# The National Water Rights Digest

**July 2007**
**Vol. XIII, No. 7 ISSN 1068-8994**
**A Ridenbaugh Press publication**
**water rights policy, adjudication, sales and transfers, nationwide**
**www.ridenbaugh.com/nwrd/**

California Delta pumping and smelt still an issue; new Congressional water caucus formed; and Idaho struggles with water calls.
This and much more….

# Legislation/Policy

## CO: Water Delivery for Southwest Colorado

Nearly 60 years ago, the Mancos Project irrigation canal was built, delivering water from Jackson Gulch Dam to residents, farms and businesses in Montezuma County. Since its construction, the Mancos Project has been maintained by the Mancos Water District and inspected by the Bureau of Reclamation, but has outlived its expected life and is now badly in need of rehabilitation. Last week, United States Senators Ken Salazar and Wayne Allard introduced legislation to authorize more than $6 million in federal funding to help pay for the rehabilitation.

In addition to providing supplemental agricultural water for about 8,650 irrigated acres and a domestic water supply for the Mesa Verde National Park, the Mancos Project also delivers water to the more than 500 members of the Mancos Rural Water Company, the Town of Mancos and at least 237 agricultural businesses.

If the Mancos Project's canals experienced a catastrophic failure, it could result in Mesa Verde National Park being without water during the peak of their visitation and fire season, the Town of Mancos suffering a severe municipal water shortage and the possible loss of up to $1.48 million dollars of crop production and sales annually.

The Salazar-Allard bill would authorize $6.4 million to pay an 80 percent federal cost-share for rehabilitation of the Mancos Project. It has been referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where Senator Salazar is a member, for review.

Cody Wertz (Salazar) – 303-350-0032 Steve Wymer (Allard) – 202-224-6207 **May 30**

## CO: Colorado-Big Thompson Project

On June 11, 2007, the Bureau of Reclamation announced that it would not transfer water scheduling and operations and maintenance (O&M) responsibilities for the power components of the Colorado-Big Thompson (C-BT) Project to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District

(Northern Water), a proposal that Reclamation and Northern Water had been negotiating.

In a letter to Northern Water, Fred R. Ore, Area Manager of Reclamation's Eastern Colorado Area Office, noted that Reclamation's decision reflects, in part, the fact the C-BT serves both West Slope and East Slope beneficiaries with water and is governed by Congressional legislation and the subsequent Blue River water decrees. He said this gives the project a "uniqueness" that defines legal requirements for the contemplated transfer.

"From the inception of these discussions, both Reclamation and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District have been clear that multiple beneficiaries, competition over a limited resource, and the unique nature of the project legislation, cause the C-BT to present different challenges than in other O&M transfers," Ore wrote.

The decision is an important development for West Slope water users. The Colorado River District and other West Slope water interests had voiced two concerns on the contemplated transfer: (1) that Green Mountain Reservoir O&M, and (2) that overall water supply scheduling, must remain with Reclamation as the impartial third-party operator, as guaranteed in the authorizing federal legislation. Reclamation decided early on in the process that the O&M transfer would not include Green Mountain Reservoir.

In addition to these issues, there were three other unresolved policy matters that did not impact the West Slope.

Authorized by Congress in 1937, the C-BT is owned by the United States. It provides water from the Colorado River headwaters in Grand County on the West Slope as a supplemental water supply to Northeastern Colorado. The project includes Green Mountain Reservoir in Summit County, which is principally project mitigation for the benefit of West Slope water users.

The Colorado River District believes that Reclamation's decision reflects the proper recognition of the unique features of the C-BT and looks forward to working with Reclamation and Northern Water to maximize the project's efficiencies and benefits to both its East and West Slope beneficiaries.

For an in-depth look at the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, visit http://www.usbr.gov/dataweb/html/cbt.html Information about Northern Water can be found at http://www.ncwcd.org/

Jim Pokrandt - Communications and Education, Colorado River District (970) 945-8522 x 236 Cell: (970) 319-1807 jpokrandt@crwcd.org June 13

## CA: Water Supply Legislation Passes House

On June 5, H.R. 1139, the Riverside-Corona Feeder Water Supply Act, passed the U.S. House of Representatives under suspension of the rules. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Ken Calvert (R-Corona).

H.R. 1139 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the Western Municipal Water District, Riverside County, California, to participate in the planning, design, and construction of the Riverside-Corona Feeder water supply project, which includes 20 groundwater wells, groundwater treatment facilities, water storage and pumping facilities, and 28 miles of pipeline in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

"At a time when water demand continues to grow due to the West's increasing population, traditional water sources have been confronted by a prolonged drought and other environmental challenges," said Rep. Calvert "It is imperative that Southern California continue to reduce its dependence on imported water from the Delta and Colorado River through innovations such as the Riverside-Corona Feeder."

Mr. Speaker: The Riverside-Corona Feeder Water Supply Act represents an important investment in the water infrastructure in western Riverside County, California – one of the fastest growing regions in the country. At a time when water demand continues to grow due to the West's increasing population, traditional water sources have been confronted by a prolonged drought and other environmental challenges. In fact, just last week California water officials turned off the huge pumps that send water to Southern California from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to protect a tiny imperiled fish. While the shutdown is only scheduled to last a week or two, it is a stark reminder that Southern California must continue to reduce its dependence on imported water from the Delta and Colorado River.

The Western Municipal Water District provides water service to western Riverside County and serves a population of more than six hundred thousand people. The purpose of the Riverside-Corona Feeder water supply project is to capture and store water in wet years in order to increase Western's firm water supplies, provide a cost-effective water supply, and improve water quality.

New wet year water will come from local runoff, including regulated releases from Seven Oaks Dam and the State Water Project, and stored in San Bernardino Valley

groundwater basins. To deliver the stored water to consumers in Western's service area, the project will provide for new groundwater pumping and pipeline capacity. As an additional benefit, the Riverside-Corona Feeder will provide the means to control water tables, thereby reducing liquefaction dangers in the Colton and San Bernardino communities. Additionally, the project improves local water quality as perchlorate and other contaminants would be removed from the basin when water is extracted from the well heads via the Riverside-Corona Feeder.

I applaud Western and our local elected officials in Western Riverside County for taking bold, proactive steps in meeting our region's current and future water demand. In particular, I'd like to acknowledge the leadership of Western's General Manager John Rossi as well as Western Board Members Charles Field, Tom Evans, Brenda Dennstedt, Don Galleano, and Al Lopez. I also want to thank my good friend Grace Napolitano, the Chairwoman of the Water and Power Subcommittee, for her leadership and support of my legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is crucial that we recognize and assist communities that are working to reduce their reliance on imported water and I urge all of colleagues to support the Riverside-Corona Feeder Water Supply Act.

US Representative Ken Calvert http://calvert.house.gov/pressreleases.asp?ARTICLE4024=13388

## NV: Preferred Alternative for Colorado River Interim Guidelines

After considering comments received on four potential alternatives for interim guidelines the Secretary of the Interior could use to determine reduced deliveries for U.S. water users in the lower Colorado River Division states and coordinated operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, the Bureau of Reclamation has identified the preferred alternative it plans to analyze in its preparation of a Final Environmental Impact Statement and other environmental studies.

