueled-by-negative-rain>

Nearly a month and a half after California's wildfire season typically winds down, the state is dealing with [multiple, deadly wildfires](#). Twin blazes rage in the southern part of the state, and northern California's [Camp fire](#) has killed 29 people and destroyed nearly 7,000 buildings.

Although President Trump [has blamed "poor" forest management](#), the science says a phenomenon that one meteorologist dubbed "negative rain" played a part in sparking the wildfires. That "negative rain," along with dry, windy conditions, has made Northern California ripe for devastating blazes. And as [global warming escalates](#), it's only going to get worse.

"Negative rain" isn't a technical meteorological term when it comes to droughts. But it is just a clever way to describe a region getting less precipitation than expected.

"Every year we have a certain amount of rain that we expect as a result of historical patterns," Andy Wood, a climate scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, told The Daily Beast.

"Negative precipitation [comes] when you have a departure from that."

That's exactly what happened in California this year, said [Dan Mcevoy](#), a climate researcher at the Desert Research Institute.

## **Oroville Dam Update**

### **Camp Fire Poses No Threat to Oroville Dam**

November 14, 2018

**DWR Continues to Monitor the Incident**

*There is no threat to Oroville Dam. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is taking precautionary measures detailed below to ensure the safety of other water infrastructure including power plants and power lines.*

*DWR is just one of several state agencies and departments with employees and contractors personally impacted by these most recent wildfires. Those who have requested it have been given the ability to take leave to attend to their families. The Department will continue to maintain sufficient staffing to monitor the incident around the clock.*

*DWR is in close communication with CAL FIRE, OES and local emergency managers to track the status of this dynamic situation.*

*Oroville spillways and Thermalito construction operations have been shut down. DWR is taking precautionary measures to protect infrastructure including wetting down the potentially at-risk areas with water trucks, placing backup generators at key facilities in Oroville Field Division for the possibility of a power outage or loss of the powerlines due to the fires, and creating staffing plans to continue managing State Water Project operations remotely if Oroville Field Division staff and facilities are evacuated.*

## **The Post-Mid-Term Elections and the Possibility of Bipartisan Agreements on Especially Infrastructure**

### ***The American People Want an Economy***

[https://larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2018/2018\\_40-49/2018-45/pdf/02\\_4545.pdf](https://larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2018/2018_40-49/2018-45/pdf/02_4545.pdf)

*Nov. 7—A first look at the election results shows that what was most important was not the shift in control of the House, which had been prediscussed, but that Americans demand a full-fledged economic recovery and growth policy. Democrats who took over formerly-Republican House seats tended to win, not based on demands to impeach Trump, but on economic concerns such as healthcare.*

*This also indicates that voters insist that Democratic legislators stick to their duty of governing the country alongside the elected President, rather than devoting all their time to press leaks against him. From all indications, President Trump will push the same point, making himself wide-open to collaboration with Democrats on issues where they agree—largely economic issues.*

*All this also portends an increasing tendency towards a split in the Democratic Party between the identity-politics cum impeachment group which has dominated the fake-news media on the one side, versus those in or returning towards Franklin Roosevelt's embrace of the forgotten man and woman, including blue-collar workers and farmers.*

*The policy demanded is Lyndon LaRouche's policy which would recreate Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal in the United States and internationally, as updated and improved for the 21st Century—Lyndon LaRouche's policy of the Four Laws for economic recovery, and an international New Bretton Woods system for global development.*

*These are the policies of LaRouche PAC supported candidates Kesha Rogers of Texas and Ron*

*Wieczorek in South Dakota. These policies won vastly-increased support among leaders across the country during the campaign. Now is the time to push them through to victory.*

### ***Trump and Pelosi Can Get Things Done on Infrastructure***

*Nov. 11 (EIRNS)—Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the former House Speaker when Democrats held the majority in the House of Representatives, touted the bipartisan potential for passing infrastructure development legislation at her press conference Nov. 7, The Hill reported. Pelosi, who is expected to seek that position again, mentioned that she had spoken to President Trump Tuesday night, after it became clear that the Democrats were going to take back the House, saying, “Last night I had a conversation with President Trump about how we could work together. One of the issues that came up was ... building infrastructure for America, and I hope that we can achieve that.”*

