



INNOVATIONS IN SUPPORT AND PRODUCTS: A RETROSPECTIVE

Julia Taylor

Assistant Director, Knowledge Services Group

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Introduction



Julia Taylor

14 years at the Congressional Research Service.

Managed legal research for 12 years.

Assistant Director of the Knowledge Services Group since June 2022.

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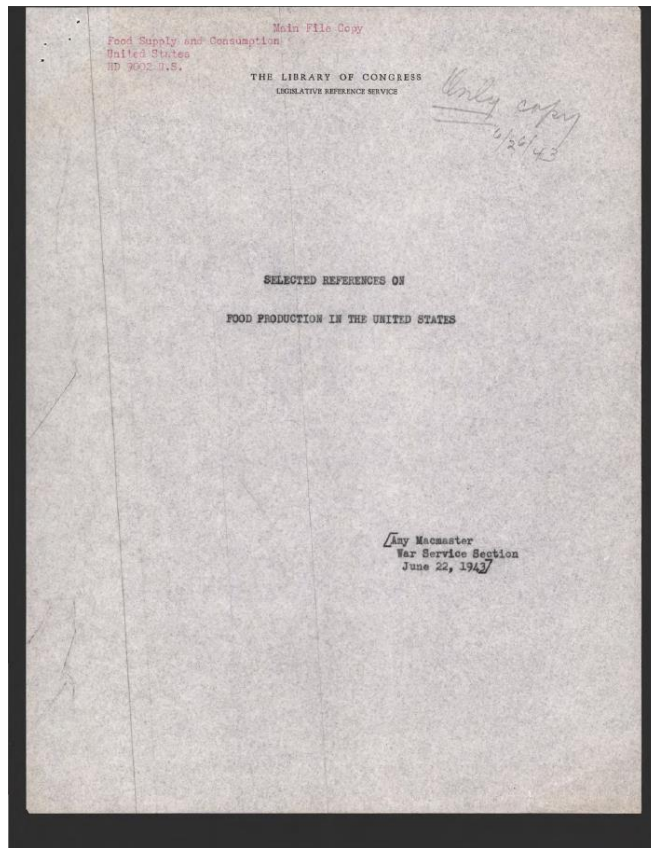
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Q&A

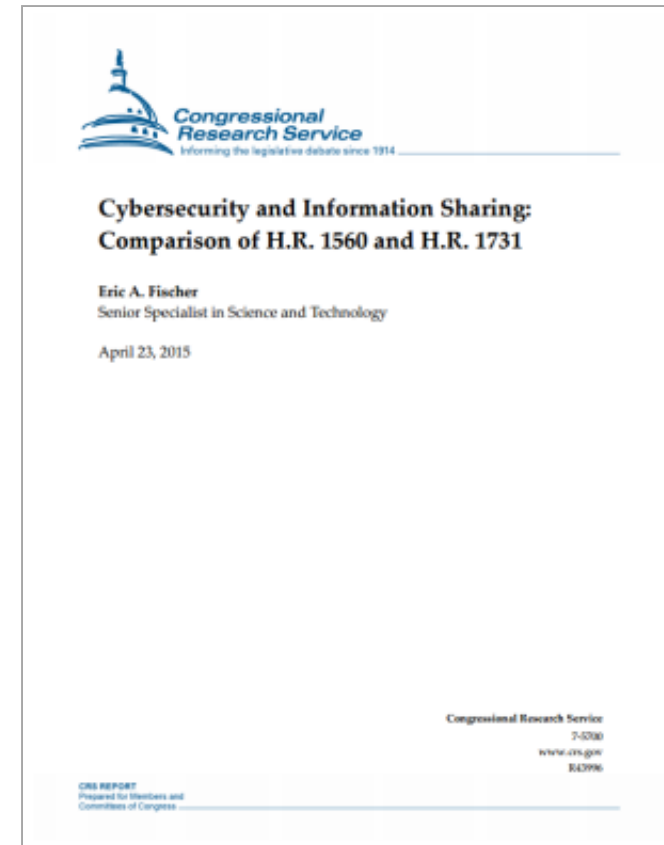
Historical Product Line

Traditional Reports

Then



Now



In Focus



April 8, 2015

California Drought: Water Supply and Conveyance Issues

Overview

More than 97% of the state of California is experiencing severe drought, with 67% experiencing extreme drought and 44% exceptional drought—the most severe drought classification (see Figure 1). Although winter months brought some precipitation, recent streamflow data indicate that the winter of 2015 was the driest since recordkeeping began in the 1950s. The 2014 water year ended September 30, 2014, and was the third-driest year on record in terms of precipitation. Prior to 2014, precipitation during winter and spring 2013 was the lowest on record, leaving water storage reservoirs unusually low. With California now entering its fourth year of drought, water deliveries to districts receiving water from federal and state facilities have continued to be curtailed. Some areas relying on groundwater have seen wells go dry.

