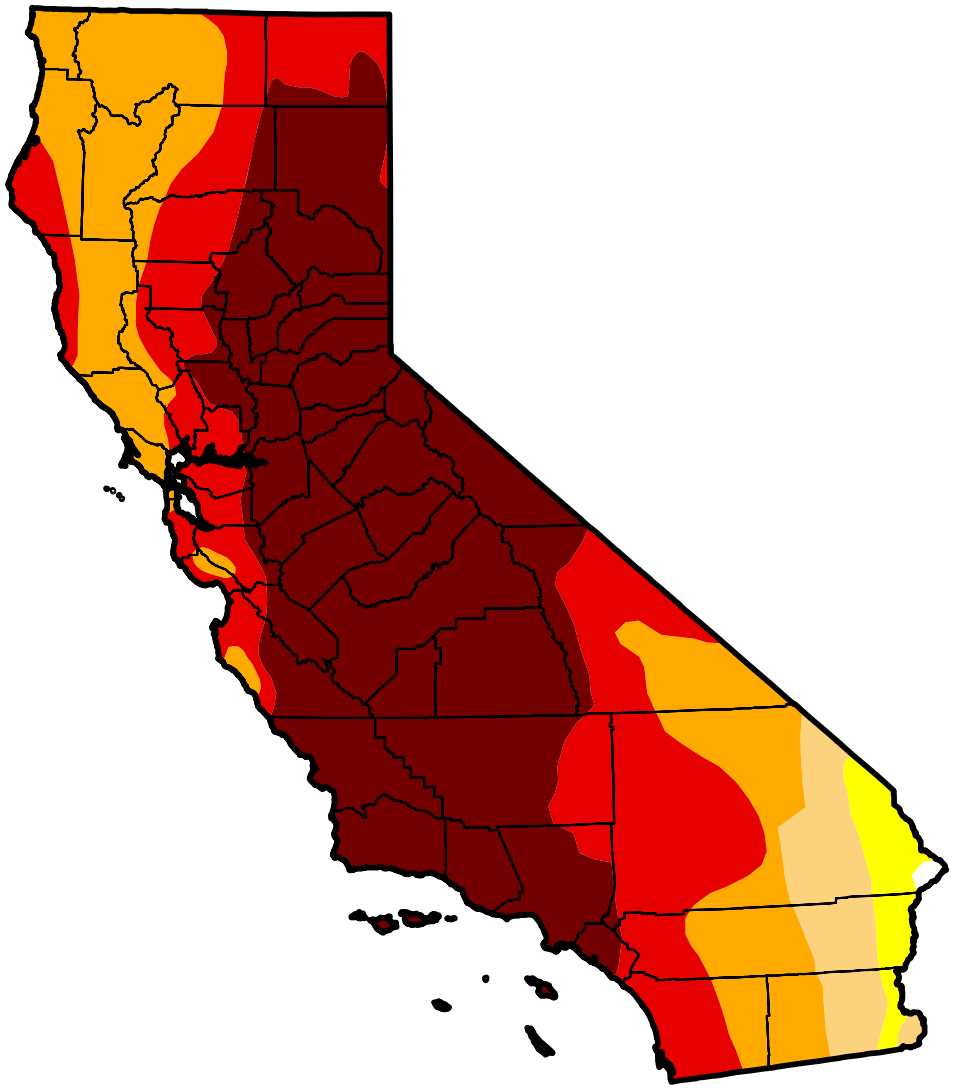
U.S. Drought Monitor

California



August 25, 2015

(Released Thursday, Aug. 27, 2015)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3 D4	D4
Current	0.14	99.86	97.35	92.36	71.08	46.00
Last Week *8/18/2015*	0.14	99.86	97.35	92.36	71.08	46.00
3 Months Ago *5/26/2015*	0.14	99.86	98.71	93.91	66.60	46.73
Start of Calendar Year *12/30/2014*	0.00	100.00	98.12	94.34	77.94	32.21
Start of Water Year *9/30/2014*	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.04	81.92	58.41
One Year Ago *8/26/2014*	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.42	81.92	58.41

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

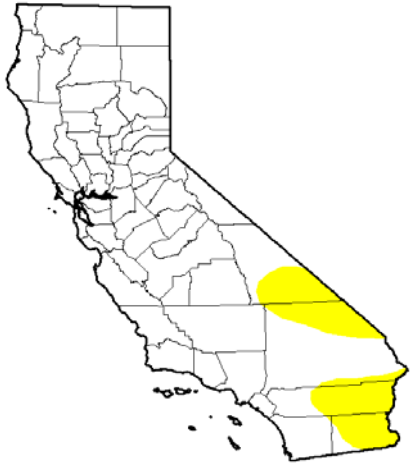
Author:

