

Waterlines

JUNE 2006

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

LA Times 6-20-06 - A divide Supreme Court upheld the broad power of federal environmental regulators to protect most wetlands from development, even in areas that are dry most of the year. The decision split the justices three ways and left uncertainty about the reach of the Clean Water Act. It was a setback for private property advocates who hoped the more conservative court would sharply cut back protections for wetlands.

San Diego Union Tribune 6-16-06 - President Bush signed a \$94.5 billion emergency spending bill to fund hurricane relief and the Iraq war that includes \$30.4 million for Sacramento flood protection and levee repairs.

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San Diego Union-Tribune 6-14-06 - A new bond measure has joined an already crowded November ballot, this one asking voters to approve spending \$5.4 billion on water, parks and coastal protection. The Secretary of State's office announced the backers had enough valid signatures of registered voters to qualify the initiative. It will take its place alongside the \$37 billion package of public works projects promoted by Gov. Schwarzenegger and the legislature. The Olivenhain

Municipal Water District has come out against the bond, arguing that it allocates too few dollars to developing new water supplies.

LA Times 6-15-06 – California’s reservoirs are brimming with a bountiful late snow pack that has left the state’s storage system in the best shape in nearly a decade.

KVBC News Las Vegas – 6-19-06 – The snow pack in the Colorado River basin is only at 17 percent of average and that does not look good for the Valley’s primary source of water. Lake Mead has dropped 83 feet in the last six years and is down ten feet from this time last year.

Las Vegas Sun 6-29-06 – Officials of the Southern Nevada Water Authority, which supplies Las Vegas, have said desalting Pacific Ocean water will one day be part of the regional resource portfolio. The authority could trade an investment in a coastal desalting plant for some of California’s credits from Lake Mead.

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