

# The LaRouche Plan Can Get Us Out Of California Water/Food Crisis

by Marcia Merry Baker

Oct. 24—Today's California water scarcity crisis is, in scope, a crisis of national food supply, mass unemployment, and farm ruination. There are trade-offs being manipulated between the Central Valley Project agriculture use, and non-farm town and so-called wild fish-life use, because of contrived shortages resulting from decades of deliberate anti-development of potentially plentiful state and continental water resources.

Infrastructure improvements—dams, conveyances, power systems—in land and water, which were all planned, have been blocked due to the subversion of popular opinion and government policies by British imperial financial networks using such bogus concepts and environmental campaigns as: resources are fixed, population is excessive, infrastructure damages “nature,” etc. The overall impact has been to undermine not only California—home to 37 million people, 12% of the nation, and a world center of food production—but the nation itself.

Within that anti-development framework, the California legislature is now taking up a new draft law for water policy. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is grandstanding as the champion of “infrastructure” in the same way that Il Duce Mussolini did: Talk about it, and implement fascism.

The provisions of the 150-page draft law released late Oct. 23, include a mandatory “conservation” cut of 20% in the rate of water usage by 2020; a \$3 billion-plus state bond authorization for more water storage, and various environmental rubrics. But it's all a no-go.

In reality, the entire monetary and banking system is blowing out, state and local government functions are shutting down nationwide, as Californians know full well. The only program that will succeed is intervention internationally for a new world credit system, with stable currencies; plus intervention domestically for a

kind of Chapter 11 bankruptcy-reorganization, and start-up of economy-building projects in the national interest. High on the list come water projects for California and the entire “Great American Desert” region, as it once was called (**Figure 1**).

Since at least July 2007, Lyndon LaRouche has put forward specific measures for such emergency national and international policy initiatives. Taken together, they are known as the “LaRouche Plan,” now under discussion in many world capitals. It is in this context that the facts, principles, and solutions to the “California water crisis” can be understood.

## Immediate Crisis

The specifics of the immediate crisis are simple. This year is the third consecutive drought, in an episode of aridity that is characteristic of this part of the Great American Desert. In particular, the drought has limited the run-off in the watersheds of the Sacramento and San Joaquin River systems. The largest reservoirs (Shasta, San Luis, Folsom Lakes, and others), in their basins, are now, at best, two-thirds full, compared to historic averages. Therefore, the flow running into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, in the San Francisco Bay estuary, is far lower. This is water that is drawn off for Central Valley Project farming, for all non-farm purposes and locations in the region.

This Spring, state and Federal pumping from the San Francisco Bay Delta for use in the Central Valley Project and for southern California, was drastically reduced from the average pumping volume of recent years.

Then in August, U.S. District Court Judge Oliver A. Wanger ordered more cuts to protect the delta smelt, a small fish on the endangered list. This decision was egregious in itself, but actually follows from the Endangered Species Act, which mandates such actions. Counter-appeals have been made. The state Depart-

FIGURE 1

## The Great American Desert



Source: EIR.

ment of Water Resources said that the judge's order could cause 35% less water to be delivered from the Delta than usual.

All told, the damage is huge. Thousands of acres of farmland lie fallow. Orchards and tree stands are being triaged. Sweeping layoffs of farmworkers have created desperation overnight. Water use for towns is also cut. Some 25 million people rely on the Delta for drinking water. In San Jose, for example, residential use must be reduced by 15%.

California, in particular the Central Valley, accounts for some 40% of the fruits and vegetables con-

sumed in the United States, with the exact percentage varying by type of product. Thus, California water scarcity is an automatic national threat.

Moreover, the disaster is not a simple linear loss of a volume of seasonal crops. For irrigated agriculture, biomass output per unit area is on average 4.5 times higher than for non-irrigated farming. In recent decades, California came to lead the nation in techniques and area irrigated, accounting for some 8 million out of the national total of 40 million acres irrigated. In some counties of the San Joaquin Basin, 40% of all the farmland is irrigated. Having this region disrupted and dismantled is a vast loss in capacity.

