



REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

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News and Information

For more information, contact: Kathleen Van Velsor, ABAG Program Manager/Senior Environmental Planner 510-464-7959. Kim Dixon, Administrative Assistant, 510-464-7973 (KimD@abag.ca.gov)
Or consult the web site: <http://calfed.abag.ca.gov/>



Association of Bay Area Governments

Date: May/June/July 2005



Photos: Delta Jones Tract 2005 levee break that flooded farm fields and structures, disrupted transportation systems and threatened water supplies. Emergency repairs required a multi-million dollar investment and the active involvement of many agencies and jurisdictions. Delta communities are still recovering and the fragility of Delta developments became more apparent to decision makers and the general public. Photos courtesy of the Department of Water Resources

Welcome / Update

ABAG/CalFed Task Force and Bay Area Water Forum

Chair, Marin County Supervisor, Cynthia Murray
Vice-Chair, Grant Davis, Executive Director, The Bay Institute
Vice-Chair, Greg Zlotnick, Santa Clara Valley Water District

Summer Meeting Schedule:

- ✚ Water and Land Use Subcommittee TBA
- ✚ Legislative and Policymaking Subcommittee TBA
- ✚ Budget and Strategic Planning Subcommittee TBA
- ✚ Communications Work Group TBA
- ✚ **July 18th**, 10:30 – 1:30 **TASK FORCE/WATER FORUM**, State Building, Room 11, Oakland *Please bear with us. This is a change from the normal meeting location.*
An RSVP is required to reserve a lunch. Contact Administrative Asst., Kim Dixon (see above).

Participants at the June 13th meeting of the Task Force/Water Forum were provided with early information and insights into the regional, sub-regional and inter- regional partnerships that have formed to meet the State of California's challenge for funding under Proposition 50, Chapter 8 (Integrated Regional Water Management planning – IRWMP – and implementation). For new readers, Chapter 8 planning grant funds are sought in order to begin a year-long integrated regional water management planning process in the Bay Area. Bay Area IRWMP implementation grants in the first round may be based on a functional plan leading to an IRWMP. Subsequent implementation grants are expected to be consistent with an adopted IRWMP.

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The Bay Area's joint Prop. 50 planning grant application Work Plans may be viewed on the Internet at <http://calfed.abag.ca.gov/> and the complete set of applications with attachments is on file with the Dept. of Water Resources <http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/grants/integregio.cfm>. June public presentation materials on several expected Bay Area project implementation grant applications may also be viewed at <http://calfed.abag.ca.gov/>.



Bay Area water districts, flood control districts and wastewater agencies, ABAG, the Coastal Conservancy, several cities, nongovernmental organizations and associations have teamed to request a total of \$800,000 in Chapter 8 planning grant funding under Proposition 50 in two joined grant applications.

Chapter 8 also provides for implementation grants. Project and program implementation proposals will be submitted by East Bay, South Bay, and North Bay entities. The Bay Area's current bundle of draft implementation grant proposals describe projects and programs ranging from desalination to ecosystem restoration, water recycling and ground water demineralization. Each implementation funding concept is tied to a "functional plan" or set of local plans. Summary grant application materials were handed out at the June 13th meeting – see <http://calfed.abag.ca.gov/>, select IRWMP.

For newcomers to our process, the *ABAG-CalFed Task Force* is a body of elected officials from local governments and water districts, the members of which are appointed by the ABAG Executive Board. In addition, non-voting members are invited to participate. The Task Force sits concurrently with the newly formed *Bay Area Water Forum*, which is non-voting and has an open membership. Preparatory work for the Task Force/Water Forum is accomplished in sub-committees and work groups.

Welcome to new participants with the Task Force/Water Forum: Kathleen Aswell, Creative Solutions Marketing, and Mark Palmer, San Francisco Department of the Environment.



NEWS LINKS

RESTORING NATURAL RUNS FOR TROUT: Grant opens floodgates for trout

By Bonita Brewer, staff writer Contra Costa Times - 5/6/05

A reprieve is in sight for steelhead trout frustrated by man-made barriers as they try to migrate from San Francisco Bay to suitable spawning grounds in Alameda Creek and its tributaries above Sunol and the Livermore-Amador Valley. Grants totaling \$1 million from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have been awarded to the Alameda County Water District, which serves the Fremont area, for two projects that will clear the way for migrating steelhead in lower Alameda Creek. One project will remove an inflatable rubber diversion dam, which when inflated acts as a barrier to migrating steelhead. A pipeline will then be built to maintain the district's ground-water recharge capacity. Meanwhile, fish screens will be installed at the district's water supply diversion point at the mouth of Niles Canyon to keep juvenile steelhead from being trapped. <http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/email/news/11579075.htm>

