

# DWR Climate News Digest

April 2015

*Disclaimer: The information and links provided on this web page are not intended to state or imply any formal position of the California Department of Water Resources*

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.

To subscribe to the DWR Climate News listserv and receive notifications when new editions are posted, send an email to: [climatechange@water.ca.gov](mailto:climatechange@water.ca.gov).

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

## **Reports**

### **[Arctic Matters – The Global Connection to Changes in the Arctic \(pdf\)](#)**

[National Academy of Sciences – April 2015] (*“Wherever you are, you are connected to the Arctic through the ecosystems that sustain life”*)

## **Sea-level Rise and other Ocean Impacts**

### **[Warming seas pose habitat risk for fishy favorites](#)** [Science Daily – April 13, 2015]

## **Agriculture/Food Production**

### **[The USDA is taking on agriculture’s huge contribution to climate change](#)**

[Think Progress – April 23, 2015]

### **[How a tiny change in the global climate could shake up the entire agriculture industry](#)**

[Business Insider- April 20, 2015]

## **General Water Management**

### **[The biggest global problem of the 21<sup>st</sup> century](#)** [Business Insider – April 22, 2015] (*According to Merrill Lynch, “...water scarcity, and the resulting agricultural constraints, is the biggest global problem of the 21<sup>st</sup> century”*)

### **[How each incremental change in climate will have an increasingly devastating effect on the world’s water](#)** [Business Insider – April 21, 2015]

## **Extreme Weather Events**

[Heatwaves caused by climate change 75% of the time, study finds](#) [Time – April 27, 2015]

[California drought tests history of endless growth](#) [New York Times – April 5, 2015]

## **Human Health Impacts**

[AMA \(Australian Medical Association\) says climate change is a serious threat to Australians' health](#) [ABC Australia – April 30, 2015]

[Climate change does have some winners, like brain-eating parasites](#)

[Think Progress – April 14, 2015]

## **Tribal Impacts & Traditional Ecological Knowledge**

[Indigenous Louisiana tribe losing their land to climate change faster than anywhere else in the world](#) [Mint Press News – April 24, 2015]

## **Wildlife and Ecosystem Impacts**

[Climate change will accelerate Earth's sixth mass extinction](#) [Smithsonian – April 30, 2015]

[Arctic beetles may be ideal marker of climate change](#) [McGill Reporter – April 24, 2015]

[Climate change threatens more than two-thirds of rabbit species](#) [PhysOrg – April 20, 2015]

[Tijuana estuary may be an early indicator for climate change](#) [KPBS – April 16, 2015]

[Climate change threatens to kill off more aspen forests by 2050s, scientists say](#)

[New York Times – March 30, 2015]

## **Greenhouse Gas Mitigation**

[China could get 85 percent of its electricity from renewables by 2050, report finds](#)

[Think Progress – April 24, 2015]

[U.S. carbon emissions falling to two-decade low in coal shift](#) [Bloomberg – April 9, 2015]

## **Climate Adaptation**

### **[Finding signs of climate change and adaptation in the ancient Maya lowlands](#)**

[Yale News – April 20, 2015]

## **International Planning**

### **[China is building a Great Wall of Trees to fight climate change and the encroaching Gobi Desert](#)** [Quartz – April 27, 2015]

### **[Africa: Benefits of adapting Africa's infrastructure to climate change outweighs the costs](#)** [World Bank – April 27, 2015]

**[Working with local people to adapt to climate change](#)** [Dhaka Tribune – April 25, 2015] (*“One attempt to make adaptation more just, inclusive and effective has been the development of Community-Based Adaptation (CBA)...an approach to adaptation research and practice in which practitioners aim to work with vulnerable people to improve their capacity to adapt to climatic variability and change”*)

### **[Why climate change and pollution threats to Sundarbans cannot be taken lightly by governments](#)** [The Economic Times – April 19, 2015]

## **Communicating Climate Change**

**[Making sense of nonsense: A MOOC about climate change denial](#)** [Slate – April 28, 2015]  
*(The University of Queensland in Australia has created a free Massive Open Online Course called “[Making Sense of Climate Science Denial](#)”, and over 10,000 from 150 countries have signed up. You can still sign up and watch the videos on your own time!)*

