



California Groundwater Coalition

Delivers Stronger, Unified Voice on Statewide Groundwater Issues

The Association of Groundwater Agencies (AGWA) has joined with two other leading groundwater agencies to create the California Groundwater Coalition, a joint, one-year initiative designed to educate policy makers and the public about California's groundwater resources and the role groundwater plays in providing a safe and reliable water supply for California.

"AGWA is working closely with allies at the Groundwater Resources Association of California (GRA) and the American Ground Water Trust (AGWT) to provide a unified voice for groundwater management agencies, to coordinate efforts and exchange information—enhancing the effective management of groundwater resources in California," said AGWA Chairman John Rossi, general manager of Western Municipal Water District.

With nearly one-third of the state legislature arriving in Sacramento as freshmen and with major water bond initiatives and a host of legislative and regulatory proposals affecting groundwater this year and



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next, leaders from AGWA, GRA and AGWT agreed earlier this year to share strengths in the effort to educate state legislators.

The Association of Ground Water Agencies (AGWA), the Groundwater Resources Association of California (GRA), and the American Ground Water Trust (AGWT) collectively represent the joint coalition that has a three-fold mission:

- educate policy makers about groundwater
- represent groundwater interests and promote the benefits of comprehensive groundwater management and use in legislative and other policy arenas
- promote a fair share of funding for statewide groundwater programs including 2006 and 2008 water bonds.

"Effectively managing California's groundwater is critical for the continued development of water supply

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California Groundwater Coalition

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reliability," said Rossi. "One of the keys to this effectiveness is successfully educating policy makers and the public about statewide groundwater issues. By developing a stronger unified voice on these issues, the California Groundwater Coalition will help ensure groundwater interests are properly engaged in important water policy discussions in 2007."

The California Groundwater Coalition is guided by five basic principles:

1. Groundwater development, conjunctive use and groundwater storage have the capability to provide increased water supply reliability for California in the near future.
2. Groundwater management and monitoring are essential to the successful development and protection of the state's groundwater resources for current and future generations.
3. New infrastructure is needed to obtain statewide benefit from groundwater resources utilization and replenishment.
4. Groundwater cleanup in many areas of the state is needed to eliminate contamination and ensure high quality water and to allow for the sustainable development and use of groundwater supplies.
5. Funding is needed to ensure the effective management and use of the state's groundwater resources.

The coalition's message is strictly limited to its mission and principles; it will not lobby for any individual region or interest, but instead seeks to inform for the benefit of groundwater resources generally.

In addition to the founding members of the coalition, the initiative is also supported by many of the individual members of each founding agency, as well as other individuals, agencies and business concerns that have an interest in protecting California's groundwater.

For more information about the coalition or to join as a sponsoring member, contact Tim Parker, tparker2@slb.com, Phil Rosentrater, prosentrater@wmwd.com, or Terry Foreman at tforeman@ch2m.com. 

OCWD General Manager Resigns; Interim GM Named

The board of directors of AGWA member agency Orange County Water District announced in February that Virginia Grebbien resigned her position as general manager effective March 9, 2007.



Grebbien became the fifth general manager in OCWD's 74-year history, and the first woman general manager for the district. A national search for her replacement is underway, with interviews scheduled to begin in June. In the interim, Mike Wehner, assistant general manager for water quality and technology, is


acting general manager.

Grebbien has joined engineering firm MWH's Municipal and State Services operating unit. As the director of Southwest operations, she will oversee municipal and state operations and projects in California and Nevada. Based in Pasadena, Calif., she will be responsible for more than 300 employees in 15 offices.

Reflecting on Grebbien's accomplishments, OCWD board President Philip Anthony said, "Virginia is a leader in financial and project management, including the effort to design and build the Groundwater Replenishment System, which is serving as a model for municipalities around the world. She also successfully negotiated a significant

agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers to store more storm water behind Prado Dam."

