



# California Water and Infrastructure Report

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

For March 14 , 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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**Margaret Mead:**  
Anthropologist and data fraudster

*"What we need from scientists are estimates presented with sufficient conservatism and plausibility, but at the same time as free as possible from internal disagreements that can be exploited by political interests, that will allow us to start building a system of artificial but effective warnings which will parallel the instincts of animals who flee before the hurricane."*

*Margaret Mead, 1975*

## A Note To Readers

A presentation by Megan Beets to the New York City LaRouche PAC meeting on March 9 included the above quote from “anthropologist” Margaret Mead, whom, before she passed on to a lower world was marching around conferences with her out-sized cane promoting depopulation. A link to Megan's presentation, with a few more quotes from it, leads the section below on the battle now underway on the President's proposal for a Presidential Committee on Climate Science.

### **And in the rest of this week's report:**

It is “official” California's drought is gone. That is covered in the first section below.

The arena of California infrastructure this week includes some interesting and soon to be defining developments:

First, the Oroville Dam Update reports on FEMA refusing to pay \$300 million for the repair of the spillways, while granting \$205 million of the still growing total of \$1.1 billion total cost. Since FEMA does not pay for either causes that are not directly related to the emergency, and the the independent forensic team investigating the damage at Oroville Dam, concluded that the near-collapse of Oroville was caused not so much by weather but by poor design, construction and maintenance, calling it a “long-term systemic failure.”

Second, the Twin Tunnels under the Delta appears to be, like the High-speed Rail project, heading for cancellation.

Third on the High-speed Rail project, both in Congress and the State Assembly, legislation has been introduced to redirect the money from the project to water infrastructure projects.

Then we have the annual “Wildland Fire Summary” report released this week by the National Interagency Coordination Center, which found that 2018 declared that California's wildfires in 2018 were not only the worst ever in California history, but also the worst in the country.

I always like running the articles by Michael Shellenberger, who once again puts the question of nuclear power in its proper context. Under my title “Nuclear Power is Safer Than Sex,” you will find excerpts from his article, “It Sounds Crazy, But Fukushima, Chernobyl, And Three Mile Island Show Why Nuclear Is Inherently Safe.”

The next section includes an array of items on the proposed Presidential Committee on Climate Science, including that of Megan Beets as mentioned above.

This week's more general coverage of infrastructure includes a statement on “The Principle of Credit,” to begin answering the question of how to fund the trillions required to just repair the existing infrastructure, not to speak of the required move to the more advanced technological platform of fusion, the space program and magnetic levitation.

Our report concludes with the *Feature*-- Part II of our series on the North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA).

## ***Weather Happens; and Now the Drought Is Gone***

***Wet winter ends California drought after 376 straight weeks***

JOHN ANTCAK  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

March 14, 2019

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/state/9389743-181/monitor-says-california-free-of?sba=AAS>

LOS ANGELES — California is free of drought for the first time in more than seven years and only a small amount of its territory remains abnormally dry as a very wet winter winds down, experts said Thursday.

More than 93 percent of the state is free of drought or dryness, and areas of abnormal dryness along the Oregon border and in parts of four southern counties amount to less than 7 percent of the state, the U.S. Drought Monitor said in its weekly update.

The conditions in the far south are because of very dry prior years, the monitor said, noting reservoirs in San Diego County are at only 65 percent of capacity. Abnormal dryness describes an area either entering drought or emerging from it, but below the four tiers of drought.

California is drought-free for the first time since Dec. 20, 2011, said the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, which jointly produces the monitor with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"The state had experienced some form of drought for 376 consecutive weeks," the center tweeted.

The state came close to being drought-free in soggy 2017 when it was whittled down to less than 9 percent of the state, but since then paltry precipitation has raised concern about the water supply and a rethinking of how it is used, especially for landscaping.

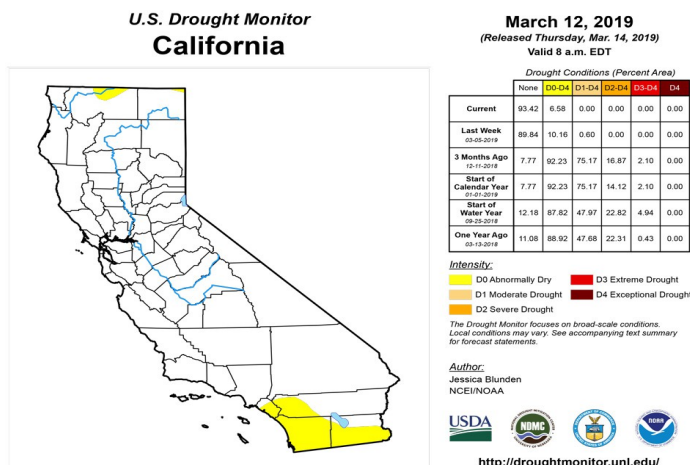
The change this year has been dramatic. On Jan. 1, more than 75 percent of California was in some level of drought and less than 8 percent was entirely free.

Storms since have been a boon to water supplies as well as skiers and snowboarders as the snowpack deepened in the Sierra Nevada and in other ranges, but they have also brought problems.

Heavy downpours caused millions in damage to highways in the San Jacinto Mountains east of Los Angeles, and state transportation officials said this week they expect the routes to remain closed for four more months.

