



UNDERGROUND

Fall 2001

AGWA MEMBER AGENCIES EMPLOYING EXTRA SECURITY MEASURES AFTER SEPT. 11

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water supplies, they encouraged utilities to maintain security at "critical nodes" such as tunnels, pumping and storage facilities and distribution systems.

Many possible toxic biological organisms and chemical substances could be introduced into our water supplies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Centers for Disease Control, state administrators, and American Water Works Association (AWWA) are all working with water utilities to increase their vigilance in source water investigations, security measures and analyses to make sure they can detect these agents. The first defense against these potential health threats is in the hands of local water utility managers and their central treatment processes and analytical procedures.

AWWA joined EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman on Oct. 18 to assure the public that the nation's drinking water is safe and highly unlikely to be compromised in the event of a terrorist attack.

"As Ms. Whitman pointed out, water utilities have long taken extensive precautions to prevent a threat to the security of public drinking water," said AWWA Executive Director Jack Hoffbuhr. "But that doesn't mean utilities should be complacent, and they are not. Indeed, water utilities large and small and in every part of the U.S. have further heightened their security systems and procedures since the deadly and devastating terrorist attacks of Sept. 11."

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Visit the AGWA website at: www.agwa.org

respective areas. Several member agencies have provided some general information on what they are doing to help protect their water supply. Here is a sample:

Eastern Municipal Water District

According to director of community involvement Dick Heil, EMWD's public position has been, and continues to be, that the agency is aware of the security concerns. It has taken the steps it believes are necessary to ensure the security of the EMWD system.

The agency has held a number of meetings to thoroughly evaluate its facilities and to identify any vulnerabilities that may be evident and to take action to reduce or eliminate the vulnerability in any such instances.

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- The agency has put in place enhanced procedures for receiving all deliveries, including chemicals.
- It has employed outside security consultation.
- It has evaluated the need for tighter employee identification beyond current employee ID.
- It has upgraded protocols for visitors to all treatment facilities, including contractors.

- In addition to chemical deliveries, all other vendors' delivery personnel must be pre-identified to the agency and must have acceptable ID to gain access to agency grounds (this includes uniform deliveries, UPS, Office Depot, etc.).
- It has initiated additional firewalls and other protections for the District's computer and SCADA systems.
- After-hours access to District and agency facilities are restricted.
- A tighter access from the outside (external gates, etc.) is now in place on the ID4 grounds. The agency is also in the process of capital improvements and new policies.

According to Wulff, these kinds of details outline what has happened recently, but it only scratches the surface.

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Water Factory 21 is secure and is monitored by video cameras and guards as required. Reverse osmosis—used at Water Factory 21—is a highly effective treatment process, screening out any contaminants larger than a water molecule. Fortunately, many of the activities and processes to manage and protect the groundwater basin are already very secure, helping to ensure the groundwater supply is protected. Because of the vast amount of water coming down the Santa Ana River, it would take an extremely large amount of contamination to compromise the river as a water supply source. OCWD also has a natural biomonitoring system in the fish that live in the river and in the basins. Additionally, natural barriers such as sunlight and the groundwater percolation process enhance the removal or degradation of potential pollutants.

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Representing OCWD, Mills co-founded AGWA in 1994, along with members from seven other groundwater agencies. He has served as chair for the last three years.

"Bill has brought a tremendous amount of groundwater management expertise and insight to AGWA," said Mel Blevins, AGWA board member and San Fernando Valley Watermaster. "He will be greatly missed in our organization, and we wish him well."

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A graduate of the Colorado School of Mines, Mills received his master's degree in civil engineering from Loyola University of Los Angeles. Prior to his appointment at OCWD, Mills was a private consulting engineer between 1984 and 1987, and from 1967 to 1984 was employed by PRC Engineering, Inc., in technical capacities up to and including president of the planning and development division.

During his career, Mills has been recognized through several industry awards, including: Water Leader of the Year (1992), ACWA; Outstanding Member (1994), WateReuse Association of California; Outstanding Member (1994), American Desalting Association; Engineer of the Year (1996), Orange County Engineering Council; and Leadership in Engineer Award for Water Resources (1999), Institute for the Advancement of Engineering.

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OCWD TO ENTER INTO LONG-TERM STORAGE PROGRAM WITH METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT

Officials at AGWA member agency Orange County Water District (OCWD) have announced the District is planning to enter into an historic agreement with Metropolitan Water District (MWD), allowing MWD to store imported water in the Orange County groundwater basin.

