



California Water and Infrastructure Report

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

For February 21 , 2019

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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And we think of our lives not as something lived from moment to moment, but as a very small piece of experience, with a beginning, and not too much later, an end. And think of our lives not as things which are lived for pleasure in and of themselves, but as an opportunity to fulfill a purpose, a purpose which is reflected in what we bequeath to those hundreds of billions of souls waiting to be born, in their condition. Such that, if we at any point were to cut short our mortal life by spending it in a way, which ensured the cause of those hundreds of billions of souls yet to be born, we could walk to death with joy, because we had completed our life, fulfilled it. We might have been denied the chance of fulfilling it a little bit more, but nonetheless, we had fulfilled it.

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

Food for Peace conference. Chicago, 1988

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjYMNMSpZ3s>

A Note To Readers

On February 12, 2019, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, the world lost one of its greatest leaders and intellectual giants. For 50 years, Lyndon LaRouche was my teacher, my friend, my colleague. I am proud to say that he was the man that more than any other individual who made me what I am today,

and more importantly, has helped to shape the world in which we live today.

Perhaps the words from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address are most fitting here:

“It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.”

Feb. 12 (EIRNS)—We are saddened to report that Lyndon LaRouche passed away today at the age of 96. Those who loved him are grieving him. It is a profound loss. It is neither possible nor fitting in these first moments of sadness to try to hastily summarize the profound contribution that Lyndon LaRouche has made to mankind. But, for purposes of today’s assessments, we can honor him by taking up one imperative he repeatedly put forward: judge ideas and actions on how they contribute to the future progress of humanity.

In This Week's Report

The first few pages this week focus our attention on the record rain and snow that has inundated the state this month. A series of atmospheric Rivers have given us lots of snow and rain, filled the reservoirs, and really ended California's drought.

Both the State Water Project and the Federal Central Valley Project this week have announced the allocations from those two projects to water contractors. Being cautious with still more than a month remaining in the rainy season, the low allocations to some contractors has not been welcome, to say the least.

Our new Governor, Gavin Newsom, gave his State of the State speech last week and just shitcanned the high-speed rail project and the two tunnels under the delta. While that section below will present what the governor said, it should be noted that these policies announced just reflect the lost souls of most of the nation's political class.

February 7 marked the two year anniversary of the collapse of the Oroville Dam spillways. Nearly completely repaired now, after spending \$1.1 billion to do so, it is useful to reflect on the huge deficit of infrastructure repair and maintenance that the nation now faces. As the American Society of Civil Engineers Report Card on infrastructure makes clear, that deficit is in the range of \$4 trillion.

This week's update on the Colorado River crisis paints a pessimistic view that all the interested states and parties are failing to come to an agreement on the emergency measures required, and we may see the federal U.S. Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman impose a policy, which some people will definitely not like.

Of course we cannot not mention the announcement a couple weeks ago by some of the Democrats in the Congress of a “Green New Deal.” We consulted with President Franklin D. Roosevelt to get his view of the appropriation of his policy by such ignorant and stupid people like Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. FDR had only the following to say, “don't insult me.”

The Feature this week provides you with the links to all three panel discussions from the Presidents Day conference of the Schiller Institute held in Morristown, New Jersey. Speakers included William Binney, the former technical director of the National Security Agency, former Democratic Congressional candidate from Texas Kesha Rogers, the representative for the Russian Ambassador to the United Nations, Professor John Gong from Beijing, former Presidential candidate from France Jacques Cheminade, and two speakers with ties to NASA. The second panel of the conference is a concert of classical music, including a wonderful performance of Beethoven's Choral Fantasy, with piano soloist Myhoa Steger doing an outstanding job.

Note: I skipped last week's report due to travel.

Goodbye Drought, at Least for Now

Drought Conditions Nearly Eliminated From California Thanks to Wet February: Monitor

February 21, 2019

by [Associated Press](#)

<https://ktla.com/2019/02/21/drought-conditions-nearly-eliminated-from-california-thanks-to-wet-february-monitor/>

February storms have almost eliminated drought conditions from California.

The [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) said Thursday that just over 67 percent of the state is totally free of any level of dryness.

