



## Foothill Water Coalition

“Creating Innovative Water Supply and Storage Solutions”

The Senate overwhelmingly approved a bill on Sept. 24 authorizing \$23 billion in water resource projects, including several projects proposed by the newly founded Foothill Water Coalition—a group of several local water agencies serving the foothill region, stretching from the San Gabriel Valley to the Inland Empire.



There is a growing concern over impending, chronic water shortages in California. In fact, water rationing and more costly water bills are inevitable in the near future, according to many top water officials. To combat the impending crisis, a group of local water agencies, many of which are also AGWA member agencies, have banded together to form the Foothill Water Coalition (FWC). FWC member agencies include the Raymond Basin Management Board, San Gabriel Valley Water Association, Chino Basin Watermaster, Foothill Municipal Water District, City of Pasadena, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, Three Valleys Municipal Water District, Six Basins Watermaster, and Inland Empire Utility Agency.

United by the singular goal of developing innovative ways to provide additional, high-quality water to Southern California, FWC has come up with a plan. Its flagship program, known as the Water Supply Reliability Program (WSRP), will benefit more than 2 million residents in 41 cities located in one of the state’s fastest growing areas—along Southern California’s foothills.

### The WSRP will:

- Modernize water supply systems by storing water underground for future use.
- Make local systems more reliable by diversifying water sources.
- Improve water quality by adding higher quality water to the San Gabriel Valley basin.
- Enhance the efficiency and reliability of regional water delivery.

Projects contained in the WSRP include:

**The Raymond Feeder:** This pipeline would expand existing water supplies to more communities in the area. The proposed pipeline would stretch 14 miles, starting in Azusa, traveling through the Raymond Basin, and ending in Pasadena.

**The Alostia Connection:** This interconnection would diversify water supplies, allowing for more flexibility

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## Foothill Water Coalition


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and reliability in water delivery. It would connect the Metropolitan Water District's Foothill Feeder to a pipeline in San Dimas, allowing for water delivery either from the State Water Project in Northern California or from the Colorado River.

**Eastside Emergency Connections:** This connection would provide a second source of water to Eastern

Region water treatment plants, improving water reliability during water shutdowns.

Collaboratively, FWC members are working with local and federal legislators to secure funding for the WSRP. Partial funding (\$5 million) has been secured in the Water Resource Development Act (HR 1495), which is currently pending

enactment. Funding will be used to study the feasibility of constructing underground water storage facilities and pipeline. The projects will be constructed and operated cooperatively by FWC member agencies. A Web site is currently under construction and should be online this fall. Be sure to visit [www.foothillwc.org](http://www.foothillwc.org) soon! 


## Perris Valley Pipeline

To Provide Reliability, Quality Improvements

The Perris Valley Pipeline is a major water line that will provide substantial water reliability and quality benefits to a significant portion of western Riverside County. Construction is expected to begin in September 2007 and be completed in August 2008. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and AGWA member agencies Western Municipal Water District and Eastern Municipal Water District are developing the \$110 million project jointly. When completed, the pipeline will enhance the treated water delivery capacity in Eastern's and Western's service areas by up to 150 million gallons per day.

The Perris Valley Pipeline will consist of 6.5 miles of 96-inch pipe from Metropolitan's Henry J. Mills Water Treatment Plant, east along Alessandro Boulevard, and then south to Oleander Street in the right-of-way paralleling the 215 Freeway. Eastern Municipal Water District is constructing a separate 4-foot diameter, 6-mile long water pipeline that will connect its service area to the Perris Valley Pipeline at Cactus Avenue. Initial water deliveries will be made from the Perris Valley Pipeline at a service connection at Cactus Avenue by the end of the summer.



The pipeline will enhance the delivery capabilities of the Mills Water Treatment Plant and is but one of multiple improvements being planned and constructed to meet retail, municipal and industrial demands in the region. Other improvements include the expansion of Metropolitan's Robert A. Skinner Water Treatment Plant and construction of San Diego Pipeline No. 6, a raw water link that will eventually run from the Skinner plant near Temecula to north San Diego County. For more information, visit the project Web site at [www.perrisvalleypipeline.com](http://www.perrisvalleypipeline.com). 