The agreement, which should be finalized by summer 2002, allows MWD to store up to 60,000 acre-feet in the county's groundwater basin. When MWD needs the water, it can extract up to 20,000 acre-feet per year. MWD will pay approximately \$26.5 million for the following facilities:

- \$11 million for eight extraction wells that can be used by Orange County water producers when not needed by MWD;
- \$12 million for eight new seawater barrier injection wells and necessary piping;
- \$3.5 million to construct the Diemer Bypass Pipeline to directly provide higher-quality replenishment water to the District; and,
- \$80,000 annual fee to OCWD, which will escalate over time.

The program will benefit OCWD considerably, allowing the District to provide producers with better-quality water. The program provides additional benefits to OCWD's participating producers, allowing them to use new wells as backup to their current systems.

"We are pleased to announce we've successfully completed negotiations with Metropolitan Water District for this long-term storage program," said Jerry A. King, OCWD board president. "The program is a significant step forward in further improving the water quality of Orange County and the services provided by our producers."

MWD received \$45 million from the Department of Water Resources for implementing storage

programs from Proposition 13 funds. In March 2001, MWD selected Orange County Water District's proposed storage plan, along with eight other California water districts' proposals, for their groundwater storage programs.

The OCWD program must still be reviewed and approved by both agency boards in the form of a final agreement. Currently, both parties have agreed to the principles of the agreement.

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STATE JOINS LOCAL EFFORT TO DEVELOP GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SAN JACINTO VALLEY

According to AGWA member agency Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD), the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) joined local farmers and business and civic leaders recently to continue the development of a comprehensive groundwater management plan for the Hemet/San Jacinto Valley.

The meeting also featured representatives from the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto, Lake Hemet and Eastern Municipal water districts, as well as the agriculture industry.

"Significant progress has clearly been made over the past year to inform the community of the urgency of this issue," said DWR consultant Glenn McPherson. "There's a clear consensus among the various stakeholders in this region that a water shortage is on the horizon in this region if immediate steps are not taken. This is a stakeholder-driven process, and we see ourselves as facilitators that can help navigate through the water resources planning process in an efficient manner."

The operational yield of the Canyon and San Jacinto basins is approximately 40,000 acre-feet per year, while the Hemet basin yields an estimated 10,000 acre-feet annually. Pumpers, however, are using about 60,000 acre-feet per year.

At this rate of use, the region has a combined overdraft in excess of 10,000 acre-feet per year or 20 percent over the safe yield.

To enhance the development of a groundwater management plan, the DWR will provide assistance through the Integrated Storage Investigations Initiative (ISI). The ISI is a CALFED initiative that assists local agencies with improving regional water supply reliability by increasing the coordinated use of surface water and groundwater. The CALFED Bay-Delta program is a joint effort of state and federal agencies seeking to improve management of water resources.

“One of the core beliefs in the ISI program is that the development of a groundwater management plan must include all stakeholders in the process to have the greatest chance of success,” said McPherson. “As facilitators, we look forward to assisting with the upcoming groundwater planning efforts in this region. We also will look to maximize this region’s potential for obtaining funding for future groundwater projects.”

The meeting also featured two new committees formed to oversee the groundwater management plan process. The Hemet/San Jacinto Groundwater Policy Committee is comprised of representatives from each of the stakeholders, including the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto, Eastern and Lake Hemet municipal water districts and the private pumpers from the region. A technical advisory committee has also been formed to assist the policy committee.

“Since we formed these committees, we’ve worked hard to make sure that all the affected parties had a chance to be represented,” said DWR representative Dale Schafer. “The policy committee has agreed that the decisions, recommendations and final work product must be acceptable to every member.”

The meeting also marked the release of the first tentative groundwater management schedule. “The effectiveness of the committee and the insight of the DWR are already bearing fruit,” said policy committee representative and area dairy-

man Bruce Scott. “I’ve been impressed with the progress, education and consensus building at our policy meetings.”

Overall, the principles to guide the development of the plan and a governance structure for management of the plan are tentatively scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2002. An overall assessment of the water needs of the region and opportunities to develop projects that will enhance the reliability of the water supply system is expected to continue through the end of 2002.

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GLENDALE TO RECEIVE LEGAL DOCUMENTS ON NOV. 14 FROM WATERMASTER FOR ILLEGAL DUMPING

In the ongoing battle over Glendale’s illegal dumping of water, AGWA member and San Fernando Valley Watermaster Mel Blevins is set to file an Order to Show Cause on Nov. 14.