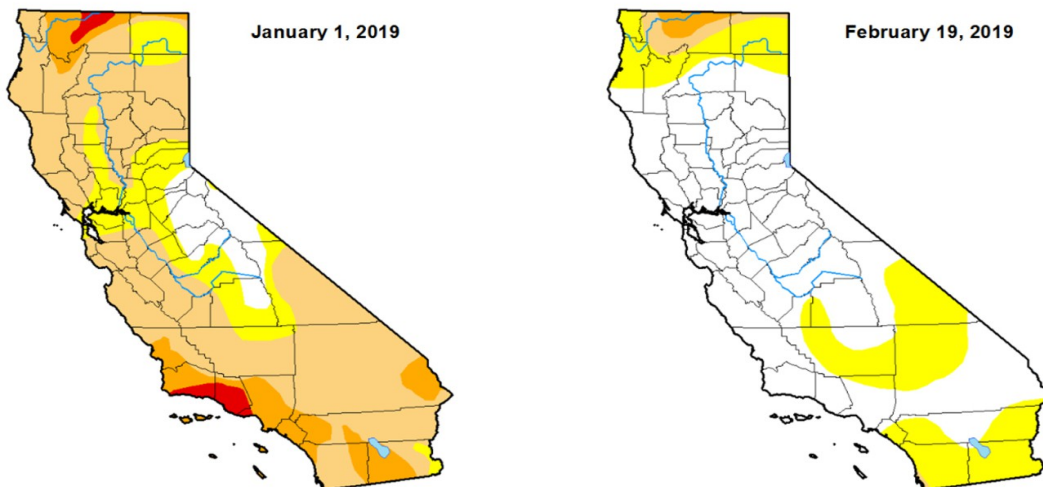
Just under 30 percent is classified as abnormally dry, and less than 4 percent remains in either moderate or severe drought.

The drought conditions are confined to a far northern area along the California-Oregon border.

Three months ago, more than three-quarters of the state was in moderate to extreme drought and the remainder was abnormally dry.

Precipitation is continuing to fall Thursday as a cold but not very moist system impacts Southern California and showers linger on the Central Coast. Chances of rain return to Northern California during the weekend and early next week.

The U.S. Drought Monitor



Winter Storms Push California Snowpack Well Above Normal, Bring Record Snow To Tahoe Resorts

By [Randol White](#)

February 18, 2019 | Sacramento, CA

http://www.capradio.org/130558?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed

California's water year is running well above average following this weekend's stormy weather.

The National Weather Service in Sacramento uses data from eight monitoring stations throughout the northern Sierra Nevada to judge the state's water content.

Meteorologist Craig Shoemaker said we're currently sitting at 121 percent of average, with above normal snowpack across the Sierra, which is where most of California's water supply comes from.

"We have also some snow down at lower elevations," he said. "It's certainly some of the best snowpacks we've had at a lower elevation in a while."

Shoemaker said we still need roughly another foot of precipitation by October to meet the 50-year average. He said ideally he'd like to see a little break from the storms, but would hope for another round of wet weather in late March or early April.

Atmospheric rivers are pulling California out of drought and piling on the snow

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/02/15/us/california-snow-rain-drought-trnd/index.html>

By [Paul P. Murphy](#), CNN

February 16, 2019

(CNN)When 2019 started, California's snowpack was at 67%. Now it's at over 136% and rising.

The atmospheric rivers that are dumping rain along coastal California are also dumping massive amounts of snow in the state's Sierra Nevada.

In its news release, NASA singled out Mammoth Mountain, which is now the snowiest ski resort in the United States, having received more than 37 feet since winter began.

"California typically receives the majority of precipitation in December, January and February, and these storms have continued to add to our precipitation levels and increased the state's snowpack," California Department of Water Resource spokesman Chris Orrock told CNN. "Increasing the snowpack during these wet, cold months is very important."

The department is cautiously optimistic about the current amount of snowpack, Orrock said. The snow and rain in California won't let up anytime soon, either. More storms are set to dump even more precipitation.

The [atmospheric rivers](#) -- which are long, narrow regions in the atmosphere that transport columns of water vapor -- have helped pull most of the state out of drought and the snow is set to help ensure California's water supplies are replenished.

According to the DWR, when the Sierra Nevada snowpack melts in warmer months, it replenishes about 30% of California's water needs later in the year.

Even though much of the state is out of drought, it will take time for the snowpack to replenish the groundwater basins.