WATER POLICY: Miller demands answers on Delta

By Mike Taugher, staff writer Contra Costa Times - 5/7/05

A Bay Area congressman and leading voice in California water policy is warning that immediate action is needed to avoid a potential ecological disaster in the Delta. Rep. George Miller, responding to a Sunday report in the Contra Costa Times about a sudden, sharp decline in populations of several fish and other organisms, said the ongoing collapse could be a sign that the Delta is facing a crisis like it did in the early 1990s. "What I want to know is, are we repeating history here, and are we putting too much pressure on the Delta?" Miller, D-Martinez, said in an interview Friday. In particular, Miller questioned a basic tradeoff underlying CalFed, the highly ambitious multibillion dollar water program designed 10 years ago to avert another Delta water crisis. <http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/email/news/11589338.htm>

Reviving a river: Making a stream come true *By Jeanine Gore, staff writer*

Half Moon Bay Review - 5/11/05

There's one way to save Pilarcitos Creek: Put more water in it. But this simple plan is surprisingly complex. The withered waterway and its threatened fish populations have suffered from decades of unrelenting abuse, pollution and over consumption. Turning the situation around will take years of work, millions of dollars and most importantly, a groundswell of support from a variety of local agencies - public bodies that don't always get along. Recycled water is largely seen as the solution, a way to decrease dependence on stream sources. As usual, the devil is in the details.

Dozens of stakeholders depend on Pilarcitos Creek. Locally, the water is used to irrigate crops and golf courses, minimize dust at Ox Mountain Landfill and quench the thirst of Coastside residents. A prime resource for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Pilarcitos water also sustains many parts of the Peninsula.

http://www.hmbreview.com/articles/2005/05/11/news/local_news/story02.txt

GEYSERVILLE - 4.4 earthquake rattles The Geysers *By Jim Doyle*

SF Chronicle - 5/10/05

A magnitude 4.4 earthquake jolted the North Bay on Monday, rattling the area around The Geysers, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The temblor, which lasted less than 10 seconds, occurred at about 3:37 p. m. Seismologists located its epicenter in a sparsely populated area roughly 3 miles southeast of The Geysers, 25 miles north of Santa Rosa. There were no reports of injuries or damage. But some residents were shaken up, all the same. "It felt like a locomotive going through the house," said Jeff Gosby, president of the Anderson Springs Community Alliance, a nonprofit concerned that the disposal of wastewater from Sonoma and Lake counties in The Geysers geothermal fields has increased the frequency and magnitude of quakes in that area. Seismologists have found evidence that increased seismic activity at The Geysers is linked to the pouring of wastewater into the geothermal fields as well as the removal of water and heat from the fields to create electricity, said David Oppenheimer, who monitors earthquakes for the U.S. Geological Survey.

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2005/05/10/BAG6MCMOCL1.DTL>

RESTORING THE DELTA: Potential seen in restoration plan *By Paula King, staff writer*

Contra Costa Times - 5/22/05

OAKLEY - Hundreds of acres along the Delta once slated for thousands of homes are now destined to become learning grounds for ecological restoration. The 1,166-acre Dutch Slough wetland restoration project promises to contribute to the scientific understanding of marsh restoration on a grand scale. "That whole area of the Delta and that southern side of the Delta, so much of that has been paved over for development or drained for farmland," said David Lewis, executive director of Save the Bay. "It (Dutch Slough) is unpaved, undeveloped and restorable."

<http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/living/science/11710755.htm>

Well System To Test For Source Of Chemical; Company Hopes Direction Of Flow Will Indicate Different Origin

By HongDao Nguyen, staff writer

Mercury News - 5/12/05

For years, the city of Morgan Hill, Olin and regulatory agencies have parleyed about how perchlorate, a chemical linked to thyroid disorders, got into the city's groundwater. While Morgan Hill is adamant that the source is Olin, which operated a flare manufacturing plant south of Morgan Hill's contaminated wells, the company contends that can't be true because generally, water doesn't flow northward. Now the city and company are a step closer to discovering the chemical's origin. Olin recently commissioned four test wells to be drilled in Morgan Hill to help determine which way groundwater is flowing. The first, at Barrett Avenue and Caputo Drive, neared completion last week. Results from the wells, including groundwater samples, could be ready by midsummer, said Mike Taraszki, the principal hydrogeologist for MACTEC, an engineering and consulting firm handling the installation.

<http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/11626862.htm>

State clamps down on water users; Order to stop Hopland well pumping alarms neighbors

By Mike Geniella, staff writer

Santa Rosa Press Democrat - 5/23/05

State water officials are taking an increasingly aggressive approach toward enforcing water rights along the Russian River, ordering a tiny Hopland utility to stop pumping from two wells fed by underground streams. Pumping water from a subterranean stream, whether connected to surface water such as the Russian River or not, requires state approval, according to an April order by the state Water Resources Control Board. "It's incredible. We've been pumping from these wells since the district was formed in 1951, and before that back into the 1800s without any permits," said Evert Jacobson, manager of the 280-customer Hopland Public Utility District. While the volume of water pumped by the Hopland district is small, the state's declaration about underground water flows is setting off alarm bells in communities up and down the Russian River, the primary source of water for more than 500,000 people in Sonoma, Mendocino and Marin counties.