Anthony Artusa

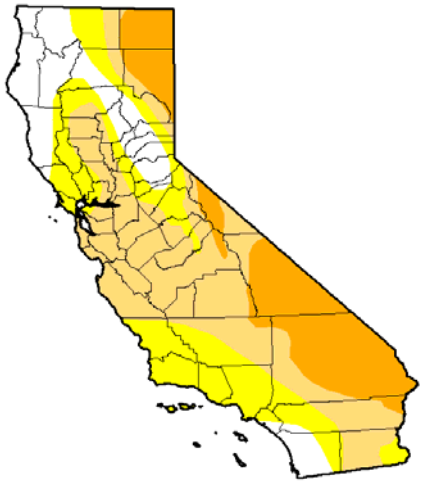
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

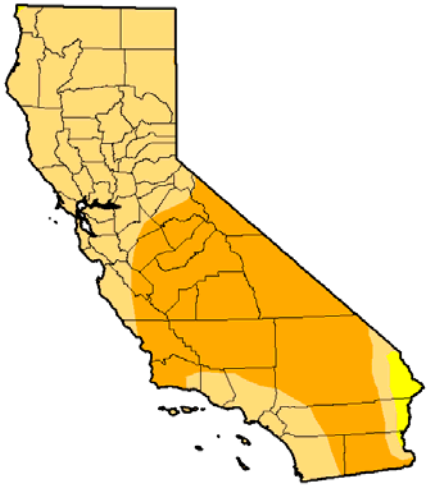
U.S. Drought Monitor
California



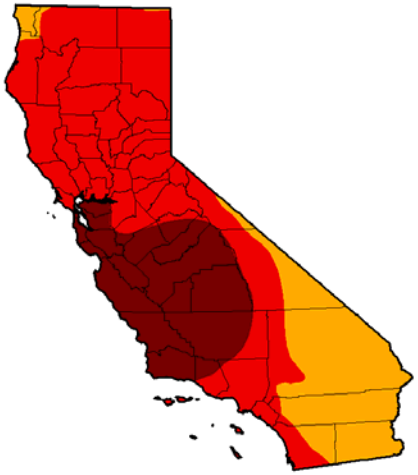
June 28, 2011



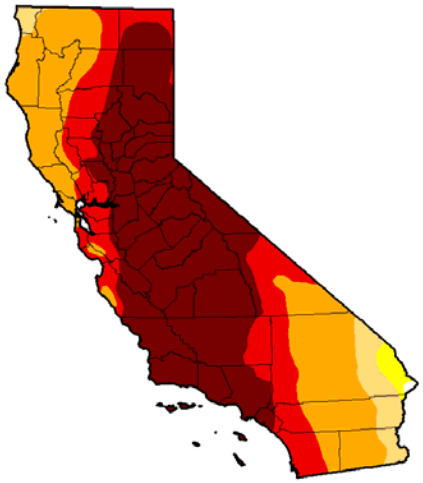