18 trillion gallons of water has poured into California during February storms

Feb 18, 2019 _

By: [Kelly Broderick](#)

<https://www.turnto23.com/news/local-news/18-trillion-gallons-of-water-has-poured-into-california->

during-february-storms

SAN FRANCISCO -- (ABC 7) — Rain, rain and more rain! If you are wondering how much rain California received this month - you may find the answer startling.

Eighteen trillion gallons of water have fallen in California in February, according to the National Weather Service. And the month isn't over yet.

Meteorologist Mike Nicco from our ABC affiliate KGO-TV breaks it down.

"Let me put this into perspective," said Nicco. "Eighteen trillion gallons of water is equivalent to 27 million Olympic-sized pools or 45 percent the total volume of Lake Tahoe."

You want to be ever more impressed?

"If you weighed all that water it would come out to 150 trillion pounds of water. That's a lot of weight," said Nicco.

5 Feet of Snow Fell in 24 Hours at Sierra Nevada Peak: Weather Service

By Brenda Weber

February 10, 2019

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/california/5-Feet-of-Snow-Fell-in-24-Hours-at-Sierra-Nevada-Peak-Weather-Service-505640291.html>

Mother Nature dumped as much as five feet of fresh powder at one peak in the Sierra Nevada during a 24-hour period over the weekend, according to the National Weather Service.

The 60-inch deluge of snow at Castle Peak near Donner Pass came during the same time period when 49 inches fell at Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows ski resort, 39 inches dropped in Kingvale along Interstate 80 and 37 inches piled up at Sierra-at-Tahoe ski resort located near South Lake Tahoe, the weather service reported.

Oregon Snowpack Data Paints Picture Of Two States: East And West

By Colin Miner, Patch Staff | Feb 20, 2019

<https://patch.com/oregon/portland/oregon-snowpack-data-paints-picture-two-states-east-west>

PORTLAND, OR – Right now, there are two Oregons – east and west – and, when it comes to the snowpack, they are not equal. While levels on the eastern part of the state are significantly above normal, the same is not true in the western part of the state.

Despite the recent rains – with more expected – areas in the Willamette Valley and by Hood and Sandy, are below normal.

That's the word from a report on Sunday from the Natural Resources Conservation Services of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Compounding the problem is that despite the better snowpack conditions in eastern Oregon, the entire state is experiencing at least "abnormally dry" conditions.

The U.S. Drought monitor had almost 75 percent of Oregon in "severe drought" or "extreme drought" conditions at the end of January.

"Based on current conditions and the long-range weather forecast, water supplies may be limited this summer across Oregon," the NRCS wrote on Feb 1.

The State Water Project and the Central Valley Project Issue Allocations

Lots of rain and snow, but the two major water projects of northern California are being cautious in their announced allocations of water to contractors. There is still a month of the rainy season left before April 1, and, of course, the precipitation could stop tomorrow. Their statements include an overview of the snowpack, the reservoirs, and related areas concerning the state's water supply.

From the Department of Water Resources:

February 20, 2019

As a result of improved water supply conditions, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) today announced an increase in 2019 State Water Project (SWP) allocations. SWP contractors south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta are set to receive 35 percent of their requests for the 2019 calendar year, up from 15 percent allocation announced last month. Allocations are reviewed monthly based on snowpack and runoff information and are typically finalized by May.

“Recent storms boosted California’s snowpack and total precipitation well above average, which allows us to have a more abundant water supply allocation,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. “Although we’ve got more water in the system now, we must always manage our precious resources with tomorrow’s climate uncertainties in mind.”

Statewide, the Sierra snowpack is 146 percent of average for this date. Most of the state’s major reservoirs are at or above their historical averages for this time of year. Lake Oroville, the SWP’s largest reservoir, is currently at 53 percent of capacity and 78 percent of average for this time of year. It has been managed conservatively to provide additional flood capacity to ensure public safety as work continues on the spillways. Shasta Lake, the Central Valley Project’s (CVP) largest reservoir, is at 74 percent of capacity and 105 percent of average. San Luis Reservoir, the largest off-stream reservoir in the United States where water is stored for the SWP and CVP, is at 93 percent of capacity and 112 percent of average. In Southern California, SWP’s Castaic Lake is 94 percent of average.

Reservoir storage, snowpack, precipitation, and releases to meet local deliveries are among several factors used in determining allocations.

DWR transports SWP water to 29 SWP contractors which serve more than 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland. The 2019 allocation of 35 percent amounts to 1,473,046 acre-feet of water.

