

Waterlines

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

LA Times 4-11-06 - Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) declined an invitation to join a group of regional water districts seeking federal money to study a proposed 11-mile tunnel through the Santa Ana Mountains. The proposed tunnel between Riverside and Orange Counties - still far from reality - would carry water pipelines and traffic between the two counties.

Contra Costa Times 4-13-06 - The Delta has degraded so badly that it is time to consider building a highly controversial canal to protect water supplies, a Bay Area legislator State Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, says. He has offered legislation that for the first time in more than 20 years asks lawmakers to consider a version of the Peripheral Canal. In a related story (Torrance Daily Breeze 4-17-06) - "An isolated facility (the canal) solves some people's problem, but it doesn't solve the delta dilemma," said Lester Snow the governor's water chief. The General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District, the LA-based wholesaler, said "We are in good shape for a two-year outage under today's conditions." Metropolitan also draws on the Colorado River and has an emergency network of reservoirs that could be tapped immediately. In another related story (Tracy Press 4-15-06), John Beuttel of the California Sport Fishing Alliance, which represents 40 sport fishing groups, said "It looks like we are stepping back 20 years."

Union-Tribune 4-18-06 - The State Lands Commission approved a resolution discouraging power plants from using seawater to cool their electric-generating systems. The commission will no longer approve new plants with cooling systems that draw in seawater and might require power plants seeking lease extensions to require alternative, environmentally superior cooling technology.

San Diego Union-Tribune 4-19-06 – Opponents of a plan to line the All-American Canal in Imperial County filed suit to stop the project, alleging its design presents a peril to humans and animals. The complaint was filed by a group called Protect Our Water and Environmental Rights and two Imperial Valley growers.

SF Chronicle 4-19-06 California's four top lawmakers told Bay Area business leaders they are close to a bipartisan deal that would put a \$30 billion to \$34 billion public works bond on the November ballot. A bond package to pay for anti-congestion highway projects, buttressing levees and renovating public schools and universities is a month or two of being finalized.

Sacramento Bee 4-19-06 – A wet spring means state water contractors will get all the water they need this year. In fact, California has surplus water for sale. The snowpack statewide is 172% of normal. This marks the first time in State Water Project history that contractors have asked for full contractual deliveries and will get those requests.

OC Register 4-17-06 – The Yorba Linda Water District has agreed to pay \$80,000 to the Orange County Water District for money owned after they lost a lawsuit this year. Yorba Linda has already paid \$675,000 for missed water payments.

Fremont Argus 4-20-06 – Shoring up all of California's levees will be too costly, Sen. Feinstein said and some of the sunken Delta islands that they protect will probably be sacrificed.

San Jose Mercury News 4-27-06 – A coalition of 11 leading environmental groups has turned in nearly double the number of signatures need to qualify the largest parks and water bond in state history for the November ballot.

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 Lisa Sanchez at (714) 378-3323 or lisasanchez@ocwd.com.

