

DWR Climate News Digest

August 2015

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The information provided herein is a selected compilation of recent popular news articles, publications, and other information relevant to climate change and water management. The links provided herein are intended to provide educational and thought-provoking material for water managers and water users.

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TOPICS [Find older items in the [Climate News Archive](#)]

DWR Staff Publications

[California Climate Science and Data for Water Resources Management](#)

[DWR Climate Program – June 2015]

Reports

[Energy Darwinism II – Why a low carbon future doesn't have to cost the Earth](#)

[Citigroup – August 2015] [*"In this report, we examine the likely costs of inaction in terms of the potential liabilities from climate change to see whether or not we can afford not to act. Overall, we find that the incremental costs of action are limited (and indeed ultimately lead to savings), offer reasonable returns on investment, and should not have too detrimental an effect on global growth."*]

Published Literature

[Contribution of anthropogenic warming to California drought during 2012-2014](#)

[Geophysical Research Letters – August 31, 2015] [*"Precipitation is the primary driver of drought variability but anthropogenic warming is estimated to have accounted for 8-27% of the drought anomaly in 2012-2014 and 5-18% in 2014. Although natural variability dominates, anthropogenic warming has substantially increased the overall likelihood of extreme California droughts"*]

Sea-level Rise and other Ocean Impacts

[Oceans will rise much more than predicted, NASA says](#)

[National Geographic – August 27, 2015]

[1800 years of global ocean cooling halted by global warming](#) [Science Daily – August 17, 2015]

Agriculture/Food Production

[Climate change blamed for Australia’s increased frost risk for cereal crops](#)

[ABC.net.au – August 20, 2015]

[How small farmers are adapting to climate change](#)

[Christian Science Monitor – August 21, 2015]

[Risk of food shortages to rise with climate change](#) [CBS News – August 14, 2015]

Extreme Weather Events

[Extreme weather events of 2015: Is climate change to blame?](#) [RTCC – August 21, 2015]

[California drought is made worse by global warming, scientists say](#)

[New York Times – August 20, 2015]

[Did climate change, El Niño make Texas floods worse?](#) [CBS News – August 19, 2015] (“...when an extreme event occurs one must factor in some role/influence that the underlying changes are exerting on things. For example, making a wet spell somewhat wetter, a heat wave longer and more extreme, a drought more extreme and covering a larger geographic area”)

[Climate change set to fuel more “monster” El Niños, scientists warn](#)

[The Carbon Brief – August 17, 2015]

Water/Energy Nexus

[Climate change domino effect: Water and energy crises linger](#)

[Daily Times Gazette – August 25, 2015] (“In our globalized world, everything is interconnected. Water, energy and climate can no longer be thought of as separate issues.”)

Human Health Impacts

[Study shows how climate change threatens health](#) [Science Daily – August 14, 2015]

Tribal Impacts & Traditional Ecological Knowledge

[For Alaska Native communities, the devastating effects of climate change are already here](#)

[American Progress – August 24, 2015]

[3 ways President Obama can help Native communities avert climate catastrophe](#)

[Center for American Progress – August 24, 2015]

Wildlife and Ecosystem Impacts

[Climate change is pushing Earth's boreal forests towards a "tipping point"](#)

[International Business Times – August 24, 2015]

[How climate change is spawning a new view of conservation](#)

[Christian Science Monitor – August 20, 2015]

[The red panda could become the cutest victim of climate change](#)

[Weather.com – August 19, 2015]

[Fossil evidence suggests dogs evolved with climate change](#)

[Nature World News – August 19, 2015]

[Coral reefs are 'likely to disappear from the Earth' despite climate change talks](#)

[The Telegraph – August 18, 2015]

[Oyster farmers worried as climate change lowers ocean pH](#)

[San Francisco Chronicle – August 14, 2015]

[Melting glaciers feed Antarctic food chain](#) [Science Daily – August 11, 2015]

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

[Now you can Google your house to see if you should go solar](#) [Take Part – August 19, 2015]

("Dubbed [Project Sunroof](#), the recently released online tool lets you type in your address and find out how much space you have for solar panels on your roof, how many hours of rooftop sunlight you'll get a year, and how much money you'd save")

[Grassland protocol opens another carbon market for farmers](#)

[Environmental Defense Fund – August 10, 2015] (*"...Climate Action Reserve, a non-profit organization that creates offset standards and serves as one of the offset registries for California's cap-and-trade program, approved a new protocol that rewards farmers for avoiding the conversion of grasslands to cropland"*)

[The Clean Power Plan will drive American innovation](#) [OnEarth – August 9, 2015]

Climate Adaptation

[Vegetation essential for limiting city warming effects](#) [Science Daily – August 25, 2015]

[10 years after Katrina, Louisiana is becoming a model for climate resilience](#)

[Huffington Post – August 24, 2015]

[Hurricane Katrina showed what “adapting to climate change” looks like](#)