From the Bureau of Reclamation:

(The Bureau of Reclamation, which operates the Central Valley Project issued its initial allocations for this year, which in summary, give between 70-100 percent of requested amounts of water to the contractors north of the Delta, and lesser percentages to some contractors south of the Delta. PR)

February 20, 2019

“Reclamation’s initial allocations this year reflect the rain and snow we’ve had to date, balanced with the need to exercise reasonable caution should the remainder of the winter

turn dry,” Conant said. “We recognize the importance of providing meaningful allocations early in the year for the planning needs of our contractors and must also ensure we can meet these commitments should conditions turn dry or other contingencies arise.”

Based on the conditions described above, Reclamation provides an initial allocation as described below.

Feds announce initial Central Valley Project water allocation. Westlands isn't pleased

By Lewis Griswold

<https://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/water-and-drought/article226534990.html>

February 20, 2019

San Joaquin Valley farmers on the east side will be getting their full allocation of San Joaquin River water, while farmers on the west side will be getting only 35 percent to start, according to the 2019 initial water supply allocation released Wednesday by the federal [Bureau of Reclamation](#).

The bureau runs the [Central Valley Project](#) that delivers irrigation water from the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers to Valley water districts.

While there has been a lot of rain and snow this winter, Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region Director Ernest Conant said the bureau must “act conservatively at this time of year” in issuing the water supply allocation.

The forecast prompted [Westlands Water District](#), which covers more than 1 million acres on the west side, to express concern that the bureau is being too restrictive. It blamed the biological opinion the Bureau uses in making forecasts.

“Given the current hydrologic conditions, including above average precipitation and snowpack in the northern and central Sierra Nevada Mountains, a 35 percent allocation is further evidence that the 2009 biological opinion controlling temperature management of Shasta Reservoir is placing unreasonable restrictions on CVP operations,” Westlands said in a statement. “Moreover, the 35 percent initial allocation demonstrates the need to update the existing biological opinions to reflect the science that has emerged over the last decade.

The low initial allocation creates “uncertainty” about how much land can be farmed and how much will need to be fallowed, Westlands said.

The [Fresno County Farm Bureau](#) expressed similar concerns.

Newly Inaugurated Governor Gavin Newsom Shitcans the High-speed Rail Project and the Two Tunnels Under the Delta

Governor Newsom in his State of the State speech on February 12, all but killed the California high-speed rail project and did kill the idea of two tunnels to move water under the Delta. Was this a recognition of reality or just more flailing and not really knowing what to do by not only California's political class, but by most of the nation's. We will discuss this topic further in the coming weeks, but there should be no delusions-- whether this or that political leader is well intended or not, virtually none of them have the slightest idea on how to fix the nation.

Below is a link to a fairly comprehensive report on the Governor's speech, followed by a couple summaries of what he said about the high-speed rail project and the tunnels. A link to the San Jose Mercury News article, which covers more extensively the twin-tunnels issue. Finally, in this section, is a link to a more comprehensive article on the high-speed rail project itself.

Gov. Gavin Newsom pledges to scale back high-speed rail and twin-tunnels projects in State of the State speech

By [Phil Willon](#) and [Taryn Luna](#)

Feb 12, 2019

Sacramento

<https://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-ca-governor-gavin-newsom-state-of-the-state-20190212-story.html>

Governor Newsom says he will pursue single tunnel option; appoints Joaquin Esquivel as Chair of the Water Board

Governor Newsom delivered the State of the State address this morning. Here's what he had to say about water:

"We also need a fresh approach when it comes to meeting California's massive water challenges.

We have a big state with diverse water needs. Cities that need clean water to drink, farms that need irrigation to keep feeding the world, fragile ecosystems that must be protected.

Our water supply is becoming less reliable because of climate change. And our population is growing because of a strong economy. That means a lot of demand on an unpredictable supply. There are no easy answers. But let me be direct about where I stand:

I do not support the Water Fix as currently configured. Meaning, I do not support the twin tunnels. But we can build on the important work that's already been done. That's why I do support a single tunnel.

New California Gov. Gavin Newsom slams brakes on San Francisco-to-Los Angeles bullet train

The governor scaled back the high-speed train, calling for a more limited rail line now but leaving door open to statewide project in the future.