May 29, 2012



May 28, 2013



May 27, 2014



May 26, 2015

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

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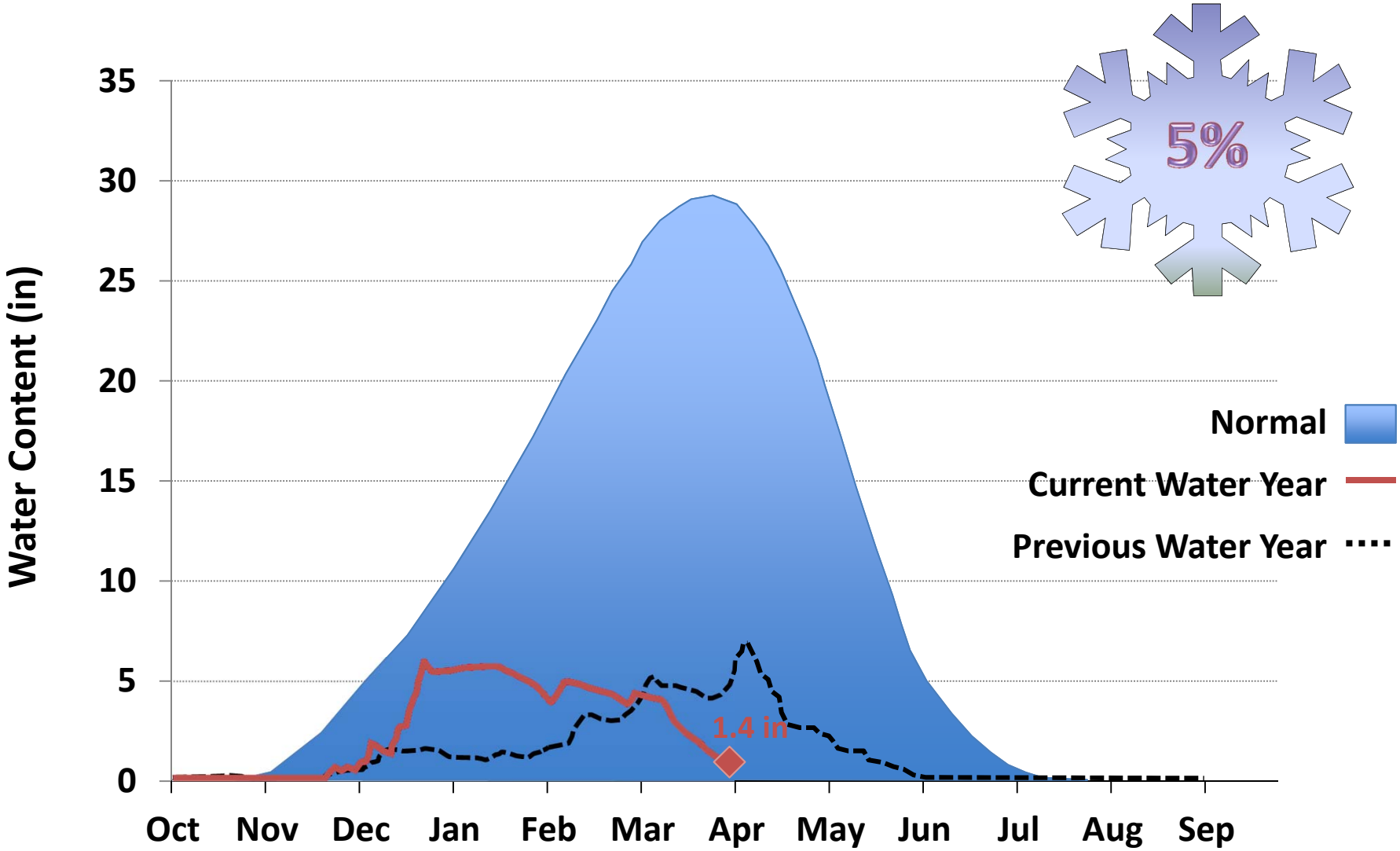
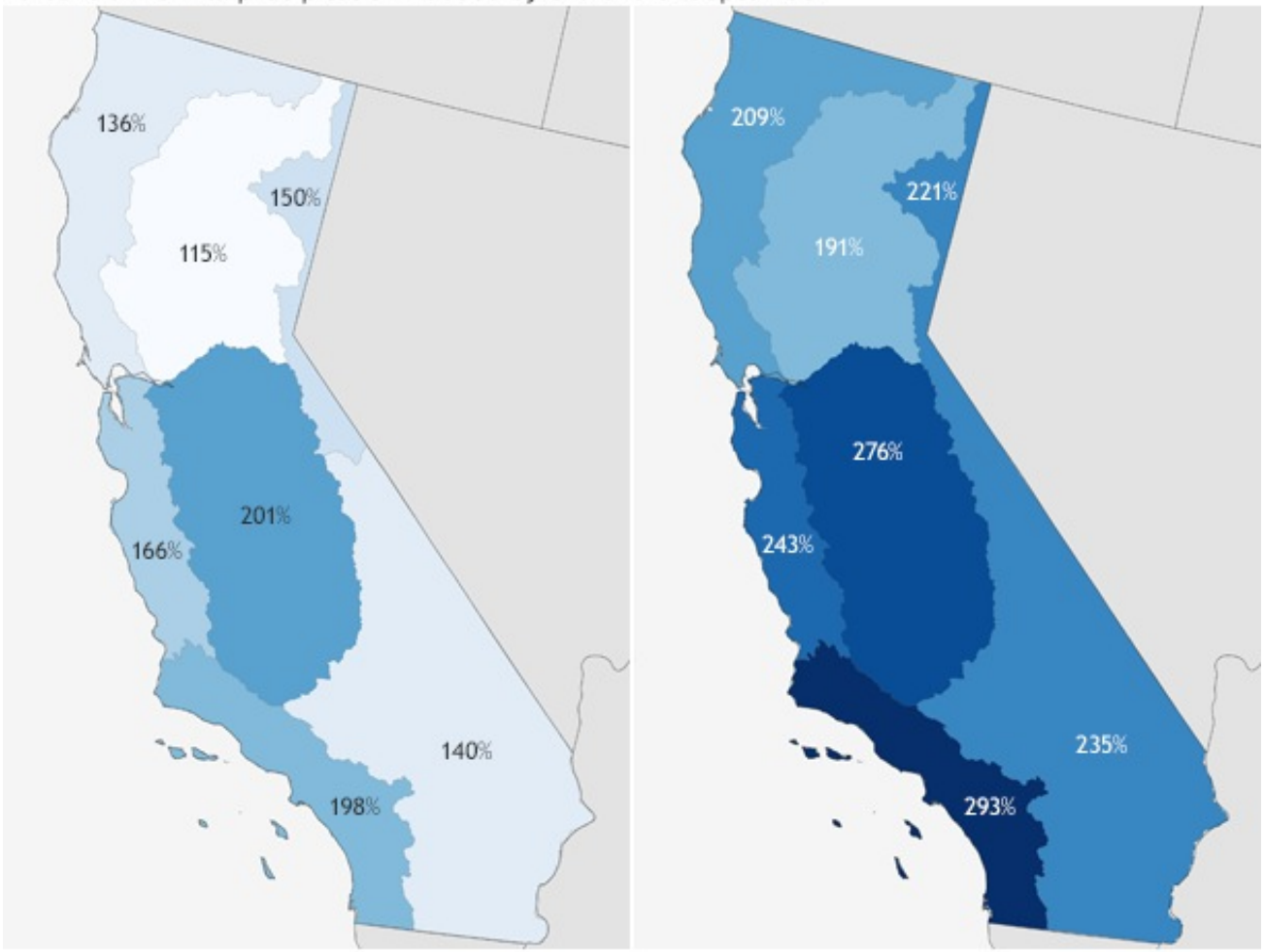
April 1, 2015 Snowpack



