Between 2012 and 2016, the state of California experienced record low rainfall and record high temperatures, both of which plunged the state into one of the worst droughts in its history. The drought affected all of the state’s economic sectors, but agriculture was particularly hard hit.

- Almost 80% of California’s water supply is used for agriculture.
- California has over 1,400 dams.
- The 200 largest dams can hold over 40,000,000 acre-feet of water, or enough to supply every household in California for at least six years. However, the dams rarely reach capacity.
- Farmers prioritized the use of water for high-value crops such as almonds.
- Total crop revenue losses: $45,000,000,000

Hardest hit areas: LOSSES

- Southern Central Valley: 72%
- San Joaquin Basin: 15%
- Others: 13%

During 2014–2015, approximately 27,100 farmers lost their jobs.

By 2015, more than 1,000,000 acres of farmland lay fallow year-round, amounting to 15% of the total farmland in the state.

Total statewide economic losses 2014–2016: $3,800,000,000