**[Why climate change communication isn't working](#)** [Arizona Daily Sun – April 24, 2015]

**[How culture shapes the climate change debate](#)** [Energy Collective – April 21, 2015]

**[Poll: Are you more receptive to conversations about climate change or global warming](#)** [Accuweather – April 20, 2015]

**[What Americans think about climate change in seven maps](#)** [Bloomberg – April 6, 2015]

**[Communicating climate change: Focus on solutions](#)** [MIT News – April 2, 2015]

## **BLOGS/Commentary**

Esther Ngumbi on "[Turning to bacteria to fight the effects of climate change](#)"

[Scientific American – April 30, 2015] (*"As concerns about food security increase with the global temperatures, soil bacteria could be the next tool for food security, helping farmers around the world conserve water, increase yields and improve nutrition under the changing climate"*)

President Barack Obama on "[We can no longer delay action on climate change](#)"

[Miami Herald – April 28, 2015]

Joe Romm on "[Earth Day should be less about our 'precious planet' and more about saving ourselves](#)" [Think Progress – April 21, 2015]

James Hansen on "[To mitigate climate change, nuclear energy should be included](#)"

[Science 2.0 – April 18, 2015]

Jeff Nesbit on "[Climate change caused California drought](#)"

[US News and World Report – April 14, 2015] (*"Climate change is linked to California's drought by two mechanisms: rising temperatures and changing atmospheric patterns conducive to diminishing rains. The first link is firmly established, and there is a considerable and growing body of evidence supporting the second."*)

## **Additional Items of Interest**

[Ben and Jerry's takes on climate change: 'If it's melted, it's ruined'](#)

[Brand Channel – April 30, 2015]

[The Arctic and Antarctic may have a linked climate change oscillation of 200 years](#)

[Science World Report – April 30, 2015]

[Invisible organisms threaten to make climate change much worse](#)

[Alaska Dispatch News – April 29, 2015]

[Climate change is melting Arctic archaeological sites](#) [Grist – April 29, 2015]

[Is 2015 the year soil becomes climate change's hottest topic?](#)

[Climate Progress – April 29, 2015] (*"Soils – and the microbes that live within them – store three times as much carbon as is in the atmosphere, and four and a half times*

[Nearly half of top pension funds gambling on climate change](#) [The Guardian – April 28, 2015]

[EPA to study what faith-based groups can do for climate change](#) [Tech Times – April 28, 2015]

[GOP weighs how to undercut Obama's climate talks](#) [Wall Street Journal – April 26, 2015]

[U.S. to focus on climate change, oceans as new chair of Arctic Council](#)

[CBC News – April 24, 2015]

[Climate: 7 questions on 2 degrees](#) [CNN – April 24, 2015]

[Agency that understands threats adapts to climate change](#) [E&E News – April 24, 2015] (*The US Department of Defense "...climate activities stem from pragmatic concerns for bases, hardware and training facilities"*)

[Thawing permafrost feeds climate change](#) [PHYS.org – April 23, 2015]

[How to misinterpret climate change research](#) [Scientific American – April 23, 2015] (*new research on the potential cooling effect of aerosols prompts an erroneous blog post on a climate contrarian website and a [press release](#) by the study's author to clear things up*)

[Women will suffer the worst effects of climate change](#) [Quartz – April 23, 2015]

[Climate change is coming for U.S. energy infrastructure](#) [Scientific American – April 22, 2015]  
[According to the U.S. Department of Energy, "By far the most important environmental factor affecting (energy transmission, storage and distribution) infrastructure needs now and going forward is global climate change"]

[Earth Day 2015: History of the celebration and 10 facts about climate change](#)

[International Business Times – April 22, 2015]

[2 degrees: The most important number you've never heard of](#) [CNN – April 21, 2015]

[Big insurance companies are warning the U.S. to prepare for climate change](#)

[Climate Progress – April 21, 2015]

[Energy review warns of rising U.S. costs from climate change](#) [Bloomberg – April 21, 2015]

[The goalkeeper saving the planet](#) [CNN – April 21, 2015]

[Global warming more moderate than worst-case models, empirical data suggest](#)

[Science Daily – April 21, 2015] (Let's hope this study is correct, because the 'worst-case' emissions scenarios are terrifying; middle-of-the-road warming will still be challenging though)

**Apple:** ['We don't want to debate climate change. We want to stop it.'](#)

[The Verge – April 20, 2015]

