

Waterlines

APRIL 2007

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

San Diego Tribune 4-11-07 - Senator Feinstein endorsed Governor Schwarzenegger's \$6 billion water infrastructure plan that calls for building more surface and groundwater storage. In a related story (Sacramento Bee 4-25-07), the Governor said that he has no plans to scale down his proposal for building two new dams in the state despite watching Democrats reject his bill. The Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee killed the governor's plan to put bonds for two dams on the 2008 ballot. Senate Bill 59 by Dave Cogdill had Republican support, but couldn't muster the necessary five votes to pass out the Democratic-led committee.

Contra Costa Times 4-1-07 - Nature is pulling a triple whammy on Southern California this year. Whether it's the Sierra, the Southland or the Colorado River basin, every place that provides water to the region is dry. It's a rare and troubling pattern that, if it persists, could thrust the region into what researchers have dubbed "the perfect Southern California drought" - when nature shortchanges every major branch of the far-flung water network that sustains 18 million people.

LA Times 4-6-07 - The driest periods of the last century - the Dust Bowl of the 1930s and the droughts of the 1950s - may become the norm in the Southwest U.S. within decades because of global warming, according to a study in online *The Journal Science*. The study predicted a permanent drought by 2050 throughout the Southwest - one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. Richard Seager, lead author of the study said, "There are going to be some tough decisions on how to allocate water...Is it going to be the cities, or is it going to be agriculture?"

North County Times 4-1-07 - Thanks to swelling reservoirs, Southern Californians won't notice at all this summer that this winter's Sierra mountain snow pack that helps make sure local faucets continue to flow

was at its lowest level in two decades, according to state and regional officials. However, some said if the Sierra snowfalls are meager again next year, Southern Californians could face water shortages in 2008.

AP 4-18-07 - Brushing aside state objections, a judge reaffirmed his March decision that California must stop pumping water out of the delta within 60 days unless it complies with environmental laws protecting fish. In a related story (Sacramento Business News 4-20-07), the Association of California Water Agencies said the judge should reconsider and if not, the Governor should evoke his emergency powers for reasons of public health, our state's economy and our quality of life.

Reuters 4-6-07 - Top climate experts issued their bleakest forecasts yet about global warming, ranging from hunger in Africa to a thaw of the Himalayan glaciers, in a study that may add pressure on governments to act. U.S. delegates deleted suggested wording that parts of North America may suffer "severe economic damage" from warming.

Fresno Bee 4-3-07 - The era of taking water for granted is over. The era of water scarcity and all the turmoil expected to come with it has begun. That was the message of water experts from around the globe who met at Fresno State for a recent International Water Technology conference.

San Francisco Chronicle 4-3-07 - The campaign lead by California to combat global warming at the state level took a giant step forward when the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the Bush administration's hands-off approach to climate change and pushed the government toward regulation of green house gases. The 5-4 ruling, the most important environmental decision the court has issued in many years, clears the way for current and future federal administrations to set mandatory limits on motor vehicle emissions.

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

