

May, 2013

# California Drought Timeline

Sept., 2014

**May 20, 2013** ●  
Governor Brown signs the first executive order related to the drought, to speed the approval process for sending canal water from willing buyers and sellers.

**December 17, 2013** ●  
Governor Brown creates a state drought task force, comprising agency leaders who meet weekly.



**January 2014** ●  
Precipitation data show that 2013 was the driest calendar year in state history, and the third consecutive dry year.

**January 17, 2014** ●  
Governor Brown declares a state of emergency because of the drought and calls for a voluntary 20 percent reduction in water use.

**January 27, 2014** ●  
California releases the state water plan, a guide to state goals over the next five years – goals that include drought management, groundwater monitoring, water conservation, and new supply projects.

**January 29, 2014** ●  
California Republicans in the U.S. House introduce a bill to suspend a federal river restoration and send more water to Central Valley farms.

**January 31, 2014** ●  
The Department of Water Resources announces that most contractors, for the first time ever, would get no water from the state canal system in 2014.

**February 11, 2014** ●  
California Democrats in the U.S. Senate introduce a bill to provide \$US 300m in drought aid and maximize farm water deliveries within existing laws.



**February 14, 2014** ●  
President Obama visits the San Joaquin Valley and announces a \$1.2b U.S. drought relief package, including roughly \$200m for California farmers and communities.



**February 19, 2014** ●  
Governor Brown introduces \$US 687m drought aid package, which also orders state water agencies to write new regulations for reusing water and storing water underground.

**March 19, 2014** ●  
The state water board approves \$800m in low-interest loans for water recycling projects.



**April 1, 2014** ●  
Snow levels in California's Sierra Nevada mountains are third-lowest on record, according to a key snow survey.



**April 9, 2014** ●  
State water managers release a drought operations plan, to ensure sufficient water supplies for drinking and human health through 2015.

**April 18, 2014** ●  
Late-season snow storms allow Department of Water Resources to bump water deliveries from state canals to 5 percent of a full allotment.

**April 25, 2014** ●  
Governor Brown issues a third drought order, which allows state agencies to respond quicker to fires and requires new measures to monitor fisheries.

**April 31, 2014** ●  
The Department of Water Resources releases a study, required by the governor's drought declaration, showing that most of the state's groundwater tables have fallen to record lows.

**May 16, 2014** ●  
The state water board begins cutting off water supplies to junior rights holders in the Scott River watershed, the first of several rivers where access will be limited.

**June 3, 2014** ●  
The state water board adopts new permitting language to speed approval of water recycling projects.

**June 25, 2014** ●  
Stepping into negotiations over a water-spending package for the first time, Governor Brown proposes a \$US 6b bond, several billion dollars smaller than proposals being kicked around in the Legislature.



**July 2014** ●  
At the height of the summer irrigation season, domestic wells begin going dry, leaving thousands of residents without running water.

**July 15, 2014** ●  
The state water board approves statewide residential water restrictions on watering lawns and washing cars. Violators could be fined \$US 500.



**August 13, 2014** ●  
The Legislature passes and the governor signs a \$US 7.5b water bond, which will go to the voters in November.

**August 29, 2014** ●  
The Legislature passes a package of three bills to reform groundwater laws and force local agencies to manage the resource.



**September 19, 2014** ●  
Governor Brown signs bill that requires water providers to report that amount of water lost to leaks.

**September 19, 2014** ●  
Governor Brown signs executive order making money available to individuals with dry wells.

## Key

- Federal Action
- Governor Action
- Drought Event
- State Legislature Action
- Department of Water Resources Action
- State Water Resources Control Board Action