The preferred alternative incorporates the key elements of the plan submitted to the Secretary by the seven Colorado River Basin states. In addition, it creates flexibility for the potential storage of additional conserved Colorado River or non-Colorado River water in Lake Mead in the future. This

alternative responds to a broad range of public input during the NEPA process, and addresses the interests and comments of water users and other stakeholders in all seven Colorado River Basin states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. The need for additional operational guidelines is clear in light of the ongoing historic drought in the Colorado River Basin. Reclamation has utilized an intensive collaborative effort with a broad range of stakeholders during this NEPA process.

The key elements of the preferred alternative - which would guide operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead - through 2026 follow:

* Shortages - that is reduced deliveries to U.S. water users in the Lower Basin - would be tied to Lake Mead's elevation. If Lake Mead's elevation drops, reductions in water deliveries to Lower Basin users would increase, thereby conserving water in the reservoir.

* The preferred alternative would adopt detailed guidelines to improve coordinated operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead through the full range of reservoir levels.

* Credits for Colorado River or non-Colorado River water that has been conserved by users in the Lower Basin (known as "intentionally created surplus") would be made available for release from Lake Mead at a later time. The total amount of credits would be 2.1 million acre-feet (maf), but this amount could be increased up to 4.2 maf in future years.

* Interim Surplus Guidelines - adopted by the Department in 2001- would be modified and extended to 2026. The revised Interim Surplus Guidelines would address the operation of Lake Mead at relatively full elevations, and would determine when "surplus" water supplies would be available to Lower Basin water users. The description of the preferred alternative is available on Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region web site, at http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/strategies/documents.html

A thorough analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the preferred alternative will be presented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, which is currently scheduled for public release by the end of September, 2007.

Given the ongoing historic drought, the Department has repeatedly stressed the need for additional operational guidelines for the management and operation of the Colorado River. The Department anticipates a final decision by the Secretary of the Interior by the end of this year.

## New Congressional Water Caucus

On June 15, Congressman George Radanovich (R-Mariposa) along with Rep. John Linder (R-GA), Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA), Rep. Jim Costa (D-Fresno), and Rep. Bart Stupak (D-MI) announced the formation of the first ever Congressional Water Caucus. The four Members will serve as co-chairs of the Caucus with the goal of promoting legislative issues involving water as well as educating their colleagues on the importance of water.

The Congressional Water Caucus will serve as a forum for dialogue concerning our nation's water issues and reaching viable solutions to those issues. The caucus will focus on promoting legislative issues involving water as well as educating Members on our nation's water use and resources.

US Representative George Radanovich
http://www.house.gov/list/press/ca19_radanovich/water_caucus.html

## NM: Bill to Pay Federal Portion of N.M. Indian Water Rights Settlements

U.S. Senator Pete Domenici on June 18, unveiled a 10-year funding plan that would raise an estimated $1.37 billion to pay the federal portion of pending Indian water rights settlements in New Mexico—pacts that have taken decades to negotiate.

The Reclamation Water Settlements Fund Act of 2007 would provide a funding source to fulfill New Mexico Indian water rights settlements, including the pending Navajo, Aamodt and Abeyta pacts.

"The major piece missing for the final resolution of the Aamodt, Abeyta, and Navajo Indian water rights settlements is finding the large sums of money they require for implementation, including extensive water infrastructure. The fund my bill creates would make money available to build the infrastructure required by these settlements," Domenici said. "With my bill, the money will be there when Congress ultimately passes each of these settlements."

The Domenici plan would deposit 30 percent of the Reclamation Fund revenues generated in New Mexico over the next 10 years into a "Reclamation Water Settlements Fund." Based on past revenues generated in New Mexico, the 30 percent allocation would generate approximately $1.37 billion over 10 years.

The amounts deposited in this New Mexico fund could be used to pay for the Aamodt, Abeyta, and Navajo Indian water rights settlements after the parties resolve outstanding issues and the settlements are signed into law. This fund would be used for planning, designing, or construction activities of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation associated with the New Mexico Indian water rights settlements.

Domenici pointed out that the 30 percent diversion from the national Reclamation Fund will not diminished the viability of that account, which receives funding from a variety of sources. Federal oil and gas royalty payments make up about 40 percent of the fund annually. It is used to fund water infrastructure-related projects.

In April, Domenici cosponsored legislation introduced by Senator Jeff Bingaman to authorize the settlement reached to resolve the Navajo Nation's water rights claims in the San Juan River Basin. Efforts are also underway to finalize the Abeyta and Aamodt settlements, which would also require congressional authorization.

US Senator Pete Domenici http://domenici.senate.gov/news/record.cfm?id=277188

## FL: Governor Crist Signs Historic Everglades Legislation

Governor Charlie Crist today marked another milestone in Florida's environmental history, signing a "green" law that expands the restoration of the famed River of Grass to Lake Okeechobee and the farthest northern reaches of the Everglades ecosystem. The bill provides the plan, schedule and a dedicated infusion of funding for improving and protecting the health of the northern Everglades, including Florida's largest freshwater lake and its surrounding coastal estuaries.

The bill signing ceremony occurred at Stuart City Hall, located on the St. Lucie River, with Senate President Ken Pruitt and bill sponsor Senator Burt Saunders (R-Naples). Senate Bill 392 was sponsored in the House of

Representatives by Representatives Stan Mayfield (R-Vero Beach) and Trudi Williams (R-Fort Myers) and was strongly supported by Senate President Ken Pruitt (R-Port St. Lucie) as well as the environmental community.

"This legislation is another milestone in Florida's unprecedented efforts to protect America's Everglades, and I applaud House Speaker Marco Rubio and Senate President Ken Pruitt for their leadership on this historic legislation," said Governor Crist. "Florida's economy and quality of life are connected to the health and long-term protection of Lake Okeechobee, the coastal estuaries and the northern Everglades. It is imperative that we protect this unique ecosystem for residents and visitors alike to enjoy today and for generations to come."

Passed unanimously by the Florida Legislature on May 2, the law expands the Lake Okeechobee Protection Act to safeguard and restore the entire northern Everglades system, including the Lake Okeechobee watershed as well as the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and estuaries. Over the next two years, the law calls for the development of far-reaching plans to protect and improve the quality, quantity, timing and distribution of water north of Lake Okeechobee. These plans will augment and enhance restoration currently underway in the remnant Everglades south of the lake.

"This legislation signifies Florida's continued extraordinary commitment to protecting and restoring America's Everglades and Florida's quality of life," said Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Michael W. Sole. "Developing a comprehensive plan and schedule for increasing water storage, enhancing treatment and improving best farming practices north of Lake Okeechobee will ultimately serve to enhance and improve the entire South Florida ecosystem."

As part of the plan to improve the health of the northern Everglades, Florida will set aside land, construct treatment wetlands and identify the water storage areas needed to improve the quality, timing and distribution of water into the natural system.

