

CHINO BASIN WATERMASTER

IV. <u>INFORMATION</u>

1. Newspaper Articles



Los Angeles Cimes







http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-la-water-stimulus30-2009apr30,0,2788263.story From the Los Angeles Times

Los Angeles water projects to get stimulus boost

The Army Corps of Engineers plans to use federal stimulus funds to help complete a raft of projects, including work on the county river system and dredging of Upper Newport Bay. By Alexandra Zavis

April 30, 2009

The Los Angeles district of the Army Corps of Engineers plans to use its share of federal stimulus dollars to help complete a backlog of projects aimed at improving the local water

The new funding includes \$6.5 million for delayed repairs and improvements to the Los Angeles County river system, \$5.1 million for water recycling and \$17.4 million to finish a dredging project to prevent mud-choked Upper Newport Bay from becoming a meadow

Nearly \$184 million in all has been allocated to the district, which covers 226,000 square miles in Southern California, Arizona, southern Nevada and a small part of Utah. The funding is part of \$4.6 billion in allocations to the corps under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which President Obama signed into law in February

"In many cases the projects that we have on this list are projects that have kind of hung out there for a while without the necessary funds to complete them," said Col. Thomas Magness, who commands the corps' L.A. district. "We finally have a chance to complete the projects, put them in the portfolio as 100% and turn over the project."

District officers estimate that the funding will create or save about 1,472 jobs directly related to the work and 2,558 positions in supporting fields, including companies that provide materials and services to the contractors

"We are very excited," said Dave Kiff, assistant city manager for Newport Beach.

Mud flats, fed by sediment that washes into Upper Newport Bay via the San Diego Creek, have been building up in the ecologically important estuary for years, greatly reducing the water level. Eventually, the reserve became so choked with sediment and growth that coyotes and other predators could walk across to what had been small islands, disturbing nests and eating eggs, including those of the endangered least term. Tons of silt were also spilling over from the upper bay into the lower bay, grounding vessels in the Newport Beach

In October 2005, dredging crews began removing 2.3 million cubic yards of accumulated muck, but funding started running out about halfway into the project, Kiff said.

The corps, the lead agency on the project, was supposed to cover 65% of the estimated \$38.5 million cost, with state and local agencies providing the rest. Local authorities funded their \$13.5-million share with money raised for coastal protection under Proposition 12 of 2000. Until now, however, Congress had only appropriated \$17.5 million of the roughly \$25-

In the meantime, the corps estimates that the project's tab has ballooned to more than \$50 million, driven in part by rising fuel costs

Together with some additional local funding, Kiff said, the new federal money should be sufficient to finish dredging by the summer of 2010.

"It's a little ironic that it took a recession and stimulus package for the government to complete its share," Kiff said,

The additional \$6.5 million for the L.A. County drainage system will allow the corps to perform delayed maintenance and repairs to the channels and dams, clear out vegetation and debris that is inhibiting water flow, remove graffiti and update recreation plans for the area, corps officials said.

"That work is never complete," Magness said.

The \$5.1 million for water recycling will help the West Basin Municipal Water District reduce the region's dependence on imported water from Northern California and Colorado, said General Manager Richard Nagel. West Basin already delivers 35 million gallons of recycled water from the El Segundo wastewater treatment plant — water that would otherwise be dumped into the ocean. The extra funding will be used to build new pipelines and a pump station in another step toward doubling capacity by 2020, Nagel said.

Also on the corps' list are:

- * \$27.5 million for flood control along the Santa Ana River, part of a \$2-billion project that corps officials say is about 90% complete
- * \$2.5 million to finish deepening the turning basin at the Port of Long Beach
- *\$1.98 million to assess the condition of the San Pedro breakwater and dredge the L.A. River estuary.
- * \$500,000 for a survey of the Dana Point Harbor breakwater, where officials want to check recent storm damage repairs.

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Official: Water recycling critical

PE.com

DROUGHT: Inland agency executive testifies before lawmakers about where to channel stimulus funds.



10:00 PM PDT on Tuesday, April 28, 2009

By BEN GOAD Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - With California facing a third consecutive year of drought, federal economic recovery dollars should go to water recycling programs that will both create jobs and stretch the state's ever-dwindling supply, a top Inland water official told lawmakers Tuesday.

Federal officials recently announced that roughly \$135 million from President Barack Obama's \$787 billion stimulus legislation would go toward the construction of water recycling projects across the country.

"This decision means that drought-starved communities and regions where the recession has been particularly devastating to local economies are now in a position to address two problems at once," Inland Empire Utilities Agency chief executive Richard Atwater said in prepared testimony submitted to the House Natural Resources' subcommittee on Water and Power.

Atwater said the Chino-based agency has decreased its reliance on potable water by 20 percent in the last five years through water recycling and desalting programs.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Feb. 27 declared a statewide emergency due to drought and raised the prospect of water rationing.

"If oil becomes too expensive, we can shift our energy demands to other sources," Atwater said. "But if reliable water supplies dry up, our industries, ranging from agriculture to manufacturing to retail, cannot sustain their business operations."

Local officials have requested \$14 million of the funds for the Inland Empire Regional Recycled Water Program, with the work focused in three areas: Fontana/Upland, Rancho Cucamonga and Montclair, said Martha Davis, the agency's executive manager of policy development.

