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Home > EARTH: Protracted Drought Threatens California Levees

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alexandria, VA - We're most accustomed to flooding causing levees to fail, like they did in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. So although the El Nino-induced floods are making the most news in California right now, it's not actually the floods that are threatening some California levees the most. Instead it's the severe drought over the last four years that has taken its toll on thousands of kilometers of century-old earthen levees.

While it seems counterintuitive to have drought causing levee failure, a new study suggests that the changing climatic conditions affect the shear strength of the soil. A similarly extreme drought in Australia caused levee failures during the late 1990s and 2000s. Explore this study and the challenges drought poses to levees in EARTH Magazine: <http://bit.ly/1VkplSp>.

The April Issue of EARTH Magazine is erupting with exciting news from around the geoscience community, such as a feature story on Iceland's volatile volcanoes and a study suggesting that aviation is whitening the sky. Explore the lunar atmosphere, delve inside an Ichthyosaur's brain and much more at www.earthmagazine.org.

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Keep up to date with the latest happenings in Earth, energy and environment news with EARTH Magazine online at: <http://www.earthmagazine.org/>. Published by the American Geosciences Institute, EARTH is your source for the science behind the headlines.

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Press Release PDF:



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