

Junk the Insane Green Policy, To Counter the Drought in the West

Kesha Rogers asked me to give brief opening remarks on the reality of the economic crisis and the scientific work we're doing in the Basement Team, specifically related to the economic crisis. I'm going to try to sketch a broad overview, moving quickly...

We're in a major drought crisis. The majority of the state of California is in a state of severe drought (**Figure 1**). California and Texas are leading the nation in the crisis drought conditions, which are also a problem all over the United States. In Texas, there are communities that are literally running out of water.

Fracking is an issue that is accelerating this crisis—this insane policy of using fresh water to pull oil and gas out of the ground—and there are cities where people are turning on the tap and nothing comes out, which has actually happened in a few cases.

In California, the last I heard was half a million acres, 500,000 acres, of the most highly productive farmland are going to go unplanted this year, because of the drought.

In Texas, the cattle herd has collapsed by a fifth, by 20% over the last five years.

So, there are crises in these states, but as has been well understood already by anybody thinking, this has national implications and global implications for the food supply: the food that people need to survive in this country.

We Can't 'Conserve' Our Way Out

So, the point is we need to get serious about this crisis. The entire West is in danger; the entire country is in danger. And what people need to walk away here with is a very clear sense that we need to make a decision as a country, to abandon this green policy, this environmentalist policy of no major water projects, no economic growth, no investment in fission and fusion power—the policy that has dominated the United States for the past 30-40 years. Either we decide to break with that policy and take an active role in improving the land



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LaRouche Basement team member Ben Deniston addresses the joint Texas-California town hall meeting by video April 12.

of the country, developing the country with NAWAPA [the proposed North American Water and Power Alliance], with thermonuclear fusion power as a critical driver, or we're not going to have a nation.

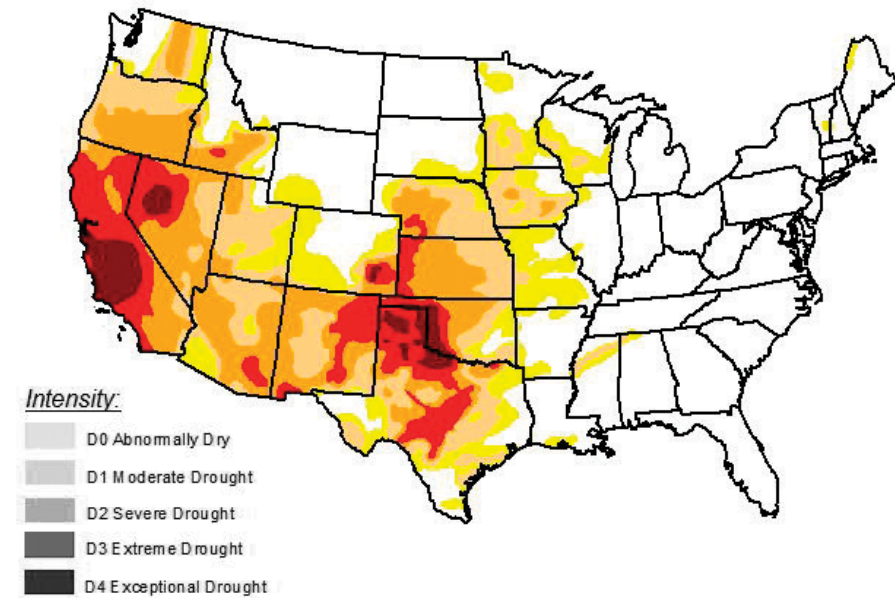
That is the reality that is facing this country, the state of Texas, the state of California, right now, today. And we have to be serious, and stop deluding ourselves, and address this for what it is.

There is a myth floating around, that if we just buckle down, save up some water for the next year, we can kind of scoot by this drought and come out okay in the next year or the next two years or so. But I want to make very clear that this is a wholly unfounded and dangerous assumption to make. There is no reason to believe that we're going to be going into a period when we're going to have the drought conditions alleviated by any natural means. This is typified by California, where it is already the worst drought on record—and the records go back some 100-150 years. Additional studies have shown this is the worst drought in 500 years, which is based on analyzing tree rings, other proxy evidence, records from the biosphere, from life,

FIGURE 1

U.S. Drought Monitor - Total U.S.

