

HHIA - Utility Report for Meeting on 2017.02.27

Main San Gabriel Key Water Well Level updates:

Historic Low: 172.20 ft. (As of 2016.09.30)

Historic High: **295.30** ft. on 1983.07.20 (Since entry of judgment in 1973)

Current: **181.70** ft. (As of 2017.02.17; only **61.53%** vs High @ 295.30 ft.).

Related link: <http://www.watermaster.org/>

Here is a report on 2/13/2017 from

“DROUGHT INFORMATION STATEMENT NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LOS ANGELES/OXNARD CA”

...Drought improvement in portions of California, but **extreme drought conditions continue in portions of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles Counties...**

SYNOPSIS...

After 5 consecutive years of drought, many areas in California since October 2016 have received beneficial rain and snow which has resulted in major drought improvement across many areas of the state. A sliver of D3 (Extreme Drought) remains across Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties due to low reservoir levels, low streamflow, and low groundwater levels. Currently the U.S. Drought Monitor classifies 0.73% of the state of California in extreme drought. The U.S. Drought Monitor classifies drought into five categories of increasing severity: Abnormally Dry (D0)... Moderate Drought (D1)... Severe Drought (D2)... Extreme Drought (D3)... and Exceptional Drought (D4).

On January 17, 2014 California Governor Jerry Brown declared a drought state of emergency in California. The full text of the emergency proclamation can be accessed at:

www.gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18368

On April 25, 2014 California Governor Jerry Brown issued an executive order to redouble state drought actions. The full text of the executive order can be accessed at:

www.gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18496

On July 15, 2014 the California State Water Resources Control Board approved an emergency regulation to ensure agencies and state residents increase water conservation. Local agencies could ask courts to fine water users up to \$500 per day for failure to implement conservation requirements. The text of this regulation can be accessed at:

www.swrcb.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2014/pr071514.pdf

On April 1, 2015 California Governor Jerry Brown ordered a 25 percent cut in urban water use in the first ever mandatory statewide reductions. The text of this regulation can be accessed at:

gov.ca.gov/docs/4.1.15_executive_order.pdf

Supply conditions have improved in some parts of the state to allow the State Water Project to increase certain allocations. However on may 9, 2016 California Governor Jerry Brown signed executive order b-37-16 to maintain in full force the orders and provisions contained in his January 17, 2014 and April 25, 2015 executive orders.

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS...

Across the state multiple water agencies and jurisdictions have implemented mandatory water restrictions.

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) has a web page and interactive map that summarize drought impacts.

These web pages can be accessed at the following links:

<http://droughtresponse.acwa.com/>

www.acwa.com/content/drought-map

Following is a summary of reservoir levels in central and southwestern California.

Gibraltar Reservoir in Santa Barbara County is currently at 99.7% of its storage capacity.

Jameson Reservoir in Santa Barbara County is currently at 14.9% of its storage capacity.

Cachuma Reservoir in Santa Barbara County is currently at 17.1% of its storage capacity.

Twitchell Reservoir in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County is currently at 18.5% of its storage capacity.

Lake Nacimiento in San Luis Obispo County is currently at 86% of its storage capacity.

Lake San Antonio in San Luis Obispo County is currently at 32% of its storage capacity.

Lopez Lake in San Luis Obispo County is currently at 43.9% of its storage capacity.

Lake Casitas in Ventura County is currently at 37.6% of its storage capacity.

Lake Piru in Ventura county is currently at 14% of its storage capacity.

Castaic Lake in Los Angeles County is currently at 89% of its storage capacity.

Pyramid Lake in Los Angeles County is currently at 92% of its storage capacity.

CLIMATE SUMMARY...

Current water year (October 2016-January 2017) rainfall totals for selected locations are:

San Luis Obispo 19.61 inches or 167% of normal to date

Santa Barbara 13.77 inches or 157% of normal to date

Oxnard 14.25 inches or 197% of normal to date

Los Angeles 14.33 inches or 200% of normal to date

PRECIPITATION/TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK...

NOAA's National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center outlook for the next 30 days in southern California is indicating equal chances of above normal...normal...and below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures. This means slightly above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation conditions will prevail across the area through winter.