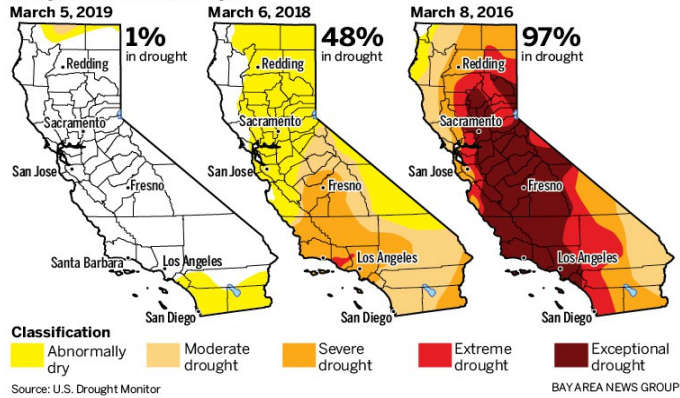
Yosemite National Park announced there will be late seasonal openings of facilities because of extensive damage from the exceptionally heavy snowpack.

## U.S. Drought Monitor



### DROUGHT AT LOWEST POINT

About 99 percent of California is currently drought-free — a stark contrast from March 2016 during the state's historic drought.



## Oroville Dam Update: FEMA Will Not Pay the 75% the State Requested

*FEMA only repays portion of Oroville Dam spillway costs*

by Ashley Gardner

Thursday, March 7th 2019

<https://krctv.com/news/butte-county/fema-only-repays-portion-of-oroville-dam-spillway-costs>



The Oroville Dam Spillway-- the damage

OROVILLE, Calif. — The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced Thursday it would pay \$205 million for Oroville Dam spillway repairs, leaving \$306 million in costs they said were not eligible for reimbursement.

This is in addition to \$128.4 million FEMA previously approved for reimbursement for emergency response, debris removal, and other costs.

“We appreciate the hard work and commitment of FEMA staff, however are disappointed in some of their initial interpretations regarding cost eligibility,” said Joel Ledesma, DWR Deputy Director of the State Water Project about the decision.

“Our reconstruction work was necessary to safely operate the main spillway and ensure functionality of the emergency spillway. DWR plans to appeal FEMA’s determination as we believe all costs should be eligible for federal reimbursement,” Ledesma added.

*FEMA's Public Assistance program reimburses applicants at least 75 percent of eligible costs associated with a federally declared disaster.*

*Northstate Congressman Doug LaMalfa (R) said he expected FEMA to withhold additional funds in the wake of a dispute between the federal government and state officials over high-speed rail funds.*

*"FEMA has reimbursed the state for eligible emergency repairs, but repairs due to maintenance failures as well as the new structures being built are ineligible for federal reimbursement legally. Meanwhile, California prioritized other spending initiatives, such as high-speed rail, over fixing deficiencies of Oroville Dam that led to this crisis, and FEMA is likely to withhold future public assistance funding as a result. That will prove to be a costly mistake. We don't want FEMA to come up short on other disaster assistance by misapplying funds in this case of dam mismanagement, born out in the forensic report," LaMalfa said in a statement.*

*DWR officials said they will work with FEMA to provide further information to support the department's assertion that all reconstruction work should be eligible for reimbursement.*

## ***Millions of Californians' water bills could climb after Trump's FEMA won't pay \$300M for Oroville Dam***

*By Dale Kasler and Ryan Sabalow*

*March 08, 2019 10:08 AM,*

*<https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article227304354.html>*

### ***Oroville Dam spillway crisis: Here's what happened in visual detail***

*Millions of Californians could end up with higher water bills after the Trump administration on Friday announced that federal emergency officials aren't going to reimburse the state for \$306 million in repairs to Oroville Dam stemming from the 2017 spillway crisis.*

*The Federal Emergency Management Agency said federal taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for problems that existed prior to a massive hole forming in the dam's concrete spillway in February 2017, eventually prompting the two-day evacuation of 188,000 downstream residents and a \$1.1 billion emergency response and repair job.*

*Since the 2017 crisis, the state and water contractors such as Metropolitan had hoped the federal government would cover up to 75 percent of the repair costs. So far, the federal government has only agreed to pay about a third of the total bill.*

*In a brief statement, Federal Emergency Management Agency spokeswoman Brandi Richard said her agency wouldn't reimburse California for costs related to the "upper gated spillway" because of pre-existing problems on the giant concrete structure.*

*Here is an excerpt from an article reporting on the "The forensic team investigating the February emergency at Oroville Dam."*

### ***Final verdict on Oroville Dam: 'Long-term systemic failure' by the state, regulators***

*By Dale Kasler and Ryan Sabalow*

*January 05, 2018 11:25 AM,*

*<https://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/water-and-drought/article193191499.html>*

*The forensic team investigating the February emergency at Oroville Dam blasted the California Department of Water Resources on Friday, saying the dam's owner and operator did a poor job of designing, building and maintaining the structure and neglected safety while focusing on the "water delivery needs" of its customers to the south.*

*Citing a "long-term systemic failure" by both DWR and federal regulators, the group of independent investigators released its final report Friday on the nearly catastrophic fracture in the dam's main flood-control spillway in early February, which eventually forced the evacuation of 188,000 downstream residents.*

*The [584-page dissection of the near disaster](#) at America's tallest dam found that the structure was designed and built with flaws dating to the early 1960s, when an inexperienced designer was put in charge of overseeing the development of the facility's two spillways. Design flaws were exacerbated by inadequate repairs in the years that followed, making the crisis inevitable.*

*"Due to the unrecognized inherent vulnerability of the design and as-constructed conditions and the chute slab deterioration, the spillway chute slab failure, although inevitable, was unexpected," the report said.*

*Hired at the direction of the U.S. government, the panel said DWR put "insufficient priority on dam safety" and focused too much energy on delivering water to the agencies that belong to the [State Water Project](#). The water stored at Oroville is delivered to millions of Californians, including customers of the mammoth Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and irrigates 750,000 acres of farmland.*

