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# Dealing With Drought at the Regional Level: The California Crisis

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FEMA, Office of Federal Disaster  
Coordination

# Overview

- California Drought in Context
- 2012 Federal Response
- Current Conditions in California
- Federal Coordination with State and Key Actions to Date



# The Drought in Context

Genesis of on-going Federal coordination begins with the 2012 Drought:

- USDA: disaster designations for 2,245 counties.
- U.S. SBA: disaster designations for 2,331 counties.
- 2012 drought coverage peaked at 65.45 percent of the continental U.S. on September 25.
- Peak coverage of moderate to extreme drought greatest since 1930s.

# Drought as an Administration Priority

White House Rural Council (WHRC):

- August 2012: President convenes the WHRC.
- Directs Federal agencies to take an “all hands on deck” approach to support State, Tribal, and local partner efforts to mitigate the impact of drought.
- Application of the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) to coordinate the response.

# Application of the NDRF & Transition to National Drought Resilience Partnership (NDRP)

- Activation for the 2012-2013 Nation-wide drought demonstrated the usefulness and flexibility of the NDRF applied to Non-Stafford Act events.
- FEMA aided USDA in applying NDRF principles, engaging affected stakeholders in drought stricken states.
- President's Climate Action Plan was released in June 2013. NDRP announced later that year.

# NDRP Supporting Departments and Agencies

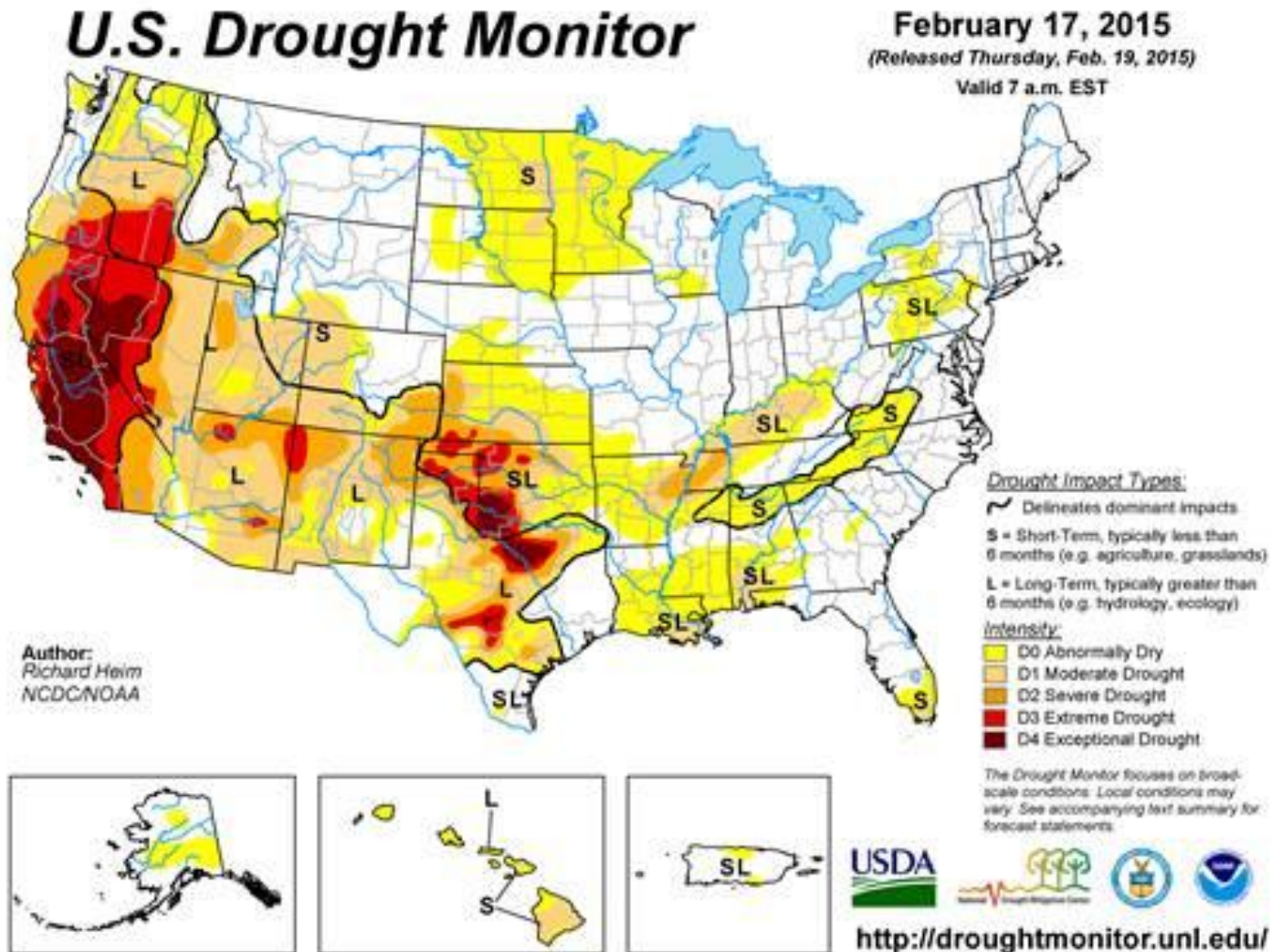
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (co-chair)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (co-chair)
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of Energy