Beyond water recycling projects, water officials and lawmakers should be exploring ways to increase the region's water supply, said Inland Rep. Joe Baca, a member of the panel.

Baca suggested the possibility of importing water from other states, including South Dakota.

"They've got plenty of water," said Baca, D-Rialto. "This way, we would not always be competing with Northern California."

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Sometimes history fails to get it right

Joe Blackstock, Staff Writer

Created: 04/06/2009 10:28:36 PM PDT

Is there any more lasting honor given to a man or woman than to have his or her name attached to some permanent building or location?

The names of Chaffey College, **Howard Cattle Elementary** School, Henry J. Kaiser High School and the community of Guasti remember some of the former leaders of the Inland Valley, preserving at least a little of their legacy.

Sometimes, though, history's memory is just a bit faulty.

Consider the Sainsevain brothers - Pierre and Jean Louis - who were among the first winemakers in this area.

A camping area in the San Gabriel Mountains, streets in Rancho Cucamonga, Mira Loma and Fontana, a flood control channel and spreading grounds, and even a San Bernardino County redevelopment area just east of the 15 Freeway all are named for those brothers - and every one of them is misspelled.

The name "San Sevaine" was attached, albeit spelled wrong, to all those locations in memory of the French-born brothers who came to California while it was still part of Mexico.

They were instrumental in Southern California winemaking well before the arrival of Secondo



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Guasti and other Italian and French vintners who developed the Inland Valley wine industry at the start of the 20th century.

Pierre Sainsevain arrived in Santa Barbara by ship in 1839, encouraged to come here by his uncle Jean Louis Vignes, who had a vineyard in the vicinity of today's Union Station in downtown Los Angeles. Pierre later spent time in Santa Cruz and San Jose and even took off for the Sierra Nevada chasing the lure of gold in 1848.

Pierre and his older brother bought their uncle's vineyard in 1855 for \$42,000. A carpenter by trade in his native Bordeaux. Pierre returned to France to study winemaking and brought his knowledge back to expand his vineyard in Los Angeles.

Brother Jean Louis had his own chance to make his name in Los Angeles trying to deliver something that is still more valuable here than gold: water.

In 1865, he was awarded the contract to lay water pipes through the streets of downtown L.A. and build a reservoir, putting him in the position of being a power broker.

However, he washed out of the water business. The material he chose for water pipes - wood proved far better at aging wine than it was at carrying water. He had to quickly replace his leaking piping system with iron pipes. Then a storm destroyed the reservoir, releasing all the water stored there, and briefly leaving Los Angeles with neither a working water system nor any water to deliver.

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It was then Jean Louis decided to go back to the wine business and moved with his brother to the Inland Valley.

Jean Louis became winery superintendent on the holdings of the original Rancho Cucamonga, whose grapes were planted in 1839 near today's Foothill Boulevard and Vineyard Avenue. Pierre imported grape cuttings from France and planted a number of new varieties.

"A very superior article of wine grown in San Bernardino County is now on the market and is attracting considerable attention. .. from consumers of the juices of the grape," praised the San Francisco Times in 1869 about the brothers' wines.

"It is known as Cocomun- go, or California Madeira wine, and is

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pronounced by competent judges to be as fine an article as manufactured in the world."

The brothers had sales offices in Los Angeles and San Francisco and seemed to be doing well until they decided to sell off their interests and left the area.

On Feb. 24, 1873, Pierre sold 850 acres of Etiwanda to a partner in the Cucamonga winery, Capt. Joseph Garcia. Garcia, a former ship captain from Portugal, built a ranch home and then in 1881 sold his ranch to two brothers from Canada - the Chaffey brothers - who were the developers of today's Ontario, Upland and Rancho Cucamonga.

Now, more than a century later, little sign of the vineyards of the Sainsevain brothers remains in



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the Inland Valley.

But their name, with its rather creative spelling, lives on.

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Chino proposes utilitytax hike

Public hearing set for June 2

Neil Nisperos, Staff Writer

Posted: 04/08/2009 10:29:21 PM PDT

CHINO - Residents might have to deal with utility rate increases but not before they have their say on the proposed charges.

If the increase is approved by the City Council, its impact on the average Chino home will be an increase of \$4.38 per month during the first year and \$5.18 more per month in the second year, according to a city report by David Cain, the city's director of finance.

Among the proposed rate increases for this year is \$1.08 for every 748 gallons of water and \$1.17 the next year. The current rate is \$0.9863 for every 748 gallons.

A public hearing has been scheduled by the council for June 2 to discuss proposed rate increases for water, sewer and trash collection.

The hearing is required under Proposition 218, which was passed in 1996 and requires local governments to notify residents of proposed new or increased rates.

The council on Tuesday also approved \$14,000 for the printing and mailing of notices to residents informing them of the hearing.

During the hearing, council will consider the public protests and objections.

"The rates being proposed ... are largely the result of increases from our thirdparty suppliers being passed through to Chino residents," said Rob Burns, deputy director of finance.

"These third parties include Metropolitan Water District, a major supplier of water for Chino; Inland Empire Utilities Agency, which provides wastewater treatment; and Waste Management, which provides refuse and recycling services."

The proposed rate increase comes as the continuing statewide drought has led to higher imported-water costs from agencies including the MWD.

According to the city report, officials are

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anticipating more rate increases from water suppliers in the near future.