*The panel also said the governor's office and the state water contractors – the member agencies of the State Water Project – likely put pressure on DWR to rein in costs.*

## ***DWR set to appeal Oroville funding denials***

*[Tim Hearden](#) | Mar 11, 2019*

*<https://www.farmprogress.com/regulatory/dwr-set-appeal-oroville-funding-denials>*

*The state wants FEMA to ultimately pay 75 percent of the cost of the project, with State Water Project contractors covering the rest. Thus, the two agencies' lengthy dance over funding will have ramifications for ratepayers to the SWP's 29 member water providers, who could be stuck with a higher share of the bill.*

*"DWR's current estimate of total project costs is \$1.1 billion, but that may change," Mellon says. "We will be submitting updated cost estimates to FEMA in the coming weeks and anticipate that reimbursement figures will be adjusted accordingly."*

*FEMA has noted that in past disasters where there was a "lack of maintenance," they only had the legal authority to provide reimbursements for work to bring facilities back to their "pre-disaster design," the two lawmakers explained. In Oroville's case, that would merely "return the spillways to the same condition that played a role in causing the disaster in the first place," LaMalfa contends.*

## ***Trumpies rightfully reduced Oroville Dam aid***

*By [Dan Walters](#) | March 13, 2019*

*<https://calmatters.org/articles/commentary/trump-reduced-oroville-dam-aid/>*

*The state applied to the feds for reimbursement of as much as 75 percent of those costs, arguing that it*

was a weather-caused emergency, much like a hurricane or a tornado.

*It was a weak argument from the beginning, because it was apparent that the state had failed to fix defects in the main spillway when they first appeared and had rejected suggestions from outside groups that the auxiliary spillway be “armored” to protect the dam from erosion.*

*A year after the incident, a panel of independent forensic engineers concluded in [a 584-page report](#) that the near-collapse of Oroville was caused not so much by weather but by poor design, construction and maintenance, calling it a “long-term systemic failure.”*

*“Due to the unrecognized inherent vulnerability of the design and as-constructed conditions and the chute slab deterioration, the spillway chute slab failure, although inevitable, was unexpected,” the panel’s report said.*

## **The Twin Tunnels-- Probably On the Way to Cancellation**

### ***The Twin Tunnels Are Out—Berkeley Experts Say That’s a Good Thing***

*By Glen Martin*

*March 12, 2019*

<https://alumni.berkeley.edu/california-magazine/just-in/2019-03-12/twin-tunnels-are-out-berkeley-experts-say-thats-good-thing>

*The extravagantly wet winter notwithstanding, California’s water woes are far from over. But recent moves suggest Governor Gavin Newsom is leading the state into a new era of water policy. Last month, he decided to scale back his predecessor’s decades-long effort, the Twin Tunnels, to deliver water from Northern to Southern California.*

*“Really, the idea that two massive tunnels would be built in the Delta was always—well, a pipe dream,” says Peter Gleick.*

*This massive project, known as the California WaterFix, was promoted by Jerry Brown as the solution to the state’s agricultural and urban water insecurity and environmental degradation in the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta. Conceived as two 35-mile-long, 40-foot-diameter pipes buried under the Delta, the Twin Tunnels would’ve incorporated a great deal of concrete, steel, and machinery to move tremendous quantities of water southward. (Read more about Brown’s water plan [here](#).)*

*Ultimately, though, it was a bridge—or tunnel—too far, even for Brown. And UC Berkeley water experts generally agree Newsom’s move away from the WaterFix is a pragmatic one.*

## **California High-Speed Rail Project: One more step to total cancellation; Will the money be re-directed to water storage?**

Now this can be an interesting fight. Excerpts from three articles:

### ***McCarthy Introduces Legislation to Repurpose High-Speed Rail Funding to Water Infrastructure Projects***

[March 7, 2019 Maven Breaking News](#)

*From Congressman Kevin McCarthy’s office:*

*Congressman Kevin McCarthy introduced legislation today that would repurpose recovered Federal funding from the California High-Speed Rail project to critical water infrastructure projects in California and the West. McCarthy released the following statement on this legislation, H.R. 1600, the Repurposing Assets to Increase Long-term Water Availability and Yield (RAILWAY) Act:*

## ***Fong proposes redirecting high speed rail state bonds for Central Valley water storage projects***

*Posted Mar 9, 2019 at 12:01 AM*

<https://www.ridgecrestca.com/news/20190309/fong-proposes-redirecting-high-speed-rail-state-bonds-for-central-valley-water-storage-projects>

*SACRAMENTO — Assemblyman Vince Fong (R-Kern County) introduced AB 435, which will prohibit additional bonds from being sold for high-speed rail purposes and redirect unspent bond funds for Central Valley water infrastructure projects. This repurposing of funds will only go into effect upon approval by the voters at the next statewide general election in 2020.*

*“It is abundantly clear that this High Speed Rail project is not going to be delivered as promised to voters in 2008,” said Assemblyman Fong. “Governor Newsom acknowledged that this project is over-budget and lacks transparency; while attempting to significantly downsize the project. Putting lipstick on a pig will not prevent this project from continuing to be plagued with setbacks and false promises. It’s time we redirect the funds to critical water storage projects in the Central Valley, which will help everyone in the state.”*

*Multiple audits by the independent State Auditor have revealed gross mismanagement of contracts, which have caused massive delays and cost overruns. Furthermore, on Feb. 19, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Rail Administration announced it is rescinding \$929 million in unspent Federal funds effective March 5, 2019, for failing to comply with the terms of the agreement and not making reasonable progress on the project. A recent Los Angeles Times investigation also found that the High Speed Rail Authority may run out of money to build the scaled-down rail in the Central Valley.*

