

A Helpful Push to Increase Water Supply

Serving the Cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Fontana, Montclair, Ontario and Upland, as well as Monte Vista and Cucamonga Valley Water Districts.

November 2009

2009 Comprehensive Water Package

From the California Department of Water Resources 2009 Comprehensive Water Package
Governor Schwarzenegger and state lawmakers successfully crafted a plan to meet California's growing water challenges. A comprehensive deal was agreed to, representing major steps towards ensuring a reliable water supply for future generations, as well as restoring the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and other ecologically sensitive areas.

The plan is comprised of four policy bills and an \$11.14 billion bond. The package establishes a Delta Stewardship Council, sets ambitious water conservation policy, ensures better groundwater monitoring, and provides funds for the State Water Resources Control Board for increased enforcement of illegal water diversions. The bond will fund, with local cost-sharing, drought relief, water supply reliability, Delta sustainability, statewide water system operational improvements, conservation and watershed protection, groundwater protection, and water recycling and water conservation programs.

By Richard Atwater, CEO/General Manager Inland Empire Utilities Agency
If you have been following the news, you most likely know of the historic legislation passed by the California legislature this month that will bring state grant money for new water construction projects to southern California.

An adequate water supply still remains critical to the Inland Empire region because of the State's continuing drought, as well as its rapid urban growth. The passage of these four water bills allows the State to place the \$11.14 billion water bond on the November 2, 2010 ballot. If approved by California voters, the Chino Basin would receive funding for recycled water projects, groundwater cleanup, and water conservation measures - all helping to drought proof our region.

Water Conservation Tip:
Install low-flow showerheads and save 2.5 gallons per shower. Take showers in five minutes or less and save 12.5 gallons with a low-flow showerhead or 25 gallons with a standard 5.0 gallon per minute showerhead.

Upcoming Events

December 5: Volunteer Work Party
Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

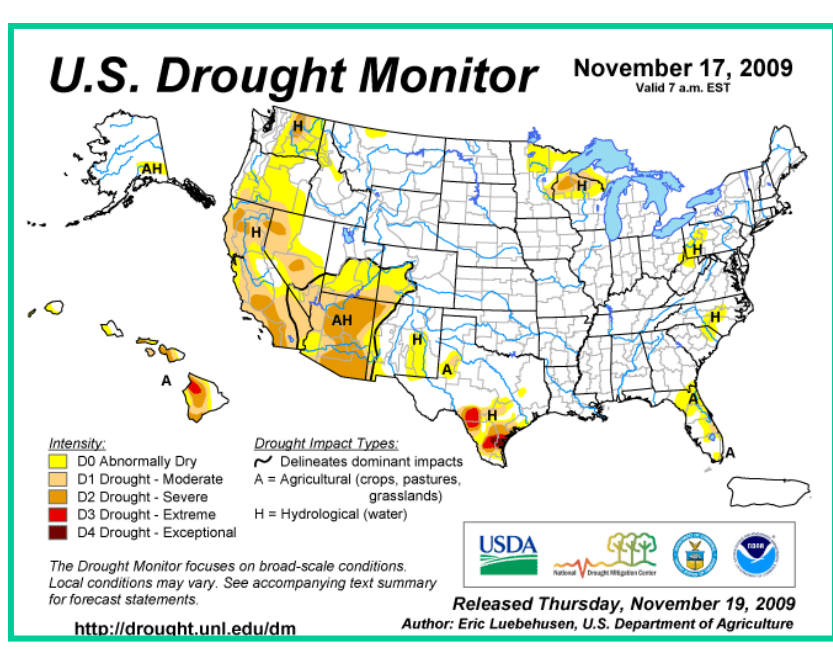
February 27: Garden In Every School® Workshop
IEUA, Event Room
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

March 17: Landscape Alliance Board Meeting
IEUA, Board Room
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

April 17: Project Learning Tree Workshop
TBD

April 22: Earth Day
Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Water Legislation in the News:
State Legislature Approves Comprehensive Package to Overhaul Water System, including an \$11-billion bond - <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/latimes/2009/11/state-legislature-approves-comprehensive-package-to-overhaul-water-system-in-california-11-billion-bond.html>
The Big State Government That Could - <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/editorial/la-ed-water-2009nov05.0.1170946.story>
At last, a water policy - <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-cup-2009nov05.0.2725071.colmex>
Legislators Strike Major Water Deal - <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-water-2009nov05.0.481659.story>
New Water Future Crafted - http://www.pu.com/localnews/health/starting/PF_News_Local_S_water05_4447788.html
Governor Signs Part of Water Package - <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/accesspage/2009/11/groundwater-lllegal-water-diversion-california.html>
Inland Valley to benefit from Water Bond - <http://www.dailystar.com/search/137527671A100?Search=www.dailystar.com/www.dailystar.com>



Drought Summary
Most of California is labeled with severe, D2, to moderate, D1, drought. The Delta: Dry weather was welcomed in the Delta, where the story has not been drought, but flooding and fieldwork delays. 90-day rainfall surpluses are greater than 12 inches over much of the region, and exceed 2 feet over the past 365 days in northern portions of the Delta. Looking Ahead: Out west, dry, warm conditions across the Southwest and southern Rockies will contrast with stormy weather in northern California and the Northwest.

