

Waterlines

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

Press Enterprise 10-02-06 - US Fish and Wildlife Service officials recommended downgrading the status of an endangered bird that lives along inland rivers and decided against granting habitat protections for a rare plant in the San Jacinto Mountains. The wildlife officials recommend that the least Bell's vireo be downgraded from "endangered" to "threatened" status. Dick Zembal, natural resources director with the Orange County Water District, which stores water behind Prado Dam, said that flooding most likely will not cause a problem with the vireo in the spring and summer, when the migratory bird breed.

Press Enterprise 10-08-06 - Most major Inland water agencies have endorsed Prop 84 because it increases the water supply by cleaning up polluted water and removing salts from otherwise unusable groundwater, said Redlands-based water consultant Daniel Cozad. The measure would invest \$45 million in filling gaps in the crest to coast Santa Ana River trail.

Contra Costa Times 10-05-06 - An organization of environmentalists and anglers filed suit to force state water managers to comply with laws meant to protect the Bay Delta's most imperiled fish species. The suit alleges that the state's massive pumping of Delta water near Tracy, which supplies fresh water to millions of households, is illegal because that Department of Water Resources lacks a critical permit under the California Endangered Species Act.

Fresno Bee 10-24-06 - U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton approved a historic agreement settling an 18-year lawsuit over the revival of the San Joaquin River, the state's second-longest river.

Sacramento Bee 10-24-06 - Raymond Seed, a professor of civil engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, drew a parallel

between the New Orleans disaster and similar risks in the California Delta, for instance, both have levees built atop unstable layers of organic material.

San Gabriel Valley Tribune 10-23-06 – Tim Brick, the longest sitting member of the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors was selected as its chairman after 21 years of working to change its operational philosophy from within.

Contra Costa Times 10-25-06 – The latest round of research into what caused a severe ecological crisis in the Delta suggests massive pumps that deliver water across the state could be playing an important role, but in a way much more subtle than usually considered. If borne out, the research could force water managers to adjust, perhaps dramatically, the timing or amount of water pumped out of the Delta to millions of acres of farms in the San Joaquin Valley and to 23 million Californians from East Bay to Southern California.

LA Times 10-6-06 – Rising temperatures in the 11 Western states due to global warming will cause more prolonged droughts, more widespread wildfires, and extensive die-offs in regional plant, fish and game habitats, according to a report from the National Wildlife Foundation. To address the climate change, the organization urged national limits on the greenhouse gases responsible for rising temperatures, such as carbon dioxide and methane. California recently adopted such limits.

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