HYDROLOGIC SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK...

Moderate increases in area rivers and reservoirs can be expected over the next month.

NEXT ISSUANCE DATE...

The next Drought Information Statement will be issued in mid-March 2017 or sooner if necessary in response to significant changes in conditions.

Here is also a link to “California Data Exchange Center – Reservoir”

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecapp/resapp/getResGraphsMain.action>

HOW MUCH STORM WATER IS LA CATCHING?

Posted on January 27, 2017

By Sharon McNary

January 23, 2017

Los Angeles County storm water capture systems have shunted enough water from rain-swollen rivers into percolation ponds this rain season to serve the annual water needs of about a half-million people, an official said Monday.

More than 22 billion gallons of storm water has been collected since mid-October along the San Gabriel and Los Angeles rivers, said Steven Frasher, spokesman for the Los Angeles County Public Works Department.

However, most of the water that falls on the region is still lost to the Pacific, partly because the kinds of investments made over the years in spreading grounds along the San Gabriel River have been lagging along the Los Angeles River, said Mark Gold of the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability.

“You see a storm year like this and you see all the water that ends up going through the LA River and Ballona Creek and Dominguez Channel, and you say, “Wow. That could have been our water supply for the next year,” Gold said.

“I think this storm here has really demonstrated where the shortcomings are in our local water system,” Gold said. “We’ve barely scratched the surface on what we can do in the eastern San Fernando Valley in trying to capture more of that precious rainfall from the sky and have it actually infiltrate into the ground and get into our groundwater supply.”

Why do we lose so much rain water?

The flood control system was initially built to speed water to the ocean to avoid damage to communities along the rivers during heavy rain storms. So it took decades for the region to adapt to the idea of capturing that water for later use.

Every few decades from the first settlements to early 1900s, big rainstorms would cause flooding and destruction along the rivers that run through Los Angeles and surrounding counties. And while local governments raised some money to channelize parts of the river and build dams, the 1938 flood became was a turning point.

In late February and early March 1938, record-setting rain caused a disastrous flood on the Los Angeles River. Homes were swept away, bridges torn out. That's back when the

After that storm, Congress authorized federal money to build a new system designed to flush stormwater out to the Pacific as fast as possible. The Los Angeles and the San Gabriel rivers were mostly lined with concrete. Orange County's Santa Ana River and some of its larger creeks also were lined for much of their reach. That system was mostly built out by 1960.

In recent decades, as the region has struggled through repeated droughts, the sight of all that water being lost to the Pacific Ocean has motivated water agencies to install more projects to capture storm runoff. A network of spreading grounds has been built up along the region's rivers. In some places, rubber dams are used to redirect the flow of water.

However, some of these groundwater aquifer recharge projects go back to the late 1930s, like one along the Rio Hondo tributary of the Los Angeles River. They've become more common in the past two decades.

Can those spreading grounds absorb all this rain?

Nope. There's just too much rain coming down at once for the spreading grounds to soak up. That's where the dams come in.

High up in the San Gabriel Mountains is a series of dams that capture and control rainwater falling on the slopes. The Morris, San Gabriel and Cogswell dams are visible alongside Highway 39 above Azusa. Farther down in the San Gabriel Valley are the Santa Fe and Whittier Narrows dams.

And the water in those dams is parceled out to the spreading grounds a bit at a time over many months.

How much rain is being saved this way?

L.A. County Flood Control estimates that from the latest storm, they were able store 433 million gallons of stormwater. That's about 656 Olympic-size pools of water, about enough to serve the water needs of 10,600 people a year.

Since the rainy season started in mid-October, the spreading grounds have saved enough water to serve more than a half-million residents, Frasher said.

All that rain takes months or years to percolate down through layers of soil and rock to filter into the groundwater where it can be pumped out.

How else are we hanging onto all this rain?

There are some pretty remarkable water saving projects in the works.

One in Sun Valley is a series of human-made caverns built underneath a park's baseball field. The water from flood-prone Sun Valley flows to the park and drains into these catacombs to be filtered into the groundwater. More projects like these are being built across the region.