*Yesterday, Congressman Kevin McCarthy introduced H.R. 1600, which will repurpose up to \$3.5 billion recovered Federal funding for the High Speed Rail project to water storage infrastructure projects as outlined in the WIIN Act. Under the WIIN Act, five storage projects in California are advancing and when completed, can provide 5 million acre-feet of additional water storage in our state.*

*AB 435 is currently in the Assembly Rules Committee pending referral to a policy committee for a hearing in the coming weeks.*

## ***Momentum builds for public investment in California water-storage projects***

- BY JOHN COX [jcox@bakersfield.com](mailto:jcox@bakersfield.com)
- Mar 9, 2019

[https://www.bakersfield.com/news/momentum-builds-for-public-investment-in-california-water-storage-projects/article\\_195ea028-41ca-11e9-ae20-1f8d5cf520f2.html?fbclid=IwAR31AQ1HhJ8NJgGyhT1Ot4m6CuHeji0OUW16jO3E2NyIhcPUeQsC9i5WbVk](https://www.bakersfield.com/news/momentum-builds-for-public-investment-in-california-water-storage-projects/article_195ea028-41ca-11e9-ae20-1f8d5cf520f2.html?fbclid=IwAR31AQ1HhJ8NJgGyhT1Ot4m6CuHeji0OUW16jO3E2NyIhcPUeQsC9i5WbVk)

*It won't arrive in time for this wet winter, but hopes are rising that Central Valley politicians will soon deliver on one of their top political goals in recent years: investment in California water storage.*



*Bills introduced last week by Bakersfield Republicans in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., would redirect money from the state's high-speed rail project toward a series of reservoir projects, as well as repairs to a canal serving Kern County farmers.*

*If ultimately signed into law, the legislation would build on recent water infrastructure successes at the state and federal levels, including a 2014 state bond measure that raised \$7.5 billion for eight water storage projects.*

*Past efforts by Central Valley politicians to redirect bullet-train money toward transportation projects have failed, and it's unclear whether there is sufficient political will — or legal precedent — to steer rail money toward water storage.*

*But the new legislation could benefit from timing. Recent precipitation has flooded parts of the state, and on Feb. 12, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the state's high-speed rail project will be scaled back to run between Merced and Bakersfield, rather than between San Francisco and Los Angeles.*

*The proposals by U.S. Rep. Kevin McCarthy and state Assemblyman Vince Fong seize upon a common frustration among many valley Republicans that billions of state and federal dollars dedicated to high-speed rail would be better spent on capturing water from wet years for use in future dry years.*

## **Wildfires: Last Year Was the Worst Year for Fires on Record**

### ***California had nation's worst fire season in 2018***

*March 9, 2019, 4:28 PM PST*

*By Dennis Romero*

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/california-had-nation-s-worst-fire-season-2018-n981431>

*California suffered the worst wildfire devastation in the country last year, according to a new federal report.*

*The annual [Wildland Fire Summary](#) report released this week by the National Interagency Coordination Center said 1.8 million acres burned in 2018 in the Golden State - more than in any other state.*

*"That's the worst in recorded history" for California, said California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) spokesman Scott McLean.*

*The next most geographically destructive year in California was 2008 when nearly 1.6 million acres burned, he said.*

*Neighboring Nevada, meanwhile, saw 1 million acres burn in 2018, putting it in second place among states for acreage destroyed, according to the federal report.*

*The report adds, "California accounted for the highest number of structures lost in one state in 2018: 17,133 residences, 703 commercial/mixed residential structures and 5,811 minor structures. Utah was second with 77 residences and 377 minor structures lost."*

*Last year was California's deadliest year for fires as well, with more than 100 killed, Cal Fire's McLean said. The Camp Fire in the fall, which destroyed the town of Paradise, killed 85 people, according to Cal Fire.*

# Nuclear Power: Safer Than Sex

I always like running the articles by Michael Shellenberger. He puts a perspective on the subject of nuclear power that not even the flacks for the nuclear power industry are capable of doing. Here is just a short excerpt from his latest one. The entire article is worth a read.

Michael Shellenberger, President, Environmental Progress. Time Magazine "Hero of the Environment."

## ***It Sounds Crazy, But Fukushima, Chernobyl, And Three Mile Island Show Why Nuclear Is Inherently Safe***

[Michael Shellenberger](#)

Contributor

[Energy](#) I write about energy and the environment

Mar 11, 2019,

[https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelshellenberger/2019/03/11/it-sounds-crazy-but-fukushima-  
chernobyl-and-three-mile-island-show-why-nuclear-is-inherently-safe/?  
fbclid=IwAR2S7lwrcD\\_eT0BiGIUUqqXl-lmz\\_UkG5L5mu-965KsuHzmm-  
59DmKUuPLU#47d9edc91688](https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelshellenberger/2019/03/11/it-sounds-crazy-but-fukushima-chernobyl-and-three-mile-island-show-why-nuclear-is-inherently-safe/?fbclid=IwAR2S7lwrcD_eT0BiGIUUqqXl-lmz_UkG5L5mu-965KsuHzmm-59DmKUuPLU#47d9edc91688)

*After a tsunami struck the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant in Japan eight years ago today, triggering the meltdowns of three reactors, many believed it would result in a public health catastrophe.*

*“By now close to one million people have died of causes linked to the Chernobyl disaster,” wrote Helen Caldicott, an Australian medical doctor, in *The New York Times*. Fukushima could “far exceed Chernobyl in terms of the effects on public health.”*

*Many pro-nuclear people came to believe that the accident was proof that the dominant form of nuclear reactor, which is cooled by water, is fatally flawed. They called for radically different kinds of reactors to make the technology “inherently safe.”*