Precipitation deficits

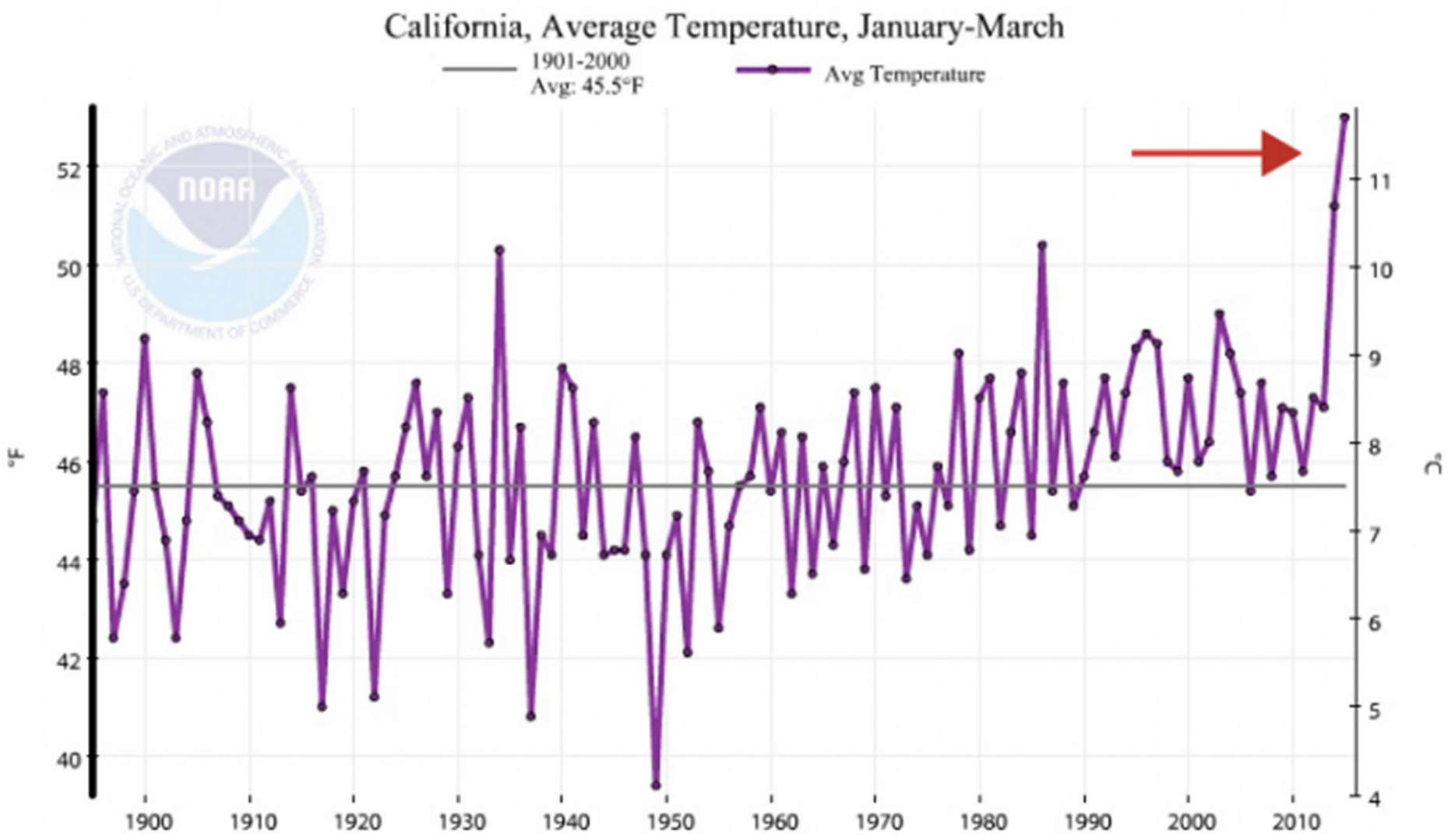
Percent of normal precipitation needed by the end of September