Additionally, the protection plans for Lake Okeechobee and the coastal estuaries will require improved best farming practices, the use of the best available "green" technologies to clean up pollutants, more stringent regulations for the application of wastewater residuals in the watershed and an accelerated timeline for implementing a Total Maximum Daily Load for the Caloosahatchee. The law requires the South Florida Water Management District to develop the protection plans in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and affected local governments --

including Lee, Hendry, Charlotte, Glades, Okeechobee, Martin and St. Lucie counties.

"The South Florida Water Management District is grateful for the leadership and vision of Governor Crist, President Pruitt, Senator Saunders, Speaker Rubio, Representative Mayfield, Representative Williams, and the Florida Legislature in recognizing the importance of the northern Everglades to the health of South Florida's environment and economy," said Carol Ann Wehle, Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District. "This law recognizes the interconnectivity of the entire Everglades ecosystem, from the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes south to the Florida Bay. Decades from now, our grandchildren will be grateful for this historic step."

Underscoring Florida's commitment to Everglades restoration, the law extends the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund for 10 years through 2020 and expands its purpose. Florida's 2007-08 budget, passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Crist, includes $200 million for the restoration and protection of the River of Grass, allocating $100 million for Everglades restoration, $54 million for the restoration of Lake Okeechobee, as well as $40 million to protect the health of the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries.

June 28 Erin Isaac (850) 488-5394 Nancy Blum (850) 245-2112 or (850) 519-4652

# Litigation

## TX: LCRA and Austin Settle Legal Dispute

LCRA and Austin have overcome a long-standing dispute over water returned to Colorado River from the City of Austin's wastewater treatment facilities.

The Austin City Council approved a settlement agreement at its meeting on Thursday, June 7. The LCRA Board of Directors previously approved the settlement.

In settling this dispute, LCRA and the City of Austin also have agreed to partner to address long-term water supply needs. Key elements of the settlement agreement include: Austin is joining LCRA in the responsibility to provide water for environmental flow needs in the lower Colorado River and Matagorda Bay; Austin and LCRA agree to share return

flows and pursue the appropriate authorization to address ownership and management of return flows; Austin is limited in its ability to sell or use return flows outside of the Colorado River basin; Environmental flow criteria, based on newest studies, must be met before Austin uses return flows for its own needs; Until Austin implements an indirect reuse project, LCRA can use return flows for any purpose; Austin will receive a credit against the amount owed to LCRA for water use; Austin and LCRA, as the two largest water right holders in the lower Colorado River basin, will optimize their water rights to best meet the needs of Austin, LCRA's customers and the environment under a Water Resource Management Partnership; LCRA and Austin have agreed to work together to plan for a supplemental water supply to meet Austin's demands for water past 2050 and environmental needs; The supplemental water supply agreement will require approval by the LCRA Board and Austin City Council before it takes effect. If LCRA and Austin cannot agree on the supplemental water supply agreement by Aug. 31, 2007, the settlement agreement is null and void.

*Lower Colorado River Authority* June 7 http://www.lcra.org/newsstory/austinsettlement.html

## NV: Fish Springs Ranch LLC Announces Settlement with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

Fish Springs Ranch LLC, a subsidiary of Vidler Water Company and PICO Holdings, Inc. (Nasdaq: PICO) announced on June 5, that it has entered into an agreement with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe that permanently resolves the Tribe's objections to Fish Spring's water importation project of up to 8,000 acre-feet of groundwater per year from the Fish Springs Ranch to the northern Reno area. In addition, the agreement deals with any potential negative impact to the Tribe if and when additional groundwater in excess of 8,000 acre-feet per year up to 13,000 acre-feet per year is exported from Fish Springs Ranch to the northern Reno area.

The economic obligations of Fish Springs Ranch to the Tribe in settlement and mitigation of potential impacts of the water importation project of up to 8,000 acre-feet per year are:

(1) upon signing of the agreement: a payment of $500,000 and the deeding of approximately 6,214 acres of real estate

in Nevada with a market value of approximately $500,000; (2) a payment of $3,100,000 on January 8, 2008; (3) a payment of $3,600,000 on the later of January 8, 2009 or the date an Act of Congress ratifies the agreement and direction to the Secretary of the Interior to sign the agreement as required under the Act of Congress.

In addition, in exchange for the Tribe's agreement not to oppose all permitting activities with respect to pumping and importation of groundwater in excess of 8,000 acre-feet per year up to 13,000 acre-feet per year, Fish Springs Ranch agrees that it shall pay the Tribe 12% of the gross sales price for each acre-foot of any additional water that Fish Springs Ranch ultimately sells in excess of 8,000 acre-feet per year.

John Hart, Vidler Water Company's and PICO Holding's Chief Executive Officer, commented:

"This agreement removes the final hurdle from our water importation project as well as prohibits any further protests by the Tribe with respect to any future pumping and importation of Fish Springs groundwater in excess of 8,000 acre-feet per year. We have not suffered any delay to date on this project due to the Tribe's actions and we are still aiming to complete construction of the pipeline by the end of the year. We are still on schedule to deliver water to the northern valleys of Reno, which currently have no available water supply, in late 2007 or early 2008.

Mark Ahrens, (503) 231-6123 **June 5** *Source: PRNewswire*

## NM: Landmark Water Supply Agreement

Governor Bill Richardson on June 14, announced the successful conclusion of a landmark agreement on water supply, which places the Aamodt and Taos Indian Water Rights settlements on a path towards introduction in Congress.

After intense negotiations an agreement was reached on how to fit the terms within the available water. The pueblos in the two settlements made clear in agreeing on the water budgets that their ultimate approval of the settlements would hinge upon sufficient funding.

Taos Pueblo Governor Gilbert Suazo Sr. stated that arriving at a resolution on the water supply issue was difficult for the Pueblo because of the limited water supply defined for the Taos Pueblo and Aamodt settlements. For Taos Pueblo this meant a reduction of the San Juan Chama

Project water supply for its settlement that had to be shared with the Aamodt settlement.

The identified supply is sufficient to cover about 90 percent of the combined water budget of the two settlements. The Aamodt settlement, involving the pueblos of Nambe, Pojoaque, Tesuque and San Ildefonso, plus the city and county of Santa Fe, has been in litigation for more than 41 years. Mediation talks that spanned some six years resulted in agreement among the pueblos, the state and many of the non-Indian water user groups in the Nambe-Pojoaque Valley.

The Abeyta settlement, in the Taos Valley, has been in litigation and negotiation for almost two decades. Taos Pueblo, the Town of Taos, El Prado Mutual Domestic Water Users Association, Taos Valley Acequias and others, reached agreement on a settlement in that case last year.

Governor Richardson has made the long-term protection and security of New Mexico's water a top priority since the beginning of his administration. On his instruction, the governor's staff and the legal staff in the state water agencies worked tirelessly to make implementation of the two Rio Grande Indian water rights settlements a reality.

Allan Oliver 505.476.2214 *Governor Bill Richardson*

# Supply

## CA: Delta Crisis Could Hit Water Availability

The shutting down on May 31 of water pumps more than 400 miles away could have serious consequences for the Coachella Valley.