[Vox – August 24, 2015]

International Planning

[Climate change targets ‘need more low-carbon infrastructure funding’](#)

[Business Reporter – August 24, 2015] (*“Scotland can seize the opportunity now to increase investment in low carbon infrastructure, gaining the benefits in terms of climate change, but also economic progress and social welfare for years to come.”*)

[Germany and Brazil join forces on climate change action](#) [Reuters – August 20, 2015]

[New Pacific Islands Climate Storybook](#) [NOAA – July 2015]

Legal Updates

[EPA proposes new rules to cut climate change-causing methane emissions](#)

[Time – August 18, 2015]

[21 youths file landmark climate lawsuit against federal government](#)

[EcoWatch – August 13, 2015] (*“The purpose of this case is to obtain an order from a federal court requiring the U.S. government, including the President and specific federal agencies, to develop a national plan to protect our atmosphere and stable climate system”*)

Communicating Climate Change

[Polling Latinos on climate change](#) [National Center for Climate Education – August 19, 2015]

(*“A new poll of Latinos in the United States finds that a large majority – more than four-fifths – accept that climate change is mostly due to human activity”*)

[For trout fisherman, climate change will mean more time driving, less angling](#)

[PhysOrg – August 20, 2015] (*“Under current conditions...average driving distances from cities to the nearest streams predicted to offer angling opportunities ranged from 4 to 87 miles. As a result of projected warming, driving distance to go fishing for wild brook trout was predicted to increase, on average, by almost 164 miles over the next 70-80 years.”*)

[Education drives awareness of climate change](#) [Ars Technica – August 10, 2015]

BLOGS/Commentary

James Conca on “[Climate change has the Earth in hot water](#)” [Forbes – August 31, 2015]
(“...global warming is all about water. Water, not the atmosphere, drives the weather, and drives climate. The atmosphere is mostly affected by the water on Earth, not the other way around”)

Elizabeth Kolbert on “[The weight of the world](#)” [The New Yorker – August 24, 2015] (*Can Christina Figueres (Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) persuade humanity to save itself?*)

Thomas Friedman on “[The world’s hot spot](#)” [New York Times – August 19, 2015] (*“Here’s my bet about the future of Sunni, Shiite, Arab, Turkish, Kurdish and Israeli relations: If they don’t end their long-running conflicts, Mother Nature is going to destroy them all long before they destroy one another. Let me point out a few items you may have missed while debating the Iran nuclear deal.”*)

Joe Romm on “[‘Godzilla El Niño’ plus carbon pollution equals global warming speed-up](#)” [Climate Progress- August 17, 2015]

Suzanne Jacobs on “[Sunspot science throws wrench in favorite climate denialism claim](#)” [Grist – August 10, 2015]

Additional Items of Interest

[You can fight climate change and grow the economy, says Lord Stern](#)

[Business Green – August 26, 2015]

[High hopes for Obama’s historic visit to the ‘unraveling’ Arctic](#) [Mashable – August 26, 2015]

[Here’s what happens when you try to replicate climate contrarian papers](#)

[The Guardian – August 25, 2015] (*“There is a 97% expert consensus on a cohesive theory that’s overwhelmingly supported by the scientific evidence, but the 2-3% of papers that reject that consensus are all over the map, even contradicting each other. The one thing they seem to have in common is methodological flaws like cherry picking, curve fitting, ignoring inconvenient data, and disregarding known physics”*)

[Climate change’s overlooked sociological side](#) [Inside Climate News – August 25, 2015]

[New report calls for large-scale solutions to climate change](#)

[World Resources Institute – August 24, 2015] (*“This report shows that focusing on local context, knowledge management, partnerships, and networks can offer the breakthrough needed for communities to adapt to a changing climate.”*)

[When firefighters speak out on climate change, we ought to listen up](#)

[The Guardian – August 24, 2015] (*“The sooner that firefighting agencies, public officials, policymakers and citizens acknowledge the impact that climate change is having on the frequency, intensity, duration and behavior of fire, the sooner that they will begin to develop new responses to wildland fire in the US west.”*)

[Solar power crosses threshold, gets cheaper than natural gas](#) [EE News – August 21, 2015]

[Why did 7 big oil companies submit climate pledges to the United Nations?](#)

[Climate Progress – August 21, 2015]

[July was the world’s hottest month on record](#) [Discovery news – August 21, 2015]

[Climate change intensifies California drought](#) [New York Times – August 20, 2015] (*“Global warming caused by human emissions has most likely intensified the drought in California by roughly 15 to 20 percent”*)

[Can Islamic scholars change thinking on climate change?](#) [Nature – August 19, 2015]

[Climate change will get its own museum in New York City](#) [Popular Science – August 18, 2015]

[Saharan heat amped up by climate change](#) [Discovery – August 17, 2015]

[Islamic scholars call Muslims to action on climate change](#) [Newsweek – August 14, 2015]