<http://www1.pressdemocrat.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050523/NEWS/505230319/1033/NEWS01>

NAPA RIVER STUDY: *By Gabe Friedman, staff writer*

Napa Valley Register - 5/21/05

Friends of Napa River releases 5-year study; Report on aquatic insects shows some healthy results.

The Napa River and its tributaries displayed an "incredible richness" of life in a recently completed study of aquatic insects on the river, scientists said Friday. A five-year study of the local aquatic insect population was performed by Friends of the Napa River to gauge the health and diversity of the watershed. By studying aquatic insects, which are abundant yet sensitive to environmental changes, scientists believe they can assemble a picture about how development affects the water quality of a river system. Dr. Charles Dewberry, who helped conduct the study of insects known as benthic macroinvertebrates, found mixed news in the study.

http://www.napanews.com/templates/index.cfm?template=story_full&id=B90CB751-54BD-40B0-A9F8-2A2DAA49F5C8



TUOLUMNE RIVER SUPPLY:
Editorial: SF's water project merits close attention

Modesto Bee - 5/19/05

Modesto and San Francisco have more in a river - the Tuolumne, which naturally the Bay Area through concrete conduits. Last week, representatives of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) came to Downey High School for the first in a series of meetings concerning the building of a pipeline to carry Tuolumne River water from Yosemite National Park, through Stanislaus County and to San Francisco's reservoirs. It's part of a \$4.3 billion project that includes improvements to the system's 280 miles of pipelines, 11 reservoirs, treatment plants, etc.

<http://www.modbee.com/opinion/story/10518650p-11312498c.html>

common than commuters. We share flows through Modesto but reaches

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HETCH HETCHY RESERVOIR; By Glen Martin, S.F. Chronicle 6/13/05 (photo credit: Tuolumne River Trust)
To drain or not to drain; Next months key in debate on state's epic environmental issue

The debate over the proposal to breach the Sierra's O'Shaughnessy Dam, drain the reservoir behind it and restore Hetch Hetchy Valley to its former natural splendor is apt to intensify this summer with the release of a California Department of Water Resources study on the issue. But preliminary comments from the agency indicate two things: First, the restoration is technically possible without disrupting water supplies to San Francisco, Modesto and Turlock, the cities that are the beneficiaries of Hetch Hetchy water. Second, it will cost a lot of money: From \$4 billion to \$8 billion, depending on whom you talk to. "Regardless of what you do in terms of restoration, it will be expensive," said Gary Bardini, the Hetch Hetchy project manager for the Department of Water Resources.



<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/06/13/BAGIOD7JHK1.DTL>

FUTURE USE OF PROSPECT ISLAND: Islands' future remains uncertain By Barry Eberling, staff writer
Fairfield Daily Republic - 6/6/05

FAIRFIELD - A local Delta island could become a wildlife preserve or a reservoir to slake the thirst of future generations in fast-growing Solano County. County Supervisor Mike Reagan a few weeks ago proposed turning Prospect Island into a reservoir. The Solano County Water Agency is looking at his idea. Meanwhile, state and federal officials this week will again explore the chances of using this island for habitat restoration. The future of Prospect Island remains cloudy. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation owns the 1,200-acre property in the eastern county, a few miles from Rio Vista. It bought the island in 1994 on behalf of the federal government for habitat restoration. But the envisioned restoration has yet to occur. Now the bureau wants to get rid of what it considers surplus property.

http://dailyrepublic.com/articles/2005/06/07/local_news/news07.txt

What's the real benefit of lowering summer flow of Russian River? By JOHN ADAMS
FOR THE PRESS DEMOCRAT - 8/15/2004

Lowering the summer flow of the Russian River is said to be a move to save tiny salmon and steelhead from swifter, harsher water movement. But, the more I read of the decision, it merely sounds like an idea to save Lake Mendocino from becoming a puddle. Neither the lake nor the Russian have a sustainable supply in summer. So, Coyote Dam, and later, Warm Springs Dam, were built to stockpile water for people and other needs. The dams also guaranteed summer flows for the Russian including its fish and other wildlife. The salmonoid adults enter the river in summer and fall, eventually to spawn and forget about their offspring. The successful spawn eventually leave the river to grow into adults with a small number returning to continue the cycle. So, as we drink the water, irrigate our lawns and siphon water for agriculture, we should remember that summer marks the arrival of salmon in the lower river, to be followed around the November rains by steelhead. The fish know what they want to do. It's man that keeps messing with their plans. Eons before the human presence, coastal creeks and rivers nourished uncountable numbers of salmonoids during the annual reproduction cycle. Much later, human pressures, including the need for water, resulted in fishing limits, tighter regulations and myriad studies involving water needs and usage.