Landscape Alliance

<http://www.ieua.org/conservation/landscape/landscape.html>

The Dry Garden: Diverting winter rains from the streets to our flower beds
November 11, 2009
By: Emily Green
<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com>

It stands to reason that some of the most progressive environmentalists in Los Angeles work for the Department of Public Works' Bureau of Sanitation. They are the front line between what we discard and the environment.

Last week we looked at their fight to triage our system for recycling food scraps. This week the subject is their battle to capture rainfall before it enters L.A.'s massive storm drain system.

The bureau, along with a leading Southland water agency, the state Legislature and environmental nonprofit groups such as TreePeople and the Green LA Coalition are all moving to make harvesting rainwater as routine as recycling.

Rain shouldn't be a pollutant, but as the Los Angeles Basin was steadily developed during the last century the fields and meadows where the water used to infiltrate into the aquifer was steadily paved.

So, when it rained, it flooded. By the 1930s the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began building what is now 1,500 miles of pipes and 100 miles of open channels to catch the water that flowed from our roofs and driveways into the streets and storm drains. This runoff was then fed into the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek.

To Channel that water better, the river and creek also were paved.

The result: On dry days, the Bureau of Sanitation reckons that 100 million gallons of runoff from sprinklers, car washing and the like fall untreated

into the Pacific Ocean.

When it rains, that figure skyrockets to more like 10 billion gallons with each one-inch shower. When a typical rain year is over, 120 billion gallons, or enough water to serve a million households a year, will have swept through Greater L.A.'s streets into the Pacific.

Were it fresh water that we were discharging, it would be merely wasteful. But the minute that rain leaves our gutters, downspouts and driveways for the street, it begins picking up motor oil, candy wrappers, dog feces and cigarette butts. By the time it reaches the ocean, fresh rainfall is toxic crud.

Capturing rain is by no means simple, but a sea change in attitude has taken place. As L.A. Board of Public Works Commissioner Paula Daniels likes to say, whereas the 20th century goal was to get rid of water as fast as possible, the challenge of the 21st century is to keep it.

The chronology bears this out. In 2004, Los Angeles voters passed Proposition O, a \$500-million bond to clean up the city's water courses. The screens that began appearing over storm drain openings were part of that initiative.

Among local water authorities, the Inland Empire Utilities Agency is leading the charge to capture, treat and use storm water as part of its overall water supply.



For complete blog visit: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/>

California's Drought An Update

Provided by the Department of Water Resources
October 30, 2009



Introduction
As we are nearing the beginning of the winter season, reservoir conditions have typically reached their lowest conditions after summer demands. The unseasonably early wet October storms did not significantly reduce our accumulated water supply deficit. Information in this report is based on hydrologic data compiled through either the end of September, or through late October, depending on availability. This month's report includes local drought impacts, a discussion of historical drought periods, impacts by hydrologic region, and the status of drought emergencies declared by counties.

Reservoir Storage
Statewide reservoir storage at the end of Water Year 2009 was over 17 MAF or about 80 percent of average and 46% of capacity for the date, with individual key reservoirs much lower.

Meteorology
As of September 30, 2009, at the end of Water Year 2009, statewide hydrologic conditions from the State Meteorologist were as follows: precipitation, 80 percent of average to date; runoff, 65 percent of average to date; and reservoir storage, 80 percent of average for the date. Sacramento River unimpaired runoff observed through September 30, 2009 was about 12.9 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 70 percent of average. Last year, on September 30, 2008, the observed Sacramento River unimpaired runoff through that date was about 10.3 MAF, or about 55 percent of average.

As of September 30, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 46.7 inches, 93 percent of an average water year (50 inches). Last year on September 30 (the end of water Year 2008), the seasonal total to date was 34.9 inches, 70 percent of an average water year. Water years 2007-2009 were the 13th driest consecutive 3-year period (tied with Water Years 1976-1978) out of 87 years of record.

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) weather outlook for November, 2009, issued October 15, 2009, forecasts average precipitation for all of California. The CPC's Winter outlook, also issued October 15, forecasts slightly above average precipitation for all of California.

Climatology
Water Year 2009 ended with slightly below normal conditions in terms of precipitation and well below average runoff. Statewide, precipitation was 76% of average. The northern California 8-station index fared better recording 93% of average conditions. Statewide runoff was only 65% of average, while the Sacramento River's 12.9 million acre feet of runoff was about 70% of average. The Sacramento Runoff Index was classified as Dry, and the San Joaquin River Runoff Index was classified as below normal. Only three times last century did northern California droughts extend beyond three years.

