



## MEETINGS

**NEXT:**  
April 11, 2008—TUD  
At the Peppery Gar &  
Brill, 13494 Mono Way,  
Sonora.

## In This Issue...

### Pg. 2

- Current Events
- Latest Snowpack Survey Results
- 38th Cap-to-Cap Trip
- ACWA Spring Conf.

### Pg. 3

- Fear of Mussel Invasion Causes Boating Ban
- Global Warming and Lake Tahoe
- Environmental Review Process for Delta Conversion Plan
- Sacramento Water Forum w/ H. Howser
- Low Salmon Return Rates Predicted

### Pg. 4

- CCWD Golf Tournament
- AWWA Spring Conf.
- Membership Application

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## Day at the Capitol

The Annual Mountain Counties 'Day at the State Capitol' was well attended by Mountain Counties Members and by Legislators on February 12, 2008. Invited speakers included many legislators, from both sides of the aisle. Speakers who were able to attend included State Senator Dave Cogdill, Doug Yoakam (State Senator Dave Cox's Legislative Director), Paul Diero (State Senator Sam Aanestad's Chief of Staff), Assemblyman Roger Niello and Assemblyman Rick Keene.



State Capitol

Senator Cogdill stated how he continues to push for a comprehensive water policy for California, and wants to focus on additional surface storage, plus conveyance, plus responsible Delta management. He acknowledges that well funded opposition makes his work more difficult, particularly because delays in schedule may prevent new legislation from making it onto the November general election ballot. Senator Cogdill also discussed the Educational Revenue Augmentation Funds (ERAF) shifts that currently take place. Senator Cogdill says he did not support the original passage of the ERAF law, and recently had as much as 60 to 65% support from legislators for repealing the law all together. He did acknowledge the Proposition 1A bond borrowing has improved the situation, but still thinks a better solution can be made. Under ERAF for 2008, local governments are expected to face a \$4.3B ERAF gap due to the law.

Doug Yoakam discussed the recent stagnation of Water Bond measures and the State budget and thinks it is unlikely that Proposition 13 will be permanently amended in order to increase state revenues to help with the recent budget deficit because a 2/3 vote is required by both houses of the legislature to change the law permanently.

Paul Diero described how water may become the next "energy" crisis in the next 10 years. He recognizes that there will always be a need to convey water to Southern California, but also hopes to protect water rights in the north. — Continued on Page 4

## New Chair, Vice Chair Ratified for ACWA Region 3

ACWA's Region 3 board has ratified a new chair and vice chair for the 2008-'09 term. Region 3 boundaries are substantially similar to that of our Mountain Counties boundaries. Duane L. Frink, a member of the Foresthill Public Utility District Board of Directors, is the new chair of ACWA Region 3, and is a Director of the Mountain Counties. Ron Nelson, general manager of Nevada Irrigation District, is the new vice chair of ACWA Region 3. Frink, who served as region vice chair in the previous term, was named chair following the departure of former chair Ane D. Deister, who resigned from her position as general manager of El Dorado Irrigation District in December. Nelson served as a Region 3 board member in previous terms.

## Mountain Counties Water Resources Association Officers

Bertha Underhill, **Chair**  
Calaveras County Water District

Barbara Balen, **Treasurer**  
Tuolumne Utilities District

Jim Chatigny, **Executive Officer**  
Retired

Duane Frink, **Vice Chair**  
Foresthill Public Utility District

Hank White, **Director**  
Georgetown Divide Public Utility District

John Fraser, **Director**  
El Dorado Irrigation District

## Future Meetings

Date	Host
June 13, 2008	NID
Aug. 8, 2008	CCWD
Oct. 10, 2008	GDPUD
Dec. 12, 2008	EID

## Current Events

**Tuolumne Utility District** — TUD has recently acquired the Matt Dillon Water Company. The District intends to extend the water infrastructure to the areas served by the Matt Dillon Water Company and build a new Water Treatment Plant. In addition, TUD expects to be involved in a Stanislaus / Tuolumne Rivers Integrated Regional Water Management Plan in the near future.

**Georgetown Divide Public Utility District** — GDPUD is moving forward with the construction of the Greenwood Lake Water Treatment Plant after the Board of Directors accepted the Final EIR.

**El Dorado Irrigation District** — Dave Witter has accepted the position of Interim General Manager of EID until the Board chooses a replacement for Ane Deister. Witter has been an employee with EID for almost 17 years.

EID will remove a 4.3% surcharge from customers water bills starting this month, which was used over the last 3 years when the State took \$10.4M of EIDs property tax revenue over a 2 year period to help balance the State budget. The removal is good news for customers, but future reductions in EID revenue are in the works at the State level, that may return surcharges to customers.

