

Waterlines

AUGUST 2006

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

OC Register 8-30-06 - Health officials want to crack down on perchlorate, found in rocket fuel, setting a concentration of 6 parts per billion as the level that water sources would be shut down. More than 450 wells in California, primarily in Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, have been contaminated by perchlorate. Orange County's few detections were not significant.

OC News 8-16-06 - The Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System recently completed construction of the expanded seawater intrusion barrier, which stops seawater from contaminating the groundwater basin. The GWR System takes highly treated sewer water currently released into the ocean and purifies it using the same technologies that purify bottled water.

OC Register 8-23-06 - The city of Fountain Valley approved the design for a new 39,000 square-foot water quality laboratory for the Orange County Water District. The \$24 million dollar laboratory will test and ensure groundwater quality used by about 20 city and water agencies.

Copley News Service 8-26-06 - In a move that could jeopardize a vast new water supply for San Diego, a federal court blocked construction of a key water conservation project near the Mexico border. The ninth circuit court of appeals has issued an emergency injunction halting the lining of the All American Canal in Imperial Valley until a three-judge panel can review the case. California has until the end of 2008 to complete the lining as part of the seven-state agreement to share the Colorado River.

Daily Breeze 8-14-06 - Efforts to desalt the ocean at L.A. Dept. of Water & Power, West Basin Municipal Water District, Long Beach and Orange County are gaining momentum. Several projects are proposed for the Southern California Coastline to tap the ocean as a water source. As the

proposals move forward, ocean environmentalists are questioning why resources are being devoted to tapping the ecologically stressed-out ocean when water recycling and conservation methods could provide enormous supplies and reduce the flow of polluted runoff to the sea.

LA Times 8-21-06 - Thanks to a settlement in a contentious, nearly two decade long court fight, the San Joaquin River is about to get some of its water back. The agreement, in its final stages of approval, is designed to resurrect the salmon runs and return year-round flows to the river for the first time since Harry Truman was president.

Contra Costa Times 8-23-06 - Nearly tripling the size of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir appears to be worth the more than \$500 million cost, according to a Bureau of Reclamation report.

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