Local Impacts and Responses to the Drought
As of October 27, 2009, the USDA has granted agricultural disaster designations, either primary, contiguous, or both due to drought, for 50 of California's 58 counties. So far 25 California counties have requested primary designations and provided the California Emergency Management Agency with estimates of the dollar value of their drought-related losses for one or more crops for various reporting periods. The total loss for all the reporting countries is about \$876.0 million.

South Coast, South Lahontan, and Colorado River Hydrologic Regions
As drought conditions persist and water rates climb in the southern hydrologic regions, water agencies and their customers are starting to explore more ways to conserve water. With much of the indoor conservation measures (e.g. low flow fixtures and appliances) already being implemented, there is now a strong trend to curb the water

use on outdoor landscaping. Many agencies are encouraging their customers to install water efficient sprinkler systems and native, drought tolerant landscaping: the Municipal Water District of Orange County offers free Water-Wise Landscape Workshops to help educate its customers; Western Municipal Water District hosts a Waterwise Gardening Guide on its website to offer suggestions for water efficient landscaping; Metropolitan Water District operates its website where customers can access a watering calculator to determine the correct amount of water to give their landscape every week; and San Diego Water Authority published a list of 50 plants, titled *Nifty 50* that are drought tolerant, noninvasive and are readily available at local nurseries. Many other water agencies in the region are realizing the water saving benefits of drought tolerant landscaping, and encouraging their use through similar outreach efforts. According to the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRDSC), because the City of Long Beach has had an effective drought water conservation program in place, 3,000 AF of imported water from the Metropolitan Water District is available and has been purchased for groundwater replenishment of the Central Basin in Los Angeles County.

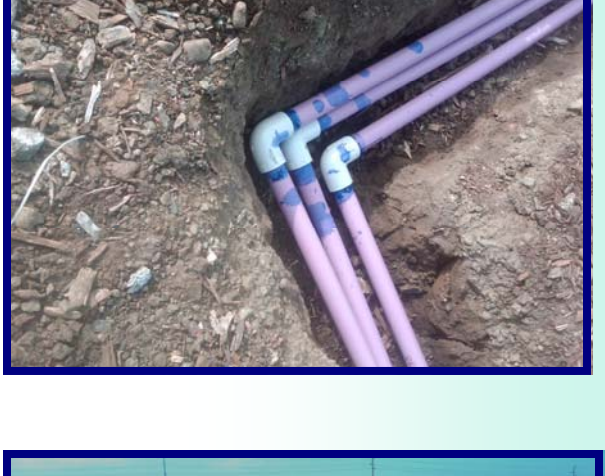
Drought Contingency Plan
DWR's California Water Plan staff and State Agency steering committee are working on a draft of a 5-year Statewide Drought Contingency Plan. The drought contingency plan was presented at the California Water Plan Plenary meeting on October 14. The purpose of the plan is to articulate a coordinated State government strategy for preparing for, responding to, and recovering from drought. An annotated outline was provided for public input. A draft plan will be completed by end of November, and a final plan will be released in conjunction with the next water plan update due in February 2010.

For complete Drought Update, visit: <http://www.water.ca.gov/drought/>

Garden in Every School® Demonstration Garden is Taking Shape

The Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA) has partnered with IEUA to construct a demonstration garden located by the Pipe Garden in an area of the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park. The funding is provided by a GreenWorks! 2009 Grant and is an agreement between Project Learning Tree (PLT) and SAWA. The project involves many volunteers who have donated their time and effort to trenching, irrigating, planting, monitoring and planning in order to complete this project successfully. The goal of the project is to inspire youth to take action in the community and the environment by developing a project on their own. The garden, when complete, will consist of four quadrants manifesting different types of California Friendly® plants along with information kiosks with brochures. In addition, it will be a demonstration site for teachers who are interested in applying for the Garden in Every School® grant, and/or who wants to see what a California Friendly® garden may look like.

The project began with an introduction workshop in which all the volunteers took part in deciding what design would be implemented in the garden. In addition, informational workshops were given in order to better prepare the volunteers for their project experience. The site clearing and planting days have been ongoing and the garden is taking shape. Upon the completion of the project, a ribbon cutting ceremony will take place during IEUA's Annual Earth Day Celebration on April 22, 2010. In addition, each volunteer will be recognized for their hard work and dedication during the garden project.



- IEUA Board of Directors**
- Terry Catlin**
Division 1: Upland/Montclair
 - Gene Koopman**
Division 2: Ontario
 - John Anderson**
Division 3: Chino/Chino Hills
 - Angel Santiago**
Division 4: Fontana
 - Michael Camacho**
Division 5: Rancho Cucamonga

