



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

December 17, 2013

Secretary Karen Ross  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
1220 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Director Mark Cowin  
Department of Water Resources  
1416 - 9th Street, Room 1115-1  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Chairwoman Felicia Marcus  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Director Mark Ghilarducci  
Office of Emergency Services  
3650 Schriever Avenue  
Mather, CA 95655

Dear Secretary Ross, Chairwoman Marcus, Director Cowin and Director Ghilarducci:

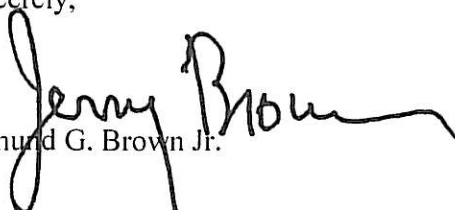
In the last year, California has experienced some of the driest periods on record, leading the State to announce extremely low initial water allocations. The federal government likely will soon follow suit.

In light of these conditions, I am directing that you immediately convene an interagency Drought Task Force to meet weekly and review expected allocations, our state of preparedness and whether conditions warrant declaration of a statewide drought.

We must do everything we can to address the impacts of water shortages and move water from where it is available to where it is needed. These actions include establishing a clearinghouse of water shortage-related information; assessing the regions most affected by dry conditions and the local community socio- and economic impacts within those regions; and, determining potential water transfers, infrastructure improvements, water trucking, and other actions that could alleviate the impacts of water shortages. These measures will work in concert with my directive earlier this year to expedite voluntary transfers of water and water rights to alleviate critical impacts to San Joaquin Valley agriculture and Department of Water Resource's designation of a drought coordinator.

The Task Force should coordinate with federal and local agencies to ensure that together we can respond to next year's water shortages, and protect our people and natural resources.

Sincerely,

  
Edmund G. Brown Jr.