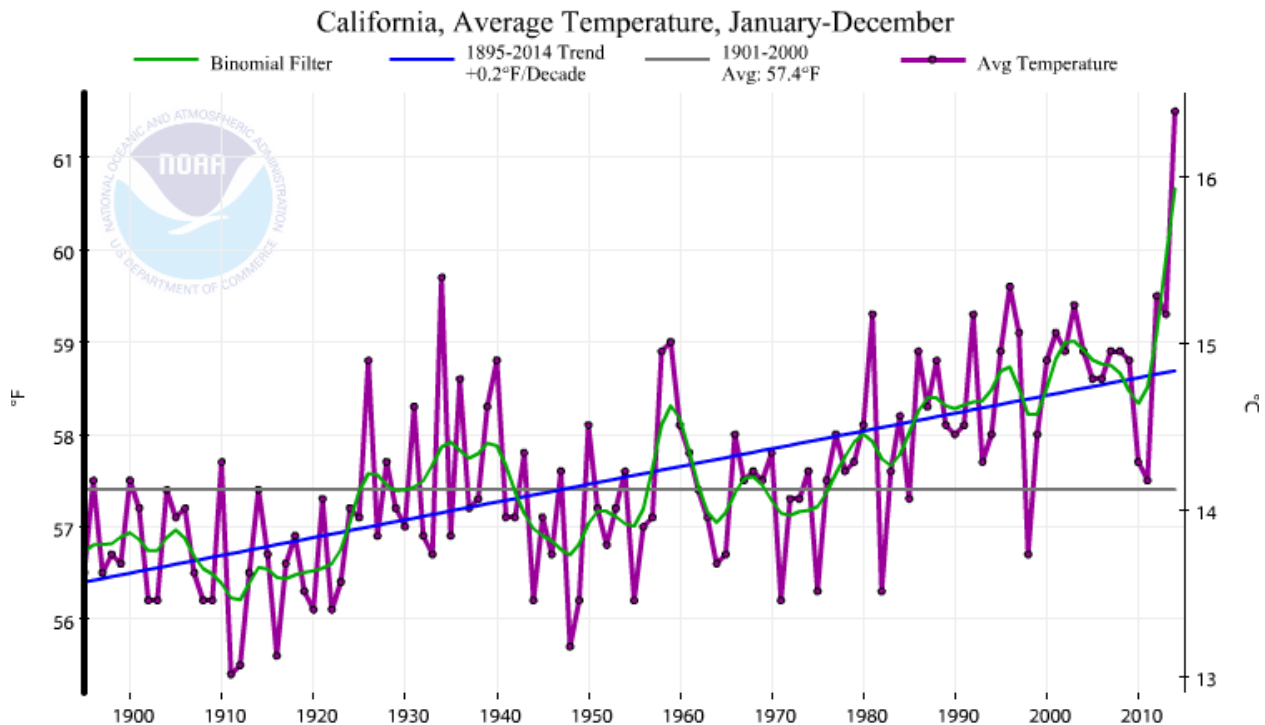


Water/Utilities Report Jan. 26, 2015

Submitted by Joan Licari

Water

Although we have had rain recently and are expected to have more in California this week, drought conditions continue. The year 2014 was the warmest on record. The Water Year 2014 which ended on Sept. 30, 2014 was the third driest in 119 years. Combined with this the snowpack in the Sierras was, and still is, extremely low. The Sierra snowpack measured on Jan. 3, 2015 is only 20% of normal. Much of the area was bare ground. Average temperatures in the Sierras for both day and night have been above average. The reservoirs tracked by the Dept. of Water Resources were only at 41% of their capacity or 60% of average storage for the date.