Blevins originally was set to file the order on Oct. 25, but the city of Glendale has requested that Blevins present new information regarding chromium to its city council on Nov. 13.

In a letter to Glendale City Manager James Starbird from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) dated Oct. 1, the EPA stated that new information regarding chromium toxicity has become available that should allow Glendale City Council to reconsider the 1 parts per billion (ppb) total chromium limit. The Chromate Toxicity Review Committee released a report on Aug. 31 that says the 1968 animal study the city was using as a basis for its lowered standard was “not suitable for use as the basis of a quantitative risk assessment.” The committee hence recommended that the state MCL of 50 ppb continue to be viewed as protective of the public health.

“During this past year, we have worked together to try to find a resolution to the wasting of treated

water from the Glendale operating unit,” Blevins said. “In that time, more than 6,000 acre-feet of water has been discharged illegally to the Los Angeles River. But since Glendale still continues to waste water and it has not chosen to select one of the various pumping alternatives that could immediately eliminate the waste of water, nor to change its delivery system in light of the Chromate Toxicity Review Committee study’s findings, I must file the Order to Show Cause.”

In the letter to Starbird, EPA urged the city’s management to present the conclusion of the Aug. 31 report to its city council for consideration. According to EPA, the conclusions of the report should provide the council with the information needed to allow them to reconsider and modify the self-imposed limit of 1 ppb of total chromium in the city’s drinking water.

Now, Glendale has finally accepted one of several invitations from Blevins to speak before the city council on Nov. 13.

As discussed in previous editions of *Notes from the Underground*, officials from the City of Glendale are concerned over the amount of chromium 6 in their groundwater drinking water supply. Although the water meets the current state standard of 50 parts per billion (ppb) for total chromium, officials are concerned since it does not meet the proposed tougher limit of 0.2 ppb. Blevins has received support of the Watermaster’s position from Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Susan Bryant-Deason, who Blevins says is “...totally against this waste of groundwater.”

Stay tuned to *Notes from the Underground* for continuing developments on this story.

[PRINT VERSION](#)

GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT SYSTEM COMPLETES FIRST CONSTRUCTION TASK

AGWA member agency Orange County Water District recently completed the first scheduled construction task for the Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System. A 2,200-foot, 66-inch-diameter pipeline was installed on the west side of the Santa Ana River under the future parking lot of the Theodore Lacy Jail in Orange, Calif.

The GWR System is a water purification project jointly sponsored by Orange County Water District and Orange County Sanitation District that will provide a new source of high-quality water for Orange County residents beginning in 2005. Initially, the system will purify approximately 70 million gallons per day of highly treated sewer water through high-tech membrane treatment processes that include 100 percent processing by reverse osmosis, resulting in near-distilled quality water.

Some of the purified water will be injected underground near the coast to keep ocean salt water from contaminating the fresh water in Orange County’s groundwater basin. The remaining water will be transported through a 13-mile pipeline to a percolation pond in northern Orange County. There the water will be filtered again as it seeps into the ground and enters Orange County’s deep groundwater aquifers to become part of our future supply of drinking water. The purified water will help lower the overall salinity and hardness of Orange County’s groundwater.

Construction of the Lacy portion of the pipeline began in June and ended in late September when the last section of pipe was put into the ground. Made of cement and a mortar-lined, coated steel, each pipe is 40 feet long and weighs 23,000 pounds. The pipeline is a key component of the Groundwater Replenishment System.

Future construction of the GWR System will include demolition of the existing world-famous Water Factory 21 water purification facility in Fountain Valley; construction of a new high-tech membrane water purification facility; drilling new injection wells and construction of a pump station to move the water up the 13-mile pipeline to Orange County’s aquifer recharge facilities.

[PRINT VERSION](#)

\$350,000 IN STATE GRANTS AWARDED TO MOJAVE WATER AGENCY

AGWA member agency Mojave Water Agency (MWA) was recently awarded \$350,000 in grants by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to assist the agency with its efforts to ensure reliable, long-term water supplies for its service area. The first grant is for \$250,000 from the Local Groundwater Assistance Fund (AB 303) and the second grant is for \$100,000 from the 2000 State Water Bond (Proposition 13).

“MWA is pleased that the State of California has recognized the importance of our local water resources needs and how state assistance can multiply benefits to a wide range of local and regional interests,” said MWA general manager Kirby Brill. “I see the award of these grants as cornerstones for local, regional and state partnerships that will empower us all to address the many future challenges that lie ahead.”

