

MEETINGS

NEXT

October 5, 2007
Host: Georgetown Divide Public Utility District

FUTURE:

December 14, 2007
Host: El Dorado Irrigation District

Tentative 2008 Dates
February 8, 2008
April 11, 2008
June 2008

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Contact Information

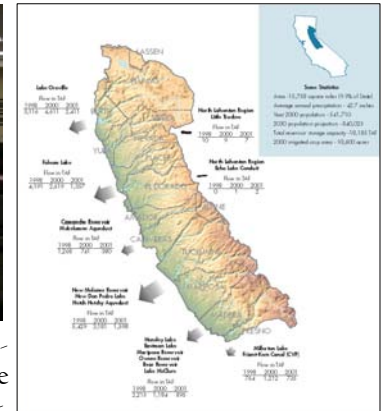
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August 10th Meeting—Workshop on CA Water Plan Update 2009

Thanks to the El Dorado Hills Fire Department for allowing use of their building for the meeting. Approximately 51 attendees worked in six discussion groups throughout the day brainstorming ideas for the 2009 California Water Plan. The workgroup sessions included brainstorming on what members want to see in the next California Water Plan. Attendees were solicited for ideas on how the 2009 update can be more robust and representative of the Mountain Counties Area. Approximately 80% of the attendees were associated with water districts or agencies, and the remainder were from academia, power companies, environmental groups consultants, ACWA, or other interested groups.



Water Balance for the Mountain Counties Overlay Area from the 2005 CA Water Plan

Delta Pumping Reduced—Once Again

Restrictions on the delta are being imposed once more and concern of future the water supply spreads to cities, farmers, and water officials who receive water from the Delta. U.S. District Judge Oliver Wanger, has ordered a one-third reduction in pumping water from the Delta. The ruling is effective from December through June, in order to protect the smelt, and involved parties have 50 days to reiterate his ruling into new operating rules.

There is now a big push for water conservation and Peter Gleick, president of a nonprofit think tank called Pacific Institute offers ideas for conservation. He points out that the amount of water used to produce rice, cotton, alfalfa, and irrigate pastures overshadows the agricultural income. It would be more resourceful to grow crops better suited for the changing conditions of the state.

The pumping reduction is placing more focus on conveyance structures and ideas proposed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Senate leader Don Perata of Oakland. The Governor is proposing a \$9 billion bond measure for a variety of projects including: Above and below groundwater storage, Delta restoration and conveyance, and delta environmental relief. Continue pg. 4 Delta

Conservation Ideas

- * Replace 6 gal. flush toilets with 1.6 gal. models
- * Replace top loading washing machines with efficient front-loaders
- * Use precision sprinklers
- * Grow crops that require less water

Mountain Counties Water Resources Association Officers

Bertha Underhill, Chair
Calaveras County Water District

Barbara Balen, Treasurer
Tuolumne Utilities District

Jim Chatigny, Executive Officer

Duane Frink, Vice Chair
Foresthill Public Utility District

Hank White, Director
Georgetown Divide Public Utility District

John Frasier, Director
El Dorado Irrigation District

Current Events

Georgetown Divide Public Utility District — The Georgetown Divide Public Utility District (GDPUD) is planning on constructing the new Greenwood Lake Water Treatment Plant and about 3 miles of finished water pipeline. The draft EIR was finished in June. With an increase in development, the new treatment plant will provide the necessary water to the community and will comply with all the newest water quality standards.

In the July 10th board meeting, GDPUD counter proposed on the Supplemental Water Acquisition Project Cost Sharing Agreement. The agreement would be between El Dorado County Water Agency and other parties including GDPUD.

GDPUD continues construction on the Kaiser Siphon Replacement and the Up-Country Downhill Slide Replacement.

Foresthill Public Utility District — The District recently decided to offer the use of 5/8" water meters, a size smaller than the existing smallest size meter offered at 3/4". The change should result in a savings of cost to ratepayers that take advantage of this change. The change should also reduce water usage somewhat. The proposed rate for a 5/8" inch meter is \$4,720. The District is also in the process of updating their master plan — the last version of the master plan was prepared in 1992 — an administrative draft was presented to the District's Finance Committee for review on July 9, 2007.