There will be no immediate impact on the Coachella Valley stemming from the decision today by the state Department of Water Resources (DWR) to shut down State Water Project (SWP) export pumps to protect an endangered species fish.

Unless effective solutions to this and a myriad of other problems associated with the troubled San Francisco-Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta (Delta) are found, however, the long-term ramifications could be significant, including delays to and an eventual halt to new housing

construction and other development throughout the Coachella Valley.

The State Water Project delivers water to more than 24 million residents throughout California and irrigates approximately 750,000 acres of farmland, primarily in the Central Valley.

Although Coachella Valley does not use SWP water directly for domestic, agricultural, recreational or other commercial purposes, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) and Desert Water Agency (DWA) rely heavily upon it to offset the use of groundwater in the region. SWP water is used to recharge the aquifer at two facilities.

The aquifer is in a state of overdraft, however, with more water being pumped out than returned annually through natural and artificial means. To reverse this condition the two water agencies have been working diligently to increase their legal entitlements to SWP water.

When combined, the entitlements of CVWD (121,100 acre-feet) and DWA (50,000 acre-feet) are greater than all but two other districts among 29 state water contractors. Two more agreements, still being finalized, go into effect in 2010, adding 17,250 acre-feet to CVWD's entitlement; 5,750 acre-feet to DWA.

"Much of the recent development in the Coachella Valley has been deemed permissible despite aquifer overdraft because we have a comprehensive blueprint—the Coachella Valley Water Management Plan— in place to ensure that, though a variety of means, this growth does not prevent us from meeting current and future demand for water," said CVWD General Manager-Chief Engineer Steve Robbins. "An absolutely crucial component of this plan is the use of imported water from the Colorado River, an amount pretty much etched in stone, and the State Water Project."

The plan's implementation of domestic, golf course and agricultural conservation measures, use of alternative sources of water (canal water, recycled water) to groundwater and increased importation of water will enable the valley to eliminate aquifer overdraft and meet increased demand—but not without the State Water Project.

"Without State Water Project water over an as-yet-to-be-determined period of time, aquifer overdraft of unacceptable levels would be unavoidable and this water district would have little choice but to take whatever steps necessary to halt new consumption of groundwater," said Robbins.

In a news release, DWR announced it would "stop pumping at State Water Project (SWP) facilities in the Delta to provide maximum protection for Delta smelt. This action follows the observed entrainment of juvenile smelt between May 25 and May 31 at the Harvey O. Banks pumping plant facility."

The status of the pumping plant has been uncertain for several months following an Alameda County's judge's ruling that facilities had to be shut down because DWR did not possess the permits necessary for the taking of the endangered fish. DWR contended that the body of paperwork filed with both federal and state environmental agencies met fulfilled those requirements. The judge disagreed and gave DWR 60 days to comply. His decision is on appeal.

The decision came following the rare discovery of a school of the Delta smelt in the immediate vicinity of the pumping plant.

"'Drastic times call for drastic measures,' said DWR Director Lester Snow. 'While there are clearly many factors at play in the current decline of smelt in the Delta, we must act on the one that is within our control. That is why DWR will stop pumping in the Delta as a preventative measure to protect endangered fish that are currently located near our facilities.'"

In a news release from the State Water Contractors, that association's Assistant General Manager, Laura King Moon, announced "Today's move was a prudent and preventative action to protect fish that were physically located near state pumping plants. However, not enough has been done to solve the Delta smelt puzzle – there is no conclusive scientific evidence that the pumps are responsible for the fish decline and, therefore, this action alone will not bring back the species. We demand that the other responsible state agencies move quickly to consider those other stressors and immediately implement protective measures.

"California's major water artery has been temporarily shut down, which will cause significant statewide impacts for people, farms and businesses."

"The Delta is in crisis and has been in crisis for some time," said Robbins. "Perhaps this is a much-need wakeup call, and officials in Sacramento will forget about party politics and develop a genuinely bipartisan approach to finding the answers we need—and need now—to some very, very difficult questions."

Because there are no aqueducts or pipelines to delivery SWP water to Coachella Valley, CVWD and DWA exchange their entitlements for a like amount of Colorado River water from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. If no SWP water is being delivered to Southern California, however, it is extremely unlikely MWD would continue to divert Colorado River water into the Coachella Valley.

Dennis Mahr, dmahr@cvwd.org , Ext. 2352 Jack Porrelli, jporrelli@cvwd.org , Ext. 2355 Heather Engel, hengel@cvwd.org , Ext. 2353 *Coachella Valley Water District*

# CA: DWR to Resume Limited Pumping While Protecting Delta Smelt

The Department of Water Resources will resume limited pumping at its Harvey O. Banks Delta pump Sunday, June 10 to meet critical water supply needs. The Department will gradually resume operations at the State Water Project (SWP) pump to meet vital needs for health and safety purposes as well as for homes, businesses and farms, while still protecting the Delta smelt.

DWR shut down the Banks pump on May 31 to help protect threatened Delta smelt, fish that have long been thought to be indicators of the Delta ecosystem's overall health.

"We will be pumping at bare minimum levels and tweaking our delivery system to meet the essential needs of communities in the South Bay and elsewhere," said DWR Director Lester Snow. "We took the unprecedented action of shutting down the pump to protect Delta smelt on May 31, and we will continue to do everything we possibly can to protect the fish. At the same time, we urge aggressive action by all responsible parties and agencies to address the non-State Water Project issues of toxics, invasive species, and other Delta diversions that stress the Delta smelt."

As the Delta smelt continue their seasonal migration downstream, the Department on Sunday will begin slowly drawing water to its pumps from water already in Clifton Court Forebay. During this two-day operation, no water will be diverted from the Delta into the forebay, although some Delta smelt already in the forebay may be salvaged at the Skinner Fish Protective Facility.

Throughout the pumping restart, DWR and the Department of Fish and Game will closely monitor Delta smelt in the area. The agencies will continue day-to-day evaluation of impact on this species to determine if pumping should continue.

During the first two days of resumed pumping, water will be moved from Clifton Court Forebay to Bethany Reservoir, a small reservoir that supplies the South Bay Pumping Plant. After approximately two days of moving existing water from Clifton Court Forebay, additional Delta water will be allowed to flow in to refill the forebay.

It is expected that initial pumping will average about 100 cubic feet per second (cfs), about 90 percent less than is normally pumped this time of year.

Communities most affected by the pumping shutdown are those along the SWP's South Bay Aqueduct in Alameda and Santa Clara counties. Water distribution agencies receiving SWP water in the area are the Alameda County Water District, Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Zone 7), and the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Sue Sims, Public Affairs Office, (916) 651-7242, (916) 769-4237 Ted Thomas, Information Officer, (916) 653-9712 *California Department of Water Resources* **June 8**

## CA: Reclamation to Resume Limited Exports at the C.W. "Bill" Jones Pumping Plant

The Bureau of Reclamation will resume operating two additional pumps on Wednesday morning, June 13, 2007, at the C.W. "Bill" Jones Pumping Plant to begin meeting higher water demands due to increasing temperatures and to continue meeting the health and safety needs of Central Valley Project urban customers.

