



Water Matters

News for the
Orange County
Water Community

APRIL, 2016



ENSO the Wet Season Ends (Almost)

By JAY LUND, Director, Center for Watershed Sciences, UC Davis

Summary of the Wet Season (So Far)

March 2016 was unusually wet, and quite a contrast to February. This year's "Godzilla" *El Niño* has been a bit "Gonzo," but overall has brought a welcome above average precipitation for northern California, after four solid drought years. The unevenness of the precipitation is some concern, and the depth of remaining surface and subsurface storage drawdown from the drought remains sizable.

Annual precipitation and snowpack are now about average overall for California. The largest reservoirs in northern California are in good shape, with sizable, about average snowpacks waiting to trickle down in spring. Overall, total surface storage in California is about 2.7 million acre-ft below average for this time of year (improved from an 8 maf surface storage deficit in October). Groundwater will be recharging, as it should this time of year in most places, but groundwater is likely to remain drawn down in much of the southern Central Valley.

California remains in a drought, a bit. So far, the much-hyped *El Niño* has brought us largely average precipitation and snowpack. A huge improvement over the last few years, but not an excuse to forget the lessons of the drought so far. And who knows what next year will bring.

Here are recent highlights, with links to the California Department of Water Resources' California Data Exchange Center (CDEC) at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov>.

Reservoir and Groundwater Storage Conditions

Major reservoirs in northern California are mostly healthy this year, but substantially emptier south of the Delta.

California's total reservoir storage remains about 2.7 maf (about 2.7 full Folsom reservoirs) less than average for this time of year. This is a nice improvement from being 8 maf below average in October. Groundwater statewide will be making some recovery but will be a long way from recovering from drought in many drier areas south of the Delta.

The drought by 2015 depleted total storage in California by about 22 maf cumulatively, or nearly a year's worth of water use in agriculture. Storage is recovering during this wet season, but still has a good bit to go, probably 12-16 maf of drought storage drawdown remains, mostly from groundwater.

Precipitation and Snowpack

Precipitation in most of California is far superior to the last four years of drought. But we have had some very dry months (February) and some very wet months (March and January). Southern parts of California, south of the Delta, have had a smaller share of relative water bounty, but are in much better shape than last year.

Concluding Thought

Much better than the last four years, but still a bit of drought. A very wet March, and fairly wet December and January, has helped recover from a dry February and four years of drought. Northern California is in mostly good shape for the coming year. More southern parts of California are more stressed, but still far better off than the previous four years. Lingering drought effects will continue. A "Godzilla" *El Niño* is no guarantee of a drought-buster.

It is unclear if the next year will be a return to drought conditions, but the forecast for April so far seems mostly dry.



Shasta Lake Reservoir in 2014 (left) and today. Photos by Cheri Harrison, Shasta Lake Chamber of Commerce.

*ENSO – What is it?

El Niño and the Southern Oscillation, also known as ENSO is a periodic fluctuation in sea surface temperature (El Niño) and the air pressure of the overlying atmosphere (Southern Oscillation) across the equatorial Pacific Ocean. El Niño is so termed because it generally reaches full strength toward the end of the year, and early Christian inhabitants of western equatorial South America equated the warm water current and the resulting impacts with their holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus (known as El Niño in Spanish).

Eighth Annual County-Wide

2016 SAFETYFEST

*Join us for the eighth annual
county-wide safety event created for the water industry.*

*There will be Contact Hours available to those attendees who attend
any, or all, of the state-approved training sessions offered at SafetyFest.*

Topics in the training sessions include:

Confined Spaces in Water & Wastewater
OSHA Top 10 Violations ♦ Emergency Field/First Aid
Pre-Incident Indicators for Terrorism
Emergency Response Protocols

Presenters are from OCIAC, WEROC, JPWA APIA, ARC & SCWD.

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

7:30 am to 4:00 pm

Registration begins at 7 am

Continental breakfast and a lunch buffet are included.

