



New Study Shows Water Supply Inaction Could Cost Billions, Thousands of Jobs

UC Research Study* Findings Illustrate Urgent Need for SB 72

PROJECTED WATER SUPPLY LOSS IN CALIFORNIA

California is on track to **lose 12–25%** (5–9 million acre-ft per year) of its water supply by 2050. This water supply loss is equivalent to:



1 or 2
Lake Shasta(s)



enough for
9 Million
Households

INACTION WILL HAVE FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES

Groundwater management, climate change, environmental needs, and Colorado River reductions will **cut up to a quarter of our water supply**—but the real threat is doing nothing.

Without better management, California faces –



\$14.5 billion a year
in economic losses



67,000
jobs lost annually



Our current path would mean the permanent **fallowing of 1.5–3 million acres of farmland**—gutting local economies and contracting overall food supply.

Inaction isn't just an environmental risk—it's an economic crisis in slow motion.

The research calculates the economic toll of water shortages in our three largest regions by water use—Sacramento Valley; Bay Area and San Joaquin Valley; Southern Calif.—in a **Likely** or **Worse** future.

WATER SUPPLY LOSSES IMPACT ALL CALIFORNIANS

Sacramento Valley

1.5–2.5 million acre-ft

Bay Area + San Joaquin Valley

3–5.5 million acre-ft

Southern California

0.5–1.5 million acre-ft



PROJECTED ECONOMIC COST BASED ON WATER SUPPLY LOSS

LIKELY FUTURE

Water supply loss—5M acre-ft

Economic cost—\$3.4–\$6.4B

WORSE FUTURE

Water supply loss—9.5M acre-ft

Economic cost—\$7.0–\$14.5B

+ 67,000 jobs statewide

**THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW, CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON A
LONG-TERM, RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY FOR ALL.**

CAWaterForAll.com

*"Inaction's Economic Cost for California's Water Supply Challenges" (2025), by Jay Lund (UC Davis), Josué Medellín-Azuara (UC Merced), and Alvar Escrivá-Bou (UC Davis) follows their previous study, "The Magnitude of California's Water Challenges" (2024), commissioned by the California Municipal Utilities Association, sponsor of SB 72.