

February 27, 2017 CA's MAGICAL THINKING

Two weeks ago we witnessed a near catastrophe as the Oroville, CA dam was near collapse. For today's short post, we have four items that illustrate the sheer stupidity, and more, that brought California to this point. First we learn from Instapundit that one month ago the state provided the feds with a wish list \$100 billion of infrastructure improvements. Was the Oroville dam on the list? Of course not!

Then we learn from David Cole of the CA government's opinion that rain was not in their future. The drought was forever and there was no need to repair a dam that would be holding back very little water.

Then from Legal Insurrection we learn it was not just stupidity. Evil intent can be seen in the allocation of the 2009 stimulus to DEM voting areas of the state at the expense of GOP areas.

Finally, if you really want to lose your lunch, we have a four year old item from Ron Hart in the Orange County Register that tracked the 2009 stimulus money throughout the country to DEM constituencies.

In [Instapundit, Ed Driscoll](#) posts on California's Magical Thinking.

"Reinforcing the Oroville Dam was not included on Mr. Brown's \$100 billion wish list of projects prepared last month at the request of the National Governors Association in response to Mr. Trump's call for \$1 trillion in infrastructure improvements, CNBC reported.

One project that did make the list: California high-speed rail, a pet project of Mr. Brown's with an estimated price tag of \$100 billion that has become for state Republicans a symbol of out-of-control government spending."

*During their flight from reality in the post-Clinton years, elite California lefties bragged they were **"dam busters"**; in the early days of Obama's administration, his then-Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior Deanna Archuleta, promised the enviro-faithful, **"You will never see another federal dam"** — and maintenance on state-run projects was apparently out as well. Like the famous Monty Python **architectural sketch**, Sacramento seemed to consider magical thinking as sufficient to prop them up.*

In a Jeremiad in [Taki Magazine, David Cole](#) takes on more magical thinking of both the right and the left. Follow the link for Mr. Cole's complete rant.

... If spending is the equivalent of prayer to a leftist, "climate change" is the equivalent of Christian "end-time" cultism. Let me share with you a very recent, and very relevant, example. Over the past week, we here in sunny insane California have faced the prospect of a major calamity as three merciless months of near-nonstop rainfall have led to the possibility of a massive failure at the tallest dam in the U.S., in Oroville, near Sacramento. It's a big deal;

188,000 people have been evacuated. Concerns about how the aging Oroville Dam would fare in the face of record rainfall were raised years ago, but the state and the feds ignored them.

The story has been amply reported locally and nationally. But what the press conveniently leaves out of its coverage is the underlining theory behind the dam inaction: climate-change apocalypitics had convinced the Silly Putty-brained California powers-that-be that rain was never returning to the state. Quite literally, new dams, and improvements on old ones, were rejected because a doomsday cult had convinced politicians that water was “over,” that the drought that began in 2012 was not a passing thing but an “era,” something that would last decades if not a century. And why build new dams if there’ll be no water for them to hold? Why refurbish old ones if there’s no chance they’ll ever be filled again? ...

... Witch doctors in white coats who study tree stumps like gypsies read tea leaves [told](#) The San Jose Mercury News in 2014 that the drought might last over one hundred, maybe even one thousand, years. If you Google “California,” “drought,” and “will last” or “may last,” you’ll see endless links to left-certified “scientific” snake-handlers who claimed, right up until a few months ago, that the drought may last hundreds of years, or thousands of years, or “forever.”

Yet here we are in February 2017, with the drought completely over in Northern Cal and close to being over in the South. The rainfall of the past few months has shattered all records. The last “abnormal” California winter, 1982/1983, saw rainfall that was 88% higher than the 30-year average. Winter 2016/2017? 120% higher. Cities like Long Beach have seen rainfall at levels never before recorded. ...

... Expect more superstitious nonsense from leftists in the years to come, because if leftists have demon-haunted minds, Trump is the ghost rattling around inside, clouding all judgment and giving rise to visions and fever dreams. Undeservedly famous leftist comedians are seeing signs and wonders. Sarah Silverman’s phantom pavement [swastikas](#) were nothing more than the leftist-Jewish version of seeing Jesus in a tortilla.