<http://www.northbay.com/archives/fishing/12fishing.html>

Groups urge PUC: deflate creek plans By Matt Carter, STAFF WRITER Inside Bay Area June 12, 2005
Alameda Creek steelhead restoration hinges on promises of water releases

Environmental groups are warning that plans to restore steelhead trout to Alameda Creek could end up high and dry without firm guarantees for water releases from two East Bay reservoirs. Members of 65 environmental groups have asked the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to commit to releasing enough water from Calaveras and San Antonio reservoirs to support runs of ocean-going steelhead by 2007. The San Francisco PUC and other local water agencies are making progress in identifying and removing man-made barriers to fish migration in Alameda Creek and its tributaries, said Jeff Miller of the Alameda Creek Alliance.

http://www.alamedacreek.org/Media_Articles/Oakland%20Tribune%206-12-05.pdf

WATER RIGHTS ISSUES By Gabe Friedman, staff writer Napa Valley Register - 5/9/05
Watershed Forum meetings heating up over property rights

One evening in mid-April, George Bachich, president of the Napa Valley Land Stewards Alliance, and two colleagues squeezed into a room in a Napa office packed with leaders from different local groups -- the Sierra Club, Friends of the Napa River, the North Bay Association of Realtors, the Napa County Farm Bureau, the Napa County Land Trust and others. The group has been meeting for about a year, since two stream setback measures -- measures O and P -- were pounded at the polls. Known as the Watershed Forum, the group was designed to discuss ways to improve the health of Napa County's rivers, streams and environment through voluntary efforts, as opposed to government regulation.

http://www.napanews.com/templates/index.cfm?template=story_full&id=E58354C3-A6F0-4110-B7DC-14A2747CAD5A

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DELTA IMPROVEMENTS PACKAGE AND LEVEES: Delta levees could fail, area water officials told

By Sue Davis, staff writer

Ventura County Star - 5/20/05

A state water official warned of possible catastrophic levee failures in the Sacramento Delta in coming decades at a meeting of county water agencies Thursday in Oxnard. Possible levee failure is just one tough water issue facing the state. P. Joseph Grindstaff, chief deputy director of the California's Department of Water Resources, said in a speech to the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County. Other issues include budgets, flood management, surface water storage options and managing Colorado River water. Grindstaff referred to a University of California, Davis, study by geologist Jeffrey Mount that said there was a 67 percent chance of flooding or earthquake causing multiple levee failures sometime in the next 50 years.

http://www.venturacountystar.com/vcs/county_news/article/0.1375.VCS_226_3793086.00.html

WATER CONSERVATION ADVOCATED: Despite rain, Fairfield pushes water conservation

By Barry Eberling, staff writer

Fairfield Daily Republic - 6/20/05

FAIRFIELD - Summer is almost here and Fairfield is reminding people to think about water conservation. That might be a harder sell this year. Lake Berryessa reservoir is full - it was still overflowing into its Glory Hole in early June - and the rainy season keeps hanging on. Still, the city released a list of water-saving tips. Residents can also have a city water auditor come to their house to tell them how to save water. They can call 428-7487 for more information. Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to waste. "Conservation is an ethic," city Assistant Public Works Director Rick Wood said. People shouldn't feel guilty about using water, he said. He didn't advocate going to extraordinary lengths to conserve. Instead, he discouraged such practices as watering a lawn during the afternoon, when the water evaporates and doesn't reach the root system. "There's plenty of water for the needs, but there's none to waste," Wood said.

http://dailyrepublic.com/articles/2005/06/19/local_news/news05.txt

SAN RAFAEL- Bay water desalination plant starts trial run

Peter Fimrite, Staff Writer

SF Chronicle 6/10/05

It looked just like ordinary tap water, but Pat Damos hesitated before filling her plastic cup and taking a swig. The water in the cooler had been sucked from the soupy San Francisco Bay and run through the Marin Municipal Water District's new pilot desalination plant in San Rafael. "I don't like the idea of this," said Damos, who, as secretary of the Marin Rod & Gun Club next to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, knows all too well what stuff -- organic and inorganic -- is in the bay water. She nevertheless took a gulp. "It tastes," she said after various facial contortions and brow wrinklins, "like water." Which was exactly the point water district officials wanted to make Thursday during the official opening of their fancy little plant. E-mail Peter Fimrite at pfimrite@sfchronicle.com.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/06/10/BAG93D6K5H1.DTL&hw=desalination&sn=001&sc=1000>

Aerial view of Sunol Valley.



 **SPECIAL REPORTS – AGENCY / ASSOCIATIONS**

Interagency Group Looking at Delta Fish Populations: The Interagency Ecological Program has formed a working group to examine factors that may be contributing to lower abundance of some Delta fish populations this year. The group is looking at a number of possible factors, including toxics, blue-green algae blooms, water diversions, and food chain disruptions. A work plan being developed for the effort is expected to call for expanded monitoring, data analyses and several new and ongoing studies to evaluate the effects of toxics and other factors such as Delta hydrodynamics and export activities at the Delta pumps. General information about fish and water project operations is available at <http://science.calwater.ca.gov/library.shtml>.

