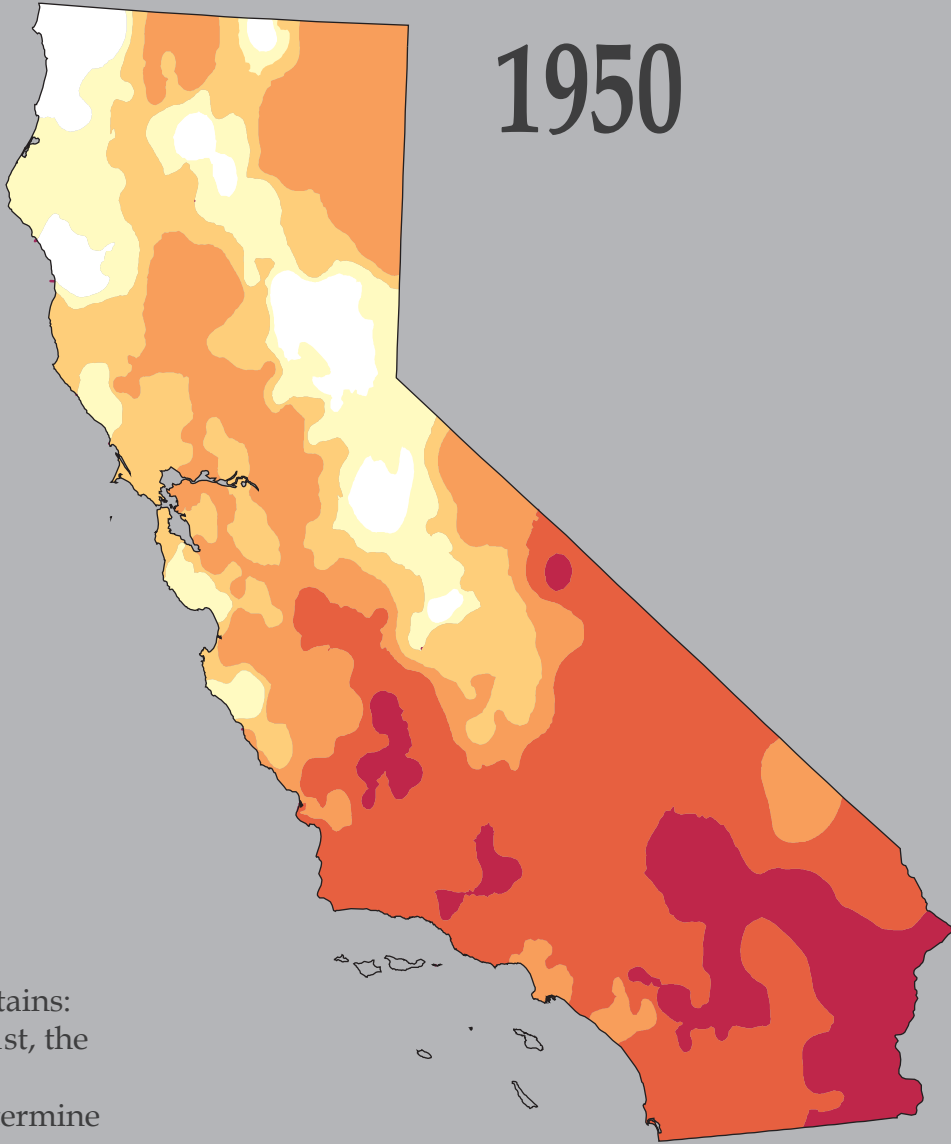


# CALIFORNIA'S RECENT DROUGHT CRISIS

The State of California is currently in it's fourth year (as of 2015) of a severe drought. A drought is a period of drier-than-normal conditions that result in water related problems. When rainfall is less than normal for a long period of time water level falls in lakes and reservoirs and the depth of water wells increases. On April 1st 2015, the Sierra snowpack was measured and was found to be a lower than any year going back to 1950. This is important because one-third of water used by California's farms and cities is stored there. If the droughts persist, more severe water restrictions will be enacted as well as loss economic productivity from the state's agrucultural sector.

