

# Waterlines

JULY 2007

## **The Top California Water Stories of the Month Compiled by Orange County Water District**

San Jose Mercury News (7-17-07) - As Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger launched a campaign for a \$6 billion investment in California's water delivery system, the state Senate's top Democrat (Don Perata, D-Oakland) announced his support for an equally expensive bond to finance new dams. While Schwarzenegger is calling on Californians to invest billions in a pair of major reservoirs, Perata would like to make money available for regional grants that could be used for dams, underground storage, groundwater cleanup or other purposes. In a related story (Sacramento Bee 7-16-07), Tim Quinn, executive director of the Association of California Water Agencies, said the state is facing some of the worst supply conditions in his 25 years as a water manager. He said conservation alone cannot solve the state's problems.

LA Times (8-2-07) - Republicans joined Democrats in the often fractious House of Representatives to defy a White House veto threat and approve a massive water bill filled with projects sought by lawmakers for their districts. The 381 to 40 vote should be enough to override Bush's threatened veto. The bill goes to the Senate and includes more than 900 projects including money to revitalize the Los Angeles River and shore up levees in the Bay Delta.

Stockton Record (7-6-07) - Bay Delta islands may flood more than 200 times in the next century, and there is a chance of up to 30 or more levees crumbling simultaneously at a cost of \$35 billion, according to a study done by the state Dept. of Water Resources. But some Delta farmers and water watchdogs say the numbers are inflated to justify construction of a peripheral canal that would convey water around, rather than through, the Delta.

North San Diego County Times (7-16-07) - An invasive, rapidly multiplying Ukrainian mussel could cost water agencies and ratepayers billions in fouled waterways and pipelines and has prompted the

shutdown of the Colorado River aqueduct for a second time. Officials from the Metropolitan Water District said the 10 day shut down would not affect water deliveries.

Inside the Bay Area (7-15-07) - The state's water supply could be cut dramatically under a plan filed in federal court, which sent shudders through the water agencies from the Bay Area to Southern California. The State Department of Water Resources said the plan to reduce water deliveries out of the Delta to protect the environment could cut flows by more than one-third in a year of average rain and snow.

LA Times (7-20-07) - After the driest year on record, the governor declared a state of emergency in Riverside County after severe, prolonged drought conditions caused an estimated \$4 million in crop damage and reduced public water supplies.

*Waterlines is a monthly e-mail news summary prepared by the Orange County Water District (OCWD) to keep you abreast of this changing water environment. Attached is a summary of statewide news reports on key water issues. As the manager of the groundwater basin that supplies 60 percent of Orange County's water supply, OCWD provides this handy, condensed news report to save you time while still keeping you abreast of water news that affects Orange County. We hope this will help you in the performance of your duties by keeping you up-to-date on key water stories affecting your organization and your constituents. If you have any questions, or know anyone who would like to receive this update, please contact Rose Wilke at (714) 378-3206 or [rwilke@ocwd.com](mailto:rwilke@ocwd.com)*