Comment Period Extended on California Water Plan Update: The Department of Water Resources has extended the public comment period for the public draft of the latest California Water Plan Update to July 22, 2005. The update, which includes a strategic plan with goals, recommendations and actions to address the state's future water challenges, emphasizes the need for integrated regional water management as well as actions to implement the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, sustain the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, maintain aging water facilities and improve flood management. The update and related information is available at <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/>

Storage Report Released: The Department of Water Resources has released a progress report on surface water storage investigations underway as part of the CALFED Program. The report, prepared by DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, provides updates on the status of each of five storage investigations and an overview of major findings to date. The report can be accessed at http://www.storage.water.ca.gov/public_docs.cfm.

House Committee Approves Funding for CALFED: The House of Representatives has approved an annual spending bill for energy and water that includes \$35 million in direct spending for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The bill, approved May 24 on a 416-32 vote, earmarks \$12.7 million for surface storage feasibility studies, \$5 million for the Environmental Water Account, \$6.3 million for conveyance projects, \$6.5 million for water use efficiency programs and \$3 million for water quality. The appropriation followed last year's passage of bipartisan legislation reauthorizing federal participation in the CALFED Program. More on the appropriations bill is available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/F?c109:2:./temp/~c109C1Achz:e16478>

Authority Bill On Hold: A bill that would address inconsistencies in state and federal authorizing statutes for the California Bay-Delta Authority is being held in the Assembly at the request of the Administration pending completion of the CALFED program and fiscal review and 10-year action plan called for in the Governor's May budget revision. They are expected to be completed November 1. AB 1244 (Wolk), sponsored by the Schwarzenegger Administration on behalf of the Authority, would extend the existing sunset clause for the Authority from January 1, 2006, to January 1, 2010, and allow federal non-voting members of the Authority to count toward the Authority board's quorum requirement. More on the bill is available by entering AB 1244 at www.leginfo.ca.gov.

"Beneficiary Pays" Legislation Approved in Senate: Legislation that would codify a definition of the "beneficiary pays" principle in state law passed the Senate May 26 on a 22-17 vote. SB 113 (Machado) would define public and private benefits for the purpose of allocating costs for various elements of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. More on the bill can be accessed by entering SB 113 at www.leginfo.ca.gov.

Desalination Grants Awarded: The Department of Water Resources is awarding \$25 million in grants for 25 desalination projects around the state. Selected projects include desalination facilities in Marin, Alameda and San Bernardino counties, and pilot projects in Long Beach, Santa Cruz, San Diego and Carson. Research and development activities at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the University of California, Los Angeles, and feasibility studies by agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area, Monterey, Orange County, and Riverside County, also were selected for funding. More on the desalination grants is available at <http://www.publicaffairs.water.ca.gov/newsreleases/2005/05-25-05desal.cfm>.

Municipal Wastewater Recycling Survey - Department of Water Resources
<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/recycling/munirec.html>

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Grindstaff Named Interim Director for Authority: In a move announced May 25, Joe Grindstaff has been named interim director of the California Bay-Delta Authority. Grindstaff replaces Patrick Wright, who moved to the Resources Agency where he will serve as assistant secretary for program development. Grindstaff, who most recently served as chief deputy director of the Department of Water Resources, will focus on completing actions called for in the Governor's May budget revision. Those actions include facilitating an independent program and fiscal review of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program; refocusing efforts of the Authority and CALFED agencies to resolve water supply, water quality, levee stability and environmental problems in the Delta; and developing a 10-year action plan for the Program to address high priority Delta issues and link future water user payments to specific program actions. More on the announcement is available at www.calwater.ca.gov.

Workshop notice: Initial observations of Hetch Hetchy Valley Restoration Study

July 14, 2005

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Joe Serna Jr., Cal/EPA Building

Byron Sher Auditorium

1001 I Street, 2nd floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

<http://hetchhetchy.water.ca.gov/>

WATER SUPPLY ON THE COAST:

Coast officials await study on recycling water.— 6/22/05 *By Amelia Hansen*

HALF MOON BAY — The Coast is about to become more clear on what it will take to use recycled water on golf courses, landscaping and agriculture. Within the next couple of weeks, the Sewer Authority Midcoastside (SAM) will release a feasibility study that examines the costs and requirements to treat, and ultimately deliver, recycled water on the Coast. A draft study may be released to staff as early as next week, Foley said. **A special meeting will likely be held on the report in mid-July.** http://www.insidebayarea.com/searchresults/ci_2816496

San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFC-JPA)

<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/jpa/>

PHOTOS: TOP LEFT – LAKE SONOMA, SONOMA CO UNTY. TOP RIGHT: PILOT DESALINATION PLANT SITE, SAN RAFAEL WATERFRONT. BOTTOM: CALERO RESERVOIR, SANTA CLARA COUNTY



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>
- ✦ San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Capital Improvements Update
http://sfwater.org/detail.cfm/MC_ID/7/MS_C_ID/6/MTO_ID/NULL/C_ID/1451
- ✦ Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program
<http://www.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/>
- ✦ 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/>
- ✦ Bay Planning Coalition <http://www.bayplanningcoalition.org/>

Alameda Creek. Photo credit: Alameda Creek Alliance.