Following the record-low snow water content survey, California Governor Jerry Brown on April 1, 2015, mandated a 25% reduction in water use for nonagricultural users. A drought declaration made by the governor on January 17, 2014, also remains in effect.

Figure 1. California Drought Conditions



Source: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/MapDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced disaster declarations for most California counties. Such federal declarations make available emergency loans designed to partially compensate for losses for producers who cannot obtain commercial credit.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Reclamation (part of the Department of the Interior) announced cutbacks to Central Valley Project (CVP) water users for 2015. The CVP

supplies water to hundreds of thousands of acres throughout the state, as well as to some wildlife refuges and municipal and industrial (M&I) water users. The State Water Project (SWP) announced a slight increase in water deliveries for 2015 over 2014, but deliveries remain very low. The SWP primarily provides water to M&I users and some agricultural users. Major CVP and SWP pumps that supply water for Central and Southern California are located at the southern portion of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers' Delta confluence with the San Francisco Bay (Bay-Delta). Approximately 22 million people receive water from the Bay-Delta annually.

What's at Stake?

The widespread nature of drought conditions, coupled with low water supplies in the state's major reservoirs and regulatory restrictions on CVP and SWP operations to protect water quality, fish, and wildlife, have affected many sectors and areas. Many cities and counties have instituted water rationing, species populations have declined, and a mandatory 25% curtailment in nonagricultural water use has been put in place. Controversy has ensued over limiting the curtailment to nonagricultural users, however, the governor has noted that water supplies already have been curtailed for some of the largest agricultural users. For example, for 2015 the projected water deliveries for CVP junior water rights contractors have been cut by 100% (i.e., they will receive no water from the CVP unless conditions improve). Senior water rights contractors have had their CVP supplies reduced by 25%. Similar reductions have occurred for SWP supplies. Some contractors have pumped groundwater or purchased water through water transfers or other means to offset reductions.

Congress funds and oversees the Central Valley Project, which in a normal water year delivers, on average, approximately 7 million acre-feet of water annually. CVP 2015 water deliveries are severely curtailed due to drought and other factors.

Although a much smaller percentage of the California economy than historically, California agriculture is still the nation's largest producer in terms of cash farm receipts—accounting for 17% (nearly \$45 billion) of the U.S. total in 2012, the last year for which data are available (see <http://www.oaha.ca.gov/statistics/>). The drought has affected crop and rangeland conditions and required livestock producers to use supplemental hay and grain. Hundreds of thousands of acres have been fallowed because sufficient water was not available. However, fruit and nut orchards continue to need irrigation during drought or the trees will die. The effects of drought on California

Guidance:






- Serves a wide range of purposes regarding content.
- *Executive level handout for briefings and other purposes.*
- Can compliment a longer report.
- 2 pages, 2-column layout.
- Tables, figures, and hyperlinks permitted.

Insights/Legal Sidebars

CRS INSIGHT

The Federal Statistical System: A Primer

July 10, 2023 (IN12197)



Taylor R. Knoedl, Analyst in American National Government (tknoedl@crs.loc.gov, 7-9375)

Overview

The U.S. federal government has a decentralized system of over 100 agencies, organizational units, and programs that engage in *statistical activities*. These entities conduct activities, in varying degrees, relating to the collection, compilation, processing, analysis, and dissemination of data relevant to their missions.

Within this system, the Office of Budget and Management (OMB) identifies 13 principal statistical agencies (PSAs) and three other organizational units that produce a substantial portion of official U.S. statistics. The PSAs are entities whose principal missions are conducting statistical activities for *statistical purposes*, which refers to statistical activities that describe, estimate, or analyze groups without identifying individuals or organizations comprising the groups. OMB has identified about 100 additional federal programs that each conduct at least \$3 million in annual statistical activities. Together, these agencies, units, and programs comprise the federal statistical system (FSS).

Entities in the FSS provide statistical information that stakeholders in the federal government and public can use to inform policy deliberations, research, program administration, and private decisions in many policy and societal contexts, as well as inform the public.