## Michael R. Markus

### Named OCWD General Manager




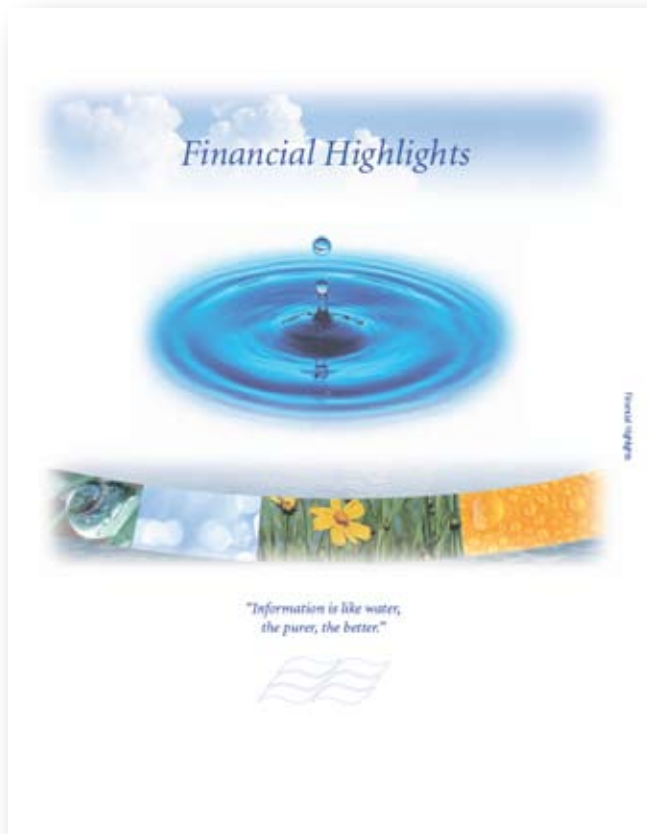
AGWA member agency the Orange County Water District (OCWD)'s board of directors has announced that assistant general manager Michael R. Markus, P.E., has been selected as the District's sixth general manager in its 74-year history.

"Mike has been an integral part of the OCWD team for almost 20 years," said Philip Anthony, OCWD board president. "With his extensive background in construction management, civil engineering, water resources and stewardship of the Groundwater Replenishment System, Mike is a natural choice for general manager. We are confident

that under his leadership, the district's tradition of innovation and excellence will continue."

Markus joined OCWD in 1988 as construction manager. In 2004, he was elevated to assistant general manager, overseeing water production and groundwater recharge operations. He also served as program manager for the GWR System, the world's largest indirect potable water recycling project.

Prior to joining OCWD, Markus spent two years with John Carollo Engineers and eight years at John Kiewit Sons' Construction Company. He earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and his master's in civil engineering from the University of Southern California. 



## WRD

### Receives Two Top Finance Awards

The California Society of Municipal Financial Officers (CSMFO) is recognizing the high budgeting and financial reporting standards of AGWA member agency the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) for the third year in a row according to WRD Board President Albert Robles. CSMFO is awarding WRD a Meritorious Achievement Award for outstanding 06/07 budget presentation and process, as well as for its 06/07 annual financial report.

"This is the third straight year that WRD's budgeting and financial reporting procedures and documents have been recognized for being among the most transparent and open in the municipal government arena. This reflects the high standards of our board and the high caliber of our staff," said Robles.

"The Board of Directors and the WRD staff are pleased to receive high honors from the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers," stated WRD Board Finance Chairperson Lillian Kawasaki. "This award is a testament to the hard

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work that the District undergoes to make our budget documents and financial reports informative and easy to understand by the public we



WRD Board President  
Albert Robles.

proudly serve," she said.

The WRD received the award for budgetary excellence and financial reporting after passing rigorous examinations that award agencies like the WRD for meeting a high level of criteria in the quality of their budget and financial reporting documents. As one of the leading organizations dedicated to excellence in municipal financial management, CSMFO awards California agencies for preparing budget documents and financial reports that meet exceptional standards for effectively communicating financial information to the general public.

"Our budgeting process and financial reporting are agency-wide team efforts. We incorporate elements from the Engineering and Survey Report, as well as a strategic plan of projects and programs" stated WRD's Chief Financial Officer Scott Otta.

"Every winning effort takes a leader and WRD is lucky to have Scott Ota and his team guiding the agency in meeting high standards of transparency," said WRD General Manager Robb Whitaker.

For more information, visit WRD's Web site at [www.wrd.org](http://www.wrd.org).