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency sewage treatment service is at \$9.62 for a single-family household and \$6.73 for a multifamily household.

The proposed rates for single-family units are \$10.75 for 2009 and \$11.29 for the next year.

The multifamily charges per household are proposed at \$7.52 and \$7.90.

Waste Management does not plan to increase household trash-collection fees. Services are expected to remain at \$22.12 this year, although an increased charge is proposed in July 2010.

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Reclaiming flood basin

Rancho sizes up developers for 1,200 acres of open land

Wendy Leung, Staff Writer

Created: 04/11/2009 07:01:24 AM PDT

RANCHO CUCAMONGA - The 1,200 acres of untouched land north of Los Osos High School have sat idle while residential development sprouted on all sides. But the time has come for development to come knocking.

County and city officials are in the preliminary stages of selecting a developer to build on the rocky terrain that once served as flood control land. The City Council is considering the five developer teams that responded to the request for qualification and will forward its top two picks to San Bernardino County. The county could make a selection by June.

Located north of Banyan Street between Milliken Avenue and the Day Creek Channel, the land is partly within city limits but mostly is unincorporated land within the city's sphere of influence. Eventually, the city will annex the property.

"It's the last big piece of developable land left," said Mayor Don Kurth. "Hopefully it'll be a community within a community that's a real gem."

Council members are sifting through proposals

from five developers - Rancho Alliance Investors, Foremost Communities, K&K Development Inc., Richland Communities/Toll Brothers and Brookfield Homes.

"I'm interested in the stability of the organization, in where they had done other projects and their relationship with the city," said Councilman Sam Spagnolo.

"In the past, developers would come in and they would build and be gone and leave us with a multitude of problems. That's one of my concerns."

Of the 1,200 acres, 815 acres will be developed and 385 acres will be set aside for open space.

One of the potential developers, Rancho Alliance, is a consortium that includes Diversified Pacific, a Rancho Cucamonga-based company co-founded and managed by Jeff Burum.

Burum was a partner in Colonies project, which received a \$102 million settlement after suing the county over flood control easements at the Upland development. During the settlement talks, all or portions of the 1,200 acres, were used by the county as a bargaining chip at various points of the negotiations. Ultimately, the land was not part of the settlement.

At a meeting in March, each developer gave a 30-minute presentation on its qualifications, financial capabilities and visions for the project.

Sustainability, diversity of housing choices and a

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commercial component serving as a village center were the common thread in the presentations. All the developers had proposals for a golf course and a 25-acre park - features that were sought by the city and county in the request for qualifications process.

But it's too early to determine whether those features will make it through the final design phase.

"I think our job is to look at who's the most financially qualified," Kurth said. "It's not about who does the prettiest design."

Spagnolo pointed out that the preliminary designs of Victoria Gardens included meandering streets and lakes.

"If you look at Victoria Gardens, it looks nowhere like what it was supposed to," Spagnolo said.

But that didn't stop the developers from getting painstakingly detailed in their proposals.

Rancho Alliance - an amalgam of Lewis Homes, Shea Homes and other companies - wants to create a lake park in what is currently a rock quarry. Richland/Toll Brothers wants to plant more than 400 acres of grapevines to tie the project to local history. K&K Developers proposed a 200-room hotel and recharge stations for electric cars and golf carts.

Spagnolo said building a hotel to accommodate a golf course isn't a far-fetched plan.

"If you talked about hotels in the city of Rancho Cucamonga 30 years ago, people would have said, 'No way," Spagnolo said. "Now we've got Fourth Street, and a high-end hotel coming on Haven and on Foothill. Thinking out of the box is not a bad idea."

Councilman Rex Gutierrez, not quite keen on another golf course in the city, has hopes for an athletic complex.

"We have plenty of access to golf courses," Gutierrez said. "We desperately need sports space. So far, we have more demand than supply."

Last week, the City Council and county representatives took a tour of the site. It is not known when the council will make its picks.

The project is likely to face opposition from residents who want to preserve open space and nearby neighbors who assumed the land would be left alone, especially since it has remained unchanged despite the population boom.

The majority of the property lies on a flood plain that wasn't deemed developable until the nearby Day Creek and Deer Creek debris basins were built. The land is now considered surplus flood control property but the fire-prone hillside terrain will be a challenge for developers.

In May the county will have the land appraised. County Supervisor Paul Biane estimated the value at \$25 million to \$50 million.





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A rock quarry operated by Hanson Aggregates is in the center of the property. The company has an agreement with the county to cease operation in 2013, said Biane.

Developing the 815 acres will be a long-term project with a land entitlement agreement process that could take five years. The city, after it picks the top two candidates, will continue to play a role in the project by sending two members to serve on a design review committee.

"It isn't often that somebody who owns the land asks their neighbor to help develop it," Spagnolo said.

Biane, a former Rancho Cucamonga councilman, said one of the reasons he ran for the Board of Supervisors was because he felt cities weren't given a voice in development and planning issues.

"I have a long history and consistent record in involving cities in every decision I make and understanding the impacts that the board makes on cities," Biane said.

There are limitations however. As the county tries to maximize its flood control assets, it retains the right to veto the city's selections with a unanimous vote by the supervisors.

"It's the county's project, it's the county's land and the county gets the money for it," Kurth said. "We expect that we will annex it and we want to have some input. Having a little seat at the table is better than not having a seat at the table at

all."