Feb. 12, 2019

By Alex Johnson

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/california-s-new-governor-slams-brakes-san-francisco-los-angeles-n970851>

California's new governor, Gavin Newsom, sharply scaled back plans to build a high-speed train from San Francisco to Los Angeles on Tuesday, saying the program had been botched and cost too much.

Speaking in Sacramento in his first State of the State address since he succeeded Jerry Brown — who,

like Arnold Schwarzenegger before him, had strongly promoted the bullet train as governor — Newsom said he would proceed with work on a 160-mile stretch in the state's Central Valley where construction is already underway.

"High-speed rail is much more than a train project," Newsom said. "It's about economic transformation and unlocking the enormous potential of the Valley."

And he left the door open to completing the state-spanning system at some point in the future, promising to continue pursuing federal and private-sector funding for the larger project, along with environmental work and regional projects north and south of the Central Valley.

Newsom scales back controversial Delta twin tunnels plan

California's new governor drops Jerry Brown's plan, calls for one tunnel, smaller project

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2019/02/12/newsom-kills-controversial-delta-twin-tunnels-plan/>

No, Gov. Gavin Newsom didn't kill high-speed rail. But what's his Plan B?

By Tony Bizjak, Tim Sheehan, and Rory Appleton

February 18, 2019

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article226282855.html>

Oroville Dam: Two Years Ago the Spillway Collapsed

The two years of repair work on the spillways of the Oroville Dam following their collapse beginning on February 7, 2017, has now racked up a bill of more than \$1.1 billion, more than twice the original estimate for repair made shortly after the collapse. As with all such incidents, the first look often proves to be flawed. To note: repairing the nation's infrastructure before we witness more such disasters, does, as the American Society of Civil Engineers reports have made clear, will be more than \$4 trillion, and that before even more costs after 2025.

The following excerpts from the KRCR-TV report commemorating the second anniversary of the collapse of the Oroville Dam spillway is a good summary of the entire episode and the rebuilding process that followed:

Two year anniversary of Oroville Spillway Crisis: Emergency spillway nears completion

by Kelli Saam

February 7, 2019

KRCR TV

<https://krcrtv.com/news/butte-county/two-year-anniversary-of-oroville-spillway-crisis-emergency-spillway-nears-completion>

Thursday marks two years since the first hole opened up in the Oroville Dam Spillway, triggering an emergency that forced the evacuation of nearly 200,000 people

The crisis started on February 7, 2017. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) had

been releasing 60,000 cubic feet of water per second, when they noticed the concrete on the spillway began to disintegrate. That first day, the hole was 30 feet deep by 180 feet wide.

DWR was releasing water to make room in Lake Oroville for heavy rain that was causing the lake levels to rise.

Due to the growing hole in the spillway, DWR was forced to temporarily stop the release of water and lake levels continued to rise. Crews resumed the water releases over the next several days, but by then rain continued to elevate the lake level faster than the water could be released. DWR released as much water as possible, further deteriorating the damaged main spillway.

On February 11, for the first time in the history of the Oroville Dam, water began to flow over the dirt hillside of the Emergency Spillway.



The California Department of Water Resources suspended flows from the Lake Oroville flood control spillway after a concrete section eroded on the middle section of the spillway. Photo taken February 7, 2017. Kelly M. Grow/ California Department of WaterResources

The next afternoon, on Sunday, February 12, the hillside had eroded to such an extent that DWR engineers and Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea began discussing the possibility that the Emergency Spillway concrete structure would collapse, sending a potentially deadly wall of water downstream.

Late in the afternoon on Sunday, February 12, 2017, Sheriff Honea issued the evacuation order for Oroville and thousands of residents downstream. They were allowed to return home two days later.

Over the last two years, thousands of construction crews have worked to rebuild the main spillway and the emergency spillway. As of November 1, 2018, the main spillway was ready for use.



An aerial overview of the recently completed Lake Oroville main spillway during Phase 2 of the recovery efforts. Work continues on the concrete cap below the Lake Oroville emergency spillway weir at the Butte County, California site. Photo taken January 24, 2019. Kelly M. Grow / California Department of Water Resources, FOR EDITORIAL USE ONLY

There are key differences between the new spillway and the original spillway built in 1968.

The concrete on the original spillway chute had an average thickness of 2 feet 8 inches.

The new spillway chute is about three times as thick, an average of 7 feet 6 inches.

The rebar on the original spillway was 4 million pounds. The rebar on the new spillway is three times heavier, at more than 12 million pounds.

