



REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

E-MEMO

News and Information

ABAG-CALFED TASKFORCE / BAY AREA WATER FORUM

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 Association of Bay Area Governments

Date: April/May 2005

ABAG/CalFed Task Force and Bay Area Water Forum Meeting Schedule:

-  Water and Land Use Subcommittee - TBA
 -  Legislative and Policymaking Subcommittee - TBA
 -  Budget and Strategic Planning Subcommittee - TBA
 -  Communications Work Group Subcommittee - TBA
 -  June 13th, 10:30 – 1:30 TASK FORCE/WATER FORUM
- An RSVP is required to reserve a lunch. Contact Administrative Asst., Kim Dixon (see above).

Photo: Tuolumne River, Yosemite National Park, upstream of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and Don Pedro Reservoir. Watershed area: 1,540 square miles
 Extent of river historically available to anadromous fish: 99 miles
 Extent of river presently available to anadromous fish: 47 miles (47.5 %)
 Total storage: 2,777,000 acre-feet Anadromous species present: Fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead



Marking a substantial breakthrough in regional discussions, a host of Bay Area stakeholder groups decided on April 25th at ABAG's headquarters in Oakland to pursue two planning grant applications under California's Proposition 50, Chapter 8 - Integrated Regional Water Management Planning. Following the "2x4 plan" approach presented by Stan Williams, CEO of the Santa Clara Valley Water District, there will be two compatible work plans, each supporting its corresponding grant application. The first grant and work plan will focus on water supply and water quality, and wastewater and recycled water. The second grant will focus on flood protection and storm water management, watershed management, relationship to local and regional land use planning, and habitat protection and restoration.

The discussions surrounding the decision to seek funding from the State of California confirmed the voluntary nature of IRWMP participation and the need for ample funding for regional planning in an area of the state that has a complex set of political and hydrologic features.

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Welcome / Update

We welcome new participants with the Task Force/Water Forum:

- ◆ Ken Schwarz, Jones & Stokes
- ◆ Debra Ryan, City of Half Moon Bay
- ◆ Rosalyn Stewart, Jones & Stokes
- ◆ Michele Pla, Bay Area Coalition of Water Agencies
- ◆ Ryan Klobas, Contra Costa County
- ◆ Ed Marlow, City of Half Moon Bay
- ◆ Roger Bethell, PSOMAS
- ◆ Bill Dodd, Napa County
- ◆ Cathy Bleier, Resource Agency
- ◆ Jeff Sharp, Napa County Planning
- ◆ Caitlin Cornwall, Sonoma Ecology Center
- ◆ Jane Ratchye, City of Palo Alto
- ◆ Stan Williams, Santa Clara Valley Water District
- ◆ Jeff Loux – UC Davis
- ◆ Josh Collins, SF Estuary Institute



ABAG-CALFED Task Force and Bay Area Water Forum Leadership. From left to right, beginning top left: **Cynthia Murray**, Marin County Board of Supervisors and ABAG Member, Task Force/Water Forum Chair; **Greg Zlotnick**, Board Member, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Task Force/Water Forum Vice Chair; **Grant Davis**, Executive Director, The Bay Institute, Bay Area Water Forum Vice Chair; **Katy Foulkes**, Board of Director, East Bay MUD, Water and Land Use Subcommittee Chair, **Mike Rippey**, Budgetary & Strategic Planning, and Legislative Subcommittee Chair, **Patricia Jones**, Assistant Executive Director, ABAG, Communications Work Group Chair. Missing photo: **Larry Kolb**, Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board, Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee Chair.

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NEWS LINKS

STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN HABITAT RESTORATION *By Barry Eberling, staff writer*

Fairfield Daily Republic – 3/27/05

Out in the wild--Students spend time restoring farm land around creek

FAIRFIELD - Fifteen or so Dixon High School students stood in mud-caked boots along Willow Slough on the Oakdale Ranch and tried to recreate the creek of old. They planted plugs of creeping wild rye along the creek banks, one at a time
http://dailyrepublic.com/articles/2005/03/28/local_news/news01.txt

POSSIBLE TAXES FOR CLEAN WATER PROGRAMS IN BAY AREA *By Karen Holzmeister, staff writer*

