



## **Cabrillo Marine Aquarium**

Virginia Reid Moore Marine Research Library

Library Pathfinder: California Drought

The state of California is facing one of the most severe droughts on record. Governor Brown declared a drought State of Emergency in January 2014 and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for water shortages.

Key facts about the CA drought, written by Dr. Faith Kearns (UC Institute of Water Resources) include:

- 1) California depends on water from the winter snowpack to get through California's dry summers. Images taken from NASA's Airborne Snow Observatory show that the snowpack levels in the Sierra Nevada Mountains decreased from **179,000 acre-feet** (57.6 billion gallons of water) in April 2014 to **74,000 acre-feet** (24 billion gallons of water) in March 2015.
- 2) Global climate change seems to be exacerbating the drought.
- 3) Wildlife and ecosystems have been severely impacted by the drought.
- 4) Pumping groundwater to compensate for the shortage of surface water has detrimental effects on residents whose wells have dried up. Groundwater depletion causes land to sink.

California is dealing with the drought through legislation, spending funds on water projects such as water storage, reducing reliance on water transfers from other regions, managing water more efficiently and raising community awareness.

### **Books for Adults**

Beyond Chinatown / Steven P. Erie, 2006.

Discusses the history of the MWD and Southern CA water politics.

Managing California's Water: From Conflict to Resolution / Jane Hanak and Jay Lund, 2011.

Re-Imagining the California Lawn / Carol Bornstein and David Fross, 2011.

Water to the Angels: William Mulholland, His Monumental Aqueduct and the Rise of Los Angeles / Les Standiford, 2015.

The Great Thirst: Californians and Water, A History / Norris Hundley, Jr., 2001.

The West without Water: What Past Floods, Droughts and Climate Clues Tell us about Tomorrow / Lynn Ingram and Frances Malamud-Roam, 2015.

## **Newspaper Articles**

### Los Angeles Times:

May 1, 2015 – “Lawn’s End” / John M. Glionna

April 30, 2015 – “Brown set further cuts on emissions” / Chris Megerian

April 29, 2015 – “Brown Seeks Steeper Water Fines” / Chris Megerian

April 22, 2015 – “Studying how to save water” / Carla Rivera

April 10, 2015 – “Mayor Touts water-saving bid” (Save the Drop) / Matt Stevens

April 8, 2015 – “Up to 35% cut in water use urged” / Matt Stevens, et al.

April 7, 2015 – “MWD plans rationing for urban users” / Bettina Boxall

March 18, 2015 – “Fewer Seats at the Water Table” / Bettina Boxall

March 3, 2015 – “A Water Project Worth it’s Salt?” / Amanda Covarrubias

February 27, 2015 – “Lawsuit tests tired water rates” / Matt Stevens

February 11, 2015 – “A Shocking Discovery” (Benzene found in fracking waste water) / Julie Cart

January 17, 2015 – “Heat hits new high; 2014 was the warmest year ever measured” / G. Mohan

January 3, 2015 – “California was warmest in 2014 . . . dating to 1877 were broken” / V. Rocha & J. Serna

January 17, 2014 – “California declares drought emergency” / B. Boxall & Anthony York

## **Featured Websites**

State of California – Drought

[ca.gov/drought](http://ca.gov/drought)

California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/drought>

Many drought related actions to preserve and protect the state’s fish and wildlife resources.

California Dept. of Water Resources

[water.ca.gov/waterconditions](http://water.ca.gov/waterconditions)

March 2015: California’s Most Significant Droughts: comparing Historical and Recent Conditions.

California Drought

[www.cadrought.com](http://www.cadrought.com)

News, drought tolerant landscaping, maps, data, photos.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

[www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com)

Save the Drop, L.A.

[www.lamayor.gov/savethedropla](http://www.lamayor.gov/savethedropla)

Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti’s call to action for water conservation, plus water saving tips and various incentives for buying rain barrels, water efficient washing machines and commodes, and converting from turf (lawns) to perennials, succulents and cacti.