April 8, 2014 (Released Thursday, April 10, 2014) Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought conditions ranging from Abnormally Dry to Exceptional Drought blanket California, Texas, and much of the rest of the West.

from the environment, that show the conditions going back further.

Climate and the Sun

But even that doesn't tell the whole story. There was a very important study put out by university researchers in California, indicating that in California and the region of the West, the past century, from say 1900 to 2000, roughly, has been among the wettest centuries in the past 7,000 years. That this 100-year period, the period in which we built our irrigation systems, our dams, our water management projects, was a period that was actually anomalously wet, wetter than it usually is in the West. So the assumption that we're going to continue to have that level of water availability that we had over the past century, is highly unlikely, given the fact that over the past 7,000 years, seven millennia, this century was one of the wettest. And that's natural climate change—not this bunk that's floating around, trying to blame you for driving your car and destroying the planet, which is totally scientifically absurd—but real climate change, driven

by factors like the Sun, solar activity, and the relationship of solar activity to galactic activity. That relationship between solar activity and galactic activity causes natural fluctuations that life on this planet has to deal with.

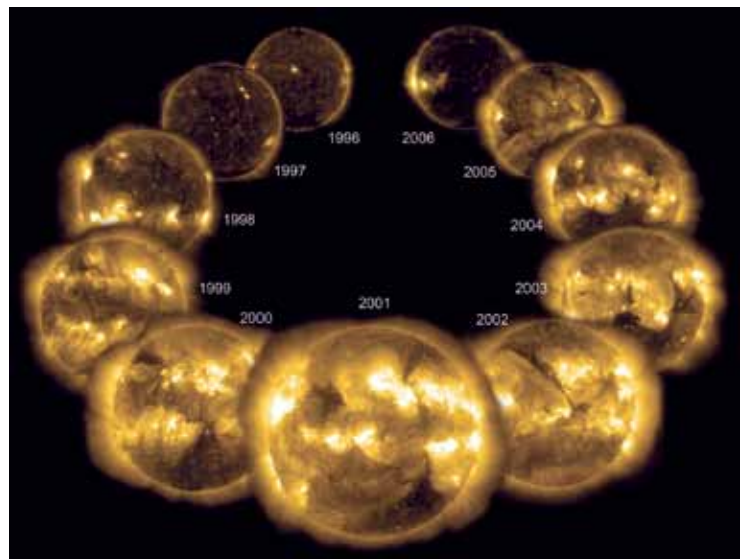
So, this is the reality that we're looking at. And we need to take actions that will allow mankind to improve the territory; to use higher forms of energy—nuclear fusion; to use major water projects powered by nuclear fusion, to transform the land area, to transform the territory. And that is the decision we have to make. . . .

I want to take a few minutes to look specifically at the activity of the Sun. We'll take a few steps, on larger and larger time cycles. **Figure 2** is an image of the Sun taken every single year, over the course of one solar cycle: 1996-2006. This is an image taken in

X-rays, and you can see that every 10 or 11 years, the Sun goes through a regular cycle, starting off relatively weak, with less activity. It's still warm, you still get sunlight, the Sun doesn't stop shining, but it's less in-

FIGURE 2

X-ray Images of the Sun over One Solar Cycle



Steele Hill, NASA/ESA

tense, less energetic. It doesn't have as much activity going on. And then over a period of about 5-6 years, on average, it will get more active. It peaked in 2001 and then began to decline again. This is a regular pattern.

Now, what has been a matter of increasing concern among serious scientific thinkers—people who aren't bought off by the “man-made global warming” hoax—is that the Sun is weakening. It's not weakening just in terms of a normal cycle—every 11 years it gets weak again—but *the whole cycle itself is getting less intense*. The peak of the solar cycle is less intense than the previous cycles. . . .

You can see that in **Figure 3**, 400 years of sunspot observations. Sunspots are a very good measure of the overall activity of the Sun, and you can see, over the past 400 years, these roughly 11-year cycles. And you can see clearly that the height of the maximum varies a fair amount. If you go back far enough, say to about 1800, you had a few solar cycles that were very weak. If you go back a little bit farther, to around 1650-1700, you have what's been referred to as the Maunder Minimum, when the Sun, as far as we understand, basically shut down. It continued to put out sunlight, but it was a very quiet phase. It wasn't magnetically active, it wasn't ejecting a lot of material; it was a period, as far as we understand, when there were little or no solar cycles. The Sun basically went to sleep for 50 or 60 years, and we didn't have any solar activity, so far as we can tell. Obviously, the instrumentation was very primitive back then, and this is based mostly on visual observations of sunspots.

