



# THE SOURCE

of California's Mountain Counties Water  
NEWS



Volume 2, Issue 4 • Fourth Quarter 2007

## MEETINGS

**NEXT:**  
February 12, 2008 Day  
at the Capitol

### FUTURE:

Locations TBD  
April 12, 2008  
June 13, 2008  
August 8, 2008  
October 10, 2008  
December 12, 2008

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## Contact Information

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## October 5th Meeting in Georgetown

In Georgetown, the Buckeye Restaurant's largest room was filled to capacity to welcome Mr. Tim Quinn, ACWA's new executive director as our guest speaker at October's General Meeting. Mr. Quinn served with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for 22 years as the district's primary representative for statewide issues. Mr. Quinn expressed his eagerness to work with the fantastic staff Mr. Steve Hall constructed, and is eager to tackle the major water issues at hand. Mr. Quinn addressed his goals and objectives for the immediate future, and addressed questions from the attendees regarding potential actions due to climate change, groundwater overdraft in the San Joaquin Valley, the proposed state water bond packages, and the political climate. Mr. Quinn recognizes the challenges of today's water resources are daunting, but endeavors that ACWA play a central role in finding solutions to these challenges.



Tim Quinn, Bertha Underhill,  
Barbara Balen

## ACWA Region 3 Board of Directors '08-'09 Term—Vice Chair Vacancy

As the new year approaches, a new ACWA Region 3 Board of Directors is assembled with the exception the Vice Chair position. The following is a list of the 2008-2009 ACWA Region 3 Board of Directors:

**Chair**—Duane L. Frink, Foresthill Public Utility District

**Vice Chair**—Vacant

**Board of Representatives:**

**Alternate Chair**—Jim Abercrombie, Amador Water Agency

**Director**—Ron Nelson, Nevada Irrigation District

**Director**—Barbara J. Balen, Tuolumne Utilities District

**Director**—Gary Allen, Placer County Water Agency

The vacancy is present due to Ane Deister leaving El Dorado Irrigation District. We congratulate Ms. Deister in her acceptance to join Brown and Caldwell as an officer and vice president. Deister held the Chair position with Region 3; however, under the circumstances, Region 3 decided that Duane Frink, from the Foresthill Public Utility District, will move from Vice Chair to Chair, leaving the Vice Chair position vacant. To nominate yourself or someone for Vice Chair, contact Duane Frink at [djfrink@ftc.net](mailto:djfrink@ftc.net).

## MCWRA New 501(c)(3) Nonprofit: Research and Education

The Mountain Counties Water Resources Association recently filed Articles of Incorporation for creation of the Mountain Counties Water Resources Research and Education nonprofit organization. The specific purpose of the Research and Education nonprofit organization is to support and provide research and education regarding the protection and enhancement of water resources in the mountain counties of the State of California. This organization will be able to receive grants from organizations such as the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Stay tuned for upcoming developments with the new organization!

## Mountain Counties Water Resources Association Officers

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

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

Barbara Balen, **Treasurer**  
*Tuolumne Utilities District*

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

Jim Chatigny, **Executive Officer**  
*Retired*

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

In 2008, our MCWRA executive officer, Jim Chatigny, will retire from public service. For information on serving with the MCWRA, current, former elected officials, or employees of executive members are encouraged to contact Jim Chatigny at [info@mountaincountieswater.com](mailto:info@mountaincountieswater.com)



*Happy Holidays & Happy  
New Year from MCWRA*

**Current Events**

**El Dorado Irrigation District** — EID is seeking applications for the position of General Manager. Please visit [www.eid.org](http://www.eid.org) for more information on the position and an application. Final filing date is January 31, 2008.

**SFPUC's Water System Improvement Plan**

Written By: Pete Kampa, Tuolumne Utilities District

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) proposes to adopt and implement a Water System Improvement Plan (WSIP) to increase the reliability of the regional water system, which provides drinking water to 2.4 million people in San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, and Tuolumne County. The WSIP is a program to implement the service goals and system performance objectives established by the SFPUC for the regional water system in the areas of water quality, seismic reliability, delivery reliability, and water supply through the year 2030.

The San Francisco Planning Department has prepared a 3000 + page Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for consideration by decision-makers prior to a final decision regarding whether to approve and implement the WSIP. The PEIR has been circulated and the public comment period closed on October 15, 2007. The PEIR has identified as the preferred alternative to include an additional 25 MGD water diversion from the Tuolumne River to sustain goals in the WSIP.