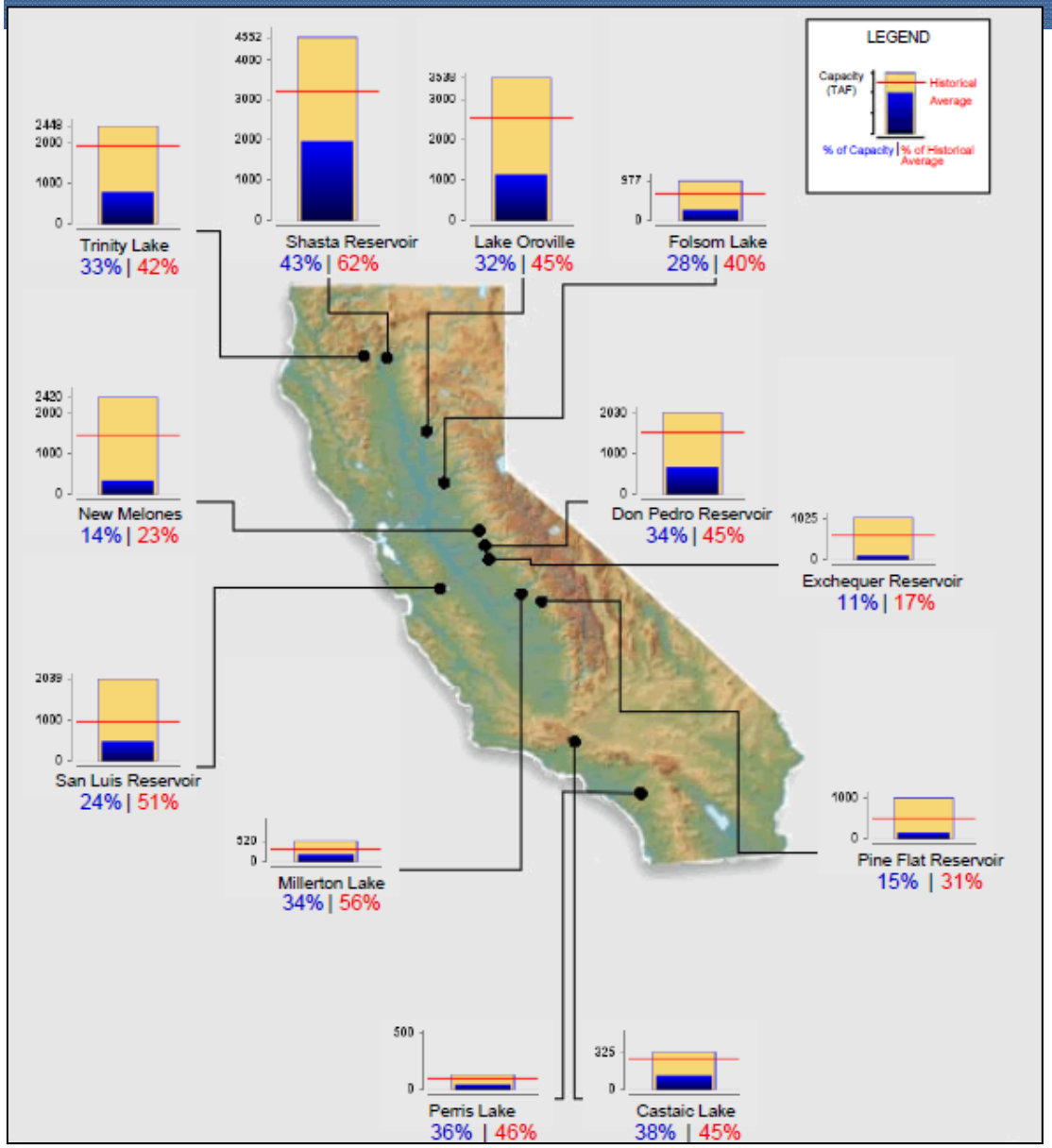
to move out of bottom 20th percentile of 4-year accumulated precipitation

to move out of bottom 50th percentile of 4-year accumulated precipitation

NOAA Climate.gov


California, Average Temperature, January-March
1901-2000
Avg: 45.5°F
Avg Temperature
°F
°C
52
50
48
46
44
42
40
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
1900
1910
1920
1930
1940
1950
1960
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010