What still needs to be done?

Where local history is full of mega-projects like large dams and river-fed groundwater recharge fields covering hundreds of acres, others see the potential water supply that could come from micro-projects like residential rooftop water capture systems put on millions of homes and businesses.

"Right now there are a number of these missed opportunities when we get these wonderful rainstorms," said Cindy Montanez, CEO of Treepeople. The water advocacy nonprofit is collaborating in a project with the large local water utilities including Los Angeles DWP to make such projects achievable.

"The Trump administration has said they want to spend more on water infrastructure. We hope that means that our front yards and distributed storm water will be seen as an opportunity for storm water capture, and not just build big dams that are more difficult to site in California," Montanez said.

She also hopes the region can get new federal funding to clean pollution from underground water aquifers in the San Fernando Valley, making them more suitable for storing large amounts of storm water.

Gold, the UCLA sustainability expert, said he'd like to see the state put money toward aquifer cleanup and other storm water storage projects from the \$7.5 billion that voters approved for water projects in Prop 1. Like Montanez, Gold also sees potential for more groundwater recharge with "green streets" designs that use porous ground coverings to soak water into the earth.

Related link:

<http://upperdistrict.org/how-much-storm-water-is-la-catching/>

SoCalGas Company

Learn about some of the most common scams targeting utility customers.

To help you avoid being the victim of fraudulent activities, we've provided information on the most common scams targeting utility customers. If you need help paying your bills visit our customer assistance webpage .

Demands to Immediately Pay Your Utility Bill with Pre-paid Cash Cards, Visa Cards, etc.

This scam starts with a phone call or with utility imposters going door-to-door telling customers that if they don't pay their energy bills immediately with pre-paid cash cards, their natural gas, electric or water service will be turned off.

Once the card is purchased, customers are directed to another phone number where information is obtained from the card and the cash value is removed.

If you believe that you have been contacted by someone impersonating an electric, natural gas, or water company representative:

- Hang up the phone or close the door, and call your utility company.
- Do not give the caller or visitor ANY form of a prepaid card, such as a Green Dot card, a wire transfer, gift cards for stores, cards for online services like Apple iTunes, or any other form of payment that may be difficult for law enforcement officials to trace.
- Contact your local police through the non-emergency telephone number.
- Remember, you can always check the status of your SoCalGas[®] account or pay your latest bill by logging on to My Account .

Government Programs to Pay Utility Bills

In this scam, someone contacts you with a claim that a "special government program" can help pay your utility bills. Thieves then supply customers with a phony bank routing number to pay their bills online. There is no such federal program, and money collected by these criminals is not applied to customer utility accounts.

Scam victims have been contacted by individuals going door-to-door, making phone calls, posting fliers, unsolicited emails, text-messages and social media contacts.

Customers are often asked to also provide sensitive information, such as social security numbers, which presents an identity-theft risk.

If you believe that you have been contacted by someone offering to help pay your bills:

- Hang up the phone, or close the door, and call your utility company.
- Delete all suspicious emails, texts or instant messages that offer “payment programs” for utilities or require immediate action to verify personal or banking information.
- Ignore suspicious requests for personal information such as bank account numbers, user names and passwords, credit card numbers, or Social Security numbers.
- Contact your local police through the non-emergency telephone number
- Remember, you can always check the status of your SoCalgas account or pay your latest bill by logging on toMy Account .

Email Bills from Other Utilities Demanding Payment

This scam involves suspicious emails that appear to be bills sent by another utility company. The email may contain some valid information about you that is publicly available such as your name or address.

If you believe that you have received an email by someone impersonating an electric, natural gas, or water company representative:

- Ignore suspicious requests for personal information such as bank account numbers, user names and passwords, credit card numbers, or Social Security numbers.
- Delete all suspicious emails that require immediate action to verify your personal or banking information.
- Contact your local police through the non-emergency telephone number, your state attorney general’s office through its toll-free number, and/or contact the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357), ftccomplaintassistant.gov
- Remember, you can always check the status of your SoCalGas account or pay your latest bill by logging on toMy Account .