The AB 303 grant will allow MWA to update the Agency’s groundwater management plan that was originally developed in 1994. This plan update will be critical to identifying future actions that will be necessary to meet the region’s growing water demands.

The Proposition 13 grant is for preliminary engineering that will allow MWA to construct another groundwater recharge facility along the Mojave River north of the Lower Narrows near Southern California Logistics Airport. The funds will be specifically used to evaluate different locations for potential groundwater recharge sites. Once the recharge sites have been selected, MWA can proceed with plans to extend the Mojave River Pipeline to the identified recharge sites. Water from the California Aqueduct can then be delivered through the pipeline to replenish the underlying groundwater supplies in these areas.

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HOUSE COMMITTEE HEARS TESTIMONY FROM KCWA ON CALVERT BILL

Clifford Schulz, special counsel to AGWA member agency Kern County Water Agency (KCWA), recently testified in Washington, D.C., before the House Subcommittee on Water and Power and encouraged representatives to develop a federal legislative package to fully authorize balanced implementation of the overall CALFED Program. Schulz said this action would ensure that the promises made to all stakeholder groups in the CALFED Framework and Record of Decision (ROD) would be met.

“This approach is the only way to avoid a water supply disaster equal to that now being felt in the energy field,” he said. He told legislators that a large coalition of urban and agricultural water agencies throughout California, the Ag-Urban group, has worked to develop and support common goals for CALFED. He noted that California had already invested in programs that adhere to CALFED principles.

“It is now vital that federal legislation and appropriations follow these investments or the unprecedented collaborative effort that led to the CALFED Program ROD may come to naught,” he said. “The Ag-Urban group supports HR 1985 (Calvert) due to its strong support of CALFED and infrastructure development.

Schultz urged that federal legislation adhere to the balanced progress called for in CALFED. He said the Ag-Urban group strongly supports implementation of the CALFED ecosystem restoration program, not only because it is badly needed, but also because there can be no CALFED progress on water supply and quality without progress on ecosystem improvements.

“Conversely, we only support legislation authorizing the ecosystem actions if there is legislative language authorizing water supply and water quality programs on an equal footing. That is the fundamental precept of CALFED, and it is with an

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eye to that precept that we have reviewed the pending bills and offer our comments today,” Schultz said.

HR 1985 also authorizes appropriations for the full, long-term CALFED Program, opening the way for the funding needed to move forward with water supply, water quality and ecosystem projects simultaneously. The bill would allow projects to proceed, following feasibility and environmental studies, with Congressional oversight.

The group does not support HR 2404 (Miller), he said, because the legislation would fundamentally change the CALFED Program by authorizing only select elements of the ROD. Schultz said the bill assumes that the state’s water needs can be met exclusively with conservation and water recycling programs, even though the unanimous consensus of all the CALFED agencies was to the contrary.

“HR 2404 relegates any new water storage projects to permanent ‘study’ status, and would effectively set aside five years of public planning and input,” he said.

That bill also establishes federal policy that will have the effect of further reducing water supplies to the San Joaquin Valley and to the service area of the State Water Project by reducing the maximum annual quantity of water pumped from the Banks and Tracy pumping plants, Schultz said.

“This provision, in addition to undoing the CALFED goals of improving water supply reliability for federal contractors, takes the highly unusual step of instructing a federal official to proceed in a manner that would adversely impact a California owned and operated intra-state water facility that is regulated under state law,” Schultz said. “It also instructs the official to take actions that could very well impact the flow of funds that are the ways and means of repaying state-issued general obligation bonds. This is the antithesis of federal/state cooperation envisioned by CALFED.”

The most important issue is authorization and funding of CALFED, Schultz said. Because there

are subprograms and a myriad of projects designed to meet each subprogram and overall CALFED Program objective, it is important that funding is allocated for this purpose.

Schultz also recommended that whichever expedited process is approved for environmental projects should also be applied to water supply and water quality projects. He said some stakeholders have suggested that all CALFED water supply projects should have to come back for full congressional authorization, while other CALFED projects do not have to obtain authorization.

“Such uneven treatment of the various CALFED elements would be unacceptable, as meeting the balanced progress requirement would be rendered impossible and the entire CALFED Program would be jeopardized,” he said.

Water Drops....