California's Water Supply Conditions



State Reservoirs are all below average capacity:

Reduced surface water allocations

- **2015 SWP = 20%**
- **2014 SWP = 0-5%**
- **2013 SWP = 35%**

Increased groundwater use/decreased water levels

Reduced hydropower generation = $1.4 billion for current drought (34 million MWh)

Fish and wildlife impacts

WILDFIRES

April 1, 2015 Snowpack measurement

California Drought Response

STATEWIDE

- Governor's Executive Orders direct state agencies to take specific actions to address drought
- $7.4 Billion Bond approved
- April 1 mandatory 25% State-wide reductions and curtailment of water rights and deliveries
- Water conservation is highest priority in public survey

- **57 local emergency proclamations** to date from city, county, tribal governments, and special districts
- **33 county drought task forces** to coordinate local drought response
- **Local responses underway in every community**
  - **Examples from LA/MWD**

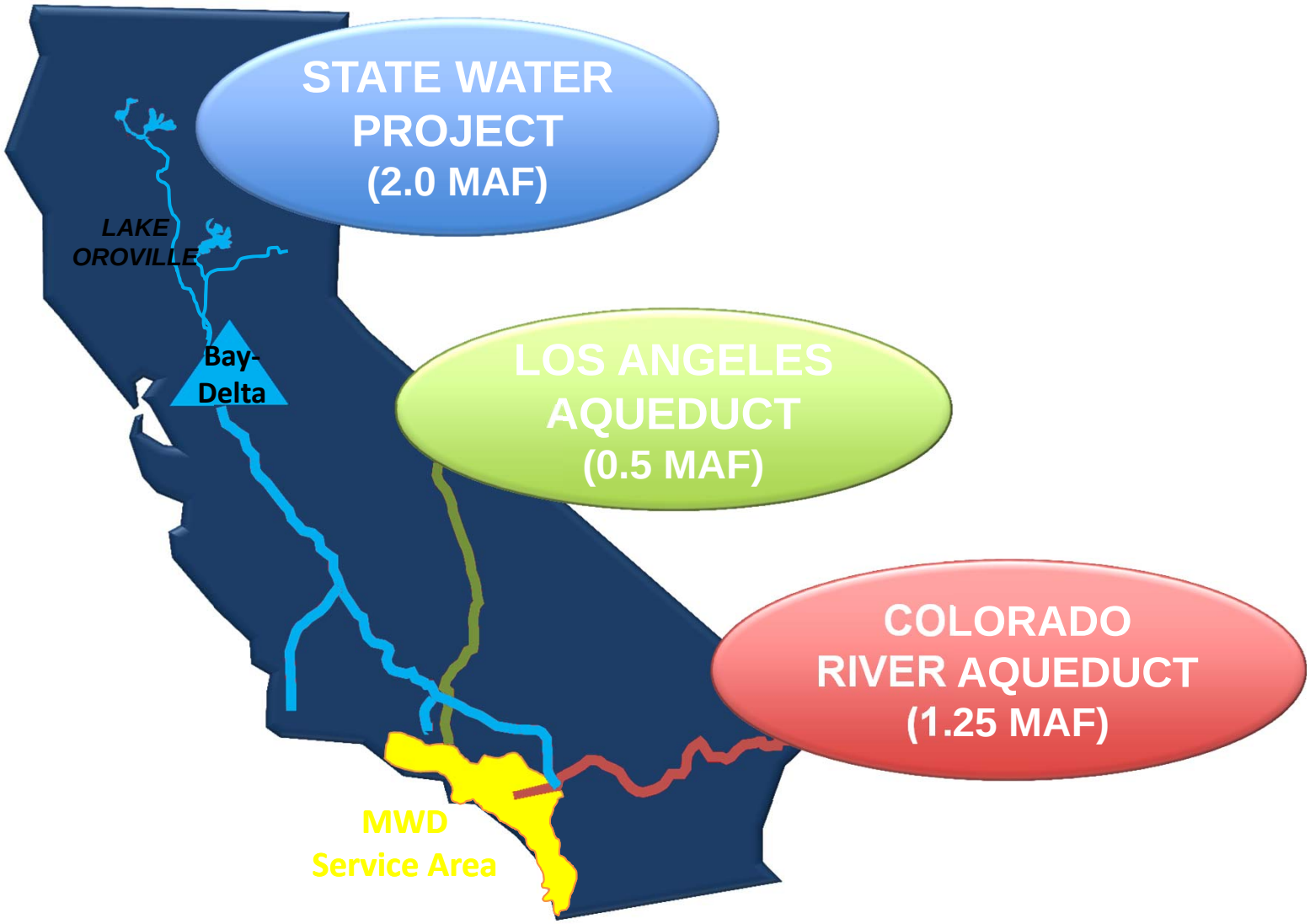
State Water Board's Actions to Implement April 1 Executive Order

