

## Millions of Gallons of Water are Being Pumped Out of California for the Worst Possible Reason

One Green Planet

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<http://www.onegreenplanet.org/environment/nestle-california-national-parks-bottled-water/>

### IBW Comment:

It's unfortunate that you did not reach out to the International Bottled Water Association (IBWA) when preparing your story, as we would have been able to provide you with the facts about bottled water.

Your claim that bottled water is, "an incredibly unsustainable business," is simply false. The bottled water industry has a long and deeply-held tradition of effectively and responsibly protecting and managing our vital natural resources. Sustainable, protected, and naturally recharged water sources are the single most important aspect of our business. This commitment to environmental excellence holds true wherever bottled water facilities are located.

Bottled water production from groundwater sources accounts for less than 0.02% of the total groundwater withdrawn in the United States each year and in California, a fraction of 1%. In fact, bottled water uses less than 0.004% of all water in the U.S.

On average, only 1.32 liters of water (including the liter of water consumed) and 0.24 mega joules of energy are used to produce one liter of finished bottled water. With bottled water having the lowest energy and water use of all packaged beverages, this healthy choice trend is actually reducing the overall beverage environmental footprint, equating to [6.4 billion gallons](#) of water saved each year.

To put it in context, the entire U.S. bottled water market is about 11 billion gallons; New York City goes through that amount of tap water in one week. Los Angeles goes through that amount of tap water in less than three weeks. According to the UCLA Institute for Environment and Sustainability, at almost 80%, agriculture is the largest user of water in the state, followed by urban residential use at 13%.

The fact is that bottled water production is among the smallest and most efficient of all industry water users. It is curious that this article focuses on the water use oversight of bottled water but not on other, far more impactful water users — from golf courses to almond growers. Your vigorous and lengthy effort to try and create a cause-and-effect connection between bottled water and the California drought, while at the same time acknowledging no such connection exists, appears to be based on something other than fact-based journalism.

The bottled water industry complies with California's regulatory framework, which applies to other water users in the same class, and will continue to do so. While this article repeatedly infers that bottled water is acting out of compliance with state regulations, the exact opposite is true.

Another important fact is that most of the bottled water produced in California is consumed in California. In fact, for schools in Los Angeles and communities in the Central Valley that don't have access to drinkable water, bottled water is a vital everyday necessity.

To get more facts about bottled water, please visit [www.BottledWater.org](http://www.BottledWater.org).