Expectations are high for the city's last grand project. The design details are far from being finalized but they are slowly being etched in the minds of local leaders. Park space is a must. Green concepts are a given. Some are even talking of an amphitheater.

"When you're driving down the freeway and you come up to Victoria Gardens, it's so distinct," Spagnolo said. "I want people to be driving up with the same feeling on this project. I don't want to be looking at a bunch of rooftops." Five developers are vying for the chance to develop 1,200 acres of untouched land in the northern part of the city. They are:

Brookfield Homes

- * Based in Del Mar and is responsible for Edenglen in Ontario's New Model Colony and Mulberry at The Preserve in Chino.
- * Proposes a main street with restaurants, retail and small grocery store in addition to a park with equestrian trails.

Foremost Communities

- * Based in Irvine and is responsible for Sycamore Creek in south Corona and Talega in San Clemente.
- * Partnering with Starwood Capital Group for the project.

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* Proposes a village center near Los Osos High School that would include commercial and medical facilities as well as a farmer's market.

* Toll Brothers has sold more than 140 homes in the city including The Heights at Haven View and The Estates.

K&K Development Inc.

- * Based in Beverly Hills and built Eagle Valley project in Corona.
- * Proposes a 200-room hotel, amphitheater and botanic gardens.
- * Envisions homes with solar panels and recharge stations for electric vehicles.

Rancho Alliance Investors

- * A consortium of developers including Lewis Homes, Diversified Pacific, Shea Homes and Pitassi Architects.
- * Calls the project "Rancho Bella" and proposes an oasis lake park for the quarry site.
- * Vows to initiate a community input process with workshops on project details.

Richland Communities/Toll Brothers

- * The Stockton-based Richland and Pennsylvania-based Toll Brothers merged for this request for qualification.
- * Calls project "Cuverra," a mixture of the words cuvee and terra. Cuvee is a wine term that refers to the best product from a grape pressing.

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MDW poised to tighten water conservation measures

Mediha Fejzagic DiMartino, Staff Writer

Greated: 04/13/2009 04:46:24 PM PDT

The Metropolitan Water District's Board of Directors is expected to vote today to implement a Water Supply Allocation Plan that will reduce water supplies to its member agencies by 10 percent.

The water supply reduction will affect local agencies differently, based on their water usage levels as well as dependency on imported water.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a consortium of 26 cities and water agencies serving 19 million people in six counties. Locally, MWD provides water to Inland Empire Utilities Agency, which serves Fontana and the Cucamonga Valley Water District.

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District imports only 10 percent of its water supplies and does not buy water from MWD. Still, it is subject to the same supply problems. The district serves the cities of San Bernardino, Colton, Loma Linda, Redlands, Rialto, Bloomington, Highland, East Highland, Mentone, Grand Terrace and Yucaipa.

California is in a third consecutive year of drought. Rainfall levels statewide for the 2008-2009 water year are 24 percent below average.

Statewide snowpack water content is at 19 percent below normal. In addition, the water stored in the state's reservoir system is extremely low, prompting Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to declare a water supply emergency in February.

Over the past two years, MWD has depleted half of its water reserves to deal with the drought and with a court-ordered 30 percent restriction on water deliveries from the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project to protect the Delta smelt.

The MWD board is expected to vote to declare a change of Metropolitan's Water Supply Condition from "Condition 2 - Water Supply Alert" to "Condition 3 - Implement Water Supply Allocation," effective July 1.

Not implementing the Water Supply Allocation Plan at the recommended level would result in an over-withdrawal from MWD's storage resources and increase the risk of even lower supply allocations and more severe shortage impacts in the future, the board's voting packet stated.

Water levels in ground basins in the San Bernardino area are as low as they have been since the 1960s, said Randy Van Gelder, general manager of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District.

To conserve water, Van Gelder's team is installing weather-based irrigation controllers in public parks and school districts' fields.

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"They use weather information and calculate how much water the turf needs every day," Van Gelder said. "We think that there is a lot of water that can be saved and used more efficiently."

The recession is hurting everyone, but it is working in favor of preserving the water supplies.

"The water demands are not increasing as they would have," Van Gelder said. "When a house goes into foreclosure, the bank will turn off the utilities including water."

In response to the governor's emergency declaration, the Inland Empire Utilities Agency called for all households and businesses to step up their water conservation efforts.

"We need residents and business owners to recognize the severity of the drought that is affecting us," stated IEUA Board President Terry Catlin. "It's time to take shorter showers, fix your leaky faucets, and turn off your sprinklers when it is raining outside."

IEUA imports 25 percent of its total supply from MWD. Groundwater represents 60 percent of its supply, recycled water is contributes 10 percent, while mountain runoff adds another 5 percent.

Currently, local rainfall is about 80 percent of average, said Richard Atwater, general manager of the IEUA. The groundwater supplies are fine but IEUA is using its "storage reserves."

"If MWD curtails their imported supplies by 10

percent it will reduce supplies within IEUA service by about 3 percent," Atwater said. "We are asking all customers to conserve 10 percent to keep our local supplies in storage in case the the drought continues next year."

U.S. Rep. Grace F. Napolitano, D-Santa Fe Springs, was recently reappointed chair of the House Water and Power Subcommittee.

"There is no simple solution to California's water problems. Everyone is going to have to give because of the decreased water supplies." Napolitano said last month at a congressional briefing. "To meet this challenge, we all need to take proactive steps to increase local supplies and lessen our dependence on imported water through conservation and water recycling."