Tri-County Herald (Bay Area) - 3/28/05

Higher property tax on horizon; Owners of single-family homes may face rise to pay for water programs

If you live in unincorporated areas, annual Alameda County property tax bills include a \$7.10 per household charge for clean water programs. The money helps keep creeks and other wildlife habitat clean of pollutants, helps keep tainted water from reaching the Bay, eliminates illegal dumping, provides business inspections and makes the public aware of ways to protect the environment.

http://www.insidebayarea.com/searchresults/ci_2626057

LAKE BERRYESSA- A 'hole' lot of water; Rainy bonus spills from Lake Berryessa *By Robin Miller, city editor*

Vacaville Reporter – 3/22/05

Curiosity seekers were greeted with a spectacular sight at Lake Berryessa over the weekend, as the lake reached capacity and began spilling through the "glory hole." As of midnight Sunday, the lake's level was at a depth of 440.29 feet. The water spills over the glory hole - a 72-foot diameter spillway at Monticello Dam - at 439.96 feet. But the recent rains that pushed the lake over the edge of the spillway aren't just good news for sightseers.

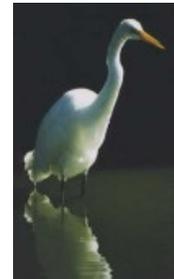
http://www.thereporter.com/news/ci_2617765

SOUTH BAY WETLANDS *Editorial: Birds on the bay*

San Francisco Chronicle - 3/30/05

By the thousands, birds are voting with their muddy feet. Flocks of migrating and local waterfowl have swooped into newly restored South Bay wetlands. It's a wonder to see. Sandpipers, shovelers, ruddy ducks and Eurasian wigeons are winging in to rest and feed on the reclaimed edge of the bay. Biologists and conservationists were always worried about what would happen when century-old salt ponds were opened up to bay waters. What would it take to get wildlife back?

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2005/03/30/EDGN18VTTD1.DTL>



SNOW LEVELS *By Peter Fimrite, Staff writer*

San Francisco Chronicle - 4/02/05

Conveniently timed storms bring bounty to state's reservoirs, ski resorts

The amount of snow in the Sierra Nevada right now is a skier's dream and a hydrologist's nirvana. A series of perfectly timed storms throughout the winter has left reservoirs brimming throughout California and ensured a steady supply of runoff water through the summer. The snowpack is 135 percent of normal across the state, thanks to the latest batch of inclement weather in March. That translates to a base of 16 feet at the Squaw Valley ski resort and 10 feet at Heavenly Valley. "It's awesome -- great conditions for spring skiing," said Cristina Mosqueda, who works ticket sales at Heavenly and sneaks out as much as she can to snowboard... The extra snow means the fish will be biting and wildlife will flourish.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2005/04/02/MNG2FC2DB01.DTL>

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HETCH HETCHY *By Thomas Curwen, Staff Writer*

Los Angeles Times - 4/5/05

Parting the waters of what once was; Revisiting the ceaseless dream of the Hetch Hetchy Valley moves us closer to the lost sanctuaries of the world

Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy Valley has legendary status in California for being the most beautiful glacier-carved gash in the Sierra you'll never see. Its death by damming in the 1910s is said to have hastened the death of John Muir, who vigorously fought for its preservation. Today, lying beneath 117 billion gallons of water behind the O'Shaughnessy Dam, the beauty of the Hetch Hetchy Valley is a dream that resurfaces only now and then from beneath 300 feet of pristine Sierra snowmelt.

http://www.latimes.com/features/outdoors/la-os-wildwest5apr05_1_2658625_story

LAKE BERRYESSA ISSUES - Letter to the Editor: Exciting future for Lake Berryessa

By Duane Kromm, Solano County Supervisor District 3

Fairfield Daily Republic - 4/4/05

How Lake Berryessa gets used and by whom is currently a hot topic. Berryessa is a very interesting lake. It was created in the 1950s by a dam project financed by Solano County interests. The lake is entirely in Napa County, which gets very little water from it. Lakes like Berryessa and their surrounding land are actually owned by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation. In the case of Berryessa, long-term leases were entered into with concessionaires that allowed resorts to be built and trailers to be semi-permanently parked along the shore.