Pumping at the Jones Pumping Plant, located near Byron, California, has been at a reduced level for the past 7 weeks, with only one of the six pumps in operation, delivering 850 cubic feet per second (cfs). Resuming pumping at the two additional pumps will increase exports to 2,700 cfs, which is still only 60 percent of the export maximum of 4,600 cfs.

Pumping has remained low in an effort to protect the federally threatened Delta smelt. Reclamation's pumps have not entrained any smelt for the last 2 weeks, since May 30, 2007. Reclamation will continue to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as this limited pumping resumes. Reclamation will continue to closely monitor for the presence of Delta smelt during this period.

Supplies to both urban and farming customers south of the Delta have already been reduced due to dry-year conditions. Cities are receiving only 75 percent of their historical demand while farmers have been allocated only 50 percent.

San Luis Reservoir has been drawn down during the past several weeks; however, those draw downs have been limited to less than 2 feet per day in order to avoid damaging the dam.

Jeffrey McCracken 916-978-5100 US Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region **June 12**

# CA: Signal Deepening Crisis in Delta

Recent developments make it clear that a deepening crisis is unfolding in the Delta, a key source of water for 25 million Californians and more than 7 million acres of irrigated farmland. The crisis already is affecting operation of the state's largest water projects and could translate into reduced supplies for some water users this year, which is also one of the driest years in nearly two decades.

Last week, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) voluntarily shut down its pumping facilities in the Delta to protect a native fish species, the Delta smelt. The two-inch fish, listed as threatened since 1993, has declined to record low numbers and appears to be at risk of extinction. DWR idled the pumps May 31 as a preventative move to avoid harming smelt while they are in the vicinity of the State Water Project (SWP) pumps in the South Delta. The shutdown is expected to last seven to 10 days, but could be extended if the fish remain in the vicinity of the pumps.

The SWP pumps deliver water to parts of the Bay Area, Central Valley and Southern California. SWP contractors such as Zone 7 Water Agency, Alameda County Water District and Santa Clara Valley Water District are asking the 3 million customers they serve to voluntarily cut back on water use. More serious water use restrictions could be required if pumping is curtailed for an extended period. DWR said it would take action as necessary to protect public health in the event of a prolonged shutdown.

Deliveries to Southern California and agricultural users in the San Joaquin Valley who are able to receive supplies from San Luis Reservoir will not be affected in the immediate term. They could see impacts on their supplies if the shutdown lasts for an extended time and DWR is unable to make up for lost Delta pumping later.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has shut down all but one of the pumps it operates in the Delta as part of the Central Valley Project (CVP).

**Pumps Decision Further Complicates Water Picture This Year**

The shutdown will further compound challenges already facing water agencies this year due to dry conditions in the state's key watersheds. Many water agencies, particularly in the Bay Area and Southern California, are asking customers to voluntarily reduce water use to avoid shortages if next

year provides to be another dry year. For some areas of Southern California, it is the driest year on record.

Most scientists agree that the smelt decline in recent years has been caused by a combination of factors, including toxics, power plant operations and non-native species that alter the food web. However, pumping by the SWP and CVP is seen as the only "knob" officials can turn in the immediate term.

**Court Rulings Add More Uncertainty**

On May 25, a U.S. District judge in Fresno ruled that a biological opinion under which the SWP and CVP export water from the Delta is inadequate and does not comply with the federal Endangered Species Act.

The much-anticipated ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Oliver Wanger did not order an immediate shutdown of the projects' Delta operations, but it did require an "appropriate interim remedy" to be implemented soon. The remedy is expected to significantly affect operations of the two projects. The judge has directed DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to submit a proposal for an interim remedy by July 2, and set a hearing on the remedy phase for August 21.

Wanger ruled in a lawsuit by the Natural Resources Defense Council and other groups that challenged permits under which the SWP and CVP export water from the Delta. The judge found that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service failed to use the best available scientific information, relied on uncertain and unproven mitigation measures and failed to adequately consider impacts on the smelt's critical habitat when it issued a biological opinion on the long-term operation of the CVP and the SWP in 2004.

The smelt crisis and the Wanger decision are putting tremendous pressure on state water officials to do something. Even before the latest smelt survey, federal agencies had agreed to a reconsultation under the ESA. The Department of Water Resources and the Department of Fish and Game submitted an action plan to Governor Schwarzenegger and the Legislature laying out short- and long-term actions to protect smelt, and continue to work on the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan to provide long-term protection for Delta species.

In the immediate term, DWR has said it will keep Delta pumps idle for seven to 10 days and pursue other actions such as removal of some barriers in the Delta.

Once again, these developments underscore the immediate need to advance a comprehensive water infrastructure package this year that addresses the Delta as called for in ACWA's water policy, "No Time to Waste" and in the Governor's Strategic Growth Plan.

**Background on Alameda County Superior Court Ruling**

Delta pumping was the subject of a ruling in April in a separate case in Alameda County Superior Court.

In that case, brought by the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance and other groups, Superior Court

Judge Frank Roesch ruled that the SWP is operating without the appropriate permits under the California

Endangered Species Act. The decision has been appealed by DWR, which has signed an agreement with the state Department of Fish and Game to work with federal agencies to produce a new biological opinion on water project operations and their impacts on Delta smelt. The agencies will continue working on the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan to provide long-term endangered species protection.

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ACWA Director of Strategic Coordination and Public Affairs Jennifer Persike at (916) 4414545 or jenniferp@acwa.com. Association of California Water Agencies • 916.441.4545 • fax 916.325.2316 • www.acwa.com **June 5**

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# CA: Governor Backs a Delta Canal

Speaking at a town hall meeting sponsored by the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce and other groups on June 13, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger called for storage, conveyance and a canal. "Now, it is very important, and this is why I always say the people are my partners," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "You've got to go and help me to put this pressure on the legislature. That's how we get things done…That's what you have to do with water. We need more water. We need more storage. We need to build more storage, and we have to build conveyance, the canal, all of those kinds of things." ACWA has been a vocal advocate for investing in a Delta fix, including the way we convey water across the Delta, additional surface storage, groundwater storage, and expanded water use efficiency as part of a comprehensive water package this year. In May, the association launched a campaign called "The Time is Now" to build support for a comprehensive package. Campaign materials are available at www.acwa.com. Conveyance improvements and additional storage were two key recommendations in ACWA's 2005 water policy document, "No Time to Waste: A Blueprint for California Water." The transcript of Governor

Schwarzenegger's remarks is now available at the Governor's Web site, available at: http://gov.ca.gov/index.php?/speech/6702/

## CO: More Water For John Martin Reservoir

The Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) and the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) have joined forces to purchase water shares from the City of Colorado Springs to add to the permanent water storage pool at John Martin Reservoir. A total of 2,000 acre feet of water was purchased by the two agencies with delivery scheduled for completion by June 6.

Earlier this year the state added to the storage at John Martin when water was acquired from the City of Pueblo. The state sought water from the cities because the amount of water the state could legally store in John Martin Reservoir reached dangerously low levels in recent years.

John Martin Reservoir is a popular place for camping, boating, fishing and bird watching. It is bordered on the east and north by a state park; and on the west and south by a state wildlife area.

