

Waterlines

SEPTEMBER 2006

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

Anaheim Hills News 9-7-06 – Orange County Water District has completed the second of three segments of a 13-mile pipeline that will connect a new state-of-the-art water purification facility (Groundwater Replenishment System) in Fountain Valley to an existing percolation pond in Anaheim.

LA Times 9-28-06 – A state Court of Appeal panel gave Los Angeles a strong push to move ahead on restoring a 62-mile stretch of the Lower Owens River by upholding a court order that would band the city from using a key aqueduct if it continues delaying the project. The ruling in the years-long dispute was hailed as a victory for Owens Valley residents, environmental groups and state officials fed up with the city Department of Water and Power's failure to comply with a legal agreement to restore the once-vibrant Inyo County River.

Sacramento Business Wire 9-27-06 – The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) urged passage of Proposition 84 and 1E in light of recent low grades for the State's infrastructure in a new 'report card' issued by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). California received a failing grade in the area of levees/flood control, and a C+ in both its water and wastewater infrastructure grades.

Rocky Mountain News 9-20-06 – Future Western droughts could last an average of 12 years, spanning half of the region and severely reducing Colorado River flows that supply millions of people, according to climate projections from a Boulder scientist. Eighteen of the world's most powerful computer climate models were used in the study done by Martin Hoerling, of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Hoerling said he was startled by his own findings. But he cautioned that his results are preliminary and have not been published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

San Jose Mercury News 9-27-06 – Lawmakers agreed on a bill to implement court settlement restoring water flows in the lower San Joaquin River. The deal announced by Sen. Feinstein, D.-Calif., was necessary for a settlement reached earlier this month in Sacramento federal court to take affect. Under the settlement, water will be returned to a dry 60-mile stretch of the River by 2009.

Daily Herald 9-5-06 – More than 36 states expect local or regional water shortages in the next seven years, according to the US EPA. Increasing demand from a growing population will simply out strip demand. In a related story (U.S. Water News 9-8-06), the governors of Georgia, Florida and Alabama plan to meet to negotiate a resolution in the ongoing battle over sharing water from the Chattahoochee River.

BBC World Service 9-12-06 – One county has abundant fresh water, far more than it needs. Across the border there is simply not enough and it has yet to find a solution to the problem. This is the situation Canada and the U.S. find themselves in. Former Premier of the Province of Alberta, Peter Lougheed, predicts the U.S. will be aggressively coming after Canada's water in the next three to five years. One poll suggests 70% of Canadians agree with Peter Lougheed and are vehemently opposed to bulk water exports.

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