

Water Supply Conditions & Drought Preparedness

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Water Year 2007

- First dry year following a wet 2006
- Northern California dry (Northern Sierra Precip. Accumulation 73% of average), Southern California drier
- Statewide groundwater & reservoir storage generally good – statewide reservoir storage ~90% of average

Sample Precip. Data, Percent of Annual Average

Eureka	92	
Redding	61	
Sacramento	67	
Fresno	55	
Bakersfield	49	
Long Beach	18	
Los Angeles	22	
Riverside	17	
San Diego	38	

Water Year 2007 – con't

- Sacramento Valley water year type index – “dry”
- San Joaquin Valley water year type index – “critically dry”
- State Water Project allocation at 60%
- Colorado River Basin remains in drought condition, but full deliveries from storage

SWP & CVP Operations

- Temporary shut-down of Delta exports in spring 2007 to protect Delta smelt (listed as threatened under ESA/CESA)
- Specifics of export restrictions in response to August 31st court action to protect smelt to be developed (50 days to prepare draft order)

Impacts of Dry 2007

- Increased wildfire risk
- Economic impacts to uses relying on unmanaged water supplies (dryland grain/hay, livestock grazing) (USDA “disaster declarations”)
- Increased risk of problems for small water systems/homeowners with private wells on fractured rock & coastal terrace groundwater sources

**ONE DRY YEAR DOES NOT
MAKE A DROUGHT**

Defining Drought

- Many possible definitions – meteorological, hydrological, etc
- Fundamentally a function of impacts experienced by a given sector or affected entity
- Most recent statewide California drought was 1987-92

2008 Outlook

- ENSO conditions returning to “neutral” – no strong SST signal
- Generally good statewide storage
- SWP and CVP exports constrained by Delta smelt ruling
- Full Colorado River supplies expected for California

Potential Impacts of a Dry 2008

- Most significant managed water supply impacts to small systems/private residential wells on unreliable groundwater
- Increased wildfire risk, impacts to unmanaged water uses (non-irrigated hay/grain, livestock grazing)
- Calls for increased conservation/rationing by urban water agencies, to preserve carry-over storage (Delta smelt impacts additional)
- Hydrologic drought would be significantly exacerbated by SWP/CVP cut-backs for Delta smelt

DWR Activities -- Preparing for Possibility of Dry 2007

- Conducted outreach for private well owners
- Funding California Rural Water Association to hold leak detection workshops for small water systems
- Holding workshops for larger urban water agencies to review water shortage contingency element of mandated urban water management plans

Preparing – con't

- Evaluating demand for dry year water purchasing program (ability to execute will be constrained by Delta smelt export restrictions)
- Evaluating additional criteria for applicable bond-funded local assistance grants (substantial state financial assistance grants being provided under existing programs)
- Planning additional outreach and water conservation technical assistance
- Now assessing response/impacts for Delta smelt ruling

Actions Being Taken by Larger Local Water Agencies

- Major outreach programs to encourage conservation, especially in Southern California
- SWP & CVP customers evaluating response/impacts for Delta smelt ruling
- Calls for voluntary/mandatory conservation in Delta export areas likely
- Increased groundwater pumping expected
- Water banking and transfer programs

Summary

- Minimal impacts of dry 2007 relative to managed water supplies
- Delta smelt-related export restrictions will affect managed water supplies, regardless of hydrology
- Specifics related to export restrictions not yet known