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has named a new chief of its Western region. Wayne Nastri, 42, took over the position on Oct. 22. Nastri served as a board member for six months on the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He left his job as president of a Newport Beach environmental consulting firm, Environmental Mediation Inc., to take the position. Nastri says his goals include improving the EPA’s relationships with states and American Indian tribes. He also says security ranks among his top priorities, including monitoring drinking water and sewage-treatment systems that could be targeted by bioterrorists. He will oversee 900 employees in California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii and the American Pacific Islands.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Christie Whitman has established April 30, 2003, as the effective date of revisions to the agency’s Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program (NPDES) regulations published in the *Federal Register* on July 13, 2000. The July 2000 rule amended and clarified existing regulations,

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- implementing a portion of the Clean Water Act (CWA) that requires states to identify water that is not meeting water quality standards and to establish pollutant budgets (TMDLs) to restore water quality.
- On Oct. 9, Gov. Davis signed AB 901, authored by Assembly Member Lynn Daucher, R-Brea, which amends the Urban Water Management Planning Act. It requires urban water suppliers to include information on the quality of water sources in their Urban Water Management Plans.
 - On Sept. 20, Gov. Davis signed SB 672 by Senator Mike Machado, D-Linden, which codified the DWR process for developing the California Water Plan. The bill requires urban water suppliers to include in their plans a description of water management tools and options to maximize resources and minimize the need to import water from other regions.
 - On Oct. 7, Gov. Davis signed legislation related to the following water quality issues:
 - **Chromium 6 Standard**
SB 351, authored by Senator Deborah Ortiz, D-Sacramento, requires the California Department of Health Services (DHS) to adopt a primary drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium, or Chromium 6, by Jan. 1, 2004. The bill requires a report on the progress of developing the standard to the Legislature by Jan. 1, 2003. SB 351 makes California the first state in the nation with a separate, tougher standard for Chromium 6. Existing standards are based on total chromium.
 - **Arsenic Standard**
SB 463, authored by Senator Don Perata, D-Alameda, modernizes and strengthens drinking water standards for arsenic levels. The bill requires DHS to adopt a new primary drinking water standard for arsenic by June 30, 2004. SB 463 also requires that water suppliers print health effects language in their Consumer Confidence Reports if arsenic above the public health goal is detected in the water.
 - Gov. Gray Davis has proclaimed Nov. 4-10 as California Groundwater Week, recognizing groundwater's "important role in implementing a long-term comprehensive plan to improve California's ecosystems."

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- \$11 million for eight extraction wells that can be used by Orange County water producers when not needed by MWD;
- \$12 million for eight new seawater barrier injection wells and necessary piping;
- \$3.5 million to construct the Diemer Bypass Pipeline to directly provide higher-quality replenishment water to the District; and,
- \$80,000 annual fee to OCWD, which will escalate over time.

The program will benefit OCWD considerably, allowing the District to provide producers with better-quality water. The program provides additional benefits to OCWD's participating producers, allowing them to use new wells as backup to their current systems.

"We are pleased to announce we've successfully completed negotiations with Metropolitan Water District for this long-term storage program," said Jerry A. King, OCWD board president. "The program is a significant step forward in further improving the water quality of Orange County and the services provided by our producers."

MWD received \$45 million from the Department of Water Resources for implementing storage programs from Proposition 13 funds. In March 2001, MWD selected Orange County Water District's proposed storage plan, along with eight other California water districts' proposals, for their groundwater storage programs.

The OCWD program must still be reviewed and approved by both agency boards in the form of a final agreement. Currently, both parties have agreed to the principles of the agreement.

STATE JOINS LOCAL EFFORT TO DEVELOP GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SAN JACINTO VALLEY

According to AGWA member agency Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD), the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) joined local farmers and business and civic leaders recently to continue the development of a comprehensive groundwater management plan for the Hemet/San Jacinto Valley.

The meeting also featured representatives from the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto, Lake Hemet and Eastern Municipal water districts, as well as the agriculture industry.

“Significant progress has clearly been made over the past year to inform the community of the urgency of this issue,” said DWR consultant Glenn McPherson. “There’s a clear consensus among the various stakeholders in this region that a water shortage is on the horizon in this region if immediate steps are not taken. This is a stakeholder-driven process, and we see ourselves as facilitators that can help navigate through the water resources planning process in an efficient manner.”

The operational yield of the Canyon and San Jacinto basins is approximately 40,000 acre-feet per year, while the Hemet basin yields an estimated 10,000 acre-feet annually. Pumpers, however, are using about 60,000 acre-feet per year.