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Less water for more money

Rebecca Kimitch, Staff Writer

Created: 04/12/2009 05:26:24 PM PDT

It appears likely that water imported to the Southland is about to get more expensive and less available.

The cumulative effects of the state's third year of drought and a judge's effort to avoid ecological collapse in northern rivers are finally taking their toll in a very real way.

The Metropolitan Water District, the agency that distributes imported water throughout Southern California, is expected to approve Tuesday two separate plans that would increase the cost of imported water by 40 percent and cut availability to water agencies by 10 percent to 15 percent.

Because many water providers throughout the San Gabriel Valley and other areas rely on local groundwater supplies as well as imported water, the end effect on consumers may not be as severe here. However, on average, water consumers in Southern California can expect to be asked to use 10 percent less water, according to MWD general manager Jeffrey Kightlinger.

They also can expect their monthly water bills to rise \$15 on average over the next three years, or about \$180 annually, he said.

"Yes, it's a double whammy," said Shan Kwan, assistant general manager for Pasadena Water and Power. "That's the nature of the business you make money by selling more water, but when there is a need to conserve, you get less revenue, but you still have fixed costs we have to pay for. And somehow you have to recover the lost revenue."

Though the massive aquifers spreading across the Valley could protect consumers in this region, local supplies are also low. And many cities and water utilities are implementing tiered pricing structures under which water becomes increasingly expensive.

Under the MWD's plan, member agencies would receive 10 percent to 15 percent less imported water than normal based on a complicated formula that takes into consideration local supplies, cost impacts and conservation efforts.

If agencies go above the amount they are allocated under the plan, they could pay about three to five times higher than the normal price for an acre-foot of water, currently \$579.

Whether water agencies are able to avoid these hefty prices depends a lot on consumers. So far even the most successful voluntary conservation campaigns have only reduced water consumption by at most 5 percent, officials said.

"It will be difficult to reach those levels - 10 to 15 percent conservation is going to be difficult for any agency in any area," said Kirk Howie, assistant general manager of administration for

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Three Valleys Municipal Water District. "It certainly is doable ... In the long run, we'll have to change our focus and habits, but we'll learn a lot in the next year in this process."

Many cities across the region are adopting water conservation ordinances that permanently prohibit outdoor watering during some hours of the day, require leaks to be fixed, and provide incentives to install low-flow toilets and shower heads.

It has been more than 15 years since MWD has raised rates so dramatically. For the past decade, rates have increased only about 5 percent.

Water remains relatively cheap compared to other utilities. While a single family home may pay \$100 or more for electricity, the water bill for a typical family in California is \$45 a month.

Even so, water costs look poised to grow.

"The easy sources of conservation have been tapped," said Kightlinger of the MWD.



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County completes project to tame San Sevaine Creek

Wendy Leung, Staff Writer

Created: 04/09/2009 07:35:41 PM PDT RANCHO CUCAMONGA - The San Sevaine Flood Control project at the Rancho Cucamonga-Fontana border, a \$150 million venture aimed to offer protection from 100-year floods, has been completed.

The San Bernardino County project, nearly 25 years in the making, is expected to solve the flood-prone areas of Rancho Cucamonga, Ontario, Fontana and other cities.

County Supervisor Paul Biane and other local dignitaries marked the project's completion at the Etiwanda debris basin Thursday. Biane said the region has been prone to flooding from San Sevaine Creek since the first floods were recorded in the early 1900s.

"With this project, we've tamed the San Sevaine," Biane said.

The project, partly funded by the cities of Rancho Cucamonga, Fontana and Ontario, is expected to benefit about 100,000 residents from the foothills to the Riverside County line and pave the way for future development.

Rancho Cucamonga Mayor Don Kurth said massive infrastructure projects like this one will usher in much needed jobs to the region.

"Now we can have the development we need in this whole eastern side of Rancho Cucamonga so we'll have the industrial and commercial development we need to get people jobs," Kurth said. "Lord knows that's what we need right now. We need to get the economy going again."

The project's completion means an end to the flooding that takes place nearly every year in areas where Fourth Street and the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks cross the channel.

Louis Abi-Younes, Ontario's city engineer, said it also means no more flooding on Ontario Mills Parkway, which was closed for nearly a year due to past storms that brought three feet of mud to the street.

Part of the project also involved the construction of several water basins that will sink about 25,000 acre-feet of storm water runoff every year into the Chino Groundwater Basin.

Ontario Mayor Paul Leon said the completion of the project comes at a time of renewed understanding of water conservation.

"Most of us didn't give much thought to water back then," Leon said. "One of those bottles of water costs \$3 at the airport. I know back in the 1960s I wouldn't have paid a nickel for that bottle of water.

"We didn't think in terms of how important water was to retain it and make sure it recharges to

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our water supply."

Construction of the project will also set aside 360 acres near the Etiwanda debris basin as conservation in order to protect plant and wildlife in the area.

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Places saved, water boosted

Our view: New legislation will help produce new sources of fresh water in county and protect more than 700,000 acres of wild lands in California.

Posted: 04/04/2009 06:01:24 PM PDT

We're gratified that Congress passed and President Obama signed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, which not only protects wild lands but also promotes important water-supply projects in San Bernardino County.