Silverman’s response after being told that her “swastikas” were simple construction markers boiled down to “I’ve been driven to lunacy by Trump’s anti-Semitism.” In other words, she’s possessed; a demon made her do it.

These days, the left has no moral high ground over the religious right. In fact, I’d take a conservative Christian over a demon-haunted leftist any day, because at least conservative Christians admit that their beliefs are faith-based. They don’t go around screaming “science! science! science!” while drinking sacrificial goats’ blood Santeria-style because the rain gods are angry.

I have nothing against people of faith. But hypocrites? They piss me off like a sonofabitch.

Leslie Eastman of Legal Insurrection shows where the CA money went.

... Legal Insurrection readers recall that I noted that Oroville Dam lays in a deep red part of California. Despite the fact that issues with the structure were noted 12 years ago, Obama’s Stimulus Package monies for infrastructure were never sent for the needed repairs and enhancements.

However, one California dam get see several million Stimulus dollars, though it was in much better condition.

Over \$22 million in stimulus funds did go toward safety improvements to the Folsom Dam, which was described as in "good shape" at the time the grant was awarded in 2009.

"The dam is in good shape but is starting to show its age," a Bureau of Reclamation spokesperson said of the Folsom Dam at the time.

The stimulus was intended to "shore up the nation's aging infrastructure," said Rep. Mike Thompson, a Democrat who served California's 1st District before being redistricted to the 5th.

The fact that the dam was in a "blue" county may have been a contributing factor. ...

... Mahatma Ghandi once noted that action expresses priorities. ...

Ron Hart follows the 2009 stimulus funds in a article in March 26, 2013 Orange County Register. Follow the link for more details.

... Of the money spent in swing state Wisconsin, 80 percent went to public sector unions – those with already locked-in jobs. In fact, right-to-work states got \$266 less per person in stimulus money than heavily unionized states. Where Democrats had a vast majority of representatives, their states got \$460 per person more.

When Obama signed the stimulus bill in 2009, he promised it would provide "help for those hardest hit by our economic crisis." Clearly, it did not. The states hurt the most, the ones with more foreclosures, unemployment and bankruptcy, got less money than richer states closer to power. Washington, D.C. got the most stimulus money: \$7,602 per capita.

The stimulus was a huge political slush fund with little accountability. ...

Instapundit

PRIORITIES: California spent on high-speed rail and illegal immigrants, but ignored Oroville Dam:

by Ed Driscoll

"Reinforcing the Oroville Dam was not included on Mr. Brown's \$100 billion wish list of projects prepared last month at the request of the National Governors Association in response to Mr. Trump's call for \$1 trillion in infrastructure improvements, CNBC reported.

One project that did make the list: California high-speed rail, a pet project of Mr. Brown's with an estimated price tag of \$100 billion that has become for state Republicans a symbol of out-of-control government spending."

During their flight from reality in the post-Clinton years, elite California lefties bragged they were "[dam busters](#)"; in the early days of Obama's administration, his then-Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior Deanna Archuleta, promised the enviro-faithful, "[You will never see another federal dam](#)" — and maintenance on state-run projects was apparently out as well. Like the famous Monty Python [architectural sketch](#), Sacramento seemed to consider magical thinking as sufficient to prop them up.

Taki Magazine

[Ghost Inside Your Haunted Head](#)

by David Cole

... If spending is the equivalent of prayer to a leftist, "climate change" is the equivalent of Christian "end-time" cultism. Let me share with you a very recent, and very relevant, example. Over the past week, we here in sunny insane California have faced the prospect of a major calamity as three merciless months of near-nonstop rainfall have led to the possibility of a massive failure at the tallest dam in the U.S., in Oroville, near Sacramento. It's a big deal; 188,000 people have been evacuated. Concerns about how the aging Oroville Dam would fare in the face of record rainfall were raised years ago, but the state and the feds ignored them.