Prohibitions for everyone
(Most in place since August 2014)

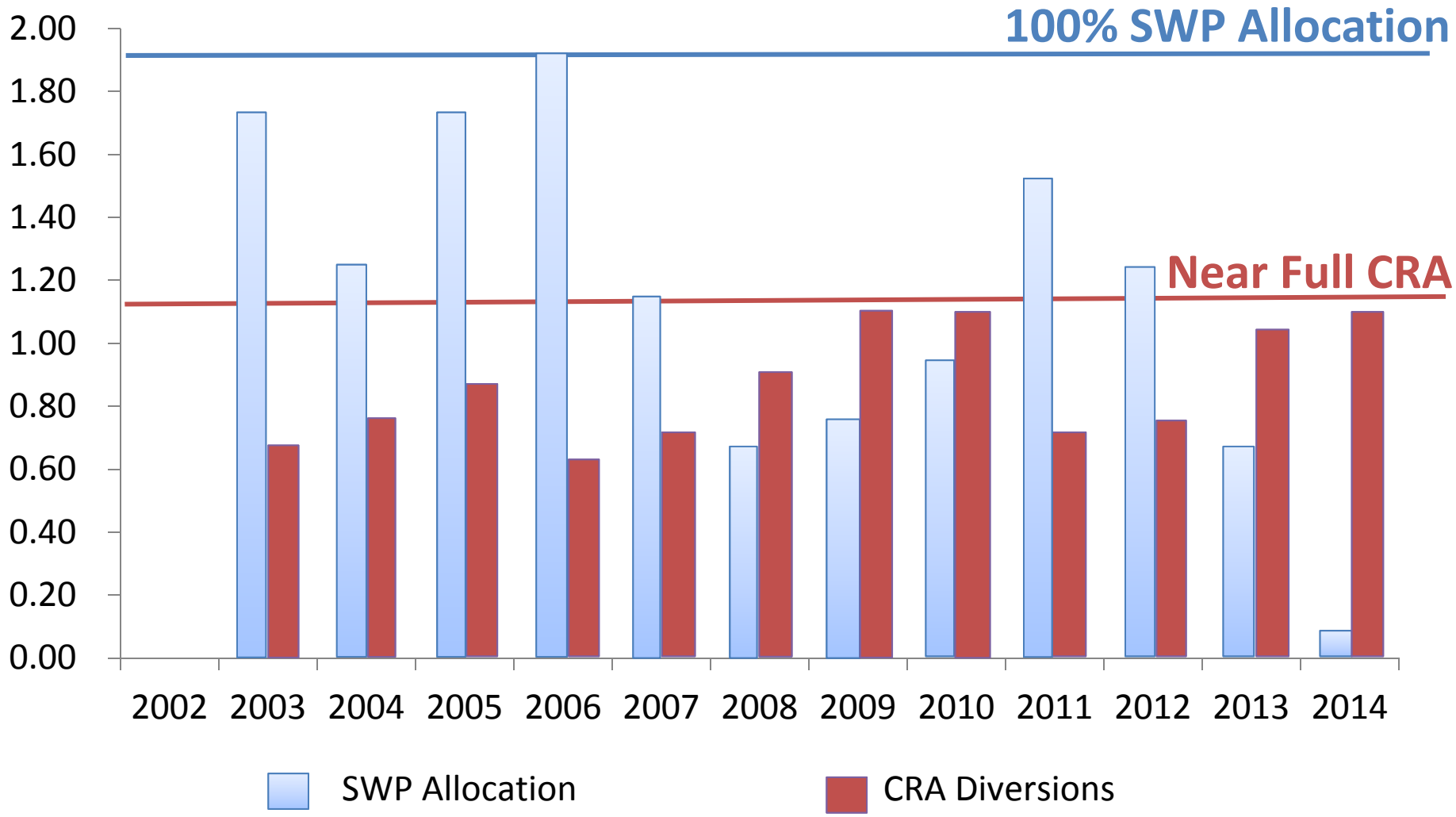
- No potable water on sidewalks or driveways
- No hoses without shutoff nozzles
- No outdoor landscape irrigation within 48 hours following measurable precipitation
- No potable water to irrigate public street medians
- No potable water to irrigate outside of newly constructed homes and buildings without drip or microspray systems
- No water in restaurants without request