"It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as OCWD's general manager these past five years," said Grebbien. "We strengthened the District's financial position, improved our water reliability and modified the groundwater basin management approach, which resulted in a more sustainable groundwater supply."

Wehner has served OCWD the past 16 years, first as director of water quality and technology and more recently as assistant general manager for water quality and technology. Prior to that, Wehner spent 20 years with the Orange County Environmental Health Department. 

Alhambra Groundwater Treatment Facility Construction Scheduled for Completion in 2008

In October 2006, the City of Alhambra broke ground on a new groundwater treatment facility, to be located at the site of the Community Garden at the corner of Mission and Granada. When completed in April 2008 (expected completion), the facility will have the capac-

Alhambra will be able to provide clean, safe water into future decades.

ity to treat 7,000 gallons of water per minute using ion exchange and liquid phase granular activated carbon technology, ensuring that water supplies will be a safe and reliable source for citizens into the future.

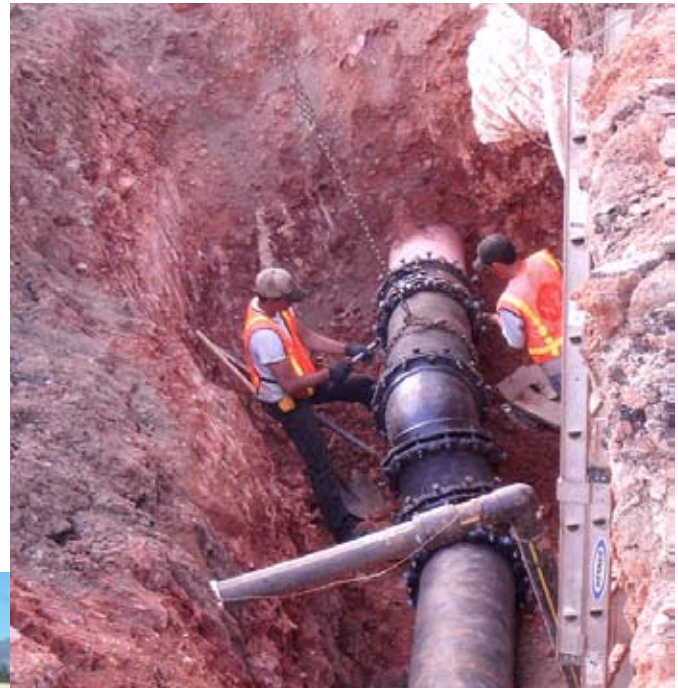
Advanced, state-of-the-art technology will make it possible to remove volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrates from the water provided from four wells and allow the city to reclaim water from two currently inactive wells, thereby reducing Alhambra's dependency on outside water sources.

At the ceremonial groundbreaking, the city council was joined by Alhambra's groundwater treatment partners, representatives from AGWA member agency the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (which provided \$3.9 million through a grant and a no-interest loan for the project) and the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (which provided a grant of \$1.4 million). In total, this is a \$13.2 million dollar undertaking.

The city awarded the pipeline portion of the project to Colich & Sons, a construction contractor specializing in pipeline projects, and the treatment plant facilities portion to Pacific Hydrotech Company. CIVILTEC, engineering, Inc., is performing the design engineering and construction management.




Future site of the Alhambra Groundwater Treatment Facility at the corner of Mission and Granada.



Colich & Sons will be constructing the pipeline for this project.

The City of Alhambra has always had an exceptional record of meeting or exceeding all state and general water quality standards from its nine wells and 17,000 water connections. This new project helps ensure that Alhambra will be able to provide clean, safe water into future decades. Four primary components comprise the full project:

1. Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) treatment process using liquid phased granular activated carbon;
2. A nitrate remediation process using ion exchange technology;
3. Pipelines connecting the well sites to the treatment facility, and a brine line for disposal of waste product from the nitrate remediation process, and;
4. Rehabilitation of Well No. 12—including a new building, pump repair and upgrade of the motor control center.

