May, 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 $500 million 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 billion U.S. drought relief package, including roughly $200 million for California farmers and communities.

February 19, 2014

Governor Brown introduces $587 million drought aid package, which also orders state water agencies to write new regulations for recycling water and storing water underground.

March 19, 2014

The state water board approves $800 million 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 San Joaquin 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 $6 billion 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 $500.

August 13, 2014

The Legislature passes and the governor signs a $5.7 billion 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 percent of water lost to leaks.

September 19, 2014

Governor Brown signs executive order making water available to individuals with dry wells.

Graphic by Codie Kozacek; Reporting by Brett Walton / Circle of Blue