At this rate of use, the region has a combined overdraft in excess of 10,000 acre-feet per year or 20 percent over the safe yield.

To enhance the development of a groundwater management plan, the DWR will provide assistance through the Integrated Storage Investigations Initiative (ISI). The ISI is a CALFED initiative that assists local agencies with improving regional water supply reliability by increasing the coordinated use of surface water and groundwater. The CALFED Bay-Delta program is a joint effort of state and federal agencies seeking to improve management of water resources.

“One of the core beliefs in the ISI program is that the development of a groundwater management plan must include all stakeholders in the process to have the greatest chance of success,” said McPherson. “As facilitators, we look forward to assisting with the upcoming groundwater planning efforts in this region. We also will look to maximize this region’s potential for obtaining funding for future groundwater projects.”

The meeting also featured two new committees formed to oversee the groundwater management plan process. The Hemet/San Jacinto Groundwater Policy Committee is comprised of representatives from each of the stakeholders, including the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto, Eastern and Lake Hemet municipal water districts and the private pumpers from the region. A technical advisory committee has also been formed to assist the policy committee.

“Since we formed these committees, we’ve worked hard to make sure that all the affected parties had a chance to be represented,” said DWR representative Dale Schafer. “The policy committee has agreed that the decisions, recommendations and final work product must be acceptable to every member.”

The meeting also marked the release of the first tentative groundwater management schedule. “The effectiveness of the committee and the insight of the DWR are already bearing fruit,” said policy committee representative and area dairyman Bruce Scott. “I’ve been impressed with the progress, education and consensus building at our policy meetings.”

Overall, the principles to guide the development of the plan and a governance structure for management of the plan are tentatively scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2002. An overall assessment of the water needs of the region and opportunities to develop projects that will enhance the reliability of the water supply system is expected to continue through the end of 2002.

GLENDALE TO RECEIVE LEGAL DOCUMENTS ON NOV. 14 FROM WATERMASTER FOR ILLEGAL DUMPING

In the ongoing battle over Glendale's illegal dumping of water, AGWA member and San Fernando Valley Watermaster Mel Blevins is set to file an Order to Show Cause on Nov. 14.

Blevins originally was set to file the order on Oct. 25, but the city of Glendale has requested that Blevins present new information regarding chromium to its city council on Nov. 13.

In a letter to Glendale City Manager James Starbird from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) dated Oct. 1, the EPA stated that new information regarding chromium toxicity has become available that should allow Glendale City Council to reconsider the 1 parts per billion (ppb) total chromium limit. The Chromate Toxicity Review Committee released a report on Aug. 31 that says the 1968 animal study the city was using as a basis for its lowered standard was "not suitable for use as the basis of a quantitative risk assessment." The committee hence recommended that the state MCL of 50 ppb continue to be viewed as protective of the public health.

"During this past year, we have worked together to try to find a resolution to the wasting of treated water from the Glendale operating unit," Blevins said. "In that time, more than 6,000 acre-feet of water has been discharged illegally to the Los Angeles River. But since Glendale still continues to waste water and it has not chosen to select one of the various pumping alternatives that could immediately eliminate the waste of water, nor to change its delivery system in light of the Chromate Toxicity Review Committee study's findings, I must file the Order to Show Cause."

In the letter to Starbird, EPA urged the city's management to present the conclusion of the Aug. 31 report to its city council for consideration. According to EPA, the conclusions of the report should provide the council with the information needed to allow them to reconsider and modify the self-imposed limit of 1 ppb of total chromium in the city's drinking water.

Now, Glendale has finally accepted one of several invitations from Blevins to speak before the city council on Nov. 13.

As discussed in previous editions of *Notes from the Underground*, officials from the City of Glendale are concerned over the amount of chromium 6 in their groundwater drinking water supply. Although the water meets the current state standard of 50 parts per billion (ppb) for total chromium, officials are concerned since it does not meet the proposed tougher limit of 0.2 ppb. Blevins has received support of the Watermaster's position from Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Susan Bryant-Deason, who Blevins says is "...totally against this waste of groundwater."

Stay tuned to *Notes from the Underground* for continuing developments on this story.

GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT SYSTEM COMPLETES FIRST CONSTRUCTION TASK

AGWA member agency Orange County Water District recently completed the first scheduled construction task for the Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System. A 2,200-foot, 66-inch-diameter pipeline was installed on the west side of the Santa Ana River under the future parking lot of the Theodore Lacy Jail in Orange, Calif.