*But now, eight years after Fukushima, the best-available science clearly shows that Caldicott’s estimate of the number of people killed by nuclear accidents was off by one million. Radiation from Chernobyl will kill, at most, 200 people, while the radiation from Fukushima and Three Mile Island will kill zero people.*

*In other words, the main lesson that should be drawn from the worst nuclear accidents is that nuclear energy has always been inherently safe.*

### ***The Shocking Truth***

*The truth about nuclear power’s safety is so shocking that it’s worth taking a closer look at the worst accidents, starting with the worst of the worst: Chernobyl.*

*Remember when the Deepwater Horizon oil drilling rig caught on fire and killed 11 people? Four months later, a Pacific Gas & Electric natural gas pipeline exploded just south of San Francisco and killed eight people sleeping in their beds. And that was just one year, 2010.*

*The worst energy accident of all time was the 1975 collapse of the Banqiao hydroelectric dam in China. It collapsed and killed between 170,000 and 230,000 people.*

*Nuclear’s worst accidents show that the technology has always been safe for the same, inherent reason that it has always had such a small environmental impact: the high energy density of its fuel.*

*Splitting atoms to create heat, rather than than splitting chemical bonds through fire, requires tiny*

amounts of fuel. A single Coke can of uranium can provide enough energy for an entire high-energy life.

When the worst occurs, and the fuel melts, the amount of particulate matter that escapes from the plant is insignificant in contrast to both the fiery explosions of fossil fuels and the daily emission of particulate matter from fossil- and biomass-burning homes, cars, and power plants, which kill seven million people a year.

Thanks to nuclear's inherent safety, the best-available science shows that nuclear has saved at least two million lives to date by preventing the burning of biomass and fossil fuels. Replacing, or not building, nuclear plants, thus results in more death.

In that sense, Fukushima did result in a public health catastrophe. Only it wasn't one created by the tiny amounts of radiation that escaped from the plant.

### ***Anxiety Displacement and Panic***

The Japanese government, in the view of Chernobyl expert Geraldine Thomas and other radiation experts, contributed to the widespread view of radiation as a super-potent toxin by failing to return residents to the Fukushima province after the accident, and for reducing radiation in soil and water to unnecessarily low levels.

The problem started with an over-evacuation. Sixty-thousand people were evacuated but only 30,000 have returned. While some amount of temporary evacuation might have been justified, there was simply never any reason for such a large, and long-term, evacuation.

About 2,000 people died from the evacuation, while others who were displaced suffered from loneliness, depression, suicide, bullying at school, and anxiety.

## **The Science (of Climate Change) Will Never Be Settled**

What follows are an array of items focused on the President's intention to create a Presidential Committee on Climate Science, with a few sides on AOC's New Green Deal. We begin with a few excerpts and a link to the presentation by Megan Beets. For space considerations, most of the following items are short excerpts. Some of them are quite substantial in their content, so I encourage you to read them.

### ***The Soylent Green New Deal: Britain's Recipe for How to Serve Mankind***

<https://larouchepac.com/20190308/soylent-green-new-deal-britains-recipe-how-serve-mankind>

Megan Beets of the LaRouchePAC Science Research Team presents the truth about the genocidal implications of the Green New Deal, and more importantly, what a real New Deal would look like for the global community.

Exerpts:

*“So the Green policy is a suicide pact, and that is not figurative language, and that is certainly not hyperbole.*

*“But this is not the only thing. Perhaps the most disgusting aspect of it is the use of children as the face for the suicide pact. You now have small children who are pledging to commit suicide if governments have not taken action within the next thirteen years to do something about climate change. You have*

*groupings of children who have been collected together and told to go sue their governments, including in the United States and countries in Europe, because those governments are violating their rights as people for not solving climate change.*

*“People like this are being told to go on student strikes, where you have groups of children who are refusing to go to school, and instead are protesting their governments on the issue of climate change. Because what's the point of going to school if the world is going to blow up?”*

*“Margaret Meade, who has a special relationship to this movement, having been denounced by Helga Zepp-LaRouche at the conference on population in Bucharest. Margaret Meade, in 1975, wrote:*

*'What we need from scientists are estimates presented with sufficient conservatism and plausibility, but at the same time as free as possible from internal disagreements that can be exploited by political interests, that will allow us to start building a system of artificial but effective warnings which will parallel the instincts of animals who flee before the hurricane.'*

*“So, forget truth; instill fear in the herd of the population.”*

### ***The science of climate change is anything but settled***

[https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/mar/13/what-are-the-opponents-of-donald-trumps-climate-re/?fbclid=IwAR3XLoi0kNyqlBET\\_pcmc-WTum3pGDVMZycdt505yvwGkaScfy3flm3f7Sw](https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/mar/13/what-are-the-opponents-of-donald-trumps-climate-re/?fbclid=IwAR3XLoi0kNyqlBET_pcmc-WTum3pGDVMZycdt505yvwGkaScfy3flm3f7Sw)

*By Roy W. Spencer - - Wednesday, March 13, 2019*

#### ***ANALYSIS/OPINION:***

*On March 5, 58 senior military and national security leaders sent a letter to President Trump denouncing his plan to form a National Security Council panel to take a critical look at the science underpinning climate change claims. Their objections to such a Red Team effort were basically that the “science is settled.”*

*But if the science is settled, what are they afraid of? Wouldn't a review of the science come to the same conclusion as the supposed consensus of climate scientists?*

*The letter claimed, “Climate change is real, it is happening now, it is driven by humans, and it is accelerating.”*