When full, John Martin can hold 618,000 acre-feet of water – giving it the potential to be the largest reservoir in the state. This year it holds approximately 73,000 acre-feet, but last year the DOW thought it might lose all of the fish when the reservoir dwindled to less than one percent of its capacity. Fortunately, the reservoir stabilized at the end of the summer when the DOW leased water from a local irrigation company and many of the sport fish survived. Over the winter, a series of major snow storms in southeast Colorado and ample spring run-off brought water levels up, but they are still a far cry from what the reservoir can hold.

John Martin is known as one of the top spots in southeast Colorado for crappies, wiper, catfish, walleye, saugeye, perch, bluegill, bass and other warm water species. Last fall the DOW sampled the fish population and found ample numbers of saugeye, catfish, and white bass survived.

http://dnr.state.co.us/News/ Colorado Department of Natural Resources June 5

## ID: Status Conference For 1000 Springs Calls

Idaho Department of Water Resources Director David Tuthill said an emergency status conference on June 8 will provide holders of junior water rights in the Thousand Springs area of south-central Idaho one last chance to avoid having their water deliveries curtailed this year.

Tuthill sent notices to representatives of parties in the Thousand Springs area announcing an emergency status conference for 10:30 a.m. Friday at the IDWR offices in Boise. The notices came in response to a ruling from 5th District Judge John Melanson today that cleared the way for the state to issue curtailment orders based on water delivery calls by senior water right holders Blue Lakes Trout Farm and Clear Springs Foods' Snake River Farm.

At issue during the status conference will be the issuance of curtailment orders, the setting of hearing dates, matters related to the hearing process and any other issues relevant to the delivery calls.

Tuthill sent warning letters on April 30th to the holders of 771 water rights that could be curtailed under these calls during 2007. But 5th District Judge John K. Butler blocked the curtailment at the request of the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators Inc. The case later was reassigned to Judge Melanson.

"This status conference provides an opportunity for the parties to provide alternatives to issuance of a curtailment order. I am prepared to issue the order under Idaho law if it is necessary, but I am seeking input from the parties prior to taking the next steps," Tuthill said.

Information on the curtailment orders can be found on the Idaho Department of Water Resources' Web site at www.idwr.idaho.gov under the headings "Major Issues" and "What's New." The Web site features maps of the affected areas, copies of the letters issued to water rights holders, legal documents and related links.

Bob McLaughlin 208-287-4828 *Idaho Department of Water Resources* **June 6**

## WA: Grant County Possible Site for New Water Storage

An assessment of where new off-channel storage might be suitable on the Columbia River has been completed by the

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology).

According to the study, the Lower Crab Creek basin in Grant County is the most viable candidate to support a large, off-channel storage facility and merits being carried forward if a more detailed feasibility study is conducted. Also analyzed were Hawk Creek in Lincoln County, Foster Creek in Douglas County, and Sand Hollow, also in Grant County.

The study sought to identify where new water could be stored to augment irrigation supplies during dry years as well as secure water for future irrigation, improve flows for fish and set aside water for future municipal, domestic and industrial uses.

According to the study, construction and operational costs would be significantly less at the Crab Creek site than at Sand Hollow or Hawk Creek. The site also posed the lowest risk and the best geology for construction of a dam and reservoir. Early on, Foster Creek was found to have geotechnical flaws and eliminated from consideration.

The appraisal was conducted as part of an ongoing commitment by the state of Washington and federal government to evaluate the potential for new storage in the Columbia River Basin. Those efforts have been bolstered by legislation passed in 2006, funding development of water resources on the Columbia River.

Ecology, Reclamation, and Columbia Basin project irrigation districts are reviewing the assessment and will consult with Gov. Chris Gregoire, the state's congressional delegation, stakeholders, agencies, and other entities, including the Columbia River Basin Policy Advisory Group, before deciding whether to seek federal authorization and funding for a feasibility study and Environmental Impact Statement on any one of the sites.

In 2004, state, Reclamation and the Columbia Basin project irrigation districts entered into an agreement to promote improved water management on the Columbia River and to explore new storage opportunities.

In December of 2005, the two agencies identified 11 sites along the entire Columbia River corridor to appraise for storage. Based on a number of criteria -- including potential storage capacity, location, known geologic integrity and other environmental and social issues -- the four upper basin sites were identified for more in-depth study.

Each of the potential storage sites has a predicted reservoir capacity of at least one million acre-feet, which is in line with future water needs in the Columbia Basin. In addition, each is above Priest Rapids Dam, which will allow it to be easily integrated into Reclamation's Columbia Basin Project.

A copy of the new assessment will be available online at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/cr_storage.html

Joye Redfield-Wilder, public information manager, (509) 575-2610 Bureau of Reclamation media contact: Norbert Ries, (509) 575-5848 *Washington Department of Ecology* **June** Ecology's Web site: http://www.ecy.wa.gov

## ND: Hoeven Calls On Corps To Maintain Water In Upper Missouri River Basin

Gov. John Hoeven in a phone call on June 22, with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Asst. Sec. John Paul Woodley and other Corps officials called on the agency to maximize water conservation measures throughout the basin. The Governor asked Woodley to withhold flows to targeted uses when there is no navigation downstream and, in addition, maintain minimum flows whenever possible.

"The Corps needs to maintain more water in the upper reservoirs and build them back to normal levels," Hoeven wrote in a follow-up letter to the secretary. "Weather in this case has helped to alleviate some concerns over the effects of drought, but we cannot rely on sustained rains to remedy the hardship of thousands of people living and working in the upper Missouri River Basin."

Under the new Master Manual, the Corps must shorten the navigation season by at least 36 days, rather than the 6 days provided for under the old manual, as well as maintain minimum service levels for navigation.

"Maximizing the conservation measures provided under the new Master Manual is vital for the Upper Missouri River community, but it's also good policy for the whole Missouri River Basin over the long term," Hoeven said.

North Dakota Governor John Hoeven http://governor.state.nd.us/media/news-releases/2007/06/070622.html

## FL: Lake Okeechobee Hits New Record

Water levels in Lake Okeechobee on June 30 reached an all-time record low of 8.88 feet above sea level, surpassing the previous mark of 8.89 feet set on Friday, June 1.

Lake Okeechobee's water levels had stabilized between 8.9 and 9.0 feet above sea level during the month of June on rainfall in the lake basin that was about average for the period. However, sporadic rains and high evaporation rates over the past several days have continued to drive the lake level down.

Evaporation typically outpaces rainfall over Lake Okeechobee during this time of year, and the lake normally compensates for the water shortfall through inflows from the Kissimmee River. Unfortunately, conditions have been so dry in Central Florida that water has not flowed from the Kissimmee River into Lake Okeechobee in more than seven months.

"In order to observe any appreciable increase in the level of Lake Okeechobee, sufficient rain needs to fall over basins to the north of the lake in order to reestablish flows from the Kissimmee River," said SFWMD Senior Meteorologist Geoff Shaughnessy. "It may be weeks or a month before we see those needed flows, and the lake level is likely to remain about where it is now until those flows materialize."