The GWR System is a water purification project jointly sponsored by Orange County Water District and Orange County Sanitation District that will provide a new source of high-quality water for Orange County residents beginning in 2005. Initially, the system will purify approximately 70 million gallons per day of highly treated sewer water through high-tech membrane treatment processes that include 100 percent processing by reverse osmosis, resulting in near-distilled quality water.

Some of the purified water will be injected underground near the coast to keep ocean salt water from contaminating the fresh water in Orange County's groundwater basin. The remaining water will be transported through a 13-mile pipeline to a percolation pond in northern Orange County. There the water will be filtered again as it seeps into the ground and enters Orange County's deep groundwater aquifers to become part of our future supply of drinking water. The purified water will help lower the overall salinity and hardness of Orange County's groundwater.

Construction of the Lacy portion of the pipeline began in June and ended in late September when the last section of pipe was put into the ground. Made of cement and a mortar-lined, coated steel, each pipe is 40 feet long and weighs 23,000 pounds. The pipeline is a key component of the Groundwater Replenishment System.

Future construction of the GWR System will include demolition of the existing world-famous Water Factory 21 water purification facility in Fountain Valley; construction of a new high-tech membrane water purification facility; drilling new injection wells and construction of a pump station to move the water up the 13-mile pipeline to Orange County's aquifer recharge facilities.

\$350,000 IN STATE GRANTS AWARDED TO MOJAVE WATER AGENCY

AGWA member agency Mojave Water Agency (MWA) was recently awarded \$350,000 in grants by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to assist the agency with its efforts to ensure reliable, long-term water supplies for its service area. The first grant is for \$250,000 from the Local Groundwater Assistance Fund (AB 303) and the second grant is for \$100,000 from the 2000 State Water Bond (Proposition 13).

“MWA is pleased that the State of California has recognized the importance of our local water resources needs and how state assistance can multiply benefits to a wide range of local and regional interests,” said MWA general manager Kirby Brill. “I see the award of these grants as cornerstones for local, regional and state partnerships that will empower us all to address the many future challenges that lie ahead.”

The AB 303 grant will allow MWA to update the Agency’s groundwater management plan that was originally developed in 1994. This plan update will be critical to identifying future actions that will be necessary to meet the region’s growing water demands.

The Proposition 13 grant is for preliminary engineering that will allow MWA to construct another groundwater recharge facility along the Mojave River north of the Lower Narrows near Southern California Logistics Airport. The funds will be specifically used to evaluate different locations for potential groundwater recharge sites. Once the recharge sites have been selected, MWA can proceed with plans to extend the Mojave River Pipeline to the identified recharge sites. Water from the California Aqueduct can then be delivered through the pipeline to replenish the underlying groundwater supplies in these areas.

HOUSE COMMITTEE HEARS TESTIMONY FROM KCWA ON CALVERT BILL

Clifford Schulz, special counsel to AGWA member agency Kern County Water Agency (KCWA), recently testified in Washington, D.C., before the House Subcommittee on Water and Power and encouraged representatives to develop a federal legislative package to fully authorize balanced implementation of the overall CALFED Program. Schulz said this action would ensure that the promises made to all stakeholder groups in the CALFED Framework and Record of Decision (ROD) would be met.

“This approach is the only way to avoid a water supply disaster equal to that now being felt in the energy field,” he said. He told legislators that a large coalition of urban and agricultural water agencies throughout California, the Ag-Urban group, has worked to develop and support common goals for CALFED. He noted that California had already invested in programs that adhere to CALFED principles.

“It is now vital that federal legislation and appropriations follow these investments or the unprecedented collaborative effort that led to the CALFED Program ROD may come to naught,” he said. “The Ag-Urban group supports HR 1985 (Calvert) due to its strong support of CALFED and infrastructure development.

Schultz urged that federal legislation adhere to the balanced progress called for in CALFED. He said the Ag-Urban group strongly supports implementation of the CALFED ecosystem restoration program, not only because it is badly needed, but also because there can be no CALFED progress on water supply and quality without progress on ecosystem improvements.

“Conversely, we only support legislation authorizing the ecosystem actions if there is legislative language authorizing water supply and water quality programs on an equal footing. That is the fundamental precept of CALFED, and it is with an eye to that precept that we have reviewed the pending bills and offer our comments today,” Schultz said.