The Onset of Global Cooling?

The point is, what was the effect on the Earth? During this Maunder Minimum period, you had a major phase of global cooling. When the Sun became less active, the response on the Earth was a period of major cooling—and not just a little bit cooler here and there, but enough to make a significant impact on society. Places where you could have crops, you couldn't have crops any more. You had famines. You had major re-

FIGURE 3
400 Years of Sunspot Observation

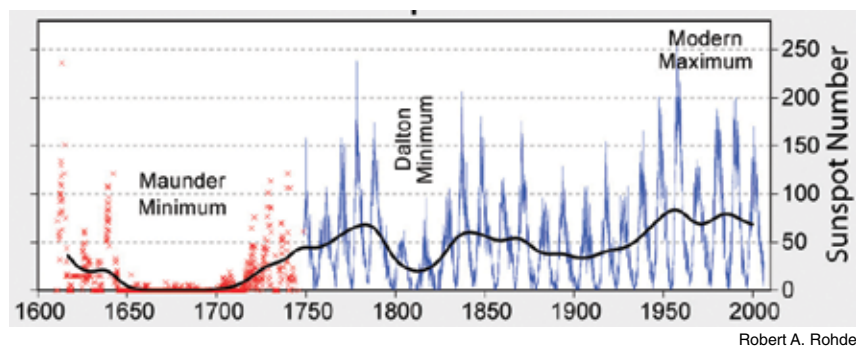
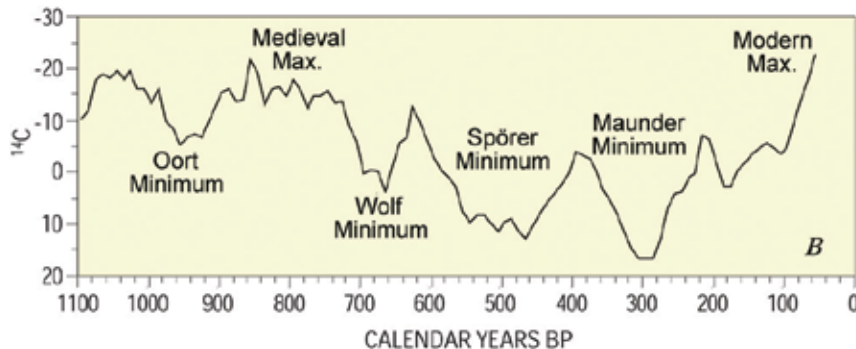


FIGURE 4



Solar activity over 1,100 years, measured by changes in production of carbon-14 in the atmosphere. More carbon-14 is produced by the increased galactic cosmic radiation the Earth experiences when the solar activity is low.

gions where rivers had run year-round without freezing, but now the rivers were completely freezing over. You had a very significant impact on society, on nations. Some of this is best documented in Northern Europe for that time period.

There is a growing concern that today, we are heading into a new “Maunder Minimum” period, when the Sun could become very weak. And we've seen that with the current solar cycle: It's less than half as intense as the previous predictions had expected. And the forecasts are, at this point, that the next cycle is going to be even weaker. So we're going into, potentially, a period of very low solar activity, which will have very serious effects on the Earth—much stronger effects than the claims about what will happen when you drive your car, in the whole “global warming” scare.

We've looked at the past 400 years; now, to put that in a larger perspective, let's look at the past 1,000 years (**Figure 4**). You can see, around 300 years ago,

the Maunder Minimum, which was only one of several periods when the Sun became very weak. For an extended period of time—decades, 50 years—the Sun became very inactive. And for every one of these periods of low solar activity over the past 1,000 years, there is evidence of global cooling effects, regions of the planet getting dramatically colder, increased glaciation, increased ice flow—various evidence that the Earth as a whole got cooler in these periods of lower solar activity.

There's a recent study out of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, that showed that in certain regions of China, around Tibet, each of these periods of low solar activity corresponded to prolonged periods of drought.