Central and northern portions of the SFWMD remain critically dry, as wet season rains have been highly localized over much of the southern third of the District. Over the past 30 days, for example, portions of Miami-Dade and Broward counties received more than 13 inches of rain, in stark contrast to Lake Okeechobee, which received less than five inches over the same period.

The 730-square-mile lake is a primary backup water supply to 5 million South Floridians. Historically, extreme water levels in Lake Okeechobee have fluctuated by almost 10 feet, according to recordkeeping that began in 1931. The all-time high-water mark was recorded on November 2, 1947 at 18.77 feet. Extremely high levels also were recorded in 1982, 1995 and 1997; extremely low levels were recorded during droughts in 1956, 1971, 1981 and 2001.

Water levels in the lake are measured in NGVD units, or National Geodetic Vertical Datum units. NGVD is a nationally established coordinate system used to determine elevation, especially in areas close to sea level. At a typical water level of about 15 feet NGVD, Lake Okeechobee averages only about 9 feet deep, with the deepest locations no more than 15 feet deep.

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**Jesus Rodriguez** South Florida Water Management District Office: (561) 682-6060 Cellular: (561) 568-8025

# FL: Deficit rainfall plagues water resources

A continuing rainfall deficit reaffirms the need to maintain emergency watering restrictions, resolved the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board this week.

At its next meeting on July 31 the Board will consider extending the one-day watering restrictions which are due to expire that day.

Rainfall for the last 12 months remains down more than 12 inches from normal, while June precipitation Districtwide was only 60 percent of normal. Most of the rivers in the District were flowing at "extremely low" rates for this time of year while lakes are averaging up to five feet below anticipated seasonal levels. (For more information and graphics on rainfall and river flows, visit the District's web site at WaterMatters.org/weather/.)

"We need significantly above average rainfall to pull ourselves out of this drought. Currently, we're not even getting average rainfall," said Granville Kinsman, District Hydrologic Data manager.

Water resources in west-central Florida follow a cycle. The District historically receives about 60 percent of its annual rainfall from June-September, which fill up the water resources. These levels gradually decline over the eight-month dry season until the next rainy season recharges the resources.

Public water suppliers also use this rainy season to fill up storage like reservoirs that can be used for the dry season.

While normal summer rainfall would be helpful this year, it wouldn't be enough to restore the resources to normal seasonal water levels or allow public suppliers to fully recharge their dry season storage. If the District begins October with lower than normal water levels, even a normal dry season will result in more serious water supply concerns than those seen this year.

"We could end up in a situation as serious as or worse than the historic 2000-2001 drought," Kinsman said.

Extending watering restrictions could help save water that can be stored for the next dry season. The Governing Board Tuesday called for local governments to maximize water restriction enforcement efforts.

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/news/article/707/ June 28

# KS: Chief engineer expands boundaries of Pawnee Intensive Groundwater Control Area

In his last day before officially retiring, Chief Engineer David Pope issued an order yesterday expanding the boundaries of the Pawnee Valley Intensive Groundwater Use Control Area to include parts of Hodgeman, Ness and Pawnee counties.

The IGUCA now encompasses a larger portion of the drainage basin of the Pawnee River, Buckner Creek and Sawlog Creek located in Hodgeman, Ness and Pawnee counties. Previously its boundaries did not extend beyond Pawnee County.

The order is based on testimony and evidence submitted at a hearing that took place over several days in March over which the chief engineer presided. The findings and conclusions from the hearing are spelled out in the order along with the bases for them.

Based on testimony and evidence given, the chief engineer concluded that groundwater levels in the area have declined, that groundwater withdrawals have, at times, exceeded recharge, and that other conditions exist that require water regulation in the public interest.

Also summarized in the order are the purposes for the next hearing, which is to decide what goals need to be accomplished by the IGUCA and the corrective control provisions needed to achieve them. A prehearing conference will be used to:

* Define the schedule of events to accommodate briefings, relevant procedural matters and hearing dates. * Establish the process to determine whether the IGUCA boundaries should be expanded further to include the remainder of the Pawnee-Buckner-Sawlog drainage basin and whether the chief engineer should initiate proceedings to include the additional area. * Set the procedures for identifying IGUCA goals. * Ascertain the corrective control provisions that will be adopted to reach the IGUCA goals.

The order may be viewed online at www.ksda.gov/includes/document_center/subbasin/ Pawnee-Buckner/Phase1_IGUCA_HearingOrder_6-18-07.pdf

Lisa Taylor Public Information Officer, Kansas Department of Agriculture (785) 296-2653 ltaylor@kda.state.ks.us

# FL: District to study feasibility of three alternative water supplies

The Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board approved an agreement Tuesday with the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PR/MRWSA) to study the feasibility of three potential alternative water supplies, which include the Dona Bay, Flatford Swamp/Upper Myakka River and Shell Creek systems.

The PR/MRWSA serves Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties as well as the City of North Port, and is responsible for developing new water supply sources and facilities to meet the needs of its customers. The addition of these three potential alternative water supply sources has the potential to meet the region's water supply needs through 2025.

The Regional Resource Development Feasibility Study will allow the PR/MRWSA to move forward developing its next water supply sources through its Regional Resource Development Program. The goal of the program is to maximize surface water use, reduce reliance on ground water in the Southern Water Use Caution Area, and optimize its financial investments through a regional approach to water supply planning.

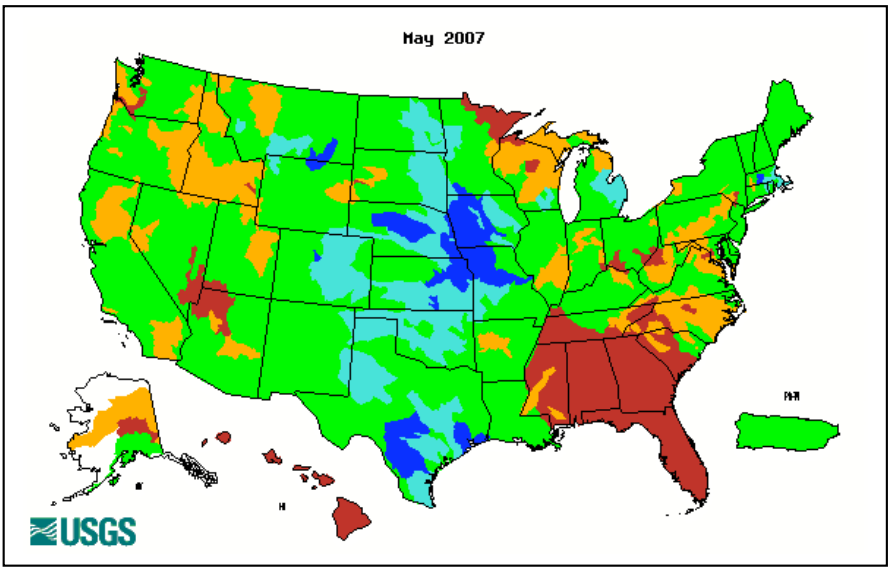
The total estimated cost of the project is $2.5 million, with the District funding $1,125,000. Of the $1,125,000, the Governing Board is expected to contribute $625,000, the Manasota Basin Board will contribute $456,250 (contingent on approval at the Basin Board's next meeting) and the Peace River Basin Board will contribute $168,750.