Water and Land Use

Rewriting the state's flood plan *By Hank Shaw, Capital Bureau Chief*

Stockton Record - 5/9/05

SACRAMENTO -- Scratch one more bold proposal from the administration of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger -- this time it's his flood control program. But unlike many of the governor's more high-profile setbacks, all sides appear willing to start over and hash out a new plan. No matter what details emerge from what looks to be at least a six-week rewrite of the legislation, the revamped program is expected to assess some sort of "flood fee" on Central Valley property owners to help maintain the levees that protect the region from flooding. Local governments, reclamation districts -- public entities that already assess landowners to fix and maintain levees -- and flood control groups each said the initial proposal left too many questions and was unworkable. State Department of Water Resources lobbyist Brian White, who is shepherding the proposal for the administration, called the first plan "pretty ambitious" and said he had expected resistance. "

Information about the bill is available at www.leginfo.ca.us. #

<http://www.recordnet.com/articlelink/050905/news/articles/050905-gn-5.php>

Island's levee, water plans scrutinized *By Kiley Russell, staff writer*

Contra Costa Times - 6/12/05

Bethel Island's efforts to maintain levees and push for a new water district require much better long-range planning and more thorough analysis, according to a Contra Costa County Grand Jury report. The report titled "Cracks to Patch at Bethel Island" suggests that the Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District's levee maintenance and rehabilitation program is poorly thought out. It also implies that the district board's plan to form a water district suffers from a lack of credible data. The board needs to "put together an overall plan to attack two very difficult projects, the water project and the levee project," said Harry Lindstrom, chairman of the grand jury committee that authored the report, which was released this week. The island is below sea level and relies on the 125-year-old levee to keep the Delta's water from flooding in. The massive, 11-mile earthen berm requires constant maintenance and restoration.

<http://www.contracostatimes.com/mlid/c>

Transit, recreation bills move to Senate *By staff writers*

Daily Review - 6/13/05

Assemblyman would impose county vehicle fee, open reservoirs to public

Two bills authored by Assemblyman Johan Klehs, D-San Leandro, have been approved on the Assembly floor and are now being considered in the state Senate. AB 672 and 1623 were passed on June 2.

AB 672 allows recreational access to lakes and trails owned by public water agencies in California. According to Klehs' district office, there are 118 reservoirs in California that are managed by the state or a local district. Of those 118 reservoirs, 63 of them do not provide recreational access. The legislation is intended to provide some level of recreational access while ensuring lakes and watershed areas remain pristine.

http://www.insidebayarea.com/dailyreview/localnews/ci_2798892

Lawsuit challenging Kenwood inn rejected *By SPENCER SOPER*

The Press Democrat - 06/15/2005

Judge upholds county's approval for Hood Mountain hotel; group may appeal ruling

A lawsuit challenging the Sonoma Country Inn, a 50-room luxury resort planned near Kenwood, was rejected by a Superior Court judge Tuesday. In response to allegations that the county approved the hillside hotel, winery, restaurant and spa in violation of state environmental laws, Judge Noel Owen upheld the county's approval of the project. The Valley of the Moon Alliance, a citizens group opposed to the inn, filed a lawsuit against the county in December, saying the project should have been denied because it will worsen traffic problems, deplete ground water supplies and create light pollution. But the group "has not satisfied its burden of proof to show prejudicial abuse of discretion on the part of the respondent (county)," Owen said in his ruling.

<http://www1.pressdemocrat.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050615/NEWS/506150325/1033/NEWS01>

Halt to development suggested *By Marc Benjamin, staff writer*

Fresno Bee - 6/13/05

Water supply concerns Fresno County grand jury

In a sharply worded report, the Fresno County grand jury is recommending "an immediate moratorium" on development in Fresno County and placement of double water meters in all new developments. In the report issued last week, grand jurors said "the rapid growth in Fresno County is a potential disaster." It was not clear whether the recommendation to halt development was for "water-short areas" or the entire county. Grand jurors placed much of the future responsibility for water supply in the hands of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and developers.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/10677490p-11461335c.html>

Inter-regional Water Planning and Management

SF water proposal on way to Modesto; Delegation to discuss Hetch Hetchy plans

By Michael Mooney, staff writer

Modesto Bee - 5/11/05

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission will send a delegation to Modesto on Thursday to discuss its controversial \$4.3 billion plan to refurbish its water system. "We must urgently rebuild our aging and vulnerable water system so we can continue to deliver reliable, high-quality water for the future," said Susan Leal, general manager of the Public Utilities Commission. A key component of the plan calls for construction of a fourth pipeline to transport water from Hetch Hetchy Reservoir to the utility's 2.4 million customers in San Francisco and northern San Mateo County. Commission officials contend that the pipeline is needed as a backup to the system's three existing pipelines - especially in the event of a major earthquake. "This line is needed for redundancy, as a backup," said Ton Winnicker, a commission spokesman, "not to add capacity."