The new law authorizes \$20 million to treat tainted surface water, reclaim and reuse tainted groundwater, and provide brine disposal in the Yucaipa area.

It authorizes \$26 million for a desalination project in the Chino dairy area, and \$10 million for the construction of "natural" treatment systems and wetlands for water flowing into the Prado Basin.

Another \$26 million is authorized for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to design, plan and construct a series of grandwater wells, pumps and pipelines in Riverside and San Bernardino counties that will provide new, local water.

In addition, the public land act protects more than 2 million acres of wild places, more than 700,000 of them in California.

Some 190,000 acres are designated as wilderness in neighboring Riverside County alone, including the new Cahuilla Mountain, Beauty Mountain and South Fork San Jacinto wilderness areas.

The act adds acreage to the Joshua Tree, Pinto Mountains, Palen-McCoy, Orocopia Mountains, Chuckwalla Mountains and Agua Tibia wilderness areas; as well as to the Santa Rosa Peak, Southeast Boundary, Tahquitz Peak and Snow Creek monuments.

Wild and scenic river protection goes to Palm Canyon, Bautista, Fuller Mill and North Fork San Jacinto creeks.

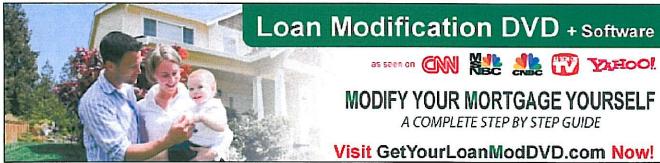
In San Bernardino County, the Amargosa River now has wild and scenic river protection. That river lies mostly in Inyo County, but runs through several miles of San Bernardino County south of Tecopa.

The bill creates two new wilderness areas in Los Angeles County as well: Pleasant View Ridge in the San Gabriel Mountains and Magic Mountain near Santa Clarita, both part of Angeles National Forest. Piru Creek gets wild and scenic river protection.

Much of the land with new wilderness area protection in California is in the Eastern Sierra and the White Mountains, just a few hours north of here.

We're pleased that these wild places will be preserved for those who come after us.

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News Release

For Release: Immediate

Contact: Michele McKinney Underwood, Public Affairs Representative

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Western appoints representative to CDA board

RIVERSIDE, CA – April 13, 2009 – Western Board Vice President Charles D. Field has been appointed as District representative to serve on the Chino Basin Desalter Authority (CDA) Board of Directors; John V. Rossi, Western's general manager, has been appointed as the District's alternate representative to the CDA board.

Western membership in the CDA was approved last December. The CDA's goal is to achieve local water sustainability by cleaning up and recharging the local aquifer. Other members include Jurupa Community Services District, the Santa Ana River Water Company, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, and the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Norco and Ontario. Working cooperatively, these agencies built and operate the Chino Desalter facility that creates clean drinking water by removing salts and nitrates from otherwise non-useable groundwater.



Charles D. Field

"Our region faces many challenges as imported water supplies from the Colorado River and State Water Project are reduced. Now that Western has a seat at the CDA table, we can work more closely with the Authority to expand our local water supply for the region," said Field, who also represents Western on the Chino Basin Watermaster Board.

A current CDA project is the \$112 million expansion of the Chino Desalter facilities. In partnership with the city of Ontario and Jurupa Community Services District, the project includes construction of new wells, groundwater treatment and water distribution facilities in the lower Chino Basin. When complete in 2013, the expanded facility will increase drinking water supply from 10 to 20 million gallons per day (MGD) to Western and other CDA members.

"Western's recent membership to the CDA allows the District to continue focusing on securing new water sources as imported supplies diminish," said Rossi. "Director Field brings extensive experience and provides a strong voice for the District on the CDA Board. Additionally, the Chino Desalter expansion project will significantly increase water supply reliability to our customers."

In addition to expanding water supplies, benefits of the Chino Desalter operation include: achieving hydraulic control of the Chino Groundwater Basin outflow to the Santa Ana River; increasing desalter groundwater pumping from the lower Chino Groundwater Basin to 40,000 acre-feet per year; removing salts and other impurities from the groundwater basin; and 10 MGD of additional drinking water to Ontario, Jurupa and Western.

Western Municipal Water District provides water supply, wastewater disposal and water resource management to the public in a safe, reliable, environmentally sensitive and financially responsible manner.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

P. O. Box 54153, Los Angeles, California 90054-0153 • (213) 217-6485 • www.mwdh2o.com

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April 14, 2009

SOUTHLAND CONSUMERS, BUSINESSES FACE MANDATORY CONSERVATION THIS SUMMER

Delta environmental issues, dwindling reserves, drought combine to force Metropolitan board to begin limiting imported supplies effective July 1

Southland consumers and businesses for the first time in 18 years will face mandatory water conservation restrictions this summer, a reflection of drought, the region's limited water reserves and worsening environmental and regulatory conditions in Northern California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The board of directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California today reduced supplies delivered to its member public agencies for the first time since 1991, effective July 1. The financial impacts of higher Delta costs due to supply reductions caused by new regulatory restraints also were primary factors behind a rate increase approved by the Metropolitan board in a separate action. The rate increase will take effect Sept. 1.

"Up to 19 million Southern Californians this summer will feel the impact of a new water reality that has been in the making for years, if not decades," said Metropolitan board Chairman Timothy F. Brick.