<http://dailyrepublic.com/articles/2005/04/04/letters/aletter1.txt>

EDITORIAL: SF PIPELINE COULD SLOW TUOLUMNE TO A TRICKLE

Modesto Bee - 4/13/05

The Tuolumne River Regional Park is an ambitious, important vision for the future of Modesto, Ceres and the entire area. It includes bike trails, fishing access, wildlife enhancements, a wonderful amphimeadow for large gatherings, picnic sites, traffic improvements and excellent access from downtown Modesto. At its heart will be the Tuolumne River, a shimmering emerald band wrapped around this "urban oasis" like a ribbon.

<http://www.modbee.com/opinion/story/10301271p-11108925c.html>

SR OKs study on river wastewater discharges

Santa Rosa Press Democrat - 4/22/05 *By Mike McCoy, staff writer*

Santa Rosa's Board of Public Utilities gave the go-ahead Thursday to studies that ultimately could shift the discharge of billions of gallons of leftover wastewater from the Laguna de Santa Rosa to the Russian River. The board made its unanimous decision after an hour-long presentation detailing the city's need to stop dumping wastewater in the Laguna and instead release it into the river to comply with state pollution laws. Thursday's vote was a prelude to the board's May 19 meeting, when it will award a \$3 million contract to study two methods of discharging 2 billion gallons of highly treated effluent into the river starting as early as 2008.

<http://www1.pressdemocrat.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050422/NEWS/504220336/1033/NEWS01>

Vertical vineyard fights fears of slides

Planting down steep slope has La Honda residents worried

SF Chronicle - 4/26/2005 *By Maria Alicia Gaura, Chronicle Staff Writer*

A Silicon Valley millionaire couple's audacious plans to grow "the best Pinot Noir grapes in the world" on steep slopes in the Santa Cruz Mountains has set off a water war in the woody hamlet of La Honda. At the center of the conflict lies Clos de la Tech, a new vineyard near Skyline Boulevard whose trellised rows commence at the summit of Langley Ridge and plummet down sun-drenched, southwest-facing slopes. The vineyard is the steepest in California, with vines planted in vertical rows down slopes as extreme as 45 to 70 percent. Atop a ridge that offers clear-day views of waves breaking on San Gregorio Beach, semiconductor pioneer T.J. Rodgers and his longtime domestic partner Valeta Massey have blasted three vast caverns into the underlying volcanic basalt. E-mail Maria Alicia Gaura at mgaura@sfchronicle.com.



◆ **SPECIAL REPORTS – AGENCY / ASSOCIATIONS**

WATER SUMMIT IN HALF MOON BAY:

San Mateo County Times - 4/26/05 By Amelia Hansen, Staff Writer

Half Moon Bay to wet its whistle on Water Summit; Future of Pilarcitos Watershed to be discussed. - More than 100 people, many from state and federal agencies, are expected to converge in Half Moon Bay this week to discuss one of the Coast's most precious resources: water. The focus of this Thursday's Water Summit, sponsored by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and local water and sewer agencies, will be the Pilarcitos Watershed, which originates in the hills north of Highway 92 and reaches the Pacific Ocean at Half Moon Bay.

The purpose of the summit, sponsors say, is not to come to definitive conclusions about water policies and practices but to get everyone with a stake in the watershed at the same table. "We need to build a coordinated approach to managing water in the Pilarcitos Watershed," said Patrick Rutten, supervisor of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's restoration center in Santa Rosa.

http://www.insidebayarea.com/sanmateocountytimes/localnews/ci_2685016

Public Hearings to Receive Comments on the Public Draft of California Water Plan Update 2005

The Department of Water Resources will hold ten public hearings to present information and receive public comments on the public draft of California Water Plan Update 2005. The list of meeting dates and locations are listed at the Department's web site. All meetings will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In addition, two evening conference telephone call-in sessions (6:00 pm to 8:00 pm) will be held on June 8th and 15th using a toll-free 800 number, to receive comments from the public who are unable to provide input by other means.

http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/comments/public_hearings.cfm

ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES

May 3-6th conference in San Jose.