By request of the PR/MRWSA, the Governing Board approved an out-of-cycle transfer of funds Tuesday in the amount of $125,000 from the General Fund's Water Supply and Resource Development Reserve so the authority can begin the feasibility study. The remainder of the funds needed for the project will be funded in fiscal year 2008 (FY2008.)

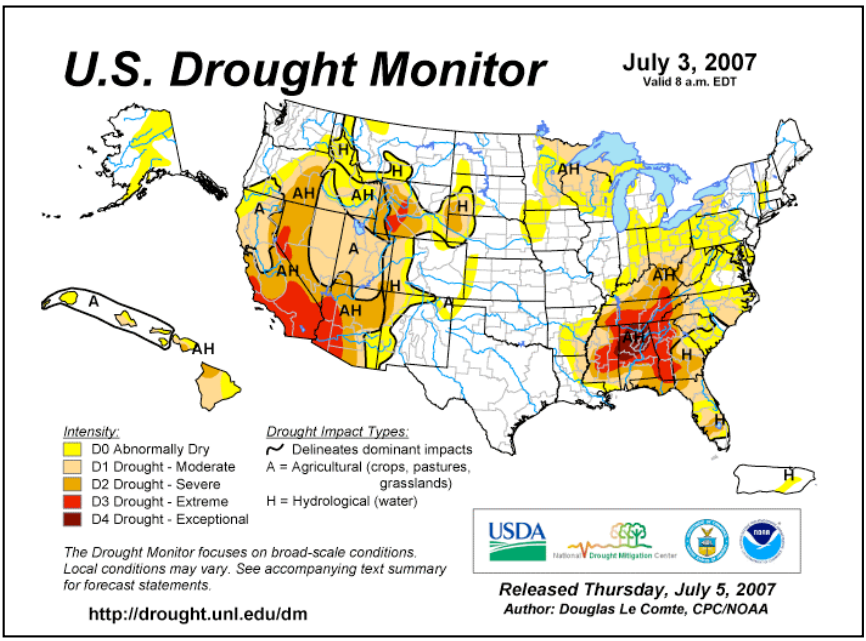
Upon completion of the feasibility study and analysis, the PR/MRWSA will move forward with the construction of any feasible sources. The first new regional water supply project is anticipated to be operational by 2013.

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/news/article/704/ June 26

Map of monthly-average streamflow for the month.




| Explanation - Percentile classes | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| New low | < 10 | 10 - 24 | 25 - 75 | 76 - 90 | >90 | New high | No data |



# Resources

## HI: Lana'i Watershed Benefits Discovered Population of Hawaiian Petrels

Wildlife biologists from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, University of Hawai'i and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, working in collaboration with Castle and Cooke, have reported the discovery of a large population of endangered Hawaiian Petrel, or 'ua'u in the remote mountains of Lāna'i.

The birds have been found to be nesting in the upper watershed areas of Lāna'i where Castle and Cooke has been implementing a watershed protection program.

The discovery of the population was made last year and DLNR has deployed a team of biologists to the island to learn more about the birds and their conservation needs.

"Castle and Cooke's work to protect the watershed is a great benefit not just for the water resources it provides to the community but clearly for Hawaiian wildlife as well," said Allan Smith, DLNR interim chairperson. "We're pleased to partner with Castle and Cooke and are working with them to develop new phases of the work that will protect larger areas of the watershed."

"We appreciate this collaboration between Castle and Cooke, and DLNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and University of Hawai'i, that is allowing biologists to conduct surveys across the watershed to determine the extent of the birds' breeding colony," said Smith. "They have also begun to control introduced predators that could kill the young nestlings in their burrows before they are able to fly," he said.

"The Lāna'i Hale watershed had not been surveyed for petrels since the 1980's so we didn't know what to expect," Scott Fretz, DLNR wildlife program manager, said. "We assumed there would be few, if any, birds remaining on Lāna'i, but once we started the surveys we immediately realized that we had found something special."

"We don't yet know the total number of birds on Lāna'i but there appear to be hundreds, if not more, which would make this one of the biggest populations known in the state," Fretz said. "This discovery indicates that the population there has grown significantly in the last 20 years."

The petrels were common on Lānaʻi in historical times but had all but disappeared by the 1980's because of habitat destruction and predators.

Castle and Cooke is planning additional work that will protect larger areas of the watershed and assist efforts to protect ʻuaʻu and other wildlife.

Resting petrel on Lanai. Photo by Jay Penniman, courtesy DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife

Laura Fabrey 587-0407) DLNR Public Information Specialist Phone: (808) 587-0320 June 8

# Meetings/events

- **Jul 15-18,** Georgia Association of Water Professionals Annual Conference Savannah , Georgia United States By: Georgia Association of Water Professionals/GAWWA http://www.gawp.org/events.htm
- **July 24 – 26** Hazards in Water Resources; Universities Council on Water Resources; Boise, Idaho. http://www.ucowr.siu.edu/
- **July 31 - August 2** American Water Works Association; Section Event **Summer Workshop** Colorado Springs, Colorado Sharon Phillips: sphillips@awwa.org 303-347-6202
- **August 1 – 3** 10th Annual Southeast Watershed Roundtable: Sustaining Our Water Infrastructure Through Watershed-Based Approaches; Chateau Elan Winery &

Resort, Braselton, GA
http://www.southeastwaterforum.org/roundtables/default.asp

• **August 28-30** **Wetlands 2007** Colonial Williamsburg Lodge & Conference Center * Williamsburg, VA http://www.aswm.org/index-alt.htm

• **August 29-September 1** Sustainable Water, Unlimited Growth, and Quality of Life: Can We Have It All? - 2007 Regional Water Symposium Southwest Hydrology and Arizona Hydrological Society,Westin La Paloma, Tucson, AZ http://www.swhydro.arizona.edu/symposium/

• **September 5-6** Distribution System Assessment and Rehabilitation, New York City, NY (Newark, NJ)

In this two-day seminar, operators and managers of distribution will learn about the status of buried infrastructure, regulations affecting water distribution, and infrastructure management strategies available through AWWA and other institutions. http://www.awwa.org/education/seminars/index.cfm?SemID=53

• **September 17-23** 2nd International Conference of GIS/RS in Hydrology, Water Resources and Environment and 2nd International Symposium on Flood Forecasting and Management with GIS and Remote Sensing Guangzhou and Three Gorges, China http://www.hydroinfor.sysu.edu.cn/

• **September 18-19** 26th Biennial Groundwater Conference &16th GRA Annual Meeting Sacramento http://www.grac.org/am07.asp

• **October 29** Abstract Submisson Deadline for 2008 AWRA Spring Specialty Conference, Information: http://www.awra.org/meetings/San_Mateo2008/ AWRA continues its series on Geographic Information Systems and Water Resources with its fifth specialty conference on the topic.

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Subscription rates:
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Publisher: Randy Stapilus • Editor: Linda Watkins