Calaveras County Water District — The Calaveras County Water District's June 2nd Golf Tournament was again a success. The tournament was held in Valley Springs at the La Contenta Golf Course to benefit the WRAP, Wastewater Rate Assistance Program. Bertha Underhill, President of the CCWD Board of Directors presented \$6,547 to the WRAP from proceeds of the tournament. This amount is a 32% increase from last year's tournament. The WRAP program assists fixed and low income ratepayers with their sewer bills.

County of Calaveras — The County's Storm Water Master Plan has been drafted. The final draft was presented to the Board of Supervisors on July 30th. A copy is posted on the county website at <http://www.co.calaveras.ca.us>

County of Placer — Placer County is moving forward with the Placer Vineyards Specific Plan. The Plan is a mixed use community that will provide 14, 132 homes. Water to the Vineyards community would be supplied by PCWA by the Ophir Water Treatment Plant.

CA-NV 2007 AWWA Fall Conference

When: October 22-26, 2007

Where: Hyatt Regency Sacramento
1209 L Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

For more information on registration and programs offered, please visit <http://ca-nv-awwa.org/CA-NV/conferences/fall/2007FallConfOverview.pdf>.

Long Beach Researches Lower Cost Desalination

The City of Long Beach is researching the possibility of lower cost desalination of sea water, for distribution to its treated water customers. The idea is to reduce dependence on outside sources, especially because the City receives approximately 75% of its



water from the San Joaquin River Delta. The lower cost design includes two membranes in series, at lower pressures, compared to one membrane at higher pressure. The cost savings would help offset the \$1,200 price tag for an acre-foot of desalinated water made using a single pass membrane system. By comparison, imported water from the Delta is \$500 per acre-foot, so the research for cost savings is duly justified.

The microfiltration system at the Long Beach Desalination Project is near the Haynes Generating Station in Long Beach. (Scott Smeltzer / Press-Telegram)

Less Water for Valley Farmers

Beginning August 1st, valley farmers no longer receive water from the Fresno Irrigation District due to the low snow pack this past winter. Normal water deliveries occur between March 1st and the end of August. This year, water was delivered from May to the end of July. Farmers now must rely on groundwater for their crops and livestock. The estimated cost incurred on the farms is expected to be thousands of dollars. The current groundwater level is at 75 feet. The two previous years were wet ones, replenishing the groundwater supply; however, this coming winter will determine the conditions for next summer. *Article summarized from "Valley Farmers Brace for End of Water Supply" by Amanda Perez*

Levee Habitat May Be Left Intact

For many years, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers have applied an alternative standard to the California levees due to the unique habitat the levees have created. In February, the Corps announced their intention, for the first time, to apply national levee maintenance policies in California. Under the national policy, vegetation over 2 inches in diameter on the levees would be banned. Many levees would fail under this policy and the habitat would be destroyed. The Corps is now drafting a new levee maintenance policy that will be flexible enough to allow California to keep the vegetation that cover the levees. California's unique levee habitat requires a unique solution. *Article summarized from "Corps may leave most levee habitat" by Matt Weiser.*

Middle Fork of American River Returns to it's Original Riverbed

The Middle Fork of the American River, near Auburn, is once again flowing in it's old river bed after the nearby tunnel was plugged, and riverbed reconstructed. The tunnel was build in the 1960's to bypass American River water to keep the construction site of the Auburn Dam dry. The 2,400 foot long tunnel was left open in case the Auburn Dam is constructed at some time in the future.

During the construction, a temporary Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) pump station was removed, and a permanent station constructed. In the process of river realignment of the ¾ mile stretch of the river, approximately 3,600 yards of reinforced concrete were placed at PCWA's new river water intake, over 2,000 cubic yards of other concrete was used elsewhere, and over 50,000 cubic yards of boulders and rip rap were used in the construction, enough rock to fill approximately 85-2,000 square foot homes floor to ceiling. Even 69 "feature" boulders were used to enhance the natural look of the river section – boulders the size of small cars (like a Mini-Cooper or Volkswagen Beetle). PCWA river water intake is designed for 100 cubic feet per second (about 64.5 million gallons per day).