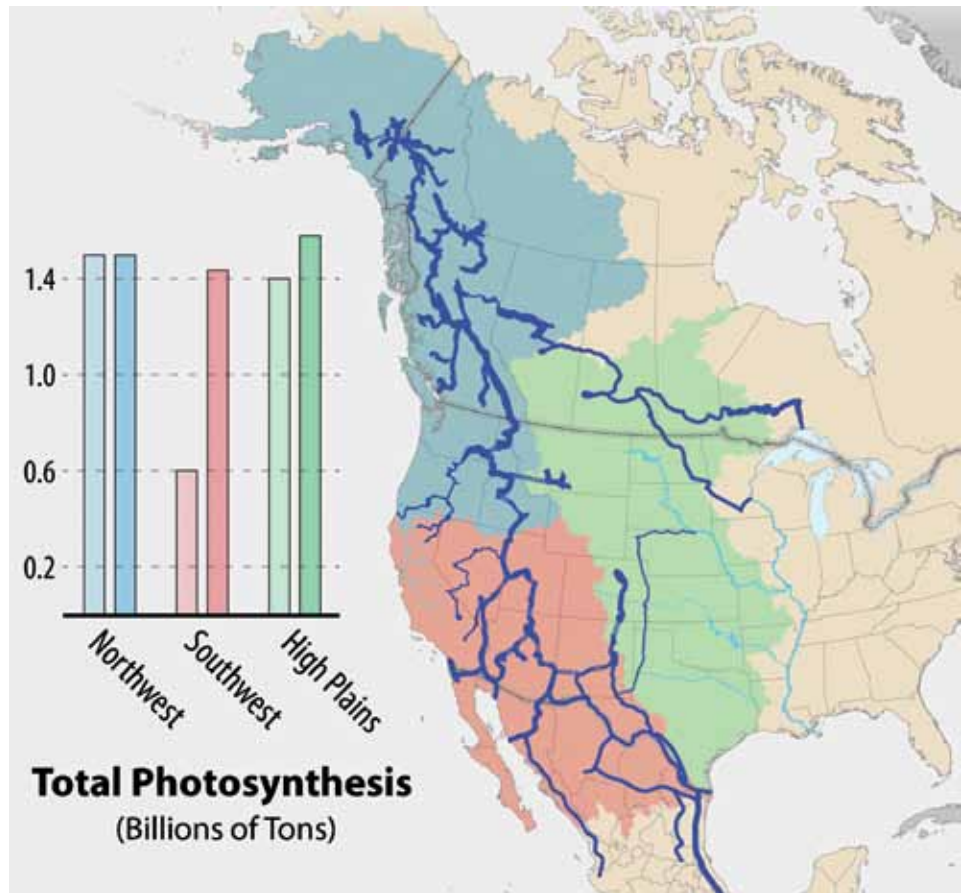
So we have plenty of indications here that this is an immediate, serious concern that we have to be looking at and thinking about when we talk about the drought today.

If we look at the activity of the Sun, if we look at the effects it has had in the past, and we look at where the Sun is going now—to a quiet, weaker phase—then we have no reason to assume that the water availability is going to return to the better days of 40, 50, or 60 years ago. If the West is going to survive and prosper; if California is going to produce food; if Texas is going to produce food; if the U.S. people are going to be fed, then mankind is going to have to abandon the green policy and take an active role in improving the conditions of the West.

Start Building NAWAPA Now

Figure 5 shows an illustration of the North American Water and Power Alliance project, which is a key-stone project to save the western United States—a project that has been on the books for decades, to address