Recognizing SoCalGas[®] Employees and Impostors

We encourage you to be vigilant and question anyone who presents themselves as a representative of SoCalGas.

- All SoCalGas employees on company business are required to carry a SoCalGas photo ID badge.
- SoCalGas workers who perform in-home appliance services, work on gas meters or work on gas pipelines wear uniforms. However, some employees do not. Always ask for identification before letting someone inside your home.
- The majority of our authorized employees will always be in a uniform with our company logo, carry an official employee badge, and drive a company car.
- Contractors certified to represent the Energy Savings Assistance Program must present a valid authorized contractor photo ID badge. To learn more go to the “Recognizing Your Authorized Contractor” section on this page.
- Most of the time we visit your home in response to a service request. If no one scheduled an appointment, call us before allowing anyone inside your home.

- To verify the authenticity of anyone claiming to be a representative of SoCalGas, ask for proper identification or call headquarters at 1-800-427-2200 (or 1-800-342-4545 in Spanish).
- Customer service representatives are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Related link:

<https://www.socalgas.com/stay-safe/safety-and-prevention/scam-alert>

Southern California Edison

SCE Prepares for Biggest Storm in Years

Additional crews and staff are being brought on as Southern California braces for several inches of rain Friday.

By Mary Ann Milbourn

February 16, 2017

Southern California Edison is ramping up preparations as a **storm described as the strongest in years** descends on Southern California Friday.

“Because of potential high rates of rainfall, this most likely will be the most daunting storm this season,” said Nicholas Sette, an SCE staff **meteorologist**.

He said the storm will tap into tropical moisture that will result in rain of up to 1 inch an hour Friday afternoon and evening, increasing the threat of flash floods in low-lying areas and mud and debris flows on water-soaked hillsides. The heavy rain, which will hit a broad swath of Southern California from Santa Barbara to San Diego, will be accompanied by winds up to 65 mph along the coast and 55 mph inland.

The one-two punch of heavy rain and high winds prompted SCE to bring on extra crews to respond to outages as quickly and safely as possible. Additional substation operators are being brought in and previously planned maintenance outages have been canceled.

Additional staff also is being assigned to work with public agencies and to field customer service calls. **Damage assessment teams** are being dispatched in advance to areas where problems are likely. “We will be closely monitoring the storm, especially in flood-prone areas and hillsides scarred by wildfires,” said Jim Cherrie, SCE director of Grid Operations. “Our crews stand ready to respond to any outages or downed wires.”

Recent heavy rains have caused flooding and filled reservoirs across the state.

Philip Herrington, SCE vice president of Generation, said the company currently does not see any meaningful parallels between the Oroville Dam and its spillway issues and **SCE’s dams** in the Sierra Nevada in the central part of the state. He said he has no immediate concerns about the safety of SCE’s dams or the public.

In anticipation of the storm, SCE personnel are working with downstream entities to move as much water out of the system as possible to make room in the reservoirs.

Safety is SCE's top priority. Heavy rains and winds increase the chance of downed power lines. Anyone who sees a downed line should stay away from it and call SCE immediately at 800-611-1911 or call 911.

Also, wet yards with puddles on cement or grass can carry electricity. If a line is down in the yard, remain inside and call 911 immediately.

Customers can report or inquire about outages at 800-611-1911 and get the latest information using the SCE outages app at sce.com/outages. They can also stay informed by visiting sce.com/staysafe, twitter.com/sce and facebook.com/sce.

Storm Safety Tips:

- Beware during flooding. Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down and 2 feet can sweep your vehicle away.
- Never try to remove a broken tree limb or branch that has come in contact with a power line.
- Make sure you have a battery-operated radio and flashlights. Check the batteries to make sure they're fresh. Use flashlights for lighting during a power outage. Do not use candles because they pose a fire hazard.
- If you use a generator, place it outdoors and plug individual appliances directly into it, using heavy-duty extension cords. Connecting generators directly to household circuits creates "backfeed," which is dangerous to repair crews.

Related link:

<http://insideedison.com/stories/sce-prepares-for-biggest-storm-in-years>

by ***Ted Chang***

HHIA Board Member, Utility