*While climate change is indeed real, it is not at all obvious how much humans have to do with it. Even the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) admits this, saying only that over half of warming since the 1950s is believed to be human-caused. So, “driven by humans” is an exaggeration, even by the IPCC's rather alarmist standards.*

*In 1931, after being informed a book had been published titled “100 Authors against Einstein,” Albert Einstein responded, “Why 100 authors? If I were wrong, then one would have been enough!” As Michael Crichton once said, “There is no such thing as consensus science. If it's consensus, it isn't science. If it's science, it isn't consensus. Period.”*

*• Roy W. Spencer is principal research scientist in the Earth System Science Center of the University of Alabama in Huntsville, U.S. Science Team leader for the Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer flying on NASA's Aqua satellite and a senior fellow of The Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation.*

### ***Stop the anti-climate science totalitarians***

*By [Paul Driessen](#)*

*March 8, 2019*

<https://canadafreepress.com/article/stop-the-anti-climate-science-totalitarians>

Democrats, climate campaigners and renewable energy interests are in full outrage mode over news that President Trump intends to launch a Presidential Committee on Climate Science. [He should do it now.](#)

The PCCS would, at long last, review and question the “dangerous manmade climate change” reports by federal agencies and investigations funded by them. The committee would be led by [Dr. Will Happer](#), a highly respected scientist and well known skeptic—not of climate change, but of manmade climate chaos. He would be joined by [other prominent experts](#)—of whom there are many—who share his doubts.

No way! the climate alarmists rant. How dare you question our disaster claims? Our settled science?

No! How dare YOU use those claims to justify your agenda—and your continued efforts to bludgeon and silence us into submission—without letting anyone examine, much less debate, your supposed evidence?

### **Greenpeace Co-Founder Patrick Moore: Ocasio-Cortez’s Green New Deal To Eradicate 80% of Humanity**

March 8 (EIRNS)—Greenpeace co-founder Patrick Moore, who left the organization, among other things, over its opposition to nuclear power, has criticized New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and her “Green New Deal” legislation, Sputnik reported in an interview with Moore. Moore elaborated his opposition to the anti-population element in the Green New Deal in his March 8 interview:

“I suppose my main objection is the effective elimination of 80% of the world’s energy would likely eliminate 80% of the world’s people in the end. I mean, just growing food, for example—how would we grow food for the world’s people without tractors and trucks, and all of the other machinery that is required to deliver food, especially to the inner cities of large centers like Moscow, Shanghai and New York City?”

### **AFL-CIO shreds Green New Deal: AOC's plan could cause 'immediate harm to millions'**

By [Jessica Chasmar](#) - The Washington Times - Wednesday, March 13, 2019

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/mar/13/afl-cio-shreds-green-new-deal-aocs-plan-could-cause/>

Big labor has come out swinging against the Green New Deal, with the [AFL-CIO](#) claiming the sweeping energy and economic reforms proposed by Sen. Ed Markey and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez could cause “immediate harm to millions” of union workers.

The largest federation of unions in the country sent a letter to Mr. Markey and Ms. Ocasio-Cortez last week, saying the Green New Deal resolution makes promises that are “not achievable or realistic.”

“We welcome the call for labor rights and dialogue with labor, but the Green New Deal resolution is far too short on specific solutions that speak to the jobs of our members and the critical sections of our economy,” reads the March 8 letter, which was signed by 10 national labor unions on the AFL-CIO’s Energy Committee.

“We will not accept proposals that could cause immediate harm to millions of our members and their families. We will not stand by and allow threats to our members’ jobs and their families’ standard of living go unanswered,” they wrote. “We are ready to discuss these issues in a responsible way, for we all recognize that doing nothing is not an option.”

## ***Trump Climate Panel Could Expose Huge Fraud, Hence the Hysteria***

Written by [Alex Newman](#) 08 March 2019 #

[https://www.thenewamerican.com/tech/environment/item/31677-trump-climate-panel-could-expose-huge-fraud-hence-the-hysteria?fbclid=IwAR1jnutQZP2S0\\_57rVjAoCP\\_TDOvx\\_0WE8IBY6NNRLRzGFWLNxWTQyKto88#](https://www.thenewamerican.com/tech/environment/item/31677-trump-climate-panel-could-expose-huge-fraud-hence-the-hysteria?fbclid=IwAR1jnutQZP2S0_57rVjAoCP_TDOvx_0WE8IBY6NNRLRzGFWLNxWTQyKto88#)

*The collective freak out over President Donald Trump's proposed Presidential Committee on Climate Science (PCCS) highlights the fact that the hysteria surrounding the man-made global-warming hypothesis is unscientific — and that it must be re-examined by competent, credible experts. According to scientists and experts, if the science on “climate change” were truly settled, Democrats, tax-funded climate alarmists, and the establishment media would all be celebrating another committee to confirm that “conclusion.” Instead, the unhinged shrieking over Trump's plan to investigate the matter strongly suggests something very fishy is going on, critics argued. Indeed, there is a good chance [that even more fraud could be revealed](#).*

## ***Debate Green New Deal to Put Its Nonsense to Rest***

By [Larry Bell](#)

Monday, 11 March 2019

<https://www.cfact.org/2019/03/12/debate-green-new-deal-to-put-its-nonsense-to-rest/>

### ***Reality Disconnects in Energy Consumption Sectors:***

*Wind and solar combined produce far less American energy than lobbies and other proponents have led you to imagine. According to 2017 Energy Information Administration data, these two sources combined provided less than 5 percent of the 38 percent of energy used by the electricity sector.*

## **Infrastructure**

### ***The Principle of Credit***

<https://americansystemnow.com/funding-infrastructure-the-principle-of-federal-credit/>