The main spillway has more than half a million cubic yards of concrete, enough to build a five-and-a-half foot sidewalk from Oroville to Amarillo, Texas.

The new emergency spillway is covered with roller-compacted concrete that looks like a giant staircase. It is one of the biggest changes during the reconstruction of the spillway project.



Cleanup work continues surrounding the newly completed Lake Oroville main spillway in Butte County, California. Photo taken January 22, 2019. Kelly M. Grow / California Department of Water Resources.



An aerial overview of the finished roller-compacted concrete splashpad, while work continues on the concrete cap (upper left) below the Lake Oroville emergency spillway weir at the Butte County, California site. Photo taken January 24, 2019. Kelly M. Grow / California Department of Water Resources, FOR EDITORIAL USE ONLY

In January 2018, an independent panel of dam experts issued their report on the spillway emergency. Those experts said long-term and systemic failures by officials in California and elsewhere caused the near-disaster at the nation's tallest dam.

The independent panel of dam experts says the dam had inherent design and construction weaknesses. The report faults California's Department of Water Resources and other regulators for allegedly failing to recognize and address those problems.

The Colorado River

Both articles below paint a bit of a pessimistic picture of the state of negotiations and conclusions on what to do about the Colorado River crisis that is increasingly becoming urgent.

Arizona, other Western states unlikely to meet Colorado River drought plan deadline

By Tony Davis

Arizona Daily Star

February 21, 2019

https://tucson.com/news/local/odds-are-increasingly-poor-of-meeting-us-deadline-for-colorado/article_6dc7d89f-47e1-5169-8b4a-56350d7144d3.html

The odds are looking increasingly poor that Arizona and other Western states will meet a March 4 federal deadline for wrapping up Colorado River drought plans.

That's not just because of the ongoing conflict over a now-shelved water rights bill for Eastern Arizona that prompted a threat from the Gila River Indian Community to bolt this state's drought plan.

It's also not just because of a Southern California irrigation district's efforts to secure \$200 million in U.S. funds to shore up the dying Salton Sea. Without that money, the Imperial Irrigation District — which holds more Colorado River rights than anyone else — says it won't sign onto the drought plan that is supposed to cover all seven river basin states.

Even if those high-profile issues are settled, more mundane matters seem increasingly likely if not certain to keep Arizona in particular from meeting U.S. Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman's deadline.

That would mean Burman would start the potentially politically explosive process of seeking comments from the seven river basin states about how to manage the over-allocated Colorado. By August, she would make a decision on that.

Exactly what that would mean is highly speculative. But various observers have worried that it could mean deeper cuts to Arizona's river supplies than this state has approved, prolonged litigation, or both.

Despite signs of interstate cooperation, the decline of Lake Mead isn't near being solved

By [Michael Hiltzik](#)

Feb 08, 2019

<https://www.latimes.com/business/hiltzik/la-fi-hiltzik-lake-mead-20190208-story.html>



The "bathtub ring" around Lake Mead tells the story of its longtime decline in water level. (Ross D. Franklin / Associated Press)

On the surface, things have seemed to be looking up in recent weeks for the future of Lake Mead.

The Western storms of the last month have fostered the impression of a respite, at least temporarily,

from the region's long drought. Earlier this month, Arizona legislators passed a sheaf of crucial measures signaling their willingness to cooperate in an interstate drought contingency plan, staving off federal intervention.

Yet these are stopgaps. The giant reservoir on the Colorado River behind Hoover Dam, which provides water chiefly to residents in California and farmers there and in Arizona, is suffering from a long-term and possibly irreversible decline in capacity.

Putting something this complicated together with this many states is something to be commended, assuming it gets done.

Lake Mead's enemies are both natural and man-made. Climate change has placed the Colorado River basin in a long-term drought. Meanwhile, human demands for water from the Colorado have far outstripped what it can provide.

