

- [Delhi bars more diesel vehicles](#) (12/13/15)
- [Rejection of Keystone Pipeline](#) (11/6/15)
- [Rising Ocean Level?](#) (8/31/15)
- [Sludge From Gold Mine](#) (8/5/15)
- [Fracking - Injection Wells](#) (7/9/15)
- [California Drought](#) (8/19/15, 10/17/15)
- [Fuel Transportation](#) (4/5/15)
- [Arctic National Wildlife Refuge](#) (2/2/15)

Delhi bars more diesel vehicles

12/13/15 - As the world's most polluted city is grappling with rising levels of unclean air, India's environmental court barred registration of new diesel-powered vehicles in New Delhi until Jan. 6. The court also directed state organizations to present plans for phasing out diesel vehicles when the court considers the case again on Jan. 6. The government is also implementing license-plate based bans starting Jan. 1. For more info, see Sunday 12/13/15 Democrat-Gazette page 2G. (....A similar license plate based system was once used in the U.S. (to shorten gas lines). Back during the early 1980s gas shortage, in some areas of the U.S., cars with odd license numbers could buy gas only on odd days and those with even plates on even days.)

Rejection of Keystone Pipeline

11/6/15- Obama rejects Keystone pipeline - By John Lyon - Arkansas News Bureau - Go to: <http://arkansasnews.com/news/arkansas/obama-rejects-keystone-pipeline>

11/6/15 - Arkansas Blog - Posted By [Max Brantley](#) on Fri, Nov 6, 2015 at 10:24 AM - Go to: <http://www.arktimes.com/ArkansasBlog/archives/2015/11/06/keystone-xl-pipeline-rejected-report-says>

11/6/15 - Obama rejects Keystone pipeline plan, Arkansas lawmakers criticize the decision (Updated) - by [Wesley Brown](#) - . Published Nov 6th, 2015 12:20 pm - Go to: <http://talkbusiness.net/2015/11/obama-rejects-keystone-pipeline-plan-arkansas-lawmakers-criticize-the-decision/>

Rising Ocean Level?

Kivalina, Alaska, is a small town of 400 located on a barrier reef 300 miles northeast of the Bering Strait. Its beaches are disappearing, ice is melting, temperatures are rising, and the barrier reef gets smaller with every storm. The Army Corps of Engineers figures the town will be underwater in the next decade or so. For more information, refer to an August 31 article in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. ...[map of the Kivalina area](#).

Sludge From Gold Mine

8/5/15 - Yellow sludge from a long-abandoned Colorado (Gold King) gold mine escaped from a holding pond and is flowing down the Animas and San Juan Rivers. The spill contains heavy metals including lead and arsenic. 8/10 - The sludge has reached New Mexico and is headed toward Lake Powell. In NM, 1100 domestic wells are estimated to be within 1-1/2 miles of the polluted rivers.

Fracking - Injection Wells

7/9/15 - Report on Fracking in California Released - California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) - [an independent scientific assessment of well stimulation treatments, including hydraulic fracturing, in California](#)

Related Comments:

LA Times - [Water and wildlife may be at risk from fracking's toxic chemicals](#)

SF Chron - [Most of state's fracking waste left in unlined pits](#)

5/14/15 - A few years ago, Arkansas banned injection wells from areas that experienced earthquakes after the injection wells started operation. Now, California has allowed construction of at least 2,500 wells that inject directly into protected aquifers fluids that include oil well waste. For information on a related Sierra Club California lawsuit, go to: <http://earthjustice.org/news/press/2015/lawsuit-seeks-to-halt-illegal-dumping-of-toxic-oil-waste-into-california-s-imperiled-water-supplies>

California Drought

10/17/15 - While California is still in the midst of a record drought, parts of the state have recently received too much rain too fast - **California Mud slide** - Thirty miles east of Bakersfield, 3 inches of rain in 30 minutes resulted in a landslide which has closed Hwy 58, a mile of which is covered with mud 2 to 6 feet deep. Around 200 cars and trucks were trapped in the mud. For more information, see the Saturday 10/17 Arkansas Democrat-Gazette page 4A - - **Editor's personal note:** In CA, when it rains, it can really pour! While nowhere near as bad as the recent mud slide, some years ago, after returning to the cars from a backpack, our group found the road blocked by 3 foot high wall of mud that had flowed down a gully. (We were able to leave by an alternate access route.) Higher on the mountain the day before, the storm had covered the ground with hail (in July). After returning to town, we learned that several cabins in the mountains had washed down some normally dry gullies.

