

## Why Gavin Newsom Is Creating A Water & Energy Disaster



BY TYLER DURDEN

SUNDAY, APR 24, 2022 - 02:30 PM

*Authored by [Michael Shellenbarger](#) via [Substack](#).*

California Gov. Gavin Newsom this week [claimed](#) he was taking major action to address the drought affecting California and the West. More than 90% of California is in [severe drought](#), up from 65% just one year ago. He said he had created an agreement that was a win-win-win for residents, farmers, and conservationists.



**In truth, Newsom is starving California of both water and energy.** We are in the worst energy crisis in 50 years and yet Newsom is planning to shut down the largest single source of energy in California, Diablo Canyon nuclear plant. Meanwhile, he has failed to build a single new large water project, despite the fact that California voters in 2014 passed a \$2.7 billion water bond to pay for them.

Can't water conservation save us? It can't. Newsom declared a drought emergency last year and urged residents to reduce our water use by 15%. We [only did so by](#) 6%. It's true that *mandatory* restrictions between June 2015 and April 2016 reduced water use by 25%. But the state was ultimately rescued in 2017 by large atmospheric river storms, not conservation.

People think California's water scarcity is natural but it's actually the result of opposition by Malthusian "environmentalists" [@SierraClub](#) [@NRDC](#) et al. who have blocked water recycling, storage, & desalination projects for decades <https://t.co/5RhwenkkOm>

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [February 22, 2022](#)

Energy and water are related. Energy can create freshwater through desalination. Israel has built so many desalination plants that [it is now replenishing](#) the Sea of Galilee. Just [nine desalination facilities](#) the size of the Carlsbad Desalination Plant near San Diego would be enough to offset the 2022 loss of water from the Colorado river, [calculates Doomberg](#), a must-read blog for anyone concerned with energy.

The same company that operates Carlsbad has been trying to build another desalination plant one hour up the coast, [but has failed to do so](#), despite our historic megadrought. Newsom says he supports the desalination facility but has refused to waive the regulations blocking it.

Reactors could also be added to Diablo Canyon to desalinate gigantic quantities of water. Indeed, that was the original plan.

My colleagues & I unearthed the blueprints showing that there were supposed to be 6 reactors at Diablo

Thanks to [@JerryBrownGov](#) & the Getty oil-backed dad of [@GavinNewsom](#) there's just 2

We should build the 4 new reactors to create electricity, hydrogen, and fresh water <pic.twitter.com/oQ7N9GuqPs>

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [February 22, 2022](#)

The result of Newsom's leadership failures could be catastrophic. California is the fifth largest producer of food in the world. We are the largest producer of dairy and food in the U.S. Over a third of America's vegetables and two-thirds of its fruits and nuts are grown here.

And producing food requires water. Already the world faces [terrible famines](#) because of an energy crisis [created in part by pro-scarcity environmentalists](#). Now, Newsom's actions, and inaction, are making scarcity worse.

Why is Newsom talking out of both sides of his mouth? Because [he cares more about running for president](#) than he does about the people of California. And he believes that running for president requires the support of pro-scarcity environmentalists like [Sierra Club](#) and Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and their financial backers.

People are afraid of nuclear but that's because they've been lied to

Nuclear plants like the spectacular Diablo Canyon of California are the \*safest\* way to make reliable power

And yet Gov. Gavin Newsom wants to shut it down & replace it with gas which is far more deadly [pic.twitter.com/vOhoGANV8y](https://pic.twitter.com/vOhoGANV8y)

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [September 1, 2021](#)

The two groups [oppose desalination](#) and favor [closing Diablo Canyon nuclear plant](#). They have combined annual revenues of nearly \$300 million, a significant share of which comes from the very same [natural gas and renewable energy companies](#) that stand to make billions replacing the energy from Diablo Canyon.

Naturally, many of the same financial interests back Newsom. Some pro-nuclear people think they can change Newsom’s mind by appealing to his donors, but a big part of the reason Newsom sought to kill Diablo Canyon was to deliver a scalp to his pro-scarcity donors.

I have been [fighting to save Diablo Canyon and other nuclear plants since 2016](#), and yesterday, the Biden administration announced \$6 billion to keep nuclear plants operating.

Five years ago, when I pointed out that closing Diablo would increase pollution, I was widely denounced, including by many supposedly pro-nuclear people, because I wouldn’t go along with the false claim that “we need both nuclear \*and\* renewables” <https://t.co/32OXMjVaki>

— Michael Shellenberger (@ShellenbergerMD) [September 1, 2021](#)

In the end, the only way to avert the coming energy, water, and food disaster is to vote Newsom out of office and elect someone with the courage to fight for abundant energy, water, and food for the people of California.

SHELLENBERGER	NEWSOM
	
<p><b>Shelter First, Housing Earned</b></p>	<p>“Housing First” anti-shelter policy has resulted in open drug scenes.</p>
<p><b>Will enforce laws &amp; expand policing &amp; probation</b></p>	<p>Championed decriminalization policies that created lack of accountability. Is emptying prisons without rehabilitating criminals first.</p>
<p>Will create Cal-Psych, a statewide mental health and addiction recovery services agency to treat the humanitarian crisis of ill and drug-addicted people</p>	<p>Is wasting billions of dollars on a failed system that is leaving people to die in the streets. Newsom has no vision to fix this system, save lives, or restore our</p>

wasting away on our streets.	save lives, or restore our communities.
<b>Will make energy and water abundant and cheap</b>	Is making water and energy scarce by limiting energy production and failing to build voter approved water storage projects.
<b>Believes schools are first and foremost for educating students</b>	Believes schools are for the agendas of adults, not kids and families, whether it be unions, misguided public health bosses or woke special interests.
<b>Has the courage to care for California</b>	Cares primarily about his own political future and a path to the White House instead of his fellow Californians.
Will win by building a movement that realigns California's politics around consensus & common sense.	Will lose by putting the elite political ruling class, campaign donors, and special interests above ordinary people.



[shellenbergerforgovernor.com](http://shellenbergerforgovernor.com)

[Donate to Shellenberger 2022](#)

72,967 275

**DISCRIMINATION NOTICE**  
**PRIVACY POLICY**  
**DISCLAIMER**  
**ADVERTISE WITH ZEROHEDGE**

COPYRIGHT ©2009-2022 ZEROHEDGE.COM/ABC MEDIA, LTD