[21 youths file landmark climate lawsuit against federal government](#)

[EcoWatch – August 13, 2015] (*“The purpose of this case is to obtain an order from a federal court requiring the U.S. government, including the President and specific federal agencies, to develop a national plan to protect our atmosphere and stable climate system”*)

[Where Presidential candidates stand on climate change](#) [NPR – August 11, 2015]

[What you don’t know about America and climate change](#) [CNN – August 7, 2015] (*Take a “10-question quiz to see how well you understand the basics of climate change – and how it plays out in American life today” then share it with friends and family on social media*)

[Obama unveils major climate change proposal](#) [CNN – August 3, 2015]

Images to Ponder

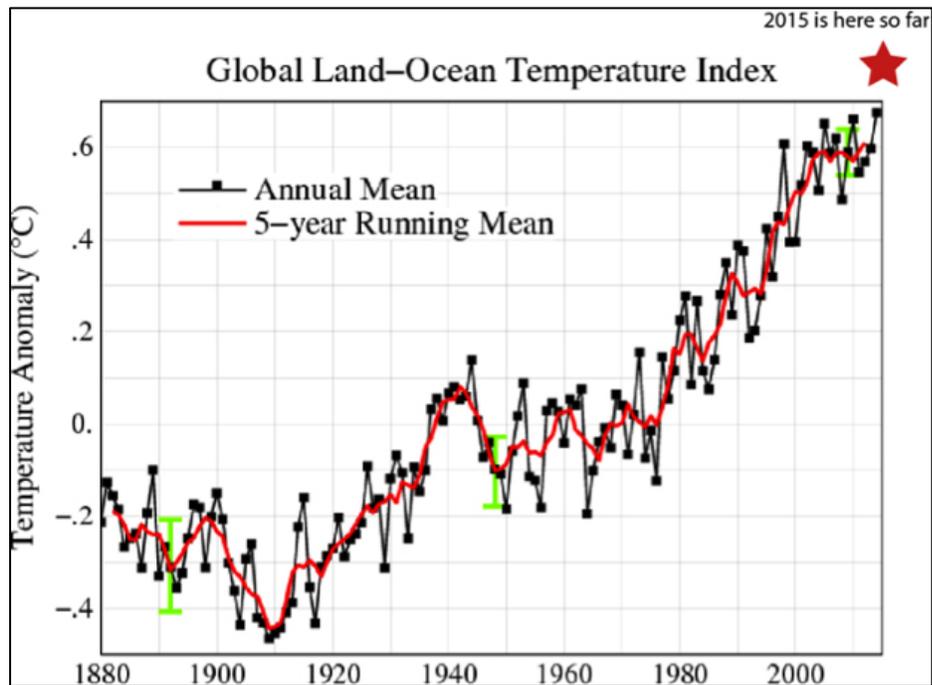


Image credit: <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/climate-consensus-97-per-cent/2015/jun/15/the-latest-global-temperature-data-are-breaking-records>

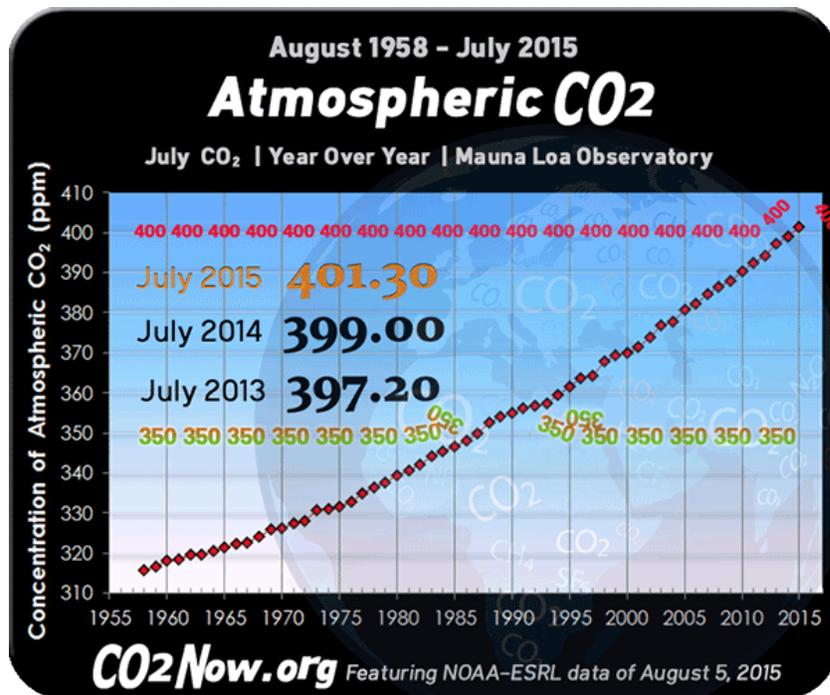


Image credit: <http://co2now.org/>

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