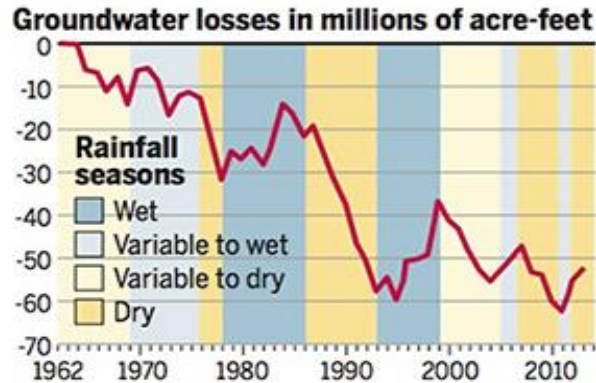
Interestingly, the rains that have come in December have largely affected the coastal regions of the State. The Central Valley areas received little and there was not as much snowfall as expected in the Sierras. Snow levels on that date are at near record low levels. There was also below average rainfall for the Central Valley and the eastern part of the State.

Large acreage of farmland has been left fallow and some communities, particularly in the Central Valley have already experienced water shortages, water tables have been dropping, and wells have gone dry, necessitating drilling ever deeper for water at great cost. With the

depletion of the aquifers underground, ground subsidence has accelerated, some areas as much as a foot per year, damaging bridges and vital canals.

LONG-TERM EFFECTS

Central Valley groundwater is on a downward plunge. Model simulations show that the volume pumped during droughts far exceeds replenishment during rains, resulting in a long-term decline in groundwater levels.



Sources: Jay Famiglietti, UC Center for Hydrologic Modeling, UC Irvine; USGS; NASA; National Center for Atmospheric Research
BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

The 29 public water agencies that take delivery of State Water Project supplies have requested 4,172,686 acre-feet (AF). With the new allocation, contractors will receive 626,781 AF. If the contractors' health and safety needs cannot be met by that allocation, Dept. of Water Resources may increase deliveries to satisfy those needs. An acre-foot is roughly enough water to meet the needs of a family of four for one year.

At this time, it is impossible determine seasonal weather patterns. Thus conserving water as best you can is still vitally important.

Utilities

Rebates from Southern California Edison. Check with their website to get information <https://www.sce.com/wps/portal/home/residential/rebates->

- **Old Refrigerators:** A cool incentive that makes it easy to dispose of your old refrigerator or freezer in an environmentally responsible way. SCE will pick it up, free of charge, and dismantle it using Responsible Appliance Disposal (RAD) standards, then reward you with a **\$50 incentive**.
- **An Energy Star Certified Refrigerator** can reduce your energy bill by up to \$105 a year. For a \$35 rebate, choose an ENERGY STAR® certified refrigerator: for the **\$75 rebate**,

choose an ENERGY STAR'S Most Efficient Model to learn more about the rebate requirements.

- If you've got a **pool at your single-family home**, you could receive a **\$200 rebate** for replacing a single speed or two speed pump with a **qualified Variable Speed Pool Pump and Motor model** to learn more about the rebate requirements.
- If your home has an **electric water heater**, you may qualify for \$50 rebate if you purchase and install an ENERGY STAR® Certified Clothes Washer.
- **Upgrading or maintaining your air conditioning system** can mean big savings on your bill over time, but you can also take advantage of incentives now. Install or optimize a qualifying air conditioning system and get up to \$1,100 in rebates. Commit to SCE maintenance program and you could get up to \$200 back.

SoCal Gas [http](http://www.socalgas.com/for-your-home/rebates/): Check with their website at <http://www.socalgas.com/for-your-home/rebates/>

- **Tankless Water heaters:** Up to \$200 rebate available.
 - **Natural Gas Water Heaters:** Up to \$100 for high efficiency water heaters.
 - **Request a Complimentary Energy Efficiency Starter Kit.** The kit includes three faucet aerators and a low-flow showerhead to help you save energy and water. These devices allow air to enter into the water stream, maintaining a high-pressure flow while reducing water usage.
 - **Furnace upgrades:** Up to \$200 rebate
 - **Showerheads:** \$15 rebate
 - **Attic insulations:** \$0.15 per square foot rebate
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