For details, see: http://www.acwa.com/events/SC05/SC05_conference.asp

California Agency Watershed Management Strategic Plan

The California Resources Agency and California Environmental Protection Agency, working with 17 departments, boards, offices and conservancies, developed the attached 18 Month Action Plan to implement the 2004 interagency watershed protection MOU and to update the California Agency Watershed Management Strategic Plan. The strategic plan, developed in 2003, included goals to improve watershed program coordination and efficiencies, collective investments, and local involvement in watershed management, and to demonstrate improvements in watershed health.

This action plan builds on progress made since the plan was developed, incorporates a number of recommendations from the former California Watershed Council, and includes regional or local on-the-ground activities and partnerships to achieve these goals. The Steering Committee of Deputy Directors and Program Managers who developed this plan will be responsible for its implementation, for reviewing new information and additional regional or local opportunities, and for revising the plan if needed.

Find more information about the Plan, see the California Watershed Portal at <http://cwp.resources.ca.gov/>

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Around the Bay Region

- ✦ Bay Area Water Conservation and Water Supply Agency Information
<http://www.bawasca.org/>
- ✦ Zone 7 Water Agency Information
<http://www.zone7water.com/current.html>
- ✦ Solano County Water Agency Information
<http://www.scwa2.com/info.html>
- ✦ Sonoma County Water Agency Information
<http://www.scwa.ca.gov/projects.html>
- ✦ Contra Costa County Water District Information
<http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/cd/water/CWPROJDB/Restoration%20Projects%20from%20the%20Atlas.htm>
- ✦ San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Capital Improvements Update
http://sfwater.org/detail.cfm/MC_ID/7/MSD_ID/6/MTO_ID/NULL/C_ID/1451
- ✦ Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program
<http://cleanwaterprogram.org/indexFlash>
- ✦ Alameda County Water District
<http://www.acwd.org/>
- ✦ The Watershed Information Center & Conservancy of Napa County
www.napawatersheds.org
- ✦ Santa Clara County
<http://www.sccgov.org/channel/0,4770,child%253D30022%2526sid%253D12867,00.html>
- ✦ Marin County Public <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/PW/Main/index.cfm>
- ✦ Sonoma County <http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/index.htm>
- ✦ San Mateo County http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/smc/departments/home/0,,5562541_9876759,00.html
- ✦ Delta Protection Commission <http://www.delta.ca.gov/>
- ✦ Santa Clara Valley Water District Information <http://www.heynoah.com/>
- ✦ Contra Costa Water District Information <http://www.ccwater.com/>
- ✦ Marin Municipal Water District Information <http://www.marinwater.org/whatsnew.html>
- ✦ East Bay Municipal Water District Information <http://www.ebmud.com/>
- ✦ Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2/>
- ✦ The Bay Institute <http://www.bay.org/main.htm>
- ✦ North Bay Watershed Association <http://www.nbwatershed.org/pages/welcome.php>
- ✦ Water Bond Coalition <http://www.waterbondcoalition.com>
- ✦ North Coast IRWM Program <http://www.northcoastirwmp.net/>
- ✦ State Coastal Conservancy <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/index.htm>
- ✦ League of Women Voters of the Bay Area <http://www.lwvba-ca.org/>
- ✦ Bay Conservation and Development Commission <http://www.bcdc.ca.gov/>
- ✦ California State Coastal Conservancy <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/>
- ✦ Bay Planning Coalition <http://www.bayplanningcoalition.org/>

Alameda Creek. Photo credit: Alameda Creek Alliance.



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Water and Land Use

DEVELOPMENT IN FLOOD PLAIN PROPOSED *By Jose Sanchez Jr., Staff Writer*

Santa Rosa Press-Democrat - 3/30/05

Flood plain studied for ball fields; With Little League needing new home, officials consider land near Petaluma River In Petaluma, where playing fields are scarce and about to become scarcer, city officials are weighing options that include land in the flood plain. The city will lose three Little League fields at Kenilworth Junior High School in 2007 and neighbors have rejected proposals for replacement fields at a city park and another junior high school.