*She continued, “He talked about it during his campaign, and really didn’t come through with it in his first two years in office. But that issue has not been a partisan issue in the Congress of the United States.”*

*Rep. Pelosi highlighted the potential jobs that could be created in “surface transportation, water systems ... broadband... schools, housing, and the rest... Those initiatives will create good-paying jobs, and will also generate other economic growth in their regions. Hopefully, we can work in a bipartisan way,” she said.*

### ***Democrat Rep. John Garamendi Wants Cooperation on Infrastructure***

*Nov. 11 (EIRNS)—Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA), a former rancher who represents a district between San Francisco and Sacramento, was interviewed by Bloomberg Nov. 9 on the potential for cooperation between the House and President Donald Trump in the new Congress. Despite being one of the more extreme anti-Trump members of Congress, Garamendi said that House Democrats would present an immigration bill early in the term which he thinks could get Trump’s support and pass the Senate. On infrastructure, he said that we “must get a deal.” He said that beside the enormous need to restore our roads and rail and ports, that expanding broadband to the rural areas is an absolute necessity. Farmers in his district, he stated, depend on broadband connections to satellite data for every aspect of farming, but many do not have such access.*

*Garamendi said that Trump’s original proposals for infrastructure, depending on local governments for 80% of the required funds, simply cannot work. He stated that the U.S. rail system was built almost entirely with federal funds. “Yes, we have to find the funds,” he said, but had no proposal on how that would be done. The necessity of restoring the nation to a Hamiltonian credit system was obvious, but he made no such proposal. This is the key to any successful cooperation in the new Congress.*

### ***No Bipartisan 'Bridge' on Infrastructure Bill — Unless We Know How to Build New Bridges!***

*November 12, 2018*

*<https://larouchepac.com/20181112/no-bipartisan-bridge-infrastructure-bill-unless-we-know-how-build-new-bridges>*

*EIR magazine editorializes this week, "[The American People Want an Economy](#)": "A first look at the election results shows that what was most important was not the shift in control of the House, which had been*

*prediscounted, but that Americans demand a full-fledged economic recovery and growth policy.... This also indicates that voters insist that Democratic legislators stick to their duty of governing the country alongside the elected President, rather than devoting all their time to press leaks against him. From all indications, President Trump will push the same point, making himself wide-open to collaboration with Democrats on issues where they agree — largely economic issues."*

*President Donald Trump made clear the day after the election, and likely Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi confirmed it: The key to bipartisan cooperation is legislation to fund and build new, basic economic infrastructure. Most Americans support it, demand it. Democratic "radicals" who want only to impeach or endlessly investigate the President are saboteurs. Republican "radicals" who oppose funding any government credit should be sidelined, exactly as Trump on Nov. 7 described doing that.*

*But to build that bipartisan bridge for legislative action, the United States needs to get in the practice of building real, new bridges — and high-speed railroads, and new power plants and power technologies, and new waterways and ports, and new heavy-lift space-launch rockets....*

*In a column this week Rep. John Delaney of Maryland, one of the Democrats with a bill for an infrastructure bank, was agog about China's new Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao bridge-tunnel, nearly 35 miles long over the sea and built for 120 years' life! "And we're not building anything!" Delaney cried.*

*He was right. We can't get subway or metro trains to cross a city or a river without breaking down or derailing. We have no high-speed trains. We can't build nuclear power plants and each American now gets less electric power every year. We can't send astronauts into Earth orbit and bring them back safely; NASA doesn't even have an active plan any more, to build launchers to put Americans back on the surface of the Moon.*

*President Trump is fighting uphill just to get us making steel and automobiles again, and maybe — less likely — aluminum. Things the United States led the world in 75 years ago.*

*Is this because the United States hasn't had good engineers or scientists? No, it's because since the Vietnam War, and the British destruction of President Franklin Roosevelt's Bretton Woods monetary system, American elected officials have not provided the credit for any big infrastructure ticket unless it was an aircraft carrier, fighter-bomber or a new tank.*

*Today the most serious Democrats, the most committed to what Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) calls "real funding for real infrastructure," are far short of even the American Society of Civil Engineers' \$4-5 trillion price tag just to maintain and replace the basic infrastructure we've got in coming years. They are talking about funding molehills, compared to the mountainous new frontiers of high-technology infrastructure being mastered by China, Japan, Russia — in nuclear power — and India — in space technology.*