8/19/15 - Vast areas of California's Central Valley are sinking faster than in the past as massive amounts of groundwater are being pumped during the current drought. Data shows the ground is sinking nearly two inches a month in some places, putting roads, bridges and vital canals that deliver water throughout the state at growing risk of damage. NASA data shows that land near the city of Corcoran sank 13 inches in eight months, and part of the California Aqueduct (which provides water to millions of people) dropped eight inches in four months last year. Farmers have spent \$4.5 million to raise the walls on a canal.

5/21/15 - California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is proposing to collect genetically pure Kern River rainbow trout from three populations located in the wilderness of Sequoia National Park to restore the naturally indigenous Kern River rainbow trout to their original California source watersheds. The public is invited to comment. For more information, [click HERE](#).

5/17/15 - With the normal river routes too warm and too shallow for young, hatchery salmon to swim downstream to the ocean, state and federal wildlife agencies in California are deploying the biggest fish-lift in the state's history. Multiple 35,000-gallon tanker trucks are driving the baby salmon down freeways for release in San Francisco Bay.

5/6/15 - The Tioga Pass Road through Yosemite National Park is now open. This is one of the earliest openings ever - another sign of the lack of snowfall in the area during the past winter.

4/26/15 - An aquifer under California's Central Valley stretches for 400 miles and provides 15% of all groundwater pumped in the United States. With a shortage of snow in the mountains, groundwater use is expected to rise from 40% of fresh water last year to 65% this year. In some areas, the water table is dropping 2 feet a year and ground subsidence is approaching 1 inch per month.

4/20/15 - The newspapers are reporting that the Fourth District Court of Appeal has dealt a blow to efforts to use pricing to control water use. Here's a link to the Sac Bee article: <http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article19098585.html>

...the Fourth District Court of Appeal ruled that while tiered rates that rise incrementally based on a household's usage are "perfectly consonant" with the law, the tiers must still correspond to the actual cost of providing service. "The water agency here did not try to calculate the cost of actually providing water at its various tier levels," the three-judge court wrote in the ruling. "It merely allocated all its costs among the price tier levels, based not on costs, but on predetermined usage budgets."

4/18/15 - [Proposed text of revised emergency regulation](#) - The emergency proposal could change further before the board formally adopts it early next month, officials said. The state board will begin tracking compliance in July, when June's use is reported, and will perform monthly checks on the more than 400 urban water suppliers that have to comply with the order.

4/12/15 - A \$1 billion desalination plant to supply San Diego County is under construction in Carlsbad and due to open as early as November. (Refer to April 12 Arkansas Democrat-Gazette page 5A for complete article)

4/1/15 - California is experiencing near record drought: Check [CA Gov. Brown's press release](#) [dated/posted 3/19] and [4/1 order directing first ever statewide mandatory water reductions](#)

Fuel Transportation

4/5/15 - N.D. rule requires oil on rail cars to be stabilized (Refer to April 5 Arkansas Democrat-Gazette page 2G for complete article)

Following a spate of explosive accidents involving North Dakota crude, the state began requiring companies last week to remove certain liquids and gasses from oil before it's loaded onto rail cars.

...But Wayde Schafer, a North Dakota spokesman for the Sierra Club, called the new rules inadequate. "I have a real concern that we're still going to have a problem with rail cars exploding when they derail," Schafer said.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

2/2/15 - Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan and **Final Environmental Impact Statement** - Alternatives Considered - The revised plan and final EIS includes detailed information about the refuge, planning process, issues, and management alternatives considered. The final EIS includes discussions of six alternatives for refuge management. All six alternatives address three significant issues: Wilderness recommendations, Wild and Scenic River recommendations, and Kongakut River visitor use management. The Service's preferred alternative is described in the revised Plan and final EIS. For the complete EIS, go to <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-01-27/pdf/2015-01514.pdf>