

WATER IN THE AMERICAN WEST



2 JULY 2018 • SIERRA DAWN MCCLAIN • BLUE IS GOLD

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it."
G.K. Chesterton

NEWS: CAUGHT IN THE CURRENT

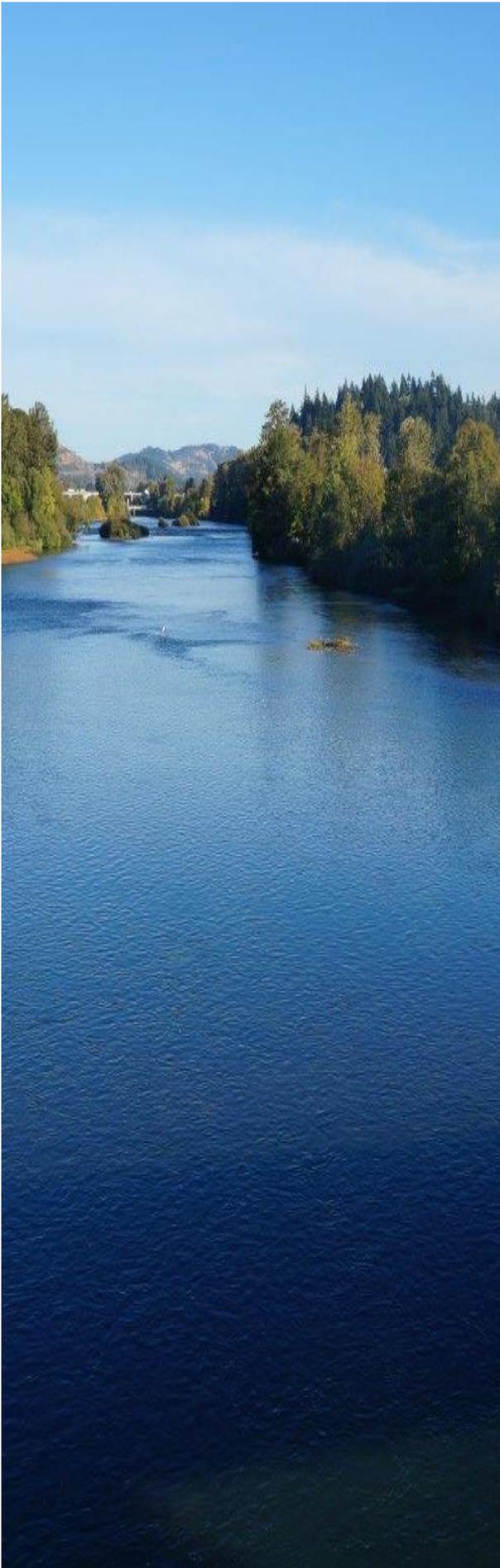
ALGAE ALERT. The [infamous cyanotoxins](#) are at it again. Tests revealed high levels of toxic algae in Detroit Lake in Salem, Oregon on June 28. After a seesaw of conflicting reports, OHA launched new protocol and a recreational health advisory. Always check algae reports before heading to lakes.

WHAT'S IN YOUR WATER? Because of Salem's algae blooms, other water sources are [contaminated](#). On June 26, OHA filed an [administrative order](#) requiring nearly 100 water systems around the state to test their water regularly now through October. Know your source.

DRY DAYS AHEAD. Governor Kate Brown just dubbed Baker and Douglas counties emergency [drought zones](#). Warm weather and lack of snowfall have caused drought across Oregon.

WILDFIRE WARNING. Federal officials and the latest forecasts predict big [wildfires](#) will ravage the Northwest through July, August, and possibly September. Wherever lightning strikes drought-parched land, fire is sure to follow.

MOSQUITO EXPLOSION. Lane County's [mosquito population](#) is exploding. Mosquitos are thriving because the warm conditions and intermittent rains have created breeding sites for the tiny vampires. Matt Luedtke, Environmental Health Specialist, is monitoring harmful mosquito viruses, including Zika and West Nile. Keep reading to learn what you can do.



LEARN MORE: CHASE YOUR CURIOSITY

STOP BUGGING ME. Learn 21 natural ways to [keep mosquitos away](#) from you, your home and garden.

