

Brown unveils emergency drought legislation

By Chris Megerian and Melanie Mason, Los Angeles Times

Gov. Jerry Brown and top lawmakers from both parties announced Thursday a \$1-billion plan to deal with California's persistent drought, describing the legislation as a mix of short-term relief and support for long-term water projects.

"This is a struggle," Brown said at a Capitol news conference. "Something we're going to have to live with. For how long, we're not sure."

Millions of dollars would be spent faster than previously scheduled to provide food assistance and emergency drinking water in hard-hit communities. Additional money would go to wildlife preservation.

The bulk of the legislation would fund infrastructure initiatives that might not be completed for years. The proposal includes \$272.7 million from the \$7.5 billion water bond approved by voters last year for projects such as water recycling and desalination.

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