FIGURE 5
The NAWAPA Region

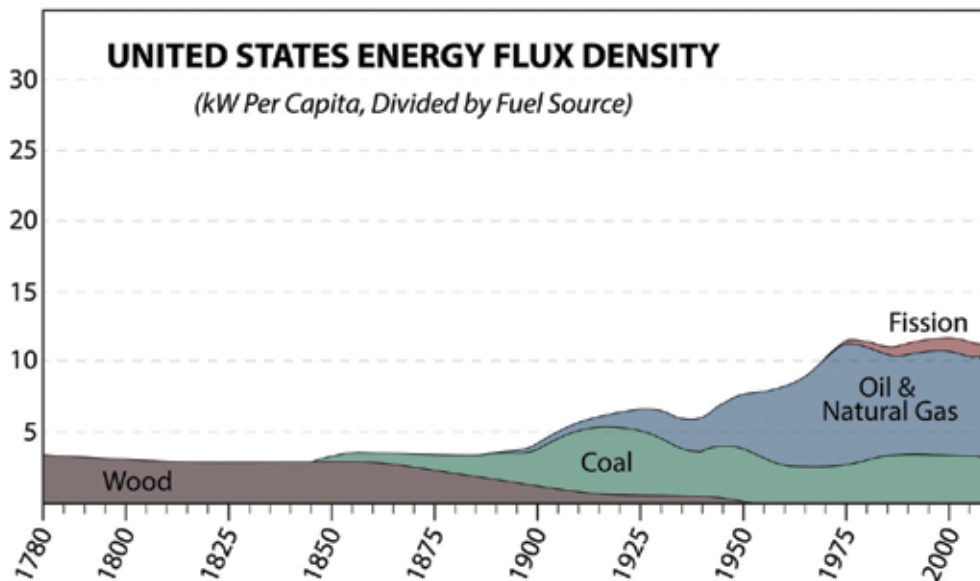


The North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA) will counter the effects of solar-induced drought.

the failure of the biosphere to distribute water in a sufficient way throughout the West. The natural conditions are such that you have a huge amount of precipitation, water, that falls in the very northern regions of the West: Alaska, British Columbia, Yukon Territory. A huge amount of water-flow there, but much of it goes completely unused, flowing right back into the ocean, without having a chance to participate in plant life, to participate in any type of biological system. Much of this water is pumped up, by evaporation by the Sun; dumped into the Northwest, and then runs right back into the ocean, completely unused.

If we are not insane greenies, and we recognize that mankind's obligation is to *improve* the territory of the planet, to improve the land, to improve the biosphere, to improve life, to make life better—then we recognize that this is an obvious, natural program: to

FIGURE 6



Power per capita over the history of the United States, by power source.

bring water down from the Northwest to the central regions of the continent, down into the Southwest, and actually have a serious, long-term program to solve the water crisis and the drought conditions. And we're not talking about year-to-year fluctuations, but rather how can we make sure that coming generations—your grandchildren—have a future in the western United States, that California and Texas continue to exist, continue to grow food, continue to develop and prosper and open up new land, and improve the territory.

This is the project you're going to need, this NAWAPA system. We've done extensive studies on this, consultations with experts. This is a real, live, active project that could be started immediately; that over the next 10-20 years, can begin to actually solve the real, long-term crisis associated with natural solar fluctuations, changes in solar activity, and their effects here on Earth. . . .

Focus on Fusion Power

The one other thing I want to highlight, which is critical for this entire project, is the role of fusion power. That is, at this point, the future of mankind in the United States and in this planet generally. If we want projects like NAWAPA, if we want to be able to protect mankind against global cooling, to be able to deal with major fluctuations in the climate driven by changes in how active the Sun is; if we want to solve the problems of

poverty and improve the living conditions of the planet, mankind must, *today*, focus on thermo-nuclear fusion as the key driver for solving this crisis.

This can be illustrated in a number of ways, but **Figure 6**, which we've developed, puts the point very clearly. This is a history of the United States, measured by the energy use per capita. And you can see that the natural trajectory of progress has been a growth in energy use associated with transitions to higher and higher forms of energy:

moving from a wood-based society to a coal-based society; moving from coal to oil and natural gas; moving beyond oil and natural gas.

This fracking policy is a total waste of economic activity: to burn natural gas for energy is insane at this point. We need natural gas for things like fertilizers; we need oil and gas for the petrochemical industry. We don't need them to get energy—we have nuclear fission available! But as you can see in this graphic, around 1970, with the takeover of the green policy, progress stopped! We stopped increasing our per-capita energy capability. We stopped increasing our energy-flux density. Fission power was suppressed. Fusion power was suppressed and never allowed to get started.

So we're at a crisis today that reflects the convergence of two key processes. One, the economic policy of the green, environmentalist paradigm that shut down progress, that stopped NAWAPA, that stopped the development of fission power, that stopped fusion power. And at the same time, we were seeing actual climate change driven by our Sun, as the Sun goes through its changes and fluctuations, which is ready to make life on Earth more difficult for any civilization that doesn't make the decisions to go with these programs of higher energy-flux density, fusion power, and major projects like NAWAPA. . . .

These are the key economic programs needed immediately to save the nation.