Numerous water agencies including TUD, Turlock Irrigation District, Modesto Irrigation District, San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority, as well as environmental organizations, submitted comments to the SFPUC challenging the lack of analysis of potential impacts to the San Joaquin River system, limited analysis of water supply alternatives including desalination, water conservation and increased use of recycled water. The water agencies each commented that the proposed diversion is not allowed under the 1913 Raker Act, which allowed for the construction of the Hetch Hetchy System and required that SFPUC exhaust all local water supplies before increasing diversions from the Tuolumne. In addition, the PEIR supports diverting additional water from the Tuolumne River without first determining if MID and TID have the political willingness or water supply available to actually accommodate the additional 25 MGD diversions.

Diversions from the Tuolumne River have become a very convenient, lucrative venture for the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) to the benefit of its contracting cities and agencies in the Bay Area and to the detriment of the area of origin in Tuolumne County. TUD will aggressively oppose further diversions from the Tuolumne River by CCSF.

**California's Water...  
A Crisis We Can't Ignore**

Water is vital. But the reality is that drought and climate change have already left us with a glass that is half empty.

And our state's fragile water storage and delivery systems are barely holding their own.

Anything that upsets this precarious balance will carry serious consequences for the people of California... and for our economy and environment.

Learn more at [www.calwatercrisis.org](http://www.calwatercrisis.org)  
Because we can't take water for granted.

An awareness program from the Association of California Water Agencies

**Get Active with ACWA**

ACWA is encouraging members to get active through their Outreach Program. Members can receive and track all ACWA alerts, send immediate Web-based communication to legislators, exchange information, search for legislators using agency service boundaries, and more. For more information contact Tiffany Giammona or Charles Anderson at (916)441-4545.

**H2ouse—Water Conservation for Homeowners**

Visit [www.h2ouse.org](http://www.h2ouse.org) for water saving tips including:

- \* Water Budget Calculator ideas
- \* Maintenance tips \* Native plant/heritage landscapes
- \* Landscape design tips and

Organized by the California Urban Water Conservation Council.

**Natomas Levee Project Controversy**

Two months ago, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) presented the \$400 million project to strengthen the levees in Natomas. Due to underseepage, the levees have weakened and are unlikely to withstand a 100 year flood. The project involves raising the levees by three feet and widening by 300 feet, resulting in the need to purchase land and homes to accommodate these changes.

This project has raised much concern with the 70,000 people that live in the Natomas basin. One issue is the lowering effect the project will have on property values in the area. Critics of the project would like the levee situation further analyzed to allow for a more in-depth look at the impacts on the residents and the environment. Communities up and downstream of the Natomas area believe that the levee modifications will result in diverting water from the Natomas area to cause flooding elsewhere.

Proposition 1E will provide the funding for the project. Sacramento votes approved the property tax increase in April. SAFCA would like the project to begin in summer 2008, however, critics are ready to fight to keep that from happening. Article summarized from "Huge levee project up for vote" by Matt Weiser.

## Drought Program—Bureau of Reclamation

As part of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991, the Bureau of Reclamation’s (BOR) Drought Program is undertaking measures to provide emergency assistance and planning activities. Title I, emergency assistance, provides BOR with the authority for construction, management, and conservation measures to alleviate the impacts of drought. Title II, drought contingency planning, provides BOR with the authority to financially assist public, private and local entities in the form of a grant.

The BOR is currently accepting applications for the Water Conservation Field Services Program Grant. The financial assistance will be provided to support activities that promote the preparation of written water management/conservation plans, demonstrate new or previously unknown water management technologies and practices, implement water use practices, and principles. There is no restriction on eligible applicants. Central Contractor Registration applies to this request for application. Applications will be accepted between November 28, 2007 and February 5, 2008. The total program funding is estimated at \$1,000,000 and it is expected that 50 awards will be presented. For more information, please contact Maria E. Castaneda at [mcastaneda@mp.usbr.gov](mailto:mcastaneda@mp.usbr.gov) and/or visit [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

## H.R. 3452 Clean Renewable Water Supply Bond Act of 2007 (CREWS)

Congressman Xavier Becerra is introducing the H.R. 3452 Clean Renewable Water Supply Bond Act of 2007, a bill that would amend the 1986 Internal Revenue Code. This bill will allow holders of clean renewable water supply bonds a tax credit of 25% of the annual credit amount as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury. “Clean renewable water supply bond” is defined as any bond issued by a governmental body or an entity qualified to issue tax-exempt bonds that is used for capital expenditures for projects involving a qualified desalination facility, a recycled water facility, or a groundwater remediation facility. The US Congress has previously approved such bonds for clean renewable energy in 2005, so there is hope that this new promotion will be considered seriously. To find out more about the bonds, or for information on how your not-for-profit organization can join the coalition, please visit [www.newwatersupply.org](http://www.newwatersupply.org). Article can be found at [www.govtrack.us](http://www.govtrack.us).