When the project is completed at the end of 2007, and river open to the public, sometime in the summer of 2008, the river will allow passage of boats in river flows between 825 to 4,000 cfs according to the river architect on the project. In the process of realignment, the PCWA has evaluated the stretch of river for safety concerns for all types of recreation including swimmers, boats, and river rafters, however the stretch of river is currently closed to the public until the planned opening sometime next summer.

Folsom Lake Level Continues to Drop

In the past few months the water level of Folsom Lake has dropped significantly. Back in May, when the Delta pumps were turned off due to the smelt killing, areas south of the Delta received water from the San Luis Reservoir. Water from the Folsom Lake is now being used to refill the San Luis Reservoir. In the month of July, water releases at the Folsom Dam reached as high as 4,000 cfs.

As Folsom Lake levels drop, concern is growing over the temperature of the water and the survival of the fish in the lake. The salmon and the Steelhead can survive in a maximum water temperature of 62 degrees. With less water in the lake, the temperature is rising and will hinder the spawning of these fish.

Article summarized from "Folsom Dam Pours it on" by Matt Weiser.

RCRC Area of Origin Resolution

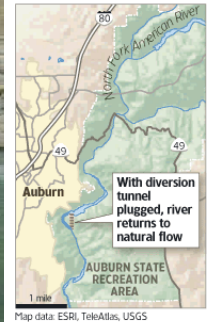
The Regional Council of Rural Counties recently adopted a resolution to support a comprehensive water package including new surface and new groundwater storage, expanded water use efficiency, and improving the overall health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem if such a package includes acceptable assurances that area of origin, county of origin, and watershed of origin protections will be adhered to, and that current and future water needs of areas of origin are assured. The RCRC urges the legislature and administration to work together to pass a comprehensive water package to present to the voters in 2008. For more information from RCRC see their website at: www.rcrcnet.org

www.mountaincountieswater.com



Photos courtesy of PCWA.

Free flowing
After being routed through a tunnel for decades, the American River was restored to its former channel this week, as part of efforts to clean up the site of a never-built Auburn dam.



Map data: ESRI, TeleAtlas, USGS
Sacramento Bee



Yosemite Sierra Snow & Climate Change Tour—Organized by ACWA Region 3

What: Two-day bus tour of Yosemite Valley

When: October 18-19, 2007

Stops: Gin Flat, Olmstead Point, Tuolumne Meadows, Tenaya Lake, Mammoth Lakes, Devil's Postpile

For information on costs, registration, and questions, please call ACWA Field Representative, Tiffany Giammona at (916) 441-4545. *Photos from www.yosemitihikes.com*



August 10th—Continuation from pg. 1

The timeline for the Update process includes a draft document of Assumptions & Estimates used to characterize each of the 13 regions in the State, including the Mountain Counties Area. Interested parties are encouraged to participate by providing input to Paul Dabbs, of the State-wide Water Planning Branch of the DWP – by e-mail at pdabbs@water.ca.gov, fax (916) 651-9289, or email at P.O. Box 942836, Sacramento, CA 94236-0001. Many documents of the California Water Plan Update 2009 are available at the DWR's website at www.waterplan.water.ca.gov. Transcripts and summaries of the first eight Regional workshops are posted at: <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/regional/workshops/index.cfm>. You can also contact Pierre Stephens for more information at jrsteph@water.ca.gov, or (916) 651-0700.

Delta—Continuation from pg. 1

Until a manageable solution is implemented, concern for the Delta and future water supply will continue to burden California.

Article summarized from "Less Delta water means dry times" by Matt Weiser.

Special Legislative Session

On September 18th, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced his reformed water infrastructure proposal. The cost of his updated proposal increased to \$9 billion.

The Governor's plan breaks down into the following:

- * \$600 million for Delta Environment Relief
- * \$5.6 billion for above & below ground level water storage
- * \$1.9 billion Delta restoration & water supply reliability
- * \$1 billion conservation & regional water projects
- * \$500 million for specified watershed projects throughout California

There is concern about the situation California is in after only one dry winter and even greater concern about the state in which California will be in if the dry period continues.

Copies of the MCWRA Financial Reports and by-laws are available to members by request. Send your request to info@mountaincounties.org.

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 fees are as follows:

- Executive—\$1000 fee—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 fee—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 fee—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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