*The solution to the lack of investment in infrastructure lies in putting **Federal credit** into action. That is the principle which was pioneered by Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton, and carried forward in larger and larger dimensions by the administrations of John Quincy Adams, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The principle involves putting the full faith and credit of the Federal government behind an institution, or program, which lends on a long-term, low-interest basis to projects which increase the productivity of the economy as a whole. Significant payback will come through user fees (cf. the Tennessee Valley Authority's electric power generation) over time, but the bulk of the benefit will come through the improvements in efficiency, greater value produced, and increasing the tax revenue base through raising living standards and employment.*

*Take the First and Second Banks of the United States, for example. Both were capitalized primarily by Federal government bonds, owned by private investors, which were used to purchase bank stock—thus requiring no additional major Federal outlays. Those banks promised a small dividend to their stockholders (no more than 6 percent), and themselves received the interest on their capital stock from the Federal government—a guaranteed revenue stream from a dedicated source, in those cases the*

*tariff. These banks then had the basis to lend to the public, often in cooperation with local institutions, for needed projects. The Second Bank, for example, helped to create, and fund (up to 50%) more than 20 new rail lines across the nation.*

*Under President Lincoln, Federal credit was also key to the dramatic upgrading of the nation's economic infrastructure. The Transcontinental Railroad, for example, was heavily funded by government bonds and Federal land grants to the railway companies. The bonds were issued upon proof of progress in construction, and were actually loans that were eventually paid back. Lincoln's reforms of the banking system with the National Banking Act provided a stable financial environment. The greenback system, supported by the Treasury, was another major source of Federally-backed credit into the economy, which underwent a virtual explosion of productive investment in industry and agriculture, as necessitated by the war effort.*

*President Franklin Roosevelt found a multiplicity of ways to fund the infrastructure boom under his Administration—all of which relied on the financial backing of the Federal government through credit. Most instructive for us today was the functioning of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC), which was able to utilize Federally-backed bonds for its wide swath of lending, including to other agencies of the Federal government, and which effectively functioned as a national bank. While a large percentage of RFC lending resulted in the loans being repaid over the long term, other projects only paid back the economy in terms of higher productivity and living standards.*

### ***U.S. Business Demands Bipartisan Action on Infrastructure***

*March 12 (EIRNS)—The Presidents of the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, the National Asphalt Pavement Association, and the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, Dennis Slater, Audrey Copeland and Michael W. Johnson, co-authored an op-ed in The Hill arguing that “Infrastructure Investment Pays for Itself,” and must be made now. They focus on transportation infrastructure, which, as they point out, “is essential to the free movement of people and goods,” writing:*

*“Poll after poll has shown that Americans want their federal government to improve their roads, highways and bridges....*

*“We’re urging Congress to provide a bipartisan solution before May that addresses funding in a way that a majority of members and their constituents can support. We need every member of Congress to leverage every tool at their disposal to pay for badly needed infrastructure maintenance, repair and modernization.*

*“The Trump Administration and Democrats and Republicans in the new Congress have all pointed to a willingness to work together on a comprehensive infrastructure package. It’s time to turn that willingness into action. There are no more excuses....”*

### ***Infrastructure investment pays for itself***

*By Dennis Slater, Audrey Copeland and Michael W. Johnson, Opinion Contributor — 03/11/19 03:25*  
<https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/politics/433538-infrastructure-investment-pays-for-itself>

*A recent [Business Roundtable study](#) found that \$737 billion in public investment over 10 years would set us on the path toward reviving our national infrastructure. While those numbers seem daunting, the report also showed that every additional dollar invested in infrastructure delivers roughly \$3.70 in additional economic growth over a period of 20 years.*

*Our organizations represent many of the companies and industries that maintain, improve, and expand*

*our infrastructure to meet the needs of today and the future. Equipment manufacturers, asphalt paving companies and quarries supply materials to fix and modernize our infrastructure, yes. But, we are all users of this transportation system as well. We're ready to go to work for America, but we cannot do it alone. We need policy solutions to fund and fix our infrastructure, so we can add to the millions of jobs we support and help generate millions of dollars' more activity for our economy.*

*The Trump administration and Democrats and Republicans in the new Congress have all pointed to a willingness to work together on a comprehensive infrastructure package. It's time to turn that willingness into action.*

*There are no more excuses. If voters are clamoring for better infrastructure, then there is no excuse for Congress and the administration to ignore the issue. It is time to work together to find a way.*

*Dennis Slater is president of the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, which has over 1,000 members located across the United States and Canada. Audrey Copeland, Ph.D., P.E., is the president and CEO of the National Asphalt Pavement Association which represents the interests of the asphalt*

And here you have a good example of how **not** to design an infrastructure bill in the U.S. Congress. Will they ever learn?

### ***Dems shape talks with long list of climate demands***

*Maxine Joselow, E&E News reporter Climatewire: Monday, March 11, 2019*

<https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060126741>

*As infrastructure talks progress on Capitol Hill, Democrats are calling for any legislative package to address climate change.*

*But momentum is again building for an infrastructure package to materialize by late spring. And now that they have a majority in the House, Democrats are increasingly vocalizing the need for it to address the climate crisis ([E&E Daily](#), March 7).*

## **NAWAPA XXI - Feature**

**It Shall be NAWAPA That Will Provide Water to the Southwest  
March 14, 2019**

### **Build NAWAPA XXI-- Part II**

This shall be Part II of a series of excerpts from the pamphlet, "Platform for a New Presidency: The Full Recovery Program for the United States." Subsequent weeks will see more of this pamphlet in these pages.