The damage to the national and for-export food chain does not come simply from the "physical" side of lack of water infrastructure itself, but from the simultaneous chaos of currencies, hyperinflation in agriculture inputs, and deflation in what the farmer gets for his output. This combined impact is devastating. "Our Katrina" is how one California farm leader describes it this month.

The dairy sector of California, the top U.S. milk-producing state, as well as internationally, is especially hard hit, since it is the most high-tech, high-skilled, highly capitalized part of the animal protein food chain. A top producing milk herd takes years to develop (through selective breeding and proper care). The lactating cows must have good nutrition, vigilant care, and be milked twice or more a day, no matter what. Yet, since Fall 2008, *the price to the farmer has fallen by half*, and is now below the farmer's costs of maintaining his herd. Dairymen are quitting, and/or being ruined. Many have committed suicide. By year's end, the U.S. may have 20-25% fewer dairy farms. Washington has refused to intervene with anything except pretense.

FIGURE 2

## North America: Great Water Projects



Sources: Parsons Company, *North American Water and Power Alliance Conceptual Study*, Dec. 7, 1964; Hal Cooper; Manuel Frías Alcaraz; *EIR*.

None of this devastation is due to limitations of “natural resources” or “overpopulation.” It is all the result of cumulatively bad policies, and lack of emergency intervention in the current breakdown-crash.

### Relevant History: The Build-Up

After World War II, the water and land surveys done in the United States showed that, for an expanding population and healthy economy in North America, more water would have to be supplied to the arid western regions, or else, growth of population and economic ac-

tivity would have to be concentrated in the existing, well rain-fed regions of eastern Canada and the United States, as well as southern Mexico. The hydrological patterns of the western lands, once known as the Great American Desert, do not have the potential to support expanded water withdrawals for industry, agriculture, residential, and other uses, unless their flows can be augmented “from the outside.”

In the 1950s and early 1960s, very effective designs were drawn up for the technological and geographical engineering to provide additional water. If these proposals had been implemented fully, the ecological degradation and water-use trade-offs now worsening in the West, would not have occurred.

The 1957 California Water Plan laid out the projects required for the state, which even then was the most populous, water-short area of the United States. Based on a thorough 1947-57 survey of state resources, projects were begun of various dams, canals, and aqueducts, to collect and store water from abundant regions, and deliver to water-scarce regions.

At the same time, the Federal Bureau of Reclamation began what eventually became the Central Valley Project of channelling water flow.

On a continental scale, the North American Water and Power Alliance

(NAWAPA) was conceived, to divert a portion of the MacKenzie and Yukon River flows from the far North-west of the continent, southward into the dry western states, and even as far as northern Mexico (**Figure 2**). The Pasadena-based Ralph M. Parsons Co. did the engineering-concept work-up for NAWAPA. In 1966, U. S. Senate hearings were held on its feasibility, chaired by Sen. Frank Moss (D-Utah), chairman of the Special Subcommittee on Western Water Development of the Senate Interior Committee. Senator Moss said that with the expected success of putting a man on the Moon, the

U.S. public and policymakers had reason to look forward to the completion of NAWAPA. Though large in scale, the NAWAPA water diversion tasks were not inherently complicated. Moreover, the postwar development of the technology of peaceful nuclear explosives (PNEs) promised to greatly cut construction times, and revolutionize methods for large-scale earth-moving projects around the globe.

In Mexico, matching water diversion projects were drawn up by the College of Civil Engineers to move water through canals, existing river beds, and tunnels from the rainy South and Sierra Nevada slopes, northward to the dry northern states of Sonora, Sinaloa, and Tamoulipas. The proposed Hydraulic Project for the Northwest (PLHINO) and the Hydraulic Project for the Gulf of the Northeast (PLIGON) would have made best use of the disparity in national precipitation.

At the same time as these geo-engineering plans were made for North America, President Dwight Eisenhower initiated work on advanced methods for large-scale de-salting of seawater, under the 1953 Water Desalination Act. Joint U.S. and Mexico projects were begun. President John Kennedy put special emphasis on this R&D. (One focus was on potential applications in the Jordan River Basin, for strife-torn Palestine.)

