

# Waterlines

JANUARY 2007

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

LA Times 1-12-07 - In proposing two big, expensive dam projects, Gov. Schwarzenegger made a novel argument to justify the old-fashioned public works projects. Advocating \$4 billion in bonds to build reservoirs in Northern and Central California, the administration put forth global warming as the justification. As the temperatures rise, California's snow pack will shrink, leaving a storage void the administration says should be filled in part with new reservoirs. In a related story (San Jose Mercury News 1-25-07), Democrats in the state Senate said California does not need to build new reservoirs, instead, the state should rely on conservation, underground storage and boosting the height of existing dams.

Contra Costa Times 1-31-07 - Federal regulators have pulled the plug on permits to build new tide gates in the south Delta, undercutting plans to ramp up the capacity of pumps that deliver water to Central and Southern California. The decision by the federal agency in charge of protecting threatened and endangered fish suspends work on the permit but leaves the door open for the state to get permission for the tide gates later.

LA Times 1-22-07 - A destructive mussel found earlier this month in Lake Mead now has been discovered at intakes for the aqueduct system that carries water from the Colorado River to Southern California, raising fears that the invasive species could inflict costly damage to pipelines, aquatic life and waterways in California. In a related article (Press Enterprise 1-24-06), divers did not find any adult mussels in the waters of Diamond Valley Lake in Hemet.

OC Register 1-27-07 - The last major cleanup at the old El Toro base has begun. Thirty-five pumps are now drawing 390 gallons of polluted groundwater per minute, around the clock. The remediation will cost the government \$42 million and could take 30 years.

Riverside Press-Enterprise - 1-4-07 - An effort to build a tunnel beneath the Cleveland National Forest to transport water between the Inland area and South Orange County is moving forward this month. Metropolitan Water District intends to begin drilling two exploratory holes in the mountains between Corona and Irvine for the next four months

Imperial Valley Press 12-20-06 - The Imperial Irrigation District sent a message to its urban neighbors - no additional water will flow from the Imperial Valley to the coast. That message was sent to Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which provides water to much of Southern California.

Business Wire 1-23-07 - Fitch Ratings assigns an AA+ financial rating to the Orange County Water District based on the water service it provides to a solid and growing customer base, estimated at 2.3 million residents.

*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)*