

From: Alice & Shelby - L.A. Times alice@latimes.com
Subject: Water and Power: How to store California's water?
Date: December 29, 2015 at 10:32 AM
To: jasdesign@earthlink.net

AS



Los Angeles Times

Water and Power

[Send to a Friend](#) | [View in browser](#)

Your guide to the California drought from the Los Angeles Times.

NEWS AND POLICY

Future of water storage: In the Central Valley, farmers and water officials are debating the best way to **store water**. One long-standing proposal is to [build a reservoir in the settlement of Sites](#), near the town of Maxwell. “When the Sacramento River is running high in the winter, flows would be diverted into two existing irrigation canals and a new, 13.5-mile pipeline system extending to the Antelope Valley.”

ON THE GROUND

Storm preparations: In **Huntington Beach**, officials are building a 5-by-20-foot sand berm to protect oceanfront properties from the coming **El Niño**. The Public Works Department is replacing flood-control station engines and installing emergency generators at 15 sites. [Rains associated with El Niño could come as soon as mid-January.](#)

Let it snow: The snowpack in the **Sierra Nevada** has [reached a new milestone: It's higher than the average for this time of year.](#) California's moun-

stone. It's higher than the average for this time of year. California's mountains haven't seen this much **snow** in two years. "We've got snowstorms on top of other snowstorms, which has helped accumulate snowpack," said Eric Kurth, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Sacramento.

Slowly sinking: California is **sinking**. The drought has caused farmers and water agencies to rely on **groundwater** supplies. Pumping that water has [caused the land to sink, leading to infrastructure problems and costly repairs](#). "It's shocking how a huge area is affected, but how little you can tell with your eye," said hydrogeologist James Borchers.

OFFBEAT

Creative solution: Could **disposable diapers** help California beat the drought? Two students in Anaheim are [testing a theory that diapers could help soil retain moisture](#). "I'm hoping that other people will learn that there are other things that they can do in their gardens so that they don't have to use so much water," said 13-year-old Hayley Priest.

Bing it: What's in your search history? If you're like many users, you typed "**drought**" or "**wildfire**" into the search bar this year. When it came to drought queries, [users were motivated by Gov. Jerry Brown, Starbucks and actor Tom Selleck](#), according to data from Bing. "Drought was a topic throughout the year, but there were four months that saw heavy search volume: April and May and then July and August," said Bing's Matthew Quinlan.

BIG IDEAS

"The drought put the forests in tremendous peril, a situation that may cause long-term changes in ecosystems that could impact animal habitats and biodiversity."

– [Ecologist Greg Asner](#)

DROUGHT SNAPSHOT

DROUGHT SNAPSHOT



A 1,200-acre brush fire burned in the hills above Solimar Beach in Ventura County in the early morning hours Saturday. Mandatory evacuation orders were issued for residents along the coastal area, though those homes are no longer under threat. Firemen from Santa Paula Fire Department hose down hot spots along the 101 freeway, which had a 15-mile stretch shut down as a result of the blaze. (Michael Robinson Chavez / Los Angeles Times)

DAILY TIP

If you're taking down your Christmas decorations this week, remember to recycle that tree. Here is where you can take it in [San Diego County](#), [Los Angeles County](#) and [San Francisco](#).

LOOKING AHEAD

The state Water Resources Control Board will meet on Jan. 5 in Sacramento.

Please let us know what we can do to make this newsletter more useful to

you. Send comments, complaints and ideas to [Alice Walton](#) or [Shelby Grad](#).



Interested in advertising in the Water & Power newsletter? [Click here to learn more.](#)

[Sign up for Newsletters](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | Copyright © 2015

Los Angeles Times | 202 West 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA, 90012. | 1-800-LA-TIMES