Metropolitan General Manager Jeffrey Kightlinger said the tight water supply situation has had a cumulative, region-wide effect.

"When you consider the cuts we had already made to our agricultural customers and to groundwater replenishment deliveries, along with the reductions being asked for from consumers, the total amounts to about a 20 percent reduction in water usage for Southern California," said Kightlinger.

The approved allocation action offers local water providers the flexibility to choose among various conservation strategies, from tiered pricing to limits on outdoor water use, to ensure that demands stay in balance with limited supplies. As the region's wholesale supplier of water imported from Northern California and the Colorado River, Metropolitan provides water to

more....

its 26 member public agencies and helps supplement local supplies to meet the needs of 19 million Southern Californians in MWD's six-county service area.

"There is no one-size-fits-all conservation solution. All residents of Southern California, however, do rely on the same regional water reserves," Brick said. "If we want to protect the region's water reserves, we will all need to reduce our water use and use it more efficiently.

"Today's action represents the critical need for each of us to modify our water use behavior—to be more efficient on a permanent basis—to reflect our new water reality," he added.

After consecutive critically dry years in the Sierra Nevada, the state Department of Water Resources' most-recent snow survey of the winter season indicates snowpack water content statewide is 81 percent of normal. DWR officials rely on snow water content to determine the availability of supplies to be delivered from Northern California via the State Water Project.

In the face of Delta environmental restrictions, the statewide drought and low reservoir levels, DWR has currently established a 20 percent allocation of State Water Project deliveries to Metropolitan. On the Colorado River, Metropolitan cannot expect additional deliveries as that watershed has yet to recover from eight years of record drought.

Kightlinger said the prospects of replenishing the region's water reserves in the coming years have been reduced by deteriorating environmental conditions in the Delta resulting in a series of court and regulatory actions which will reduce deliveries by as much as 40 percent.

"Since 2006, we have drawn down our reserves that are set aside for dry cycles and emergencies by more than half," Kightlinger said. "We must be very careful on how we manage our remaining supplies.

"The challenge is to achieve a careful balance that maintains supplies critical to our economy and well being and conserve our remaining resources to assure Southern California has water for the coming years," he said.

Metropolitan's allocation plan, first approved by the board in February 2008, will limit supplies and impose penalty rates on member agencies for any water use above the target levels. Funds collected by Metropolitan through penalty rates would help finance conservation programs within the boundaries of that member agency.

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In its rate action, Metropolitan's board approved an 8.8 percent increase in the district's base wholesale water rate plus a \$69-per-acre-foot Delta surcharge.

The Delta surcharge reflects Metropolitan's costs in dealing with the loss of State Water Project supplies due to the environmental collapse of the Delta, Kightlinger said.

"The supply losses caused by that collapse have required us to purchase expensive replacement supplies, accelerate funding of alternative water supply programs and finance Delta sustainability projects, including the protection of endangered species," Kightlinger said.

The effect of the rate adjustment and Delta surcharge on Southland consumers will depend on how much of Metropolitan's imported water is purchased by their local water agency to augment supplies, such as groundwater and recycled supplies.

For more information on Metropolitan, visit the district's Web site at www.mwdh2o.com.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 19 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.

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Public asked to conserve water

Mediha Fejzagic DiMartino, Staff Writer

Created: 04/15/2009 06:16:01 PM PDT

CHINO - Richard Atwater is walking the talk. The General manager of Inland Empire Utilities Agency has pulled all the grass from his backyard and replaced it with native California plants.

"I cut my water bill in half and I don't have to mow my lawn every week," he said.

On Thursday, Atwater and his colleagues from IEUA asked members of the public to do their share too, and reduce water consumption by at least 10 percent. The agency's Board of Directors has adopted a drought plan in response to Metropolitan Water District's Tuesday decision Wednesday to cut supply allocations to its member agencies by 10 percent.

No one is being asked to pull out their green turf just yet, but responsible watering could do the trick.

"Sixty five (percent) to 75 percent of water use in a typical home in our area is used for outdoor irrigation," Atwater said.

IEUA's concern for the water supply started a few years ago. Anticipating drought and a reduction in the supply of imported water, the agency beefed up its local resources. The newly adopted drought plan is designed to maximize the development of local water supplies and to increase water efficiency.

"Working together with other agencies, we have been developing a portfolio of local supply," said Martha Davis, IEUA'S executive manager of policy development.

Local supply includes groundwater, surface and recycled water, as well as water reclaimed by Chino desalters. As of July 1, MWD will deliver 10,000 acrefeet less water to IEUA for the upcoming year. The agency's supply of recycled water is at 20,000 acrefeet per year, twice as much as it will lose in imported water.

"We have one of the most aggressive recycled water projects in the state of California," said Angel Santiago, IEUA's vice president. "But I don't want to

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(understate) the severity of the problem. The truth is, we don't know if we are in the third year of a three-year drought or in the third year of a 15-year drought."

The price of imported water from MWD will go up about 20 percent as of Sept. 1.

"We are getting less and paying more," Santiago said.

Some agencies, such as Las Virgenes Municipal Water District in Calabasas, import all of their water supply. IEUA buys 25 percent of its supply from MWD. The 10 percent cut represents about a 3 percent cut in IEUA's overall supply.

"If we control our demand, together with the water supplies we have developed locally, we will have sufficient supply," Davis said.

