

Calif. drought's hardest-hit may need years of support

By Ellen Knickmeyer, AP

A state analysis warns that some sectors hit hardest by California's drought may still need help long after the current dry spell ends.

The report Friday by the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office singles out Central Valley communities that will need years of state assistance getting new sources of drinking water, after drought and overuse that dried local wells.

Analysts say the state's native fish species also may need years of extra state support to save some of them from extinction.

The report in all notes more than \$3 billion in drought-response programs by 13 state agencies. It urges the state to study the success of the state efforts in this drought to better manage future ones.