The story has been amply reported locally and nationally. But what the press conveniently leaves out of its coverage is the underlining theory behind the dam inaction: climate-change apocalypticism had convinced the Silly Putty-brained California powers-that-be that rain was never returning to the state. Quite literally, new dams, and improvements on old ones, were rejected because a doomsday cult had convinced politicians that water was "over," that the drought that began in 2012 was not a passing thing but an "era," something that would last decades if not a century. And why build new dams if there'll be no water for them to hold? Why refurbish old ones if there's no chance they'll ever be filled again? ...

... Witch doctors in white coats who study tree stumps like gypsies read tea leaves [told](#) *The San Jose Mercury News* in 2014 that the drought might last over one hundred, maybe even *one thousand*, years. If you Google "California," "drought," and "will last" or "may last," you'll see endless links to left-certified "scientific" snake-handlers who claimed, right up until a few months ago, that the drought may last hundreds of years, or thousands of years, or "forever."

Yet here we are in February 2017, with the drought *completely* over in Northern Cal and close to being over in the South. The rainfall of the past few months has shattered *all* records. The last "abnormal" California winter, 1982/1983, saw rainfall that was 88% higher than the 30-year average. Winter 2016/2017? *120% higher*. Cities like Long Beach have seen rainfall at levels *never before recorded*. ...

... I have nothing against people of faith. But hypocrites? They piss me off like a sonofabitch.

Legal Insurrection

Obama Stimulus went to “blue” dam instead of “red”

Folsom Dam got the stimulation that Oroville Dam needed.

by Leslie Eastman

As the water levels at the Oroville Dam continue to shrink, Californians under the initial evacuation order are streaming back their homes.

Now, officials are attempting to [restore normal operations](#) ahead of more rains.

Feeling confident they've created sufficient empty space in Lake Oroville for the time being, state Department of Water Resources officials said they reduced spillway outflows so they could address another looming challenge: restarting the dam's hydroelectric plant, which can release additional water when operational. The plant was shut down last week after concrete and other debris from the spillway accumulated at the bottom of the dam, backing up water to the front door of the hydro facility.

DWR Acting Director Bill Croyle said the water level in the reservoir has receded enough since Sunday that it's safe to reduce the spillway releases to allow crews to clear debris from the Feather River below the dam.

“The threat level – it is much, much, much lower than what it was on Sunday,” he told reporters at DWR's regional office a few miles from the dam.

Dam personnel are attempting to repair the damage to the [dam's spillways](#) ahead of the next set of storms.

The BIG sky crane ????? moving material to help with repairs at the emergency spillway
[#OrovilleDam #OrovilleSpillway pic.twitter.com/7bje2F1576](#)

— CHP Quincy (@CHP_Quincy) [February 15, 2017](#)

Capt. Dan Olson, a spokesman from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, said crews have been working around the clock to reinforce two damaged spillways at Oroville Dam before storms expected to begin as soon as Wednesday night. Officials are using drones to monitor the repairs and damage.

Here's a snapshot of the resources involved in the repair effort:

- More than 125 construction crews
- 40 truckloads of aggregate rock
- 1,200 tons of rock deposited in eroded/damaged areas per hour
- Two helicopter drops of rocks, concrete and/or other materials every minute and a half
- A California National Guard Black Hawk helicopter is assisting with drops

Legal Insurrection readers recall that I noted that Oroville Dam lays in a [deep red part of California](#). Despite the fact that issues with the structure were noted 12 years ago, Obama's Stimulus Package monies for infrastructure were never sent for the needed repairs and enhancements.

However, one California dam get [see several million Stimulus dollars](#), though it was in much better condition.

Over \$22 million in stimulus funds did go toward safety improvements to the Folsom Dam, which was described as in “good shape” at the time the grant was awarded in 2009.

“The dam is in good shape but is starting to show its age,” a Bureau of Reclamation spokesperson said of the Folsom Dam at the time.

The stimulus was intended to “shore up the nation’s aging infrastructure,” said Rep. Mike Thompson, a Democrat who served California’s 1st District before being redistricted to the 5th.

The fact that the dam was in a “blue” county may have been a contributing factor.

Folsom Dam is in Sacramento County, which went blue in 2012.