### **Relevant History: Takedown**

However, by the mid-1970s, NAWAPA and PLHINO-PLIGON were politically all but dead and buried. In 1982, President Reagan discontinued all Federal funding for desalination work. The projects called for under the California Water Plan fell behind schedule, then were drastically scaled down. Work was shelved on building several new dams in northern California to capture the plentiful run-off there, and to expand existing dams in the region. In tandem with that, the “Peripheral Canal” was never built, around the Delta, to better channel the flow, and allow pumping for the Central Valley Project.

To be sure, significant water supplies in the West continued to come from the pre-World War II, FDR grand-scale projects of the Colorado and Columbia River systems, and others. But there were no “new” water resources lined up for economic growth for the future.

In this context, the periodic multi-year droughts hit hard. California has had vast agriculture losses and other damage in 1976-77, in 1991-92, at other times,

and now today.

Moreover, the drought and its effects are not at all “cyclical”—i.e., rising and falling. They have been cumulatively damaging. The lack of internal improvements in water management, to bring on new ample supplies, has caused a degradation of the landscape, in terms of lowering of the water table, subsidence of the ground, dislocation of farming communities.

The spearhead for all this discontinuation of pre-planned water infrastructure, was the international anti-development movement, and anti-nation state financial interests behind it. They supported intense counterculture campaigns against dams, modern farming, and technology of all kinds, especially nuclear power.

A series of Federal laws allowed intervention, or the threat of intervention, against large-scale water and land projects: chiefly the National Environmental Policy Act (1969) and the Species Protection Act (1973).

A special piece of evil has been put into play against water projects: the campaign against “inter-basin transfers” of water from one river watershed system to another. The rationale? The public reason given is that mixing up ecosystems will have unknown hazards, plus it’s just “too costly.” The true reason, is to undercut nations, economies, and population.

In 1968, shortly after NAWAPA was heard in Congress, and California was continuing construction on its northern river basin diversion projects, Sen. Henry “Scoop” Jackson (D-Wash.), pushed through the creation of a Federal Water Commission, to outlaw *any work on inter-basin water transfers* without its express approval. He then appointed Russell Train, an arch neocon environmentalist who opposed all such projects, as commissioner. This line came directly out of Jackson’s controllers in London, from the globalist financial circles, and the allied nexus of genocidalist “environmentalists” such as Prince Philip’s Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF).

The latest bald expression of this viewpoint comes from the WWF, in a report in its series, “For a Living Planet,” titled, “Interbasin Water Transfers and Water Scarcity in a Changing World—A Solution or a Pipe-dream?” (WWF, Germany, August 2009)

### **LaRouche Battles For Economic Principle**

Over the decades, LaRouche has fought the evil anti-technology movement head on.

- In 1982, a mass-circulation report, “Won’t Your Please Let Your Grandchildren Have a Drink of Fresh Water,” was issued by his National Democratic Policy Committee, to revive and publicize NAWAPA, and the principle of “creating” new resources through infrastructure and technology.

- In 1992, in the midst of a severe California drought, another mass circulation report titled, “America Is Running Dry—Build Great Water Projects Now!” was issued by the “LaRouche in ’92; Democrats for Economic Recovery.”

- In 2002, LaRouche visited Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico, to call for cross-border collaboration for a “NAWAPA-Plus” economic development driver to develop the Great American Desert.

- In 2003, as an intervention into California’s gubernatorial recall election against Gray Davis, LaRouche opposed Schwarzenegger with many mass pamphlets, including two programmatic reports, “The Sovereign States of the Americas—LaRouche’s Program for Continental Development,” and “Return to Sanity: Make California a Pilot Project for the Nation” (from the LaRouche in 2004 Committee).

The latter report summed up the requirements for nuclear energy and water projects in California, including launching NAWAPA, and moving ahead with the unfinished California Water Plan dams, levees, and all other in-state water management programs.