## News Drops

- Oct. 1 marked the beginning of the 2007-2008 water year, which will last until Sept. 30, 2008. During this period, Department of Water Resources' hydrologists and meteorologists will measure precipitation and runoff in the Northern Sierra and other key watersheds and produce runoff forecasts. For the Sacramento River basin, the past 2006-2007 water year finished as the 18th driest in the 102-year record of stream flow measurements. The San Joaquin River region was drier, finishing up as 8th driest, based on preliminary information. The northern Sierra snowpack was measured at 40 percent of normal on April 1, 2007, which was the lowest since 1988. Early melting reduced the snowpack to only 25 percent of average by May 1. The dry year may impact water deliveries further but, as of now, State Water Project Contractors are scheduled to receive 60 percent of requested deliveries. National Weather Service long-range forecasts indicate a somewhat above average chance of wetter than normal precipitation in Northern California through the coming fall and winter months, but show a good chance that dry conditions will persist in Southern California.
- A coalition of water users filed a notice Sept. 27 stating its intent to file a lawsuit alleging that power plants are harming fish in the troubled Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The four water districts allege that Mirant Corp.'s natural gas-fired power plants in Antioch and Pittsburg are harming species including the delta smelt. The smelt's decline triggered a recent federal court decision that was expected to limit the amount of water available from the delta for people and farmers, including those served by the Belridge, Berrenda Mesa, Lost Hills, and Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa water districts. The plaintiffs say that Mirant's power plants pump more than a billion gallons of water a day from the delta to cool steam turbines. The process not only kills tens of thousands of fish that get sucked into the pumps, but harms their habitat by returning warmer water to the delta, says the 11-page notice sent by Irvine attorney Paul Weiland. Filing the notice is the first required step to actually bringing suit against the government. Visit the Coalition's Web site at [www.sustainabledelta.com](http://www.sustainabledelta.com) for more information.
- San Diego water officials say local residents can expect to be called on to cut water use for at least the next few years because of statewide water-shortage worries. San Diego County Water Authority officials have said that early projections suggest county residents should have all the water they need in 2008 — and maybe even a little left over to store away — if the state has "normal" rain and snow this winter. Even so, local residents and Southern Californians are going to be asked to cut their water use because of uncertainty surrounding Northern California supplies, officials said.

## Race Against Drought Planning For Future Water Needs



People and businesses are recognizing that Southwest Riverside County is a great place to live and do business. Yet with new development comes greater demand for our resources. In Lake Elsinore, the population has increased by 45 percent since 2000. This has stretched local schools, hospitals, roads, electrical grids, fire and police services, and water systems, forcing local governments and public agencies to face the challenge of funding investments now to meet future demands.


Increased water use has become a major growth challenge across southern California and local water districts

like AGWA member agency Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD) are on the front lines of planning for future water needs. Local congressional representatives have also stepped up to help EVMWD with legislation that, if passed, would create over 1.5 billion gallons of new water each year.

Championed by Representatives Issa, Calvert and Bono, the bill, H.R. 31, provides up to \$14.4 million to help design and build the Alberhill Wastewater Reclamation Facility and the Wildomar Recycled Water Project. Recycled water is a safe and environmentally friendly resource for irrigation including parks, medians and golf courses.

EVMWD has begun drought proofing its water sources with a \$9.72 million groundwater storage project with the capacity to store up to 12,000 acre feet or 3.9 billion gallons of water and pump up to 4,000 acre feet, or 1.3 billion gallons, of water each year.

In total, EVMWD treats and recycles over 8.8 million gallons of wastewater every day. By expanding the use of recycled water, EVMWD is projected to save over \$2.6 million per year on the amount of imported water purchased.

For more information about EVMWD, visit their Web site at [www.evmwd.com](http://www.evmwd.com) 

## EVMWD Recognized For Efficiency Efforts


AGWA member agency Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD) was recognized by fellow AGWA member agency Western Municipal Water District with a \$135,430 rebate check for its water-use efficiency efforts at its Sept. 27 board meeting. The acknowledgment, which is mainly for the replacement of 460 non-conserving toilets with high-efficiency models, was given by Western's board director, Brenda Dennstedt, who represents the area in Division 3.

EVMWD recently worked with SJ Water, a Temecula based plumbing contractor, to retrofit 460 units with high-efficiency toilets, carrying a rebate incentive of \$121,900. The

remainder of the rebate was for 84 high-efficiency clothes washers, 15 ultra-low flush toilets, 22 additional high-efficiency toilets and one high-efficiency toilet upgrade.

"Our team has been very proactive in reaching out to our residential and multi-family customers who still have older, non-conserving toilets," says Ben Wicke, EVMWD board president. "This program offers an excellent way to save water and it helps each resident's pocketbook by reducing monthly water bills."

By replacing non-conserving fixtures and appliances with more efficient devices and implementing other water saving technologies, EVMWD's efforts have achieved a

combined annual savings of nearly 450 acre-feet of water over the lifetime of the devices, ranging from 12 to 20 years. Residential rebate programs, which are funded by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, are brought to western Riverside County by Western Municipal Water District, who then partners with local water retailers such as Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District. 



A high-efficiency toilet (HET) uses 20% less water