Sacramento 100.0% Reporting				
B. Obama (i)	Dem	57.2%	251,365	
M. Romney	GOP	40.4%	177,523	
G. Johnson	Lib	1.2%	5,116	
J. Stein	Grn	0.5%	2,343	
R. Barr	PPP	0.5%	2,026	

And in 2016.

Sacramento County

100% Reporting



H. Clinton	58.6%	273,768
D. Trump	34.9%	163,024
G. Johnson	4.5%	20,903
J. Stein	1.7%	7,788
G. La Riva	0.4%	2,043

The voting pattern may also explain Governor Brown’s [funding priorities as well](#).

A list of \$100 billion of “key” infrastructure projects that California Gov. Jerry Brown’s office targeted this month for investment statewide includes raising Folsom Dam to improve flood protection but doesn’t specifically mention Oroville Dam.

...Most of the projects on the three-page wish list involve transportation-related projects, such as highways, bridges rail or transit.

I will simply point out that there were many Democrats who were forced to evacuate from during the Oroville Dam emergency. I certainly hope our state officials reflect on the fact that by making choices that benefit California citizens of all parties, they also help fellow party members.

Mahatma Ghandi once noted that action expresses priorities. The infrastructure priorities in California seem to be established on a very weak political foundation, indeed

Orange County Register (March 26, 2013)

Where did the stimulus money go?

by Ron Hart

... So where did all that sweet stimulus money go? Of the money spent in swing state Wisconsin, 80 percent went to public sector unions – those with already locked-in jobs. In fact, right-to-work states got \$266 less per person in stimulus money than heavily unionized states. Where Democrats had a vast majority of representatives, their states got \$460 per person more.

When Obama signed the stimulus bill in 2009, he promised it would provide "help for those hardest hit by our economic crisis." Clearly, it did not. The states hurt the most, the ones with more foreclosures, unemployment and bankruptcy, got less money than richer states closer to power. Washington, D.C. got the most stimulus money: \$7,602 per capita.

The stimulus was a huge political slush fund with little accountability. Obama credits the passage of his stimulus bill to people having no idea how Democrats were going to spend the money.

Obama, Pelosi and Reid still maintain that doling out all the stimulus money saved jobs. It did – theirs. As recently as the State of the Union speech, they actually begged for more stimulus money – \$155 billion more. That is like burning down the hotel you got to stay in for free, then disputing your mini-bar charge.

In the same State of the Union speech Obama said that spending would not cost tax payers a dime. As is tradition, Bernie Madoff was absent from the floor of Congress during Obama's speech to ensure continuity of government, should anything like an attack occur.

Rich Democrat donors also got payback. The farcical "green" energy company Solyndra defaulted on more than half a billion dollars of our money, while Obama mega-donor George Kaiser finagled his interest ahead of ours. Other beneficiaries of Obama's largesse for dubious deals include Larry Page and Sergey Brin (if you Google them you will find they founded Google) for Tesla Motors, NRG Solar owners Warren Buffet and Steve Cohen, and Siga Tech owner Ronald Pearlman. All told, more than 75 percent of stimulus grants and money for such "businesses" found their way to big Obama supporters.

Even creepy crony capitalist of the century Al Gore got his snout in the trough. His investment in Fisker Automotive scored a \$528 million loan guarantee. Can you imagine the risks you could take if you were given \$528 million that you were not personally on the hook for? Of course all these businesses are tanking or have tanked already. ...





CRUMBLING INFRASTRUCTURE OROVILLE DAM STYLE

**1. IGNORE PROBLEMS...
EVEN WHEN WARNED.**



**2. WAIT 12 YEARS FOR HUGE
CRISIS. SUDDENLY EVACUATE
188,000 PEOPLE.**



**3. TRY TO FIX PROBLEM IN A
PANIC. CONGRATULATE SELF
ON RAPID RESPONSE.**



4. BLAME SOMEONE ELSE



© WOLVERTON
L.A. DAILY NEWS

WHY ARE HOLLYWOOD LIBERALS
STILL COMPLAINING ABOUT TRUMP?
SHOULDN'T THEY BE IN CANADA BY NOW?



Of Course!