<http://www1.pressdemocrat.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050330/NEWS/503300325/1033/NEWS01>

DAIRY SPILL ISSUES *By Jason Massad, Staff Writer*

The Vacaville Reporter - 4/4/05

Supervisors return to the drawing board

Back to the drawing board. That's where the Solano County Board of Supervisors will head Tuesday in regard to the county's regulations for large-scale dairies, called megadairies by opponents. Scheduled to be heard are experts from a range of disciplines. On hand will be representatives of the University of California, Davis Cooperative Extension, the Dixon Fire Protection District and Regional Water Quality Control Board. http://www.thereporter.com/news/ci_2639357

NAPA COUNTY FARM BUREAU - Defining the Farm Bureau *By Tom Gamble, NCFB Director*

Napa Valley Register - 4/3/05

Dear editor,

Marjorie Ellis recently wrote ("Water is essential, wineries are not," March 22) asking who Napa County Farm Bureau is, and what its role is in water politics. The NCFB roots date back to 19th-century Napa. More than 1,000 farmers and non-farmers are members. They contribute to NCFB's mission of advocating for the rights of farmers and protecting farmland and related resources. NCFB is not a government agency. We are a trade industry group that works with other concerned groups and officials to address water and other issues impacting agriculture.

http://www.napanews.com/templates/index.cfm?template=story_full&id=19AA280E-B2E9-49F9-85A8-B14D6CC491F7

AmCan Council to consider funding water usage study *By Jeny Card, Staff Writer*

Vallejo Times-Herald - 4/5/05

AMERICAN CANYON - City officials are hoping a new study will confirm that recurring drought restrictions on American Canyon's water supply will not put a damper on future development plans. On Thursday, the City Council will be asked to approve an agreement with Winzler & Kelly Consulting Engineers to prepare an urban water management plan for the city. <http://timesheraldonline.com/Stories/0,1413,296%257E31531%257E2799213,00.html>

Hearings set for city's plan to drink from Delta *By Dana Nichols -Record Staff Writer*

Published Monday, May 2, 2005

STOCKTON -- Stockton's plan to draw drinking water from the Delta would be the salvation of San Joaquin County's groundwater table and would also make it possible for the city to more than double its population to 660,000 or more over the next 45 years, according to a new report. The Stockton Delta Water Supply Project would suck water from the San Joaquin River near the southwest tip of Empire Tract and clean it at a plant to be built north of Eight Mile Road on the west side of Lower Sacramento Road. Contact reporter Dana Nichols at (209) 546-8295 or dnichols@recordnet.com >dnichols@recordnet.com

Regional Watershed Information

The Bay Region has an abundance of watershed research, planning, protection and management activity. We can't list all of the organizations who do good works in this area, but we can point you to some. If you know of an organization you'd like to see represented in the Task Force/Water Forum E-Memo, please contact Kim Dixon at KimD@abag.ca.gov.

- ✚ The **San Francisquito Watershed Council Steering Committee** meets at the Peninsula Conservation Center. Contact Pam Sturner for meeting information: PamS@Acterra.org The group has a final draft of a vision document for the watershed.
- ✚ The **Oakland Museum** acts as an important repository of regional watershed information <http://www.museumca.org/cgi/search.cgi>
- ✚ **Alameda County** Watershed Information: <http://www.carcd.org/wisp/alameda/>
- ✚ **Urban Creeks Council** Watershed Information: http://www.urbancreeks.org/Current_Projects.html
- ✚ **Regional Water Quality Control Board** Watershed Information: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/watershedmanagement.htm>
- ✚ **Marin County** Watershed Information: http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/CD/main/comdev/Watershed/WMP_Pt1.pdf
- ✚ **North Bay Watershed Association**: <http://www.nbwatershed.org/pages/welcome.php>
- ✚ **California Resources Agency**: Water Management Initiative: <http://cwp.resources.ca.gov/>
- ✚ **CalFed** Watershed Information <http://calwater.ca.gov/Programs/Watershed/Watershed.shtml>
- ✚ **Putah Creek**: <http://www.watershedportals.org/lpccc>
- ✚ **Russian River** Watershed Council: <http://www.rrewc.net/>
- ✚ **The Watershed Information Center & Conservancy of Napa County** www.napawatersheds.org
- ✚ **SF PUC** Watershed Information: http://sfwater.org/main.cfm/MC_ID/4/MSC_ID/68
- ✚ **Contra Costa County** Watershed Information: <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/cd/water/CWPROJDB/Restoration%20Projects%20from%20the%20Atlas.htm>
- ✚ **East Bay Watershed Center**: <http://www.merritt.edu/~envst/watershed.html>