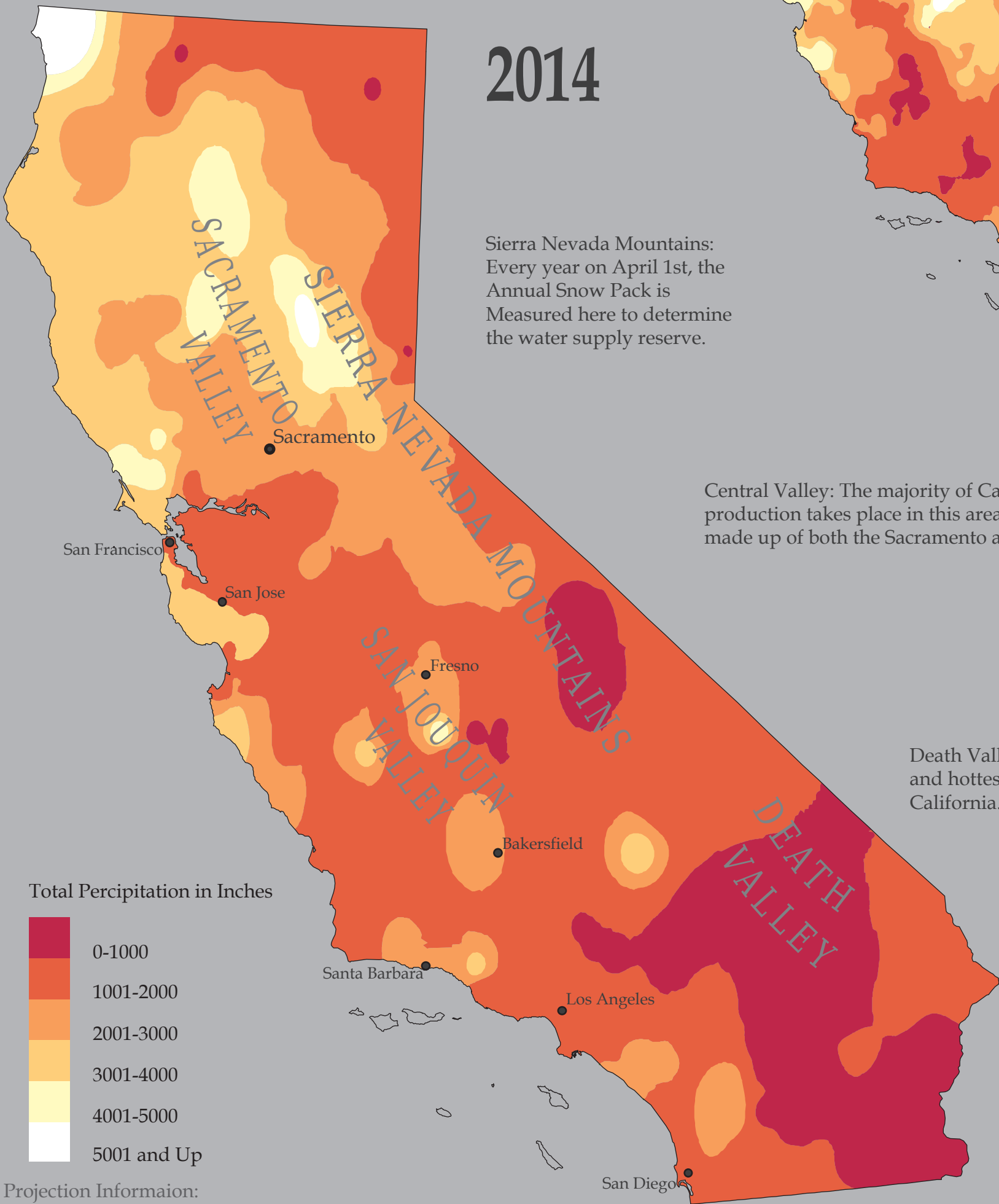
Total Percipitation in California

1950



Total Percipitation in California

2014

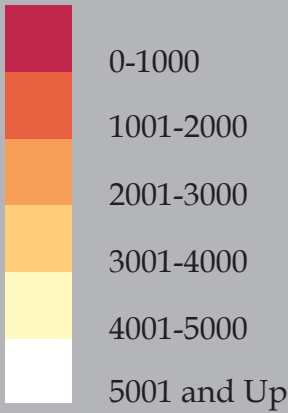


Sierra Nevada Mountains:  
Every year on April 1st, the  
Annual Snow Pack is  
Measured here to determine  
the water supply reserve.

Central Valley: The majority of California's agricultural  
production takes place in this area. The Central Valley is  
made up of both the Sacramento and San Jouquin Valleys.

Death Valley: The lowest, driest  
and hottest area of the state of  
California.

Total Percipitation in Inches



Projection Informaion:  
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11  
Central Meridian: -177.0  
Latitude of Origin: 0.0  
Sources: Natural Earth Data  
National Oceanic Atmospheric Association  
[ca.water.usgs.gov/data/drought](http://ca.water.usgs.gov/data/drought)

1000 Inches of Percipitation Contour Interval

By: David Cheng