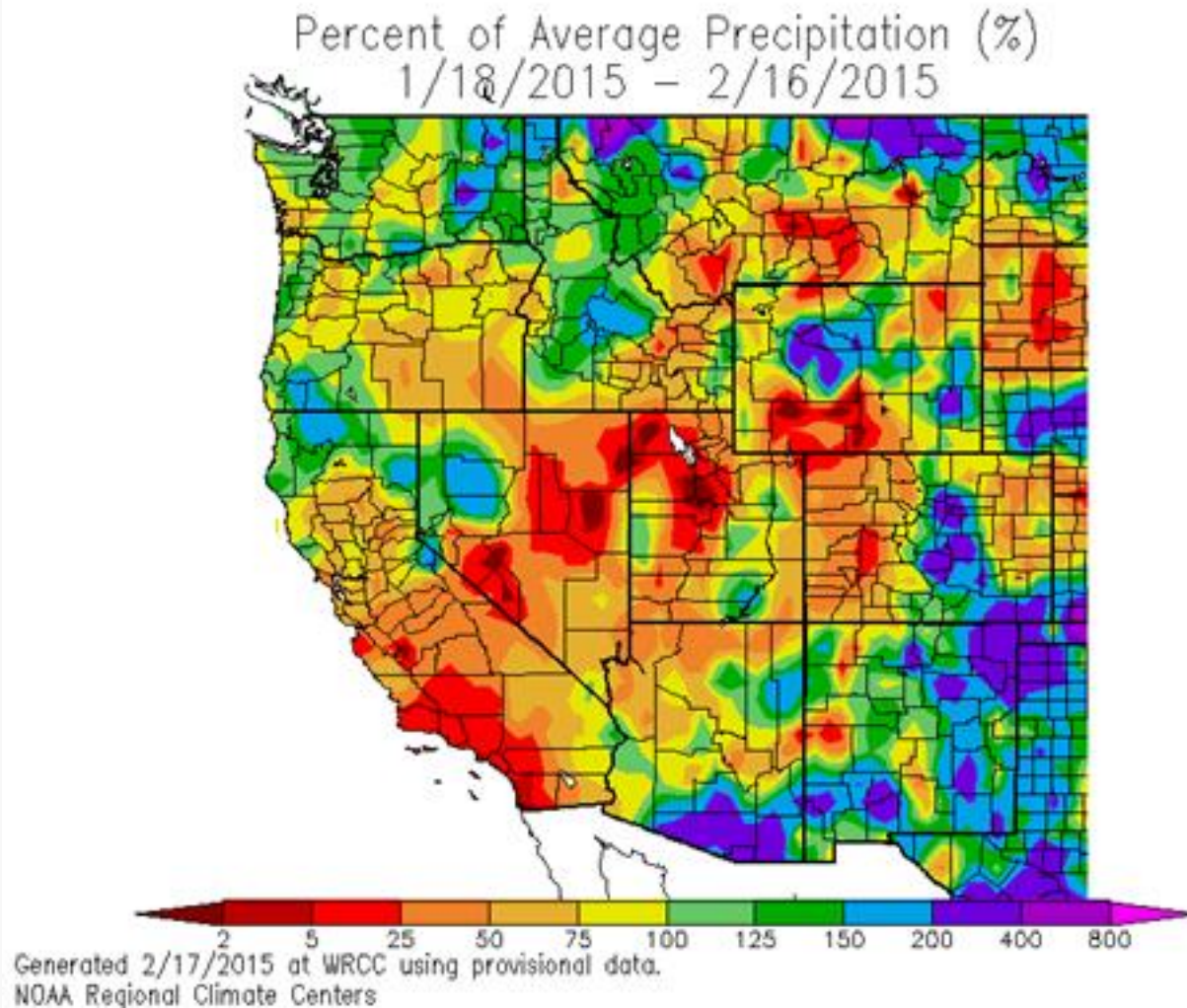
# NDRP Purpose

- Emphasizes long-term drought resilience.
- Works collaboratively with states, tribes and local communities, supporting their efforts.
- Deliverables:
  - Single Federal point of contact for drought.
  - Support a Soil Moisture Network.
  - Host regional forums.
  - Create online tools to access Federal resources.
  - Create Demonstration Projects.