HR 1985 also authorizes appropriations for the full, long-term CALFED Program, opening the way for the funding needed to move forward with water supply, water quality and ecosystem projects simultaneously. The bill would allow projects to proceed, following feasibility and environmental studies, with Congressional oversight.

The group does not support HR 2404 (Miller), he said, because the legislation would fundamentally change the CALFED Program by authorizing only select elements of the ROD. Schultz said the bill assumes that the state’s water needs can be met exclusively with conservation and water recycling programs, even though the unanimous consensus of all the CALFED agencies was to the contrary.

“HR 2404 relegates any new water storage projects to permanent ‘study’ status, and would effectively set aside five years of public planning and input,” he said.

That bill also establishes federal policy that will have the effect of further reducing water supplies to the San Joaquin Valley and to the service area of the State Water Project by reducing the maximum annual quantity of water pumped from the Banks and Tracy pumping plants, Schultz said.

“This provision, in addition to undoing the CALFED goals of improving water supply reliability for federal contractors, takes the highly unusual step of instructing a federal official to proceed in a manner that would adversely impact a California owned and operated intra-state water facility that is regulated under state law,” Schultz said. “It also instructs the official to take actions that could very well impact the flow of funds that are the ways and means of repaying state-issued general obligation bonds. This is the antithesis of federal/state cooperation envisioned by CALFED.”

The most important issue is authorization and funding of CALFED, Schultz said. Because there are

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subprograms and a myriad of projects designed to meet each subprogram and overall CALFED Program objective, it is important that funding is allocated for this purpose.

Schultz also recommended that whichever expedited process is approved for environmental projects should also be applied to water supply and water quality projects. He said some stakeholders have suggested that all CALFED water supply projects should have to come back for full congressional authorization, while other CALFED projects do not have to obtain authorization.

“Such uneven treatment of the various CALFED elements would be unacceptable, as meeting the balanced progress requirement would be rendered impossible and the entire CALFED Program would be jeopardized,” he said.

Water Drops....

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has named a new chief of its Western region. Wayne Natri, 42, took over the position on Oct. 22. Natri served as a board member for six months on the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He left his job as president of a Newport Beach environmental consulting firm, Environmental Mediation Inc., to take the position. Natri says his goals include improving the EPA’s relationships with states and American Indian tribes. He also says security ranks among his top priorities, including monitoring drinking water and sewage-treatment systems that could be targeted by bioterrorists. He will oversee 900 employees in California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii and the American Pacific Islands.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Christie Whitman has established April 30, 2003, as the effective date of revisions to the agency’s Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program (NPDES) regulations published in the Federal Register on July 13, 2000. The July 2000 rule amended and clarified existing regulations, implementing a portion of the Clean Water Act (CWA) that requires states to identify water that is not meeting water quality standards and to establish pollutant budgets (TMDLs) to restore water quality.
- On Oct. 9, Gov. Davis signed AB 901, authored by Assembly Member Lynn Daucher, R-Brea, which amends the Urban Water Management Planning Act. It requires urban water suppliers to include information on the quality of water sources in their Urban Water Management Plans.
- On Sept. 20, Gov. Davis signed SB 672 by Senator Mike Machado, D-Linden, which codified the DWR process for developing the California Water Plan. The bill requires urban water suppliers to include in their plans a description of water management tools and options to maximize resources and minimize the need to import water from other regions.
- On Oct. 7, Gov. Davis signed legislation related to the following water quality issues:
 - **Chromium 6 Standard**
SB 351, authored by Senator Deborah Ortiz, D-Sacramento, requires the California Department of Health Services (DHS) to adopt a primary drinking water standard for hexavalent chromium, or Chromium 6, by Jan. 1, 2004. The bill requires a report on the progress of developing the standard to the Legislature by Jan.1, 2003. SB 351 makes California the first state in the nation with a separate, tougher standard for Chromium 6. Existing standards are based on total chromium.
 - **Arsenic Standard**
SB 463, authored by Senator Don Perata, D-Alameda, modernizes and strengthens drinking water standards for arsenic levels. The bill requires DHS to adopt a new primary drinking water stan-

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standard for arsenic by June 30, 2004. SB 463 also requires that water suppliers print health effects language in their Consumer Confidence Reports if arsenic above the public health goal is detected in the water.

- Gov. Gray Davis has proclaimed Nov. 4-10 as California Groundwater Week, recognizing groundwater's "important role in implementing a long-term comprehensive plan to improve California's ecosystems."

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