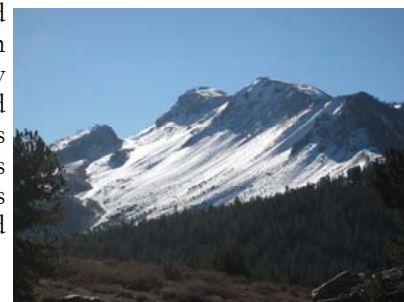
## 2008 Water Tours

The Water Education Foundation is offering six tours in 2008 of water facilities, rivers, and regions critical in the debate about the future of water resources. The six tours offered are: Lower Colorado River, Central Valley, Bay-Delta, Northern California, Russian River, and the San Joaquin River Restoration. For more information on tour details, cost, and dates please visit [www.water-ed.org/tours.asp](http://www.water-ed.org/tours.asp).

## Yosemite Sierra Snow & Climate Change Tour A Success!



The two-day bus tour of Yosemite Valley, organized by ACWA Region 3, was a success. On October 18-19, the group was taken to Gin Flat, Olmstead Point, Tuolumne Meadows, Tenaya Lake, Mammoth Lakes, and Devil’s Postpile to learn more of the Sierra Snow and climate changes and how the Yosemite Valley is being effected. All photos were taken by Charles Anderson, ACWA Field Representative.



**MORE COMMENTS ON TRIP FROM PARTICIPANT?**



## Water Need Continues to Grow

As winter approaches, California grows more anxious about the lack of rain and snow and the growing need for water. Reservoirs across Northern California are only partially filled. If this trend continues, the Department of Water Resources has announced that next year people should expect only 25% of their regular water allocation. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta water supply to San Joaquin Valley and Southern California will soon be decreased to save endangered fish.

Lakes	Capacity (million acre-feet)	Current Containment (million acre-feet)
Shasta	4.6	1.8
Oroville	3.5	1.3
Folsom	1	0.25

The politicians have acknowledge the problem, but are divided to the solution. Over the years, California’s populations has skyrocketed, but with a water shortage in site it is to be determined if California will continue to grow. To ensure a future for California, the issue of water availability will need to be resolved quickly. Article summarized from “Dan Walter: Dry winter underlines water need” by Dan Walter.

**Current Member Roster**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

Amador Water Agency  
 Calaveras County Water District  
 County of Calaveras  
 County of Placer  
 County of Plumas  
 El Dorado County Water Agency  
 El Dorado Irrigation District  
 Foresthill Public Utility District  
 Georgetown Divide Public Utility District  
 Nevada Irrigation District  
 Placer County Water Agency  
 Tuolumne Utility District

**GENERAL MEMBERS**

Automata  
 Boyle Engineering  
 Black & Veatch  
 Brown & Caldwell  
 County of Nevada  
 Calaveras Public Utility District  
 Condor Earth  
 Crocker Securities  
 Devine Tarbell & Associates  
 Domenichelli & Associates  
 East Bay Municipal Utility District  
 ECO Logic  
 E-Corp  
 EIP (PBS-J)  
 Entrix  
 ESA Water  
 Fieldman, Rolapp, & Associates  
 GEO Spatial  
 Gene Thorpe & Associates  
 Groveland Community Utility District  
 Hatch Mott MacDonald  
 HDR Engineering  
 Jackson Valley Irrigation District  
 Kimley-Horn  
 Kleinschmidt Huffman  
 Lake Don Pedro Community Svs District  
 Mead & Hunt  
 Nolte  
 Pacific Gas & Electric  
 Peterson, Brustad, Pivetti Inc.  
 PSOMAS  
 RBF Consulting  
 Renewable Technologies  
 RMC  
 Robertson-Bryan  
 Sanders & Associates Geotechnical Engineering  
 Stantec  
 Stockton East Water District  
 Stone & Youngberg  
 Turlock Irrigation District  
 Utica Power Authority  
 West Yost & Associates  
 Wood Rodgers  
 Vali Cooper

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

Aperio (David Wood)  
 RMC (Steve Brown)  
 Kimley-Horn (Chad Coleman)

**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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 ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE



*The Source newsletter has been assembled by Peterson, Brustad, Pivetti, Inc. as a voluntary service for the benefit of the MCWRA, its member agencies, and friends.*

To join the distribution list for The Source, the MCWRA Newsletter, please send your request with your e-mail address to [info@mountaincountieswater.com](mailto:info@mountaincountieswater.com). Copies of the MCWRA Financial Reports and by-laws are available to members by request. Send your request to [info@mountaincounties.org](mailto:info@mountaincounties.org).