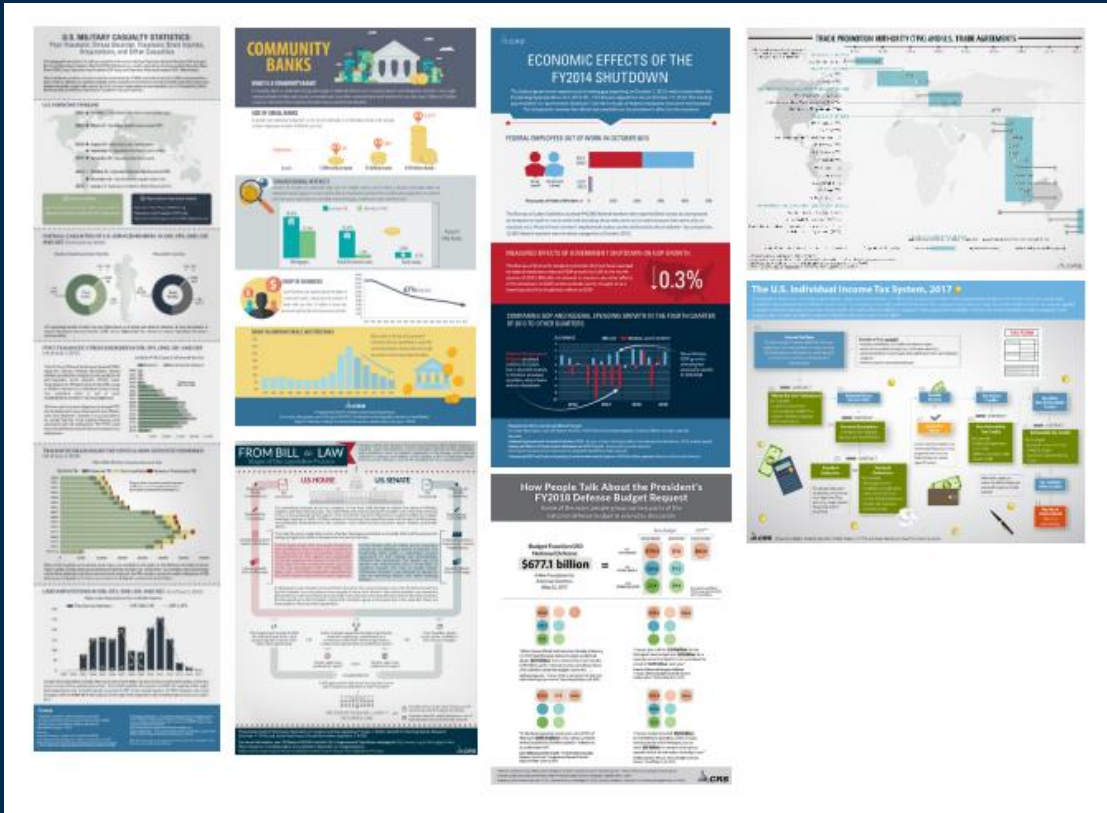
Related Author

Taylor R. Knoedl

Guidance:

- Serves a wide range of purposes regarding content.
- Very concise treatment of a subject.
- *Meant to be timely.*
- 1,000 words or less.
- Hyperlinks permitted.

Infographics



Question for authors:

What is the purpose of visualization?

Videos and Podcasts

CRS VIDEO

A Walkthrough of the Monthly Treasury Statement



Question for authors:

What is the benefit of visual or audio engagement?

CRS AUDIO

CRS Podcast: Federal Role in Campaign Finance



Overview of Product Line

In 2022, CRS...

Produced
279
new reports

Produced
282
new In Focus

Produced
431
new Insights/Legal Sidebars

Produced
6
new infographics

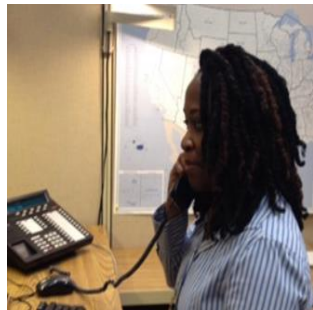
Produced
86
new videos and podcasts

Historical Consultative Services

Seminars | Legislative Procedure, Policy Issues, Legal



Briefings | In-Person, Telephone



Virtual Programs

- Registration is generally closed the day before the program.
- Staff are sent a Zoom link the day before the program.
- Late registration by contacting CRS programs staff directly.



EVENT DETAILS

[Step 1: Programs & Events Info](#) > [Step 2: Attendee's Info](#) > [Step 3: Confirmation](#)

Federal Law Update: Spring 2023 VIRTUAL

CRS Federal Law Update: Spring 2023 — Scroll down to select any or all of the 12 webinar offerings.

The American Law Division of the Congressional Research Service invites Members of Congress and congressional staff to the Federal Law Update, a series of webinars on highly topical issues of law directly related to the legislative business of Congress.

By attending, attorneys may be eligible for Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits. This program is only open to permanent legislative branch employees.

For more information, please contact CRS Federal Law Update staff at (202) 707-7900 or FLUSeminar@crs.loc.gov.

Note: You will receive an email with a link to join via Zoom the day before the webinar. Online registration will close the day before the program at 4:00 P.M. Eastern. After online registration closes, please email seminars@crs.loc.gov to register.

Select all sessions

Virtual Briefings

- Knowledge Café in June 2023 on advanced features on Zoom.
- Microsoft Teams in the future.



Programs and Briefings Today

In FY2022, CRS...

Held
264

Seminars and programs

Hosted
10,000

Members and staff

Conclusions

Innovation [in-uh-vey-shuhn]

Noun

1. Something new or different introduced
2. The act of innovating; introduction of new things or methods

- Innovation doesn't have to be "big".
- Innovation doesn't have to be "fast".
- But, it does take action



QUESTIONS

CONTACT

Julia Taylor

Assistant Director, Knowledge
Services Group

jtaylor@crs.loc.gov

202-707-5609