**Placer County Water Agency** — PCWA has approved the notice of completion for the American River Pump Station, located in the river canyon near Auburn. It has been under construction for the past four years; overseen by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. 30 years ago, the agency's previous pump was removed for the construction of the Auburn Dam. PCWA will be able to pump up to 35,500 acre-feet of water per year to its water service zones. The pump is expected to be in full operation this spring.

On June 8th, PCWA will be hosting the American River Parkway Celebration to recognize the opening of the parkway to the public. All are welcome!

**Calaveras County Water District** — The Calaveras County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) will now include CCWD. One of CCWD's Directors will be seated at LAFCO.

## 2008 ACWA Spring Conference "Managing Water in a Green World"

May 6-9, 2008

Portola & Marriott Hotels, Monterey, CA

For more information and to register, please visit <http://www.acwa.com/events/SC08/INDEX.asp>

## Latest Snowpack Survey Results

The fourth snowpack survey of the year reveals that the water content is near normal, 97% of the long-term historic average for California; however, water deliveries to the Central Valley, and Sothern California will still be restricted because of the Wanger Decision to protect the Delta Smelt. Last year, the water content was half of the normal at this time. DWR snow water sensors indicate the snowpack is consolidating and melting—skiers agree!

The rain and snow water content for the Northern Sierra (Sacramento, Yuba, Feather, and American River Basins) as of April 1st, 2008 is 33.1 inches, 80% of the 41.60 inches on average. Lake Oroville and Folsom Lake storage are 47% and 46% of capacity, respectively, which is 61% and 72% of average at this time of year. DWR Water Supply Indices forecast a "Below Normal" year for the San Joaquin Valley, and a "Dry" or "Critical" year for the Sacramento Valley for 2008.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is still advocating the push for cleaning up the Delta and increasing water surface storage. The snowpack survey at this time of the year is considered the most important to better gauge how much water will be available for the rest of the year. *Article summarized from DWR News Release March 26, 2008.*

## 38th Annual Capitol-to-Capitol Trip

This year's Cap to Cap Trip focuses on Flood Protection/Water Resources, Transportation, Economic Development (Clean / Green Technology), and the State Children's Insurance Program (SCHIP). By the publication of this newsletter the trip will have concluded, however there are more than 350 delegates are expected to attend and over 200 appointments have been scheduled with U.S. Congress members during the trip. More than 91 issue and appropriation request papers have been written to request federal funding and policy activity for the local Sacramento area.

The flood protection team will seek funding for project such as the Folsom Dam Outlet Modifications, the South Sacramento County Streams Group Project, the American River Common Features Project, the Folsom Dam Bridge Component, the Natomas Phase I Reimbursement, and the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project. The team will also encourage federal agencies to streamline regulatory barriers that are an impediment to quick and successful implementation of flood protection.

For more information on the trip, please visit the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce Cap to Cap website: <http://www.metrochamber.org>

## Fear of Mussel Invasion Causes Boating Bans

Many water authorities in Southern California have banned boating in various lakes due to the finding of mussels. The mussels have hitched a ride on boats which have been in infected waters and are now posing a threat on infecting other lakes. The mussels pose a problem to the ecology of the lakes and can clog pipes and pumps resulting in costly repairs.

The quagga mussel and zebra mussel originated from the Ukraine and first appeared in the U.S. in 1989 in the Great Lakes. Since then, the mussels have been discovered in Lake Mead, Lake Havasu, the Colorado River Aqueduct, and in various lakes and reservoirs in Riverside and San Diego Counties.

Fish and Game does not believe the closures at such lakes as Lake Casitas, Lake Wolford, and Westlake Lake are necessary; however, a state task force is conducting further investigation. Dogs have been trained to sniff these mussels and divers are frequently searching the State Water Ways. Agencies who have not yet closed their lakes are still taking precautions by requiring boat owners to wash their boats using water that has a temperature of at least 100 degrees or placing suspecting boats under quarantine. The mussels can only survive a few days out of water or in water of 100 degrees or more. *Article summarized from "Clamping Down on Quagga Mussels" by Catherine Saillant.*

## Global Warming and Lake Tahoe

The well known blues of Lake Tahoe may soon disappear due to global warming. A study done by Geoffrey Schladow and others from UC Davis predicts that in as little as 11 years the lake will become murky green. Rising lake temperatures are disrupting the ecosystem by shutting down the deep churning of oxygen and nutrients and promoting the growth of algae blooms. The Mackinaw Trout also risks survival since they thrive in colder water. Similar occurrences have already taken place at Lake Zurich in Europe, Lake Tanganyika in Africa, and Lake Biwa in Japan. The cold water forces the lake to thoroughly mix oxygen. Lake Tahoe is the second-deepest lake in the United States at 1,645 feet deep and complete mixing occurs once every four years. Solutions to warming lakes is also being examined as part of the study. The effort to keep Lake Tahoe blue is becoming increasingly more important and only time will tell if efforts are successful. *Article summarized from "UC Davis Global Warming Researcher Paints dire Picture for Lake Tahoe" by Tom Knudson.*

## Environmental Review Process for Delta Conversion Plan

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is beginning the Environmental Review Process of the Governor's Delta Conversion Plan to increase the Delta's sustainability. As part of the goal to attain sustainability, it is essential to increase conservation. The Governor is promoting a 20% reduction in urban water use by 2020. To further sustain the Delta, the DWR is developing Delta Emergency Response Plan to outline flood protection and better the current emergency responses.