For additional information about this project, please contact Terry Kerger, P.E., Project Manager, CIVILTEC, engineering, Inc. at (626) 357-0588. 

Regional Plant, Employee Receive Statewide Honors



AGWA member agency Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District's (EVMWD) Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility, poised to replenish Lake Elsinore with millions of gallons of recycled water a day, and long-time EVMWD employee Merlin Shockley were recognized by the state's leading wastewater professionals for innovation and achievements in the wastewater industry.

The awards, underscoring EVMWD's continued successes in managing wastewater in a cost-effective and eco-friendly manner, were presented by the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) at its 79th Annual Awards Conference on April 20.

"These awards validate the district's hard work and dedication to providing each of our customers

with reliable, cost-effective, high-quality water and wastewater services," said W. Ben Wicke, EVMWD board president. "It is an honor to be recognized for our great talent and state-of-the-art facilities among several other agencies in the state."

EVMWD's Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility was named 2006 Midsized Plant of the Year for its impressive design, environmentally friendly operation, industry leading technology, clean regulatory record and dedicated staff.


The CWEA honors its top members and wastewater professionals for their outstanding achievements in the wastewater field, improving the professional status of all personnel working in the wastewater industry and related fields, and raising public awareness of the importance of wastewater treatment to public health and the water environment.

The facility currently processes over 5 million gallons of wastewater a day, and will soon feed 4.5 million gallons a day of recycled water into Lake Elsinore as part of a lake stabilization and recovery effort.

Shockley, an EVMWD employee


for over 10 years, received second place honors for Mechanical Technician of the Year for his hard work, dedication and passion for his job. As EVMWD's Mechanical Technician, Shockley plays an important role in maintaining the various pumps, engines and pipelines vital to moving and treating wastewater and ensures reliable, consistent operation of each of the district's three wastewater treatment operations.

"We employ some of the best people in the industry," said Ron Young, EVMWD's general manager. "This is a much deserved honor. We congratulate Merlin and encourage all of our great employees to keep up the good work."

EVMWD provides service to over 133,000 water, wastewater and agricultural customers in a 96-square mile service area in Western Riverside County. The District is a sub-agency of the Western Municipal Water District and a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. You can visit the EVMWD website at www.evmwd.com for additional information. 

Raymond Basin Management Board Launches Web Site

The Raymond Basin Management Board proudly announced the launch of its Web site—www.raymondbasin.org—on April 11, 2007. The website currently provides the producers and water entities in the Raymond Basin access to the current basin project developments, Board

meeting schedules and minutes, forms, maps, technical data and the Basin's annual report. Also included is a detailed history of the basin—from 1881 to present. Future items to be posted on the Web site include special events and basin project developments. 


Water Festival Fun 11th annual Children's Water Education Festival

The 11th annual Children's Water Education Festival was held on May 1 and 2 at Hidden Valley Park in Irvine, hosted by the Orange County Water District Groundwater Guardian Team. More than 4,000 fourth and fifth-grade students and their teachers, representing 21 cities throughout Orange County, attended the Festival. They learned about the importance of water conservation and protecting the environment.

Students were treated to Disneyland magic and environmentalism, a water magic act, water jugglers and live animals shows. In hands-on activities, students had fun creating their own edible aquifers with ice cream and soda, made water cycle bracelets and pledged to conserve water at home, plus much more.

With more than 65 organizations volunteering, the Festival hosted 75 activities for the students. The Festival is the largest of its kind in the nation and is presented by the Orange County Water District Groundwater Guardian Team, Disneyland Resort and the National Water



Research Institute, with generous support from sponsors and volunteers. For more information or to participate in the 2008 Children's Water Education Festival, visit www.ocwd.com or contact Natalie Elizondo at 714-378.3323. 