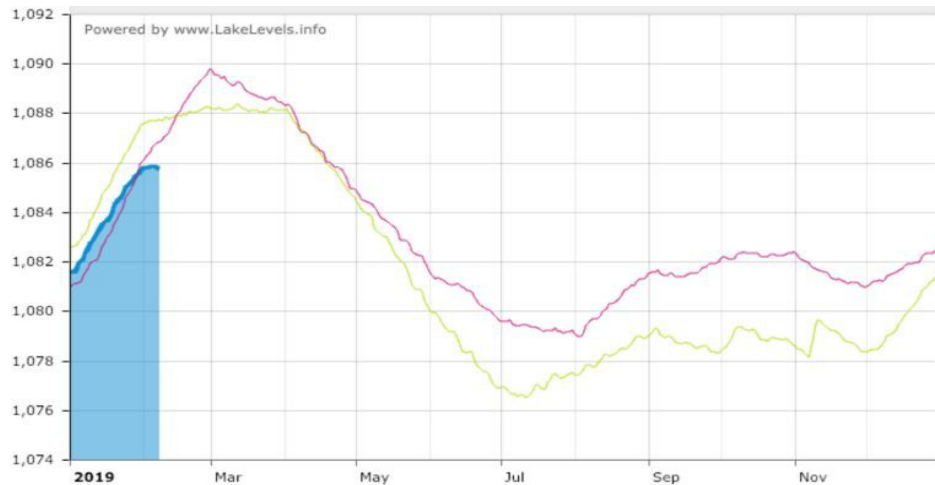
"We're in the 19th year of a drought," observes Robert Glennon, an expert on water policy at the University of Arizona, "and it's pretty obvious that climate change is having a devastating impact." That places a premium on interstate cooperation to address the drought's consequences — chiefly how to apportion what is certain to be a diminishing supply of Colorado water.

Construction of the dam and the filling of Lake Mead helped fuel epic population growth in the Colorado River basin, especially in California. Eventually it became clear that growth would outstrip the river's capacity to deliver all the water that was promised.

On the lower basin (California, Arizona and Nevada), "we're using 1.2 million more acre-feet than the river hydrology provides," says Jeffrey Kightlinger, general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, one of the largest users of Lake Mead water. "Effectively, we've been able to get away with it because the upper basin hasn't developed as rapidly. But we're living on borrowed time."

One acre-foot equals about 326,000 gallons, enough to serve one or two average California households.

The MWD, the principal source of water for Southern California residents, gets about 15% of its water from the Colorado, 30% from Northern California via the State Water Project, and the rest from local sources, including groundwater and transfers from agricultural districts.



The water level of Lake Mead has been falling in recent years. Chart shows daily levels for 2017 (red), 2018 (green) and so far this year (blue). (LakeLevels.info)

The “Green New Deal”

The “Green New Deal” launched a couple weeks ago by some of the Democrats in the Congress, I am sure, would evoke from the real Franklin D. Roosevelt the following reaction: “A Green New Deal? Don't Insult Me.”

Two items address the delusion, for now. The second one, by Michael Shellenberger, promotes nuclear power as the only real “green energy” source of power.

Leading Democrats Launch Drive for Imposing British ‘Green New Deal’ Genocide on U.S.

Feb. 8 (EIRNS)—Massachusetts Senator Ed Markey and media-star Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez staged a press conference yesterday to release the Congressional Resolution for a “Green New Deal” (“Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal”). Joining them were several of the 10 Senate co-sponsors of Markey’s resolution, which notably include Democratic presidential hopefuls Bernie Sanders, Kamala Harris, Elizabeth Warren, Kirsten Gillibrand, Amy Klobuchar, and Cory Booker.

The campaign aims to bring the United States in line with the Queen’s demand that the world exit entirely from the use of fossil fuels and nuclear power, returning to 100% reliance on wind, solar, and other “renewables.” As the British Monarchy’s advocates of this policy brazenly admit, downshifting human economy to such low-density and variable power sources will lead to mass death, lowering the potential relative population density of the human race to a billion human beings or less.

This not being a very popular proposition, the “Green New Deal” packages the plan to shut down modern power sources with talk of mass job creation, solving all racial inequality, ending poverty, curing all societal ills—a 2019 version of “a chicken in every pot,” concocted after smoking too much of the latter.

The resolution’s opening premise is the lie that “human activity is the dominant cause of observed climate change over the past century,” citing the October 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report (which called for reducing human emissions of “greenhouse gases” by 40-60% of 2010 levels by 2030 and net-zero global emissions by 2050), and the November 2018 U.S. Fourth National Climate Assessment which accepted that lie.