[Another record high global temperature achieved](#) [AccuWeather – April 20, 2015] (*According to NOAA, March 2015 was the warmest March since record-keeping began in 1880*)

[Obama team talks climate change during Earth Day week](#) [USA Today – April 20, 2015]  
(*“This Earth Day, we’re far beyond a debate about climate change’s existence...we’re focused on mitigating its very real effects here at home, preparing our communities where its impacts are already being felt, and leading an international effort for action”*)

[How dystopia hammers home the reality of climate change](#) [The Guardian – April 20, 2015]

[Video: Obama says there is ‘no greater threat’ than climate change](#)  
[Newsweek – April 18, 2015]

[California wildfires release more greenhouse gases than thought](#)  
[Nature World News – April 17, 2015]

[This was the hottest 3-month start of any year on record](#) [Think Progress – April 15, 2015]

[Wisconsin agency bans talk of climate change](#) [Scientific American – April 10, 2015]

[Rapid global warming may be coming sooner than you think](#) [Mashable – April 9, 2015]  
(*“...results suggest that when the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, or PDO, switches to a ‘positive mode’, the world will see faster temperatures increases than it has since about 1999. The PDO, as it happens, has just switched to positive territory”*)

[If we dig out all of our fossil fuels, here’s how hot we can expect it to get](#)  
[New York Times – April 8, 2015] (*“For those who don’t like suspense, here’s the total: an astonishing 16.2 degrees” (F)*)

[Why teenagers are suing states over climate change](#) [Forbes – April 8, 2015]

[Climate change attacks: Western Canada to lose 70 percent of glaciers, study says](#)  
[Washington Post – April 7, 2015]

[What will happen after people stop ignoring the evidence on climate change](#)  
[Washington Post – April 7, 2015]

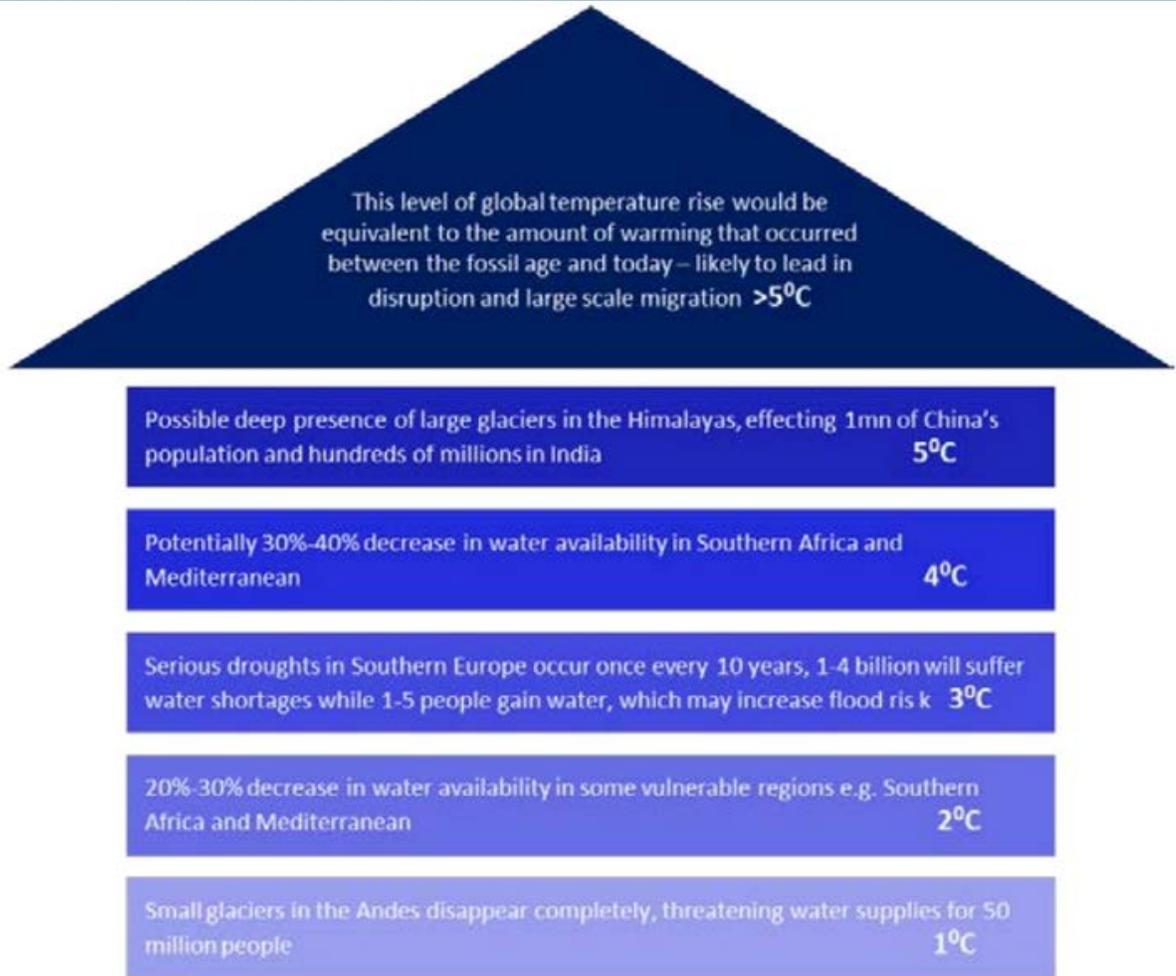
[Fact Sheet] [Administration announces actions to protect communities from the impacts of climate change](#) [White House – April 7, 2015]