City of Santa Ana Public Works Yard

220 S. Daisy Avenue • Santa Ana, California 92703

Tickets: **\$40⁰⁰** PER PERSON (*Member & Non-Member*)

To make reservations, go to: www.oc-water.org

For more information, contact:

Brandon Stock at (714) 593-5032

or via email: Bstock@mwdoc.com

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OCWD and OCSD Co-Sponsor Legislation Allowing Californians to Taste Purified Reused Water

As California's drought persists and endures a fifth year, awareness is high that water supply projects must be implemented to create a sustainable water supply for generations to come. Assemblyman Rich Gordon (D-Menlo Park) recently introduced legislation AB 2022 that will aid promotion and education about water reuse – a proven solution to solving water shortages. The bill is co-sponsored by the Orange County Water District, the Orange County Sanitation District, and WaterReuse California, and will allow the bottling of advanced purified drinking water to support this educational outreach effort.

Currently, agencies are not allowed to bottle reused water because of the source, even though the end product meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards and undergoes more testing than other drinking and bottled water supplies. Consumers must visit an advanced purification facility in person to taste this clean, safe reused water.

OCWD and OCSD have partnered for over 20 years to plan, design, build and operate one of the world's most advanced water reuse facilities, the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS). The GWRS provides water reliability for the region by purifying 100 million gallons per day of highly treated wastewater to increase the local drinking water supply for north and central Orange County.

"Advanced purified water is becoming a common tool for water suppliers as we diversify water portfolios to improve

reliability, but the law hasn't caught up to including treated wastewater as a reliable resource," said OCWD President Cathy Green. "OCWD has been operating world-renowned water reuse facilities since the 1970s, starting with Water Factory 21 and culminating with the GWRS. Thousands of people from around the world have toured the GWRS to learn about this advanced purification technology first-hand and taste the ultra-pure water. We have witnessed that tasting and seeing means believing and we support legislation to bottle this type of water," she added.



Water reuse projects like the GWRS and other alternative water supply projects are critical to developing a reliable water supply and will help California better weather cyclical droughts and water supply challenges. AB 2022 will help support an educational outreach effort, which is a critical step in the process of gaining the public's approval for water reuse projects. The bottled water will be used as a means to further educate audiences about the cutting-edge technology that is being used to purify reused water to near-distilled water quality in their community. Public understanding of the purity of this water is seen as a key requirement for more widespread acceptance of potable reuse in California.

Drought Response Workshop

The **2016 Drought Response Workshop** will take place May 16-17, 2016 at the Atrium Hotel in Irvine. Sponsored jointly by the California Department of Water Resources, Southern California Water Committee, and National Water Research Institute, this event will focus on drought planning, response, and mitigation measures. Individuals from water agencies and other public and local organizations involved in drought response and planning efforts are invited to attend.

The two-day program includes talks by water resources professionals and academics from organizations throughout California.

The cost to attend is \$40 Regular or \$20 Student (with valid ID) regardless if you attend both days or just one. The fees include the following:

- (a) Day 1 Workshop on Monday, 5/16, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
(Breakfast items and Lunch Provided)
- (b) Day 1 Reception on Monday, 5/16, 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
(Appetizers and Refreshments)
- (c) Day 2 Workshop on Tuesday, 5/17, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
(Breakfast items and Lunch Provided)

We expect this event to qualify for continuing education hours and will post the number of hours approved as soon as that information is available. Please contact Suzanne Faubl at NWRI at sfaubl@nwri-usa.org or (714) 378-3278 with questions regarding the program.

Information on last years workshop held February 25 & 26, 2015 can be found at: www.nwri-usa.org/drought2015.htm

37th Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, June 6, 2016

Corporate Sponsors

The following companies have joined with OCWA to sponsor this year's Golf Tournament.