The rapid exit from fossil fuels is explicit. “Our energy future will not be found in the dark of a mine, but in the light of the Sun,” Markey waxed poetic. To sell the package, the planned exit from nuclear energy as well is not specified and Markey would not discuss it at the press conference. But Ocasio-Cortez had initially posted a Fact Sheet on the Green New Deal to her website, which was very clear: The Green New Deal “would not include creating new nuclear plants. It’s unclear if we will be able to decommission every nuclear plant within 10 years, but the plan is to transition off of nuclear and all fossil fuels as soon as possible.... If it is possible to get to fully 100% renewable in 10 years, we will do that.”

That, plus that her Fact Sheet made explicit the intent to remove beef from the American diet and eliminate air travel, led somebody to convince Ocasio-Cortez to remove her Fact Sheet for the time being (CNN made it available). The Fact Sheet does allow that it might take more than 10 years “to fully get rid of farting cows and airplanes.” (That was too much for co-sponsor Sen. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii, who told reporters that replacing air travel with high-speed rail would not be of much help to her state!)

Movements of youth driven mad by fear of a nonexistent manmade climate change apocalypse, such as the Sunrise Movement, are now mobilizing as shocktroops for support of this genocide deal, attempting to make “climate change” the defining issue of the 2020 election by the summer of 2019.

The Only Green New Deals That Have Ever Worked Were Done With Nuclear, Not Renewables

By [Michael Shellenberger](#)

February 8, 2019

https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelshellenberger/2019/02/08/the-only-green-new-deals-that-have-ever-worked-were-done-with-nuclear-not-renewables/?fbclid=IwAR3Fv5HJbExZ84p-etgIWTGEUbkYDh3tYJzqxPdtVdPagO6rjRas5hV_eE4#29bcf7657f61

Three weeks ago, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez [said](#), “The world is gonna end in 12 years if we don’t address climate change.”

Then, yesterday, she [proposed](#) a “transition from” nuclear power, America’s largest source of emissions-free energy.

What gives? How does she avoid the cognitive dissonance created by holding two radically opposed views?

After all, the only green new deals that have ever worked were done with nuclear, not renewables.

Some Miscellaneous News

Wind and Solar Triple the Cost of Electricity

Feb. 18 (EIRNS)—Countries that reach the dubious “milestone” of 1 kw per capita of installed wind and solar electricity, gain far higher electricity prices to residential and commercial consumers, than other countries. This is exemplified by Denmark and Germany, which each are at the top of the installed wind and solar scale, having more than 1 kw per capita, and in which the average residential electricity prices to consumers are 32-34 cents/kwh—by far the highest of any industrial country—with commercial bulk sales in the range of 25 cents/kwh. The United States average residential price in 2017, for comparison, was 13 cents/kwh.

The “Green New Deal” can thus promise a tripling of electricity costs, along with the other austerity conditions and economic collapse it would deliver.

The data are from the German trade publication Strom.

Feature: The Schiller Institute National Conference

Conference: Let Us Create a New, More Human Epoch for Mankind

<https://schillerinstitute.com/blog/2019/02/19/let-us-create-a-new-more-human-epoch-for-mankind->

[panels-1-3/](#)

The Schiller Institute held the first U.S. national conference in over fifteen years on President's Day weekend, yielding a tremendous success in respect to the quality of presentations and the participation by supporters around the world attending the conference. The conference, now presented in full below, conveys a truthful and optimistic view of the potential for mankind as a whole to overcome the crisis facing the world as the previously reigning, now dying, British Empire fights for its survival against the new world order taking hold in the vision of Lyndon and Helga Zepp-LaRouche.



Panel I — Let Us Create a New, More Human Epoch for Mankind

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=101&v=KQcQTMHG1KM

Panel II — The Aesthetic Education of Manthe Beauty of the Mind and Soul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqtZS8odIpA>

Panel III — The Frontiers of Science

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=517&v=qDxillhSJbw

Kesha Rogers, LaRouchePAC Policy Committee, Former candidate for U.S. Congress, *The Frontier of Space: Fulfilling Mankind's Destiny as Man in the Universe*

Thomas Wismuller, Founding member of The Right Climate Stuff, *What NASA has Done and Where NASA is Going*

Larry Bell, Founder, Sasakawa International Center for Space Architecture, College of Engineering, University of Houston, *What Makes People Exceptional*

Benjamin Deniston, LaRouchePAC Scientific Research Team, *LaRouche's Strategic Defense of Earth*

Hal BH Cooper, Jr. PhD PE, *Infrastructure needs for the Rail, Energy and Water Systems to Promote Future Economic Development of Africa*