Controlling the demand can be simple. Watering lawns in the early morning hours saves 25 gallons of water per day. Using a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways saves 150 gallons of water each time. Checking sprinkler systems for leaks or overspray can save 500 gallons of water per month.

"If you are efficient about irrigation, you

can save 10 percent of water," Atwater said. "Ten percent is doable by everybody."

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Chino Council okays stronger water use rules

Neil Nisperos, Staff Writer

Created: 04/22/2009 07:26:35 PM PDT

CHINO - The City Council has enacted stronger codes for tighter water usage in light of the governor's call for conservation in a time of drought.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced a "State of Emergency" regarding the water situation in February and requested all urban water users increase conservation activities.

In response, the city revised the Municipal Code to make it consistent with conservation measures adopted by local agencies.

Among the newly approved permanent restrictions announced by Public Works Director Jose Alire:

- Allowing irrigation water, under ordinary conditions, to run off into a gutter, ditch, drain, driveway, sidewalk, street or onto pavement or other hard surface is prohibited.

- Outdoor irrigation of landscape for more than 15 minutes of watering per day per station is prohibited. Landscapes that utilize drip irrigation systems are exempt from the restriction.
- Automated irrigation of landscape during the hours of 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. is prohibited. Customers are also encouraged to avoid using sprinklers on windy days. Irrigation by handheld hoses with automatic shutoff nozzles, drip irrigation, or handheld buckets is permitted any time.
- Outdoor irrigation of landscape on a rainy day is prohibited.
- Restaurants serving water to their customers is prohibited unless specifically requested by a patron.
- Washing of vehicles and mobile equipment is prohibited, unless done with a handheld bucket or handheld hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle for quick rinses.

Councilwoman Eunice Ulloa, general manager of the Chino Basin Water Conservation District and a member of

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the Southern California Water Committee, has been a vocal advocate for water conservation.

"It's critical that we implement the ordinance and we're hoping that people are aware of how desperate the situation is," Ulloa said. "We all need to do our share of conserving this special resource."

Stronger measures needing council approval would take effect with further reductions in supply, officials said. Among the more drastic measures included with a further reduction of 10 to 20 percent of water supplies are limiting irrigation of lawns to every other day.

The move comes as imported water has become scarce because of low snow levels in the Sierra Nevada and courtordered water use restrictions to help save an endangered fish in the San Joaquin River delta.

Local agencies have increasingly had to rely on groundwater sources and have proposed water rate increases because of the water shortage.

Last week the Metropolitan Water District announced a 10 percent cutback in

imported water deliveries to the region, which goes into effect July 1.

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Water shortage at Stage II

Monte Vista district sets mandatory restrictions

Canan Tasci, Staff Writer

Greated: 05/04/2009 10:38:49 PM PDT

The Monte Vista Water District is asking residents to conserve even more water than before due to continuing drought conditions and reductions.

The district board of directors last week declared a Stage II water supply shortage condition, which includes mandatory water-use restrictions for customers that focuses on outdoor water use.

"If we're not able to maintain a level of conservation, then we'll have to buy penalty water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California," MWVD General Manager Mark Kinsey said.

Since October, Monte Vista - which covers Montclair, Chino Hills and portions of Chino - has been under Stage I conditions, which called for customers to voluntarily reduce water usage.

The district has been communicating with its customers for the past year-and-a-half about the need to efficiently use water, board President Sandra Rose said.

"We have seen a 12 percent reduction in water

demand during the past year, and we will need to sustain that reduction and achieve more savings this summer," Rose said.

Imported water from Northern California continues to decrease, because of the recent water allocation plan implemented by MWD, which reduced the water supply to its members by 10percent.

Monte Vista's goal with a Stage II is to maintain a 10 to 15percent reduction in water demand.

Other districts may not have declared a Stage II shortage but, for years, have been advocating water conservations.

The Cucamonga Valley Water District board of directors will consider adopting two ordinances to address local water supply needs.

"Conservation is all about real basic stuff," said Jo Lynne Russo-Pereyra, the district's assistant general manager for external affairs. "Evaluate what you're watering outdoors, because that's the biggest place you'll see conservation."

Three Valleys Municipal Water District for more than three years has urged conservation, board President Bob Kuhn said.

Three Valleys - which encompasses Inland Valley cities including Claremont, La Verne, Pomona, Diamond Bar and San Dimas - has been advising residents to use low-flush toilets and sprinkler boxes as well as not watering on a daily basis and taking shorter showers.

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But the bulk of where customers use water is outdoors, as up to 72 percent of the water usage is for landscaping, Kuhn said.

Residents can conserve by watering their lawns three days a week for six minutes, or seven minutes when it is hot, said Justin Scott-Coe, Monte Vista public affairs specialist.

The best time to water is either between 2 and 5 a.m. or late in the evening.

"You don't want to water during the day because you don't want to lose water from evaporation or wind dispersal," Scott-Coe said.

"When there are high winds, we don't recommend watering at all because the water isn't going to go where its supposed to."

Penalties for violations in Monte Vista's area start off with two written notices. The third violation will result in a \$50 fine, a \$100 fine for the fourth violation and \$150 as well as a flow restrictor for the fifth violation.

"In order to make it mandatory, this is our enforcement tool, but we want to continue to educate and encourage our customers to use water wisely," Kinsey said.

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