Initial scoping meetings for the Delta Conversion Plan are being held statewide for the next couple months. The meeting in Sacramento will be held:

**WHEN: April 28, 2008 at 10:00 AM**

**WHERE: Resources Building Auditorium  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA**

## Sacramento Water Forum

A town hall event hosted by ACWA and emceed by Huell Howser will take place April 17th at the Crest Theater in Sacramento. The goal is to highlight key water issues facing the state and the Sacramento region. Thursday, April 17th, 6pm—8:30pm. Sacramento's Crest Theater, 1013 K Street

Speakers will include :

Huell Howser, Glen Peterson (ACWA President), Timothy Quinn (ACWA Executive Director), Tom Gohring (Sacramento Water Forum Executive Director), Stuart Leavenworth (Sacramento Bee associate editor), and Gary Reents (City of Sacramento Dept. of Utilities director).

## Low Salmon Return Rates Predicted

Abnormal ocean conditions in 2005 may be the culprit for last years low salmon return rate to California and this year's return rates are predicted to be even lower. The low food production in the 2005 California current and it's late arrival seems to have affected the Coho and Chinook Salmon. In 2007, fishery biologists saw 33% of the predicted return of Chinook Salmon to the Sacramento River. Only 27% of the parental Coho Salmon have returned to 12 of the monitor streams in California. The Coho Salmon is currently on the endangered species list in California. *Article summarized from "Unfavorable Ocean Conditions Likely Cause of Low Salmon Returns Along West Coast in 2007" by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

**New MCWRA Members**

**General**

Calaveras County Board of Supervisors  
Kennedy Jenks

**Individual**

Walt Sadler—City of Folsom

**Day at the Capital**

**Continued from p.1**

Assemblyman Niello discussed the logistics of the budget deficit, and suggests that a repeal of Proposition 1A, which generally protects and makes local budgets more predictable and stable, is unlikely. 1A prevents the State from shifting property taxes from local cities, counties, and special districts, with some exceptions. Generally Assemblyman Niello thinks the long term solution is to bring state expenditures in line with revenues.

Assemblyman Keene also visited the budget deficit topic, and suggests that if the State delayed hiring or delayed implementing some programs, the gap would easily be made up. He suggests that the current budget increases funding by 7% for the next fiscal year - whereas the budget deficit for the next year is expected to be about 10% - deducting the 7% increase, the deficit would only be 3%.

**CCWD Annual Kevin Burnett Memorial Golf Tournament**

June 21, 2008—La Contenta Golf Course in Valley Springs, CA. The proceeds from the tournament benefit WRAP, to help fixed and low income families pay their sewer bill. 1pm shotgun start. For info call: Lynn Gentry at CCWD: (209) 754-5846 - ext. 14.

**2008 AWWA Spring Conference “Managing Water in a Green World”**

April 21-24, 2008

Renaissance Hollywood Hotel,

For more information and to register, please visit <http://ca-nv-awwa.org/CA-NV/conferences/newspring/Attendees.php>

**MCWRA Membership Information**

If you are interested in beginning or renewing a membership with Mountain County Water Resources Association, please send the completed form and membership fee to MCWRA P.O. Box 2585, Grass Valley, CA 95945. Membership categories and dues are as follows:

**Executive**—\$1000— Open to counties, public agencies, and districts within the Sierra involved with water development, treatment, and /or reclamation of waste water. This category entitles the member to one voting representative.

**General** —\$250— Open to any public or private district, agency, or organization devoted to production and treatment of water or production of power within this Association’s boundaries. Acceptance authorizes participation in activities but is non-voting status.

**Individual**—\$100— Open to individuals upon application and dues payment. Acceptance authorizes participation in activities but is non-voting status.

MCWRA meetings are generally held the 2nd Friday of every other month; exceptions may occur from time to time. The Association accepts members interested in our mission to unite agencies, groups, and individuals whose interests include protecting and enhancing mountain county water resources throughout the foreseeable future. Generally, members of our organization are from Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Mariposa, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Tuolumne, and Yuba Counties.

**Membership Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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