News Drops

- Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger recently issued the following statement after the Department of Water Resources performed its final survey of this year's Sierra Nevada snow pack, showing conditions at 29 percent of normal: "Today's survey results with the snow pack at 29 percent of normal shows why we need a comprehensive water plan, including conservation and drought planning programs, Delta sustainability and additional water storage for California. As we experience climate change and the resulting lower annual snow packs, it is critical that we increase the amount of run-off captured by building additional water storage facilities. Unless we plan for the future, we will not be able to sustain consecutive drought years and severe water shortages will have a grave impact to our quality of life and California's economy."
- California is marking its 20th annual observance of May as Water Awareness Month, promoting the message, "Use Water Wisely." Though California's snowpack and rainfall totals were modest this winter, high reservoir levels indicate generally adequate water supplies, with prudent use and conservation. Water Awareness Month originated in response to California's statewide drought in 1987-1992.
- A Senate committee vote failed to pass a key water supply bill, SB 59 (Cogdill). The bill would have authorized funding for key improvements and programs recommended in ACWA's 2005 water policy document, "No Time to Waste: A Blueprint for California Water." It also included major water system improvements proposed by Governor Schwarzenegger in his Strategic Growth Plan.

Western's Riverside-Corona Feeder Gains Funding

The Riverside-Corona Feeder, AGWA member agency Western Municipal Water District's drought-proofing project, was recently infused with \$4.3 million from a State Water Resources Control Board grant.

The R-C Feeder is designed to deliver water conserved and stored in wet years in San Bernardino County groundwater basins to communities throughout western Riverside County in dry water years.

"Linking surface water supplies to groundwater storage is what conjunctive use is all about. The R-C Feeder is a prime example of conjunctive use," said John V. Rossi, AGWA's chair and Western's general manager.

Competitive grant funding for the R-C Feeder is generated from the 2002 voter-approved Proposition 50 section that aims to integrate regional water resource solutions. "This state grant award launches Western's regionally-beneficial water resource management project," added Rossi. The \$250 million project would allow Western to reduce its reliance on imported water during dry years or during catastrophic failure of the imported water systems. Water users elsewhere in Southern California who are unable to practice conjunctive use will benefit from the increased flexibility of imported water systems in dry years as a result of Western's created ability to reduce its share of demand for imported water.

"The R-C Feeder is the first major conjunctive use project to integrate the needs and benefits of water consumers in three major Southern California counties with significant state and federal entities," remarked Western's board president, Donald D. Galleano.

The State Water Resources grant couples perfectly with the Feb. 16 introduction of federal congressional bill HR 1139 (Calvert), the Riverside-Corona Feeder Water Supply Act, that will provide budget author-

ity for the Secretary of the Interior in the amount of \$50 million for planning, design and construction of Western's R-C Feeder. The bill will be considered in the federal House Resources and the Subcommittee on Water and Power, chaired by Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, a co-sponsor of HR 1139.

The R-C Feeder will include 20 wells and 28 miles of pipeline capable of moving 40,000 acre-feet of groundwater annually. New wet year water will come from

local runoff, including regulated releases from Seven Oaks Dam and the State Water Project. The water will be stored in San Bernardino Valley groundwater basins. To deliver the stored water to consumers, the project will provide for new groundwater pumping capacity and delivery pipeline capacity. The R-C Feeder will provide the means to control water tables, thereby reducing liquefaction dangers in the Colton and San Bernardino communities. Additionally, the project improves local water quality as perchlorate and other constituents would be removed from the basin when water is extracted from the well heads via the R-C Feeder.

Beneficiaries include the cities of Riverside, Corona and Norco; Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District; Home Gardens County Water District; Jurupa Community Services District; Lee Lake Water District; Rubidoux Community Services District; Colorado River water users; water-dependent environments in Northern California; imported water users; residents of San Bernardino Valley; as well as Western Municipal Water District.

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 within a 527-square mile area of western Riverside County.

