

Waterlines

NOVEMBER 2006

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

Notes from Underground Fall 2006 Edition - Association of Groundwater Agencies (AGWA) member Orange County Water District has received the California Historic Civil Engineering Landmark award. The district was recognized for conserving surface flows of the Santa Ana River and managing the groundwater basin. The district was also recognized for its leadership in the development of visionary water reuse projects, such as Water Factory 21 and the Groundwater Replenishment System.

OC Register 10-31-06 - The Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) is about to begin a project to remove the residue of agricultural fertilizers, nitrates, and naturally occurring salts in an area mostly north and west of the old El Toro Marine Corps Air Station. The district is testing the desalter project now and plans to start the \$34 million dollar project by the end of the year. The project is a joint effort of the Orange County Water District and IRWD.

Press Enterprise 11-15-06 - A recent California Supreme Court decision in a San Bernardino County case raises the possibility that public utility customers could block increases in water, sewer and trash collection rates. In its decision last summer in the Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency vs. Verjil, the state's high court ruled that water, sewer and solid waste rates are property related fees and fall under the constraints of Prop 218. As such, agencies that provide these services must notify landowners of a proposed rate hike and give them the opportunity to file a protest.

Stockton Record 11-18-06 - A judge will not order an immediate shutdown of Delta water pumps near Tracy - even if he does decide that state operators have failed to get proper permits to kill fish while exporting water. The question is whether the state Department of Water

Resources has the authority to kill fish while sending water to farms and cities in Southern California.

Sacramento Bee 11-9-06 - The levee system crisscrossing Sacramento and the Central Valley received the biggest financial boost in its long and rickety history when California voters said yes to a \$4.1 billion bond measure to strengthen flood control. Known as Prop 1E, the measure was approved by 64% of voters statewide. Coupled with another \$800 million in flood control dollars that will flow from Prop 84, a water-related bond measure, means nearly \$5 billion in state funds will be available for flood safety work.

ABC News 11-13-06 - Water hearings underway in Sacramento will determine the quality of your tap water and which fish species will survive. The State Water Board has until December 13 to finalize new policies. The only consensus reached so far is that the current system is not sustainable.

AP 10-31-06 - More than a dozen people demanded that the state health officials impose the nation's strictest limits for perchlorate, a rocket fuel ingredient that is contaminating water supplies throughout the state. A proposed rule would require cleanup if the chemical is found at 6 parts per billion or higher. Supporters of a tougher limit said California should allow no more than 1 part per billion.

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