

Waterlines

MARCH 2007

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

Stockton Record 3-24-07 – State officials have 60 days to avert a legally imposed shutdown of their massive export pumps, which kill threatened fish but also support a \$300 billion economy. The state has 15 days to comment on the ruling by Alameda Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch. The general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California said, “This is a very serious issue. We’re hopeful we can work with the state to get it resolved over the next 60 days and not go through dramatic interruptions.” In a related article (Sacramento Bee 3-28-07); the director of California’s Dept. of Fish and Game said that he has “failed to require a permit from state water officials to kill protected fish as the state’s massive water export operations in the Delta.”

OC Register 3-31-07 – Officials declared an end to Orange County’s (south Orange County only) water emergency as water began flowing through a major filtration plant. Power was cut to the filtration plant that provides about 50% of the county’s drinking water and 95% of South Orange County’s water.

San Diego Tribune 3-27-07 – California literally sits on one of the best drought cushions. Yet, despite the importance of groundwater, this largely arid state lacks an overall plan to take advantage of it. “We have a ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ approach to groundwater,” complains State Sen. Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, who is carrying legislation to improve monitoring and data collection. Some water managers suspect the state has an ulterior motive: siphoning local water.

Central Valley Business Times 3-12-07 – New research finds that air pollution particles, responsible for reduced rainfall in China, may also affect California’s water supply. The research showed California’s precipitation losses over the mountains are projected at 10% to 25%, presumably because of pollution aerosols from urban and industrial areas.

MyMotherLode.com News 3-29-07 - According to the California Department of Water Resources the overall water content of the Sierra snow pack is only 46% of normal.

AP 3-14-07 - Effort to restore a part of the Owens River have fallen short, despite the LA Dept. of Water and Power's success in beating a deadline to establish a steady flow of water in the riverbed. Inyo County Superior Court Judge Lee Cooper said, "In the record before me, I cannot find the city has complied with all the conditions."

Business Wire 3-13-07 - La Habra City Council member and OC Sanitation official Steve Anderson took a seat on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Contra Costa Times 3-2-07 - A panel charged with recommending a new strategy for the Delta met for the first time, inaugurating an effort to address an array of problems in the fragile region.

Riverside Press Enterprise 3-19-07 - Crews inspecting the aqueduct that brings Colorado River water to millions of Southern Californians have found almost 800 quagga mussels since March 10 in the largest discovery so far in the West of the tiny but destructive mollusks.

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