*The United States needs to be building the most advanced and critical projects in the world — the Kra Canal to link the Pacific and Indian Oceans; the Transaqua project to restore Lake Chad and save Sub-Saharan Africa from becoming a desert; nuclear desalination to stop desertification of our own West; the Bering Strait bridge-tunnel to link North American transportation to Eurasia. Where on the globe we build them {makes no difference}; they will rebuild the U.S. economy's industrial and technological muscles.*

*This can be done, but only by cooperating with the other industry- and infrastructure-champion countries. Lyndon LaRouche has outlined it since the turn of this century. A New Bretton Woods — a four-power agreement with China, Russia and India, open to other industrial powers like Japan, to create credit on the scale of many trillions, for infrastructure projects that will transform economies, human productivity and living standards. Because of the informal but international reserve status of the U.S. dollar, this New Bretton Woods credit system requires United States participation above all.*

*Within that leap forward, a bipartisan Trump-Democratic move for infrastructure can really be a bridge that goes to somewhere. Let's look to the President's proposed summits with Presidents Xi and Putin in coming weeks and months, and organize for a New Bretton Woods to emerge.*

***"Progressive" Yglesias Warns Dems -- No Infrastructure!***

Nov. 10 (EIRNS)--Matthew Yglesias, the "progressive" blogger and journalist, wrote on Friday: "House Democrats Must Resist Trump's Infrastructure Trap." (Yglesias had also posted support for the antifa threat to Tucker Carlson's home and family, but took it down.) "President Donald Trump's infrastructure trap is back, and for the new House Democratic majority to succeed, they need to escape it."

Luckily, he says, the Democrats' original effort to work out an infrastructure bill at the beginning of Trump's administration was stopped by the immigration fight and the Women's March. "It's forgotten now, but in the transition winter of 2016-17, a shockingly large and diverse set of Congressional Democrats – from both the progressive and moderate wings of the party and including some key leaders -- spent enormous time and energy making friendly noises toward Trump and suggesting that the result of his election should be some kind of bipartisan infrastructure deal." Heaven forbid.

Why, one may ask? "Handing Trump a bipartisan legislative victory is too high a price to pay for a \$1 trillion worth of pork barrel spending on random highway interchanges and road-widening projects."

### ***Infrastructure Is Key to Future U.S. Economic Growth—What About Funding?***

Nov. 14 (EIRNS)—In media interviews yesterday, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and National Economic Council Director Larry Kudlow both discussed the importance of infrastructure, with Kudlow telling CNBC that the Trump Administration is looking at a "multifaceted" infrastructure plan. Thus far in the Trump Administration, the vaunted infrastructure program has not materialized.

"We're looking at it ... in many different ways," Kudlow said, particularly mentioning energy infrastructure, such as liquefied natural gas pipelines, terminals, and shipping. He insisted that Europe and Asia would love to buy U.S. natural gas, for which, he said, the U.S. shipping industry must be revived to facilitate exports. Absent here is any mention of what is actually required to build U.S. infrastructure as a completely new economic platform.

Speaking to CNBC at the Yahoo Finance All Markets Summit in Washington, Ross responded to a question about whether the prospect of "diminished corporate earnings" in the near future will be a drag on the economy, by emphasizing that the economy's continued success will depend largely on infrastructure.

"As you know," he continued, the "President is very keen to have an infrastructure program, and the only real issue is how do you pay for it. How much does the federal government do, how much is done by private sector." This begs the question of creating a new credit institution, as laid out in economist Lyndon LaRouche's Four Laws.

Ross did say that the U.S. needs much higher workforce participation to ensure that "robust" economic growth continues. There are good jobs available, he said, "but people don't have the skills needed." Quite true. "We are going to try to fix that," he emphasized, but offered no details as to how.

In his remarks, Kudlow raved about the U.S.'s excellent economic growth, and the strength of the dollar—ignoring fundamentals such as the metastatic corporate debt and the reverse carry trade. The dollar is "king," Kudlow boasted. "We're attracting money [from] all over the world. We're the hottest economy. We're crushing it right now. China is in a slump. Europe is slumping. So, they're coming to where the returns are best and the most hospitable environment."