Politics and money, not science or common sense, have mostly guided water policymaking in the West.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 15, 2016

BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP

Yes, If Status Quo… Can Beat Droughts!

Bill Patzert – NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory
wpatzert@jpl.nasa.gov

#BBKCadDesert

© 2018 Best Best & Krieger LLP
California is still in a drought. For now.

The history of American West written in many droughts! Water 'controls' society, but we 'govern' that water.

- Less than 'normal' rain = H\textsubscript{2}O Shortage
- Scientific - departure from history
- Deficient precip > mucho crop damage
- Unsustainable Use of H\textsubscript{2}O Supplies
- Droughts normal in all climatic zones

Bill Patzert - 2016

WHAT IS DROUGHT?

• Less than 'normal' rain = H\textsubscript{2}O Shortage
• Scientific - departure from history
• Deficient precip > mucho crop damage
• Unsustainable Use of H\textsubscript{2}O Supplies
• Droughts normal in all climatic zones
Got Geckos?
El Niño!
Not Yet?

It’s a Super Drought!

YIKES!
Los Angeles’ five-year rainfall total hits bottom

2011-2016 marked the driest five consecutive rainy seasons on record in downtown L.A. During this time, the rainfall total was 38.89 inches. This is significantly lower than the average rainfall of 75.0 inches. In fact, the driest five-year period on record was in the 1895-1890 period, which had 47.45 inches, just slightly above normal for the region.

Source: National Weather Service

*Normal would be 75.0 inches
Lake Mead = Bill’s Drought Gauge

16 Year Drop!

Hits Historical Low Level!
Today = 1074 feet! (37% full)
Downtown Los Angeles Rainfall 1945 – 2016

Decades of **Droughts & Deluges**!

- **Jerry Brown CA Governor**
  1975 - 1983

- **J. B. Again**
  2011 - 2019

**DROUGHTS ARE LONG!**

**Droughts & Deluges Chart**

- **DRY 12.9”**
- **WET 17.0”**
- **DRY 12.6”**
Drought-ridden California needs a savior...

Jerry Brown's Droughts Has His Luck Runout?
DROUGHTS ARE LARGE!
More than 50% of California is in severe drought.

DROUGHTS WAX & WANE!

**Abnormally Dry** | **Moderate Drought** | **Severe Drought** | **Extreme Drought** | **Exceptional Drought**
---|---|---|---|---
Dry | 5 yrs | Wet | 1 yr | Drier | 4 yrs | Wet | 1 yr | Driest | 5 yrs

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT MONITOR LEVELS SINCE 2000