<http://www.modbee.com/local/story/10469607p-11266504c.html>

Editorial: SF's plans for water system carry huge implications for the valley

Modesto Bee - 5/11/05

San Francisco is going to spend \$4.3 billion to improve its water-delivery system and protect it against earthquake damage. Why should we care? There are a variety of reasons - all of them important. You can hear many of them firsthand Thursday night when engineers and planners from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission explain some of the particulars of this mammoth public-works project to the people of Modesto and Stanislaus County. Here's why we should be paying close attention: First, 2.4 million Bay Area people get their water from the same source that many people in Modesto get theirs - the Tuolumne River. Second, that river also supplies irrigation water to most of the farmers in the Turlock and Modesto irrigation districts and has for more than 100 years. Anything that affects the river has the potential to affect our most important industry.

<http://www.modbee.com/opinion/story/10469411p-11266362c.html>

CACHE CREEK: History of a creek: What's so special about Cache Creek?

By Jim Eaton, special to the Democrat

Woodland Daily Democrat - 5/12/05

Recently, Cache Creek frequently has been in the news. There is controversy over proposed Wild and Scenic River legislation, potential flood issues with the city of Woodland, some fish with high mercury levels and exotic vegetation growing along its banks. Many people are passionate about the need to keep the river free-flowing, clean up the toxins, and restore native plants and animals. So why is this creek important to so many? A Matter of Semantics. One of the problems may stem from the river's name, Cache Creek. When you think of a river, you may find words like "majestic" and "mighty" come to mind. But a creek is something less - a creek. The early explorers who first stumbled across Cache Creek thought otherwise. Early Mexican settlers called it Rio de Jesus Maria (Jesus Maria River), and Hudson's Bay Company trappers named it Rivi re la Cache (rivi re is a waterway that flows into a river that reaches the sea).

http://www.dailydemocrat.com/search/ci_2730748

Sutter balks at flood remapping *By Harold Kruger, staff writer*

Marysville Appeal-Democrat - 5/22/05

Saying he couldn't sign the document in "good conscience," Sutter County Administrator Larry Combs balked at the state's flood remapping effort. Combs returned the letter of map revision - LOMR - application unsigned to the Department of Water Resources. DWR officials have said they would ask the Federal Emergency Management Agency to place large sections of Sutter and Yuba counties in the 100-year floodplain, an action that could make development more difficult and raise flood insurance premiums. Les Harder, chief of DWR's Division of Flood Management, asked each county to return a signed LOMR application by May 18. They had a week to review it.

<http://www.appeal-democrat.com/articles/2005/05/22/community/comm2.txt>

Mountain Counties Regional Report, Department of Water Resources

<http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/regions/mc/>

E-MEMO

ABAG / CALFED TASKFORCE / BAY AREA WATER FORUM

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 Francisco Watershed Council Steering Committee** meets at the Peninsula Conservation Center. Contact Pam Sturmer 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 www.museumca.org/creeks.
- ✚ **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>
- ✚ **City of Palo Alto**: <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/jpa/>

Western Drought and Water Supply News

DETERMINING DROUGHT CONDITIONS: UC Merced using NASA's loaner pods

By Rosalio Ahumada, staff writer Merced Sun-Star - 5/12/05

Using NASA technology, university researchers want to accurately measure the amount of snow in the Sierra Nevada to help Central Valley communities make better decisions about water use. To collect the snow data, University of California, Merced, scientists are using networks of wireless sensor pods the size of grapefruits, but as technologically sophisticated as an iPod. The data could tell local officials accurately if it's going to be a dry year and conservation is required, or a year when people can water their lawns and wash their cars as they like. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is developing these Sensor Webs for planetary exploration. But NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena loaned UC Merced 10 sensor pods in January, said Roger Bales, a professor in the school of engineering. "Decision makers need accurate measurements to plan for water deliveries," Bales said. "If you depend on water from the mountains, you want to know how much you're getting."

<http://www.mercedsun-star.com/local/story/10475526p-11272075c.html>

Will We Run Dry? By Micah Morrison

SF Chronicle Parade - 4/ 24/05

"The conflict between humanity's growing thirst and the supply of usable water could result in disaster," the late Sen. Paul Simon warned in PARADE in 1998. Now, despite the tsunami and-closer to home-hurricanes and floods, water resources remain of critical concern. We asked investigative reporter Micah Morrison to take another look at the issue and share his findings. In a country where limitless clean water is available at the turn of a tap, it's hard to believe that many parts of the world are at the losing end of a life-and-death struggle over water. Every year, drought and water-related diseases kill 5 million people around the globe, mainly children. Blessedly, that's not the case in the United States. But policymakers and experts are warning that the U.S. also faces a water crisis. "If we wait another 10 years to get serious about meeting the demand for water, it will be too late," Rep. John Linder (R., Ga.) tells PARADE.