COURAGE ON FIRE. Watch this [video](#) to learn how firefighters protect you and the beautiful American West.

OPINION: THE GREAT WATER DEBATES

“Water is for fighting over.” – Mark Twain

WOULD A VOTE FOR 3 CALIFORNIAS EXACERBATE WATER RIGHTS ISSUES?

Splitting California into 3 states is up for debate again. Voters will decide the fate of the golden state in November’s election.

According to Barton Thompson, Professor of Natural Resources Law, and his colleagues, Matt Kline and Heather Welles, carving up the state would have [devastating consequences](#) for water rights. The battle over rivers is going downhill, no pun intended.

The Editorial Board of the Desert Sun takes a similar stance, arguing that the so-called “Cal 3” measure is both a long shot and a [threat to water rights](#). Voters are urged to vote no.

On the other side is [Tim Draper](#), a third-generation Silicon Valley entrepreneur billionaire who introduced the ballot measure. He explains that a three-state future is both promising and healthier. More states will mean more local governments, each of which will be able to manage resources more effectively on a smaller scale. That includes water.

What do you think? If you are a California voter or simply an interested American, read [the proposal](#) yourself. See pages 10-11 for water rights issues.

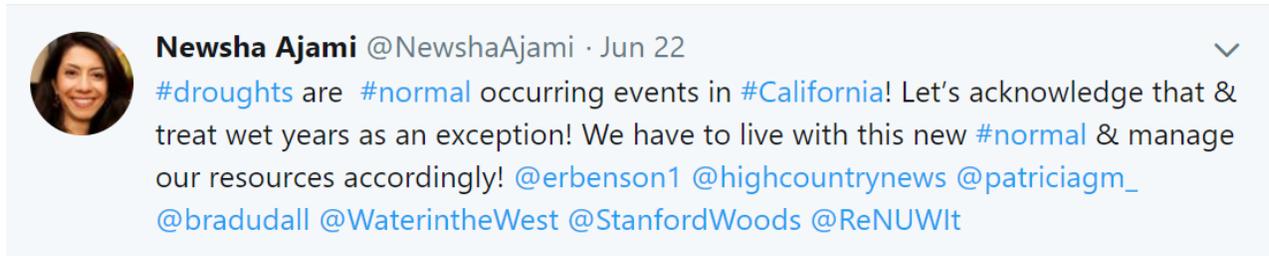
SPOTLIGHT INTERVIEW: NEWSHA AJAMI

REINVENTING NORMAL: THE DROUGHT CRISIS



On June 22, Newsha Ajami, Director of Urban Water Policy at Water in the West and Senior Research

Associate at Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, tweeted this:



Her work addresses the reality that droughts are not an occasional event in California. Years and seasons of wet occur, but “drought is here to stay,” Ajami says, “This is the new normal.”

Ajami is concerned that many Californians are only conscientious of water conservation during droughts. This is a dangerous mentality. Ajami urges: “You have to take advantage of the wet. We have to think: how can I store or reuse every drop of water?”

On a governmental and organizational level, it is important to harness the power of eco-friendly technology, and to utilize groundwater systems “as a savings account.”

A business can install technologies such as double flush toilets and environmentally friendly washing machines, but what can a single family or individual do? Ajami shatters the misconception that only wealthy communities can invest in technology. “There are so many incentives and subsidies available for everyone.” Users save on their utility bills.

But Ajami thinks we need to change more than just our technology. We need to shift our mindset. This is not just a California issue. “I think the whole U.S. has a problem with water conservation.”

Ajami is excited about the positive changes happening, but there is a long way to go. “Just be mindful,” she urges, “Treat water as a very precious resource.”

GET INVOLVED: BE AN H2O HERO

LEARN TO CONSERVE. Here are [22 ways to conserve water](#) in your daily life.

EVENTS: WATER YOU DOING SATURDAY?

CALLING ALL ADVENTURERS! What better way is there to appreciate the wonder of water than by exploring nature? Every weekend this summer, park rangers from the Siuslaw National Forest will lead [guided hikes](#) in the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area. Enjoy ocean views, tidepools, and 26 miles of scenic trails. Call 541-547-3289 for details.