

California Drought Contingency Plan

October 14th, 2009
California Water Plan
Plenary Session

Why a Drought Contingency Plan?

Objective 8 of the 2009 Water Plan

Prepare prevention, response, and recovery plans for floods, droughts, and catastrophic events to help residents and communities, particularly disadvantaged communities, make decisions that reduce the consequences and recovery time of these events when they occur.

Why now?

Climate Change expected to increase extreme weather events.

Purpose

The purpose of the California Drought Contingency Plan is to articulate a coordinated State Government strategy for preparing for, responding to, and recovering from drought.

Scope

1. State Government role and coordination for drought;
2. Drought monitoring and preparedness;
3. Assessment of and adaptation to the impacts of drought; and
4. Measures to mitigate the economic, environmental and social risks and consequences of drought events.

Relationship to Other Plans

- Part of the California Water Plan
- Builds on previous drought plans and reports
- Draws from drought plans from other states
- Will contribute to the California Hazard Mitigation Plan (Cal-EMA, 2010)

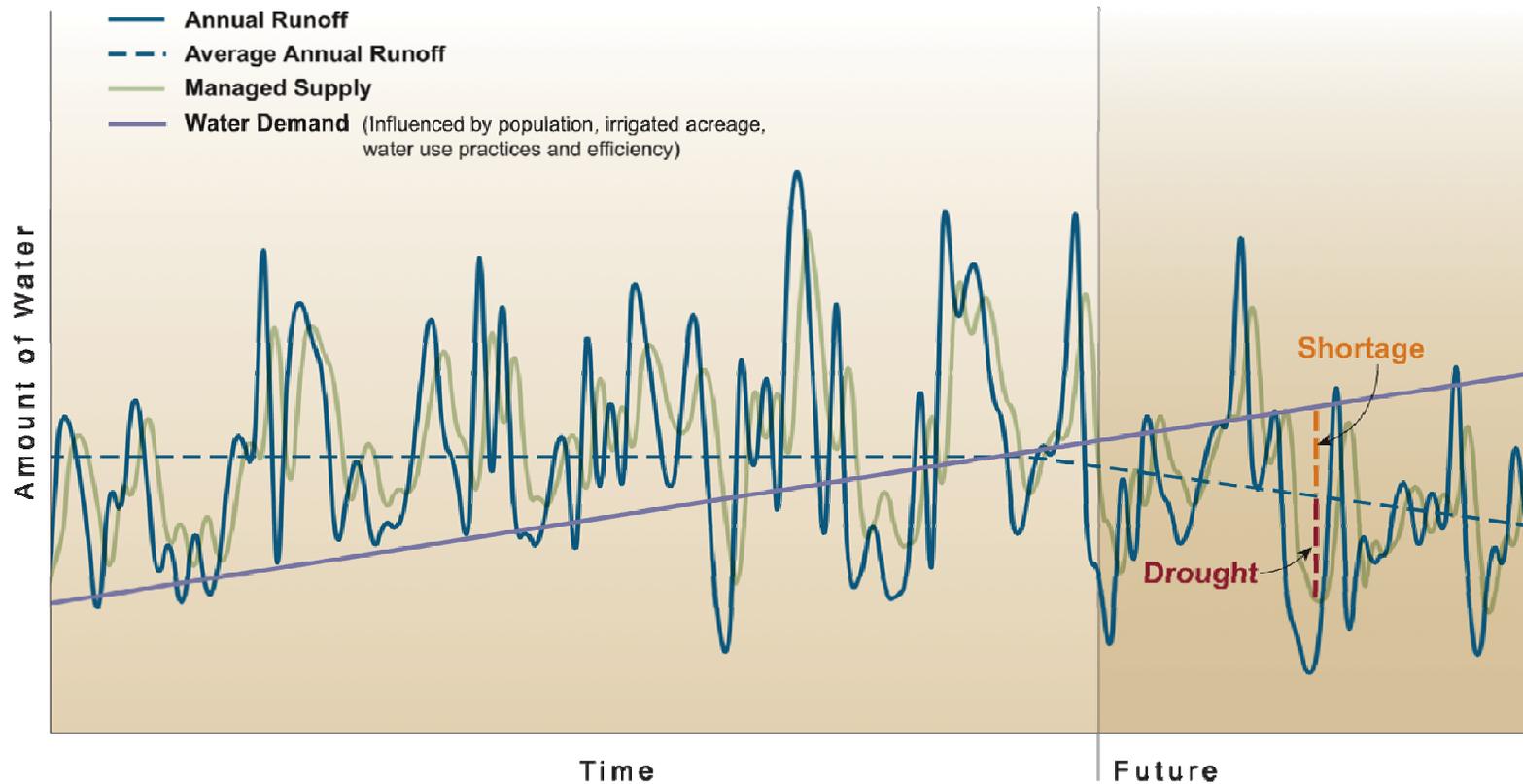
Key Elements of a Drought Plan

- Foundational planning philosophy
- Description of current state activities
- Drought impacts
- Indices to detect drought and set response thresholds (2013)
- Improved state coordination (2013)
- List of suggested responses to drought

Foundational Concepts

- Resilience
- Capacity to respond
- Drought, not water shortage

Drought, not Shortage



Current State Response

- Save Our Water
- Agency responses
 - Cal EMA
 - Health and Human Services
 - Natural Resources
 - CDFA
 - Cal EPA



Drought Impacts

- Water supplies (urban, agricultural and environmental)
- Energy (hydropower, power generation water requirements)
- Public Health (drinking water systems, respiratory diseases, mental health)
- Ecosystem (refuges, grasslands, forest)
- Fire (increase in frequency and intensity)
- Agriculture (dairy, regional impacts)
- Recreation

...and more.

Detecting Drought

- Current statewide monitoring
- Develop drought detection index for 2013
 - Determine metrics
 - Assemble into regional indices
 - Create regional templates for compiling information
 - Method to keep indices current
 - Available to drought coordinator and the public

New State Coordination

On-going

- Data and monitoring committee to maintain the Drought Indices

During drought

- Leadership committee to direct state agency responses
- Staff level inter-agency committee to coordinate state drought responses
- Local impacts committee to monitor and assess ground conditions

Your input: What State Responses Would Help You?

State Agency Responses to Drought

	Preparing for Drought (Before)	Responding to Drought (During)	Recovery From Drought (After)
Monitoring			
Preparedness			
Adaptation			
Response			
Recovery			
Outreach and Education			
Other Responses			

What recommendations do you have regarding the method of monitoring indices?
(Type, Location, Frequency, Maintenance etc.....)

Next Steps

- Take your input and develop the California Drought Contingency Plan.
- Release Draft Drought Contingency Plan in November
- Public input December and January
- Release as part of the Water Plan in February 2010