"Water is life—that's no exaggeration," says Peter H. Gleick, one of the world's top experts on freshwater resources and president of the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment and Security. "It's critical to human health, farming and the manufacture of everything from steel to micro-chips. In the U.S., even though we've reduced consumption, we're still using far more water per person than we need to, and it is being wasted in every sector of the economy."

http://archive.parade.com/2005/0424/0424_willwerun_dry.html

SURFACE WATER STORAGE ISSUES: A chance to replenish drips away

By Jeff Hood, staff writer

Stockton Record - 6/18/05

The sight of water rushing over Woodbridge Dam is at once soothing and spectacular. The roar of 2,500 cubic feet per second blocks out other noise, and the crashing water blossoms into a white cloud as it pours downstream. It's an unusual scene for June on the Mokelumne River, and pedestrians and cyclists on Lower Sacramento Road stop to watch. But for local water guru Ed Steffani, the sight is unbearable. "It makes me sick," he said. Steffani, a force behind efforts to bank surplus river water in the ground, doesn't see a local attraction. He sees lost opportunity in lost water. Where last June there was 500 cubic feet of water per second flowing downstream, today there is 2,500. Next month, the Mokelumne will flow at 1,800 cfs, compared with 350 cfs last year; and in August, the rate will be reduced to 1,200 cfs, versus 325 cfs the previous year. The surplus over last year is staggering.

<http://www.recordnet.com/articlelink/061805/news/articles/061805-gn-5.php>

Water Supply Condition: DWR Bulletin May 1, 2005

Anticipated stream flow peaks are late May to early June for most streams.

Forecasts of April through July runoff are 120 percent of average overall, ranging a little below normal in the Trinity and the northern Shasta Lake tributaries to 140 percent in the southern Sierra. Water year forecasts are somewhat less at 100 percent of average statewide.

Snowpack water content dropped only slightly in the northern and central Sierra during April and now stands at about 150 percent of average for May 1 overall or 120 percent of average for April 1. Last year the snowpack on May 1 was only 50 percent of average.

Precipitation from October 1 through April 30 was about 135 percent of average compared to 90 percent one year ago. Precipitation during April was 100 percent of average statewide highest on the North Coast at 150 percent and lowest in the South Lahontan and Colorado River Desert Region for the month. Last year precipitation was 90 percent of average.

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow/bulletin120/>

Late Breaking News



RULING LIMITS LANDOWNERS' ABILITY TO SEEK COMPENSATION: Supreme Court rules against California farmers in water use case

Fresno Bee – 6/23/05 By Erica Werner, Associated Press staff writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Individual farmers may not sue the federal government to enforce water contracts entered into by their irrigation districts, a unanimous Supreme Court said Thursday in a ruling that limits landowners' ability to seek compensation for reduced flows. Two dozen farmers from California's Central Valley wanted the federal government to pay them about \$32 million as compensation for water they were supposed to get under a federal contract. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation diverted the water to comply with Endangered Species Act requirements to protect two threatened fish. http://www.fresnobee.com/state_wire/story/10742928p-11522903c.html

DELTA DANGER; A decline in fish species and their food source is a reminder of a recurring worry in the West: A broad ecosystem collapse

Sacramento Bee – 7/3/05 By Matt Weiser, staff writer

An unprecedented research effort is under way to make sense of an alarming plunge in several Delta fish species. But some observers worry it may be a case of "too little, too late."

The \$2 million research plan was pulled together in just five months by state and federal officials after routine surveys in fall 2004 found sharp declines in populations of young striped bass and Delta smelt. The smelt is a threatened species under federal law, and an important indicator of the Delta's health because it lives for only one year.

<http://www.sacbee.com/content/news/story/13172125p-14015588c.html>

INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT:

County set to adopt Prop. 50 plan

Eureka Times-Standard – 7/4/05

EUREKA -- A regional plan for the implementation of Proposition 50, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act, will go before the Board of Supervisors Tuesday.

The proposition provides \$500 million for water management projects that "protect communities from drought, protect and improve water quality, and improve local water security by reducing dependence on imported water."

<http://www.times-standard.com/Stories/0,1413,127%257E2896%257E2950665,00.html?search=filter>

RESTORATION ON SKAGGS ISLAND:

New life for plan to restore wetlands Santa Rosa Press Democrat – 7/5/05

By Spencer Soper, staff writer

The restoration of an abandoned Navy communications station on Skaggs Island into marshlands could begin next year after being held up by a long impasse between two federal agencies. Skaggs Island, a network of wetlands and hay pastures at the southern end of Sonoma County on San Pablo Bay, includes a Navy communications base that closed in 1993. Historically, the 4,400-acre island was part of one of the most extensive wetlands networks on the Pacific Coast, serving as a fish hatchery for salmon, a rest stop for migrating shorebirds and home to a variety of other wildlife. But to create farmland, the island was drained, diked and converted to hayfields, displacing wildlife.

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