**Originally Published by Executive Intelligence Review**

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**"Build NAWAPA XXI"**

[https://larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2013/eirv40n23-20130607/20-30\\_4023.pdf](https://larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2013/eirv40n23-20130607/20-30_4023.pdf)

Part I appeared in the March 7, 2019 issue of this report:

<http://www.californiadroughtupdate.org/pdf/20190307-California-Water-and-Infrastructure-Report.pdf?>

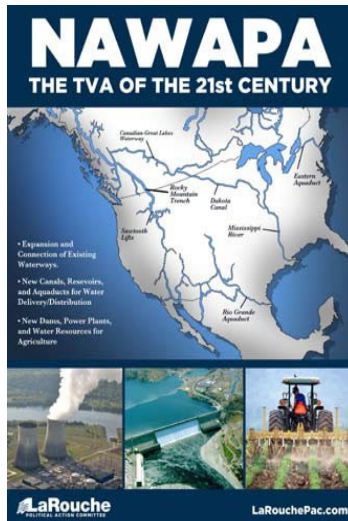


[\\_t=1552011446](#)

## An introductory video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpX8SG03shU>

July 27, 2012 - This is the executive in-depth 30 minute tour of NAWAPA XXI, produced for water specialists, farmers, policy makers, and others who will be able to put their weight behind this life-like vision of the future.



(Part II excerpts)

### The Present Requirement

Having a North American water plan is necessary for the development of Canada, the United States, and Mexico. This is not an optional project. Without integrating the water resources of the continent into a controllable system, increasing population growth, and even maintaining the current population, will not be possible.

The progress of continued application of technology was shut down, when the possibility to build NAWAPA was shut down. NAWAPA was not an option that was turned down, it was a necessity that was blocked.

The sovereign nations of the continent, sharing the same broad Pacific and Atlantic weather systems, must rise to act on the scale of the continent, for the betterment of mankind, and build a North American water management system, which utilizes wasted water re-sources through a system of drought and flood control.

### Project Overview

We live on a continent whose western part has a wide discrepancy of rainfall distribution, due to the particularities of the Pacific Ocean weather system. The area stretching from Alaska and Yukon down to Washington State has 40 times the annual river runoff of the Southwest and northern Mexico. Floods in some regions, and droughts in others, unpredictably wreak havoc, decimating food supplies and destroying cities. NAWAPA XXI will create a continental system of water regulation that can redistribute wasted runoff waters of northern Canada and Alaska to make the Great American Desert bloom, and turn would-be flood waters in one area into the means for fighting drought in another, all through the construction of a massive infrastructural network which can direct these flows and provide a scientific analysis of their best use.

At first thought, it would seem that to move some of this extra runoff to areas where there is little, a very long canal or series of pipelines would be required, but closer inspection shows that such a canal is already built. More specifically, there is a continuous stretch of natural canals, in the form of Rocky Mountain trenches and valleys, stretching from southeast Alaska through southern Idaho, roughly 2,000 miles. All that is required is the construction of 31 dams along the route, and a mountain reservoir system can be formed, capable of making a portion of annual runoff available as permanent source of water to the Great American Desert, which will last as long as the rain continues to fall in the northern mountains of the continent.

Such water transfer would more than double the amount of agricultural land under irrigation west of the Mississippi. It would provide an enduring water supply for cities, farms, and industries across the Southwest, and secure livelihoods for generations to come. The construction of the northern storage and power system will bring with it the industrialization of Alaska, the rapid development of British Columbia, and the general development of the continent as a whole. Implementing the project will save and revive vital industries and technological capabilities, and create millions of long-term productive jobs. In addition to the on-site construction and site preparation for the project, manufacturing all over the country will be dramatically expanded to meet the needs.

To speak quantitatively about these volumes of water, the usual unit is millions of acre-feet per year (MAFY). Rainfall in Alaska, Yukon, and British Columbia is about 2,200 MAFY, and runoff is about 1,300 MAFY, while the catchment areas in Alaska and Canada have an annual runoff of 630 MAFY. In comparison, the southwest U.S. has a total runoff of only 32 MAFY.

Strategically located dams and tunnels will connect collected runoff of the Susitna, Copper, and Tanana River valleys to the Yukon River valley, forming a giant reservoir, out of which water will be joined with the Taku River, where a pump lift will bring water into the Stikine, Nass, and Skeena river valleys, joining two large lakes north of Prince George, British Columbia. From there, the water will be pumped into the Rocky Mountain Trench reservoir, formed by three dams at the head waters of the Fraser River. From there the water would be delivered into the United States and Mexico, entering Montana and Idaho, completing the 2,000-mile mountain reservoir system before tunneling into the Great Basin.

An additional branch of the plan contemplates an industrial corridor and barge canal to be built across the Canadian prairies, connecting the Peace River to Lesser Slave Lake, to the Saskatchewan and Qu'Appelle Rivers, to Lake Winnipeg, and Lake Superior. Sufficient water supplies will be drawn from the canal for the needs of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. The source of the water would be primarily from the upper tributaries of the Mackenzie River, whose mean discharge is 230 MAFY. A regulation system of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, as well as potentially the Great Lakes, would rely on the excess runoff from this system. Additional plans, such as diversion of James Bay runoff, could be incorporated into the final design.

All of these plans will form an interconnected grid across the continent, which can divert water as needed to minimize the effects of droughts and flood. The whole area can be managed as a single system. For the first time in history, mankind will be acting on an entire continent. Studies indicate that water falling on land is typically "recycled" 2.7 times through evaporation and re-precipitation.

As NAWAPA XXI comes into operation, there will be surprises, as the water recycling creates a broader hydrological effect than the direct water contributions from the distribution system itself. By consciously changing the local atmospheric and soil moisture, we set the conditions for learning much more about the functioning of the earth and its biosphere as a system. Detailed descriptions follow.

(To be continued)