AES Water Inc.	Darik Walton
Bingham and Taylor	Mark Delancellotti
Bowie, Arneson, Wiles & Giannone	Jeff Hoskinson
Bush and Associates	David Bush
Cab Engineers, Inc.	Cory Bersch
Civiltec Engineering, Inc.	W. David Byrum
Clow Valve Company	Nolan Foran
DUDEK	Frank Dudek
DUDEK	Bob Ohlund
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HDR Engineering	Steve Friedman
MISCO Water	Tom Roberson
National Meter and Automation	C. Robert Sears
Paulus Engineering, Inc.	Jason Paulus
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Monthly Luncheon Sponsorship Opportunities

OCWA is soliciting for sponsorship of OCWA Luncheons. Sponsorship is available for \$250. Sponsors must be a current OCWA member. A table is made available at the meeting for the sponsor to display their company or agency information, and the sponsor receives one free lunch. Sponsors will be provided announcement space in the newsletter and will be verbally recognized before and after the luncheon. During lunch, sponsors can play a PowerPoint slide presentation, and will be given a few minutes to address the group about their company before the Speaker's presentation.

If you are interested in participating, please contact John Robinson, (626) 375-9389, or you may email him at johnrobinson@johnrobinsonconsulting.com

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OCWA's Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month, unless notified otherwise. The next meeting is scheduled for:

April 20, 2016 ♦ 10:30 am to Noon

Dave & Buster's Restaurant ♦ Irvine Spectrum Entertainment Center

April Luncheon Topic

Latest Changes in Public Works Laws Brought by the Public Works Reforms Bill (SB 854)

Presenters:

Ms. Lorna Espiritu

*Senior Deputy Labor Commissioner,
Santa Ana and Long Beach Public Works Offices
within the State Labor Commissioner's Office*

Mr. Lance Grucela

*Senior Deputy Labor Commissioner,
San Diego and San Bernardino Public Works Offices
within the State Labor Commissioner's Office*

The public works reforms brought by Senate Bill 854 (Stat. 2014, chapter 28) was signed on June 19, 2014 by Governor Jerry Brown. The bill made several changes to the laws governing how the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) monitors compliance with prevailing wage requirements on public works projects. Some of these changes modify the responsibilities of awarding bodies, including by eliminating the obligation to pay DIR for compliance monitoring on state bond-funded projects. Some of SB 854's changes went into effect immediately (because the bill was adopted as an urgency measure), but others will be phased in.

The awarding body (AB) is still responsible for administering its project and ensuring that public funds are used appropriately. As partners with DIR's Public Works Enforcement team, ABs must also ensure that all public works contractors are in compliance with all labor laws.

Ms. Lorna Espiritu is the Senior Deputy Labor Commissioner for the Santa Ana and Long Beach Public Works offices within the State Labor Commissioner's Office. She supervises staff who investigate complaints concerning prevailing wage and apprenticeship violations under the California Public Works Laws. Prior to being a supervisor, she was a public works investigator since 2000 and has worked as a liaison for Labor

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Dave & Buster's Restaurant ♦ Irvine Spectrum Entertainment Center

11:30 am: Registration ♦ 12:00 – 1:30: Lunch & Presentation

OCWA Members with Reservations.....	\$30	Non-Members with Reservations.....	\$40
OCWA Members without Reservations ..	\$40	Non-Members without Reservations.....	\$40

Reservations must be made by Noon, Tuesday, April 19, to qualify for the Reservation Rate. Cancellations received AFTER this date CANNOT be refunded.

To make reservations, please go to the OCWA website: www.oc-water.org

For more information, contact Leticia Villarreal at (714) 378-3203

Please identify yourself by name and membership number (number is printed on the newsletter mailing label.)

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Compliance Programs. She has over 20 years of investigative experience working for State of California at various agencies, including Employment Development Department and Department of Social Services.

Lance Grucela is the Senior Deputy Labor Commissioner for the San Diego and San Bernardino Public Works offices within the California Labor Commissioner's Office. He supervises staff who enforce California's prevailing wage and apprenticeship laws by investigating alleged violations and actively monitoring ongoing public works construction projects.

Mr. Grucela worked as an investigator for four years in the Public Works unit prior to becoming a supervisor. He represented individuals and businesses in employment and family law matters in private practice for four years before working for the Labor Commissioner's Office. Mr. Grucela received his Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations in 2005 and Juris Doctor degree from the University of San Diego School of Law in 2008.