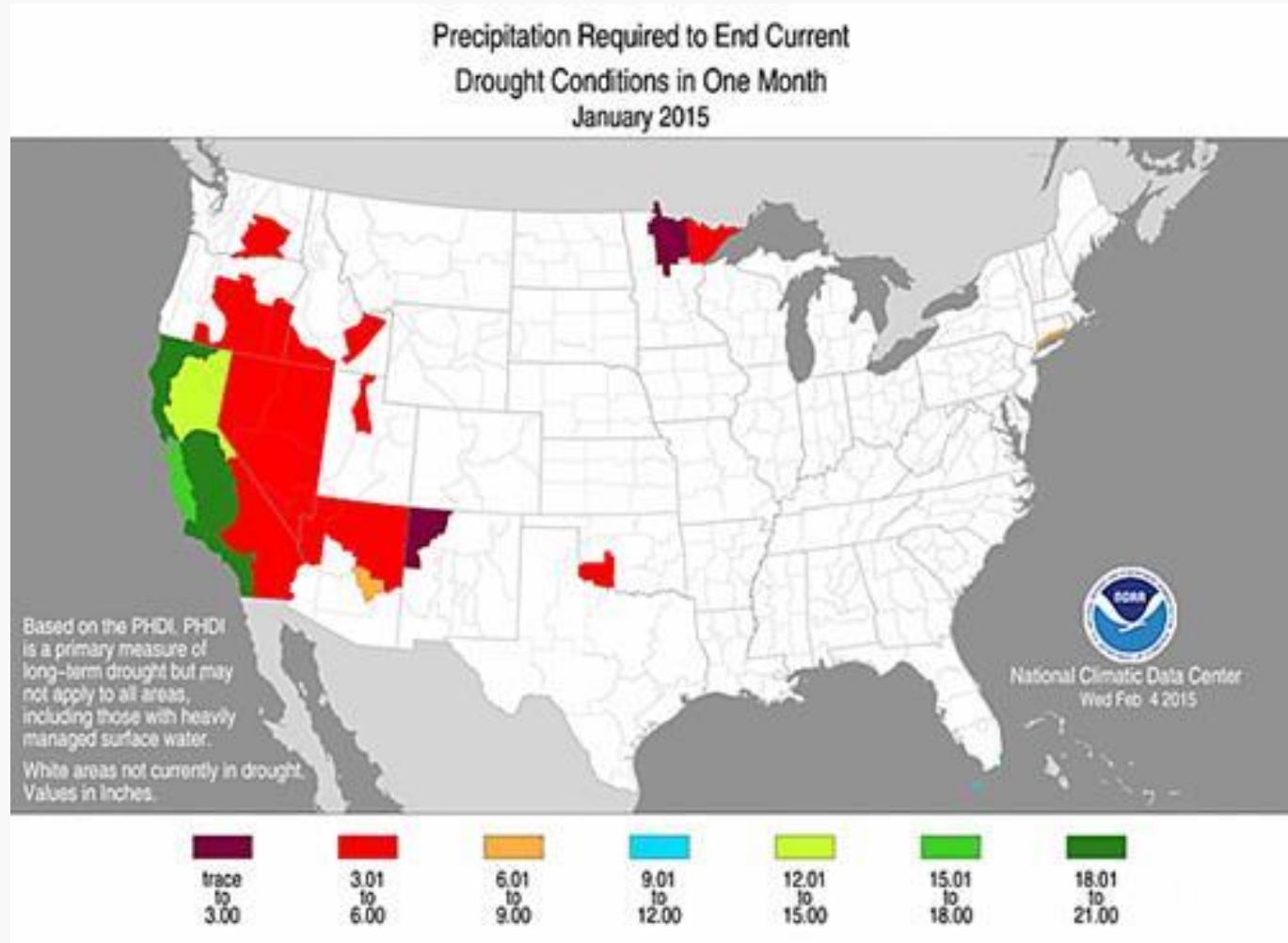
# Current Conditions in California



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# NDRP Activities in California

- President visited California in February 2014, Federal agencies committed \$200M for a range of drought-resilience building activities.
- Real time coordination with the White House, Federal agencies and California State Agencies through what began as weekly coordination calls with the California Governor's office.
- November 2014 meetings in Sacramento to define the parameters of proposed demonstration project in the near term.
- Enhanced coordination towards development of the Drought Contingency Plan.

# Federal Support to California and Beyond

The NDRP tracks and coordinates multiple initiatives in California and other drought impacted areas of the Nation. Highlights in California include:

- **NOAA:** Real-time weather and Hydrologic Information.
- **USDA:** NRCS EQIP, \$25 million in California for conservation assistance .
- **DOI:** \$50 million in funds available immediately for drought relief projects throughout the West — including nearly \$20 million for California's Central Valley Project.
- **EPA:** Tools and technical assistance to local and tribal governments to respond to the impacts of drought.

# For More Information on Available Federal Assistance

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

Dedicated phone line: 202-564-8086

# Contact Information

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