[U.S. has bold plan to stall climate change](#) [CNN – April 1, 2015]

[How idealism, expressed in concrete steps, can fight climate change](#)  
[New York Times – March 27, 2015]

***Images to Ponder***

**Chart 48: Impact of climate change on water**



Source: WaterAid, BofA Merrill Lynch Global Research

Image credit: <http://www.businessinsider.com/climate-change-will-lead-to-global-water-scarcity-2015-4>

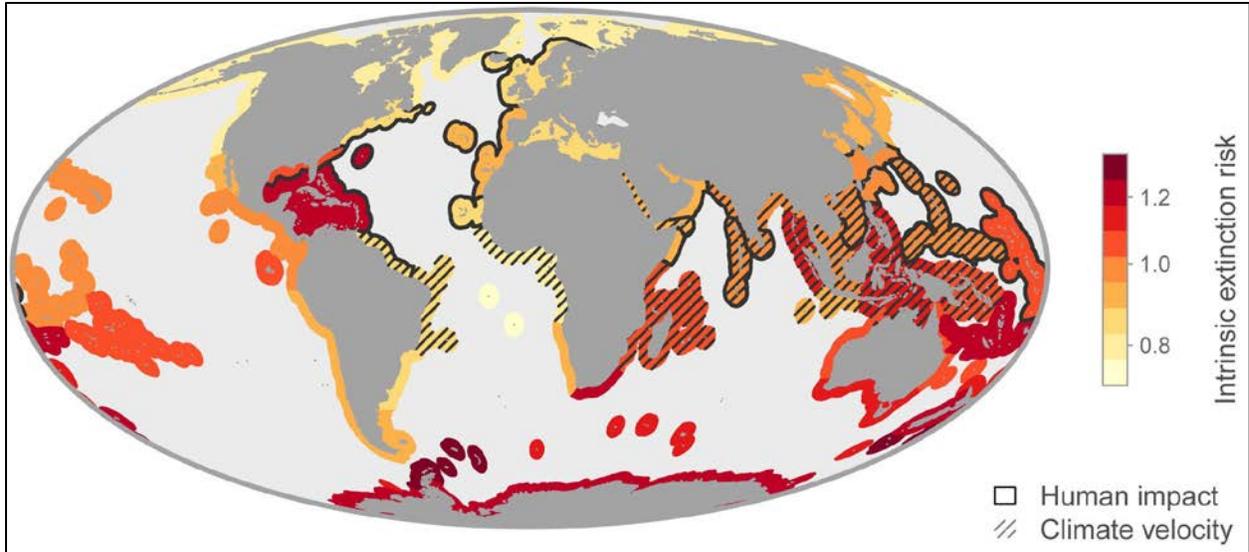


Image credit: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/climate-change-will-accelerate-earths-sixth-mass-extinction-180955138/?no-ist>

Current and past editions of the DWR Climate News Digest can be viewed and downloaded at: <http://www.water.ca.gov/climatechange/news.cfm>. Please email questions, comments, or listserv subscription requests to: [climatechange@water.ca.gov](mailto:climatechange@water.ca.gov).