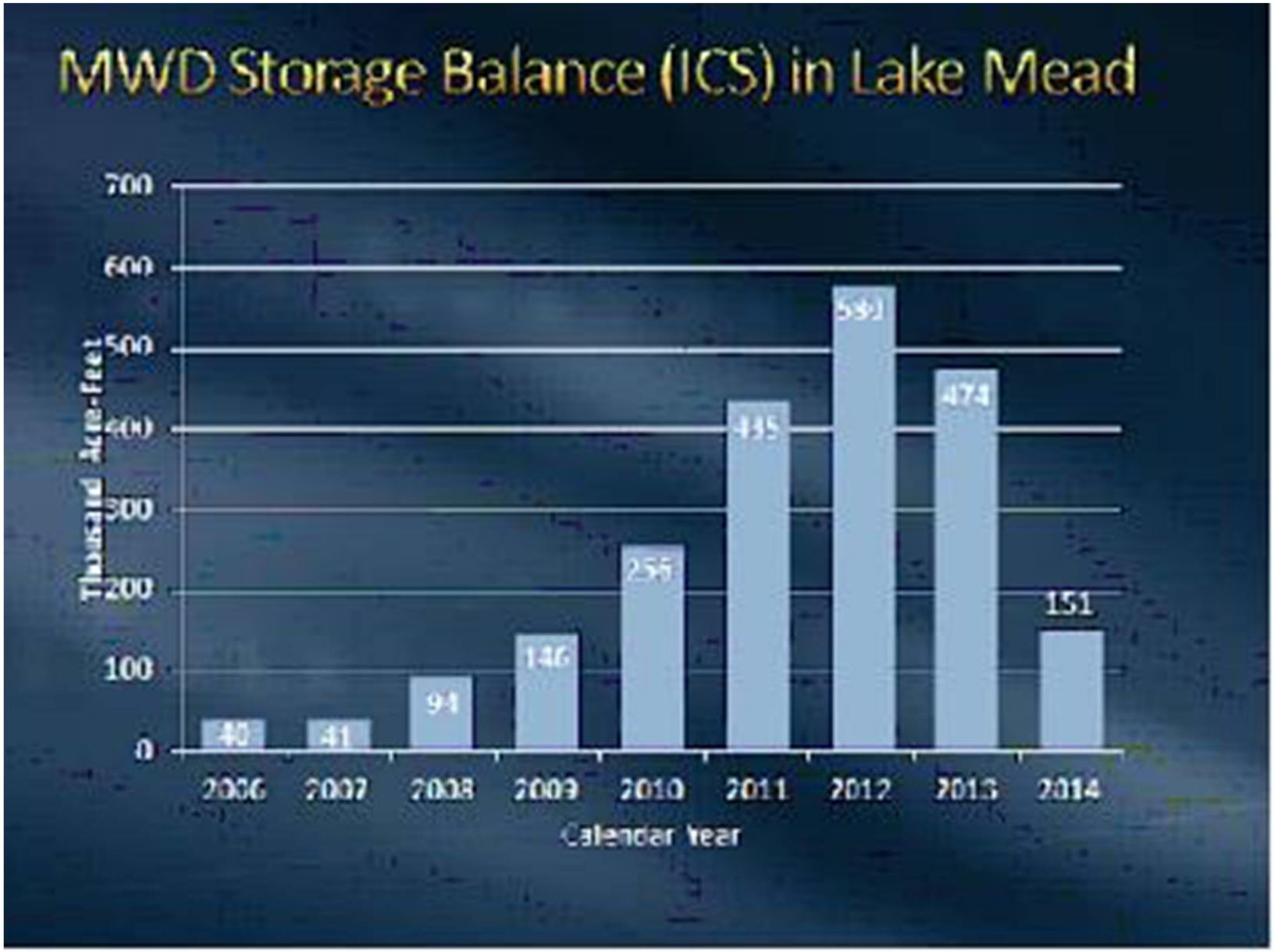
EFFORTS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN REDUCING WATER USE

Southern California's Imported Water Supply Sources



Imported Supply Relationship for Southern California




MWD Storage Balance (ICS) in Lake Mead
Thousand Acre-Feet
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
40
41
94
146
256
435
581
474
151
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
Calendar Year

California Drought Response – Colorado River

- Since 2003, CA has reduced its average use of Colorado River water by 800,000 af/yr
- CA Colorado River Agencies and State have invested over $2 billion towards conservation efforts
- Colorado River transfers and conservation have totaled more than 3.0 maf through 2014
- Participation in Lower Basin programs to encourage conservation and storage
- Actions documented in Decree Accounting Report

California Drought Response – Colorado River

LOWER BASIN DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Lower Basin Memorandum of Understanding

Goal to conserve water in Lake Mead

- Encourage additional conservation and storage (ICS)
- System Conservation Pilot Program

Expand operational efficiencies/reducing system losses

Coordinate with the Upper Basin

- Increased funding for weather modification
- Coordinated reservoir operations
- Demand management

Continued cooperation with Mexico – Minute 319