



UNDERGROUND

Winter 2003

AGWA TO CO-SPONSOR WATER CONFERENCE

The Association of Ground Water Agencies (AGWA) and the Water Education Foundation, in cooperation with the Groundwater Resources Association of California (GRAC), will sponsor a groundwater conference, "Groundwater Quality + Groundwater Quantity = One Issue." The confer-

ence is scheduled for April 8-9, 2003, at the Doubletree Hotel in Ontario, Calif.

All water managers, government officials, hydrogeologists, geologists, water quality experts, attorneys, engineers, public interest groups and others interested in key groundwater issues are invited to attend.

During the two-day event, speakers will discuss critical groundwater issues including:

- Water and Growth: Show Me the Water One Year Later
- The Politics of the Colorado River and its Impact on Southern California Groundwater
- Perchlorate: Setting a Standard
- Groundwater Banking
- Assessing Risk and Establishing Public Health Goals

General registration for the conference is \$300; registration for AGWA, Water Education Foundation and GRAC members is \$250. On-site registration will be \$350. The fee includes a hosted reception on April 8, exhibits, a binder of speaker presentations, and lunch for both days.

Hotel reservations are available by contacting the Doubletree Hotel at (800) 222-TREE. A special, discounted room rate of \$86 per night has been

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Comments, story suggestions and articles are encouraged. Please call: (714) 964-1668, fax (714) 964-4614

or e-mail: greenliefcomm@socal.rr.com
Visit the AGWA website at: www.agwa.org

reserved for conference attendees through March 25, 2003. To request the special room rate, please mention the Water Education Foundation.

Companies and organizations are invited to sponsor an exhibit at the conference. For more information about hosting an exhibit, or for additional information about the conference, contact Rita Schmidt Sudman at the Water Education Foundation at (916) 444-6240 or via e-mail at rsudman@watereducation.org.

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MWD CEO'S STATEMENT ON IID'S FAILURE TO APPROVE WATER TRANSFER TO SAN DIEGO AND THE AFTERMATH

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How Southern California will cope with Colorado River surplus reduction

"Even though the federal government will suspend surplus Colorado River supplies for California, the Metropolitan Water District will continue to meet all the region's demands for imported water in 2003, 2004 and beyond, primarily because of the investments urban Southern California has made over the past decade to conserve, diversify and stretch its portfolio of water resource options.

"Along with a reduction of per-capita water use in the 1990s, Metropolitan and its member public agencies have stored more than 2 million acre-feet of water. If current favorable weather conditions

continue--providing rain to our region and snow pack in Northern California--our reserves will largely stay intact, providing the region from Ventura to San Diego with reliable water supplies for up to six years. Our storage options include Diamond Valley Lake near Hemet, which holds up to 800,000 acre-feet (more water than Lake Havasu), and 1 million acre-feet in groundwater basins in California's Central Valley. In addition, Metropolitan's member agencies will be using their local groundwater resources to meet water demands.

"In the new year, the public will see a heightened focus on voluntary outdoor water conservation that will make even more water available for storage and use in dry years.

"Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton has expressed a willingness to restore surplus water if the California water agencies agree to meet federal guidelines. Metropolitan will continue its efforts to meet those guidelines. In any event, we stand ready to apply additional supply programs that will help secure the region's imported water reliability in case surplus Colorado River water remains suspended for the next 15 years. We also will continue to move forward and plan beyond the next 15 years regardless of the availability of Colorado River surplus."

Regarding the Imperial Irrigation District

"Metropolitan stands by its willingness to execute the Quantification Settlement Agreement as negotiated in October. I was authorized by Metropolitan's board of directors earlier this month to execute the QSA as agreed to by the California water agencies as long as there were no additional financial and water supply impacts on urban Southern California.

"However, the Imperial Irrigation District has proposed last-minute terms which deviate substantially from aspects of the October agreement and fail to meet the federal requirements for meeting the deadline sparking the elimination of surplus water to Southern California. Specifically, IID has asked the federal and state governments,

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as well as the other California water agencies, for a number of new concessions, all of which would allow IID to back out of the water transfer deal with San Diego at a later time, and would impose substantially greater costs and risks on water ratepayers.

“Not only does the last minute IID proposal fail to meet the Bush Administration’s ‘no off-ramps’ requirement, it does not provide assurances of surplus Colorado River water for the next 15 years. It also allows Imperial to essentially kill any agreement reached after the federal deadline and prolongs the uncertainty of Colorado River supplies for urban Southern California through 2003. Despite this setback, we hope Secretary Norton will continue to assist the parties in reaching a long-term solution.

“In the end, IID’s demands ask every household in the state to put up about another \$30 for its transfer deal with no caps for future costs. The last time an 11th-hour proposal was hastily approved, circumstances led to an energy crisis.

This will not be the case with water.”

For more information about MWD and its position on the IID issue, log on to www.mwd.dst.ca.us.

[PRINT VERSION](#)

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT, SANITATION DISTRICT BOARDS APPROVE OPERATING AGREEMENT FOR \$427 MILLION GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT SYSTEM

AGWA member agency the Orange County Water District (OCWD) and Orange County Sanitation District’s (OCSD) Boards of Directors recently voted to approve a joint development, operation and maintenance agreement for the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWR System).

The GWR System will use highly treated wastewater from OCSD and purify it to better than

current drinking water quality through high-tech filtration processes, including reverse osmosis.

For 25 years, OCWD has purified sewer water to drinking water standards for injection into the groundwater basin to keep seawater out of the underground drinking water supply.

As Orange County continues to use more groundwater, the GWR System will expand that process, providing a new source of water for the underground barrier as well as for OCWD’s water portfolio.

The Joint Powers Agreement spans 30 years and covers Phase One of the GWR System, which is scheduled for completion in 2007. Under the agreement, OCWD and OCSD will share equally the capital costs to build the project, while OCWD will pay for operations, maintenance and repairs once the system is operational.

According to OCWD General Manager Virginia Grebbien, purified water developed through the GWR System provides an independent, locally controlled supply that diversifies OCWD’s water supply portfolio; helps reduce minerals in the groundwater; and reduces OCWD’s dependence on imported water.

Once completed, the GWR System will take highly treated sewer water that is currently released into the ocean and purify it through a redundant system including microfiltration, reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide-advanced oxidation treatment. The purified water will become part of a seawater barrier that will be pumped through a 13-mile pipeline to spreading basins in Anaheim, where it will percolate into deep aquifers and blend with Orange County’s other sources of groundwater.

Future work on the GWR System includes demolition of the existing Water Factory 21 water purification facility in Fountain Valley; construction of the new, larger water purification facility; and construction of new injection wells, a pump station and a 13-mile pipeline from Fountain Valley to Orange County Water District’s groundwater basin recharge facilities. The project is scheduled to

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produce purified water by 2007.

More information on the Groundwater Replenishment System can be found by visiting www.gwrsystem.com.

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WRD DEDICATES NEW WATER TREATMENT FACILITY IN SIGNAL HILL

Officials from AGWA member agency the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) recently dedicated the Gundry Reservoir Wellhead Treatment Facility in Signal Hill, Calif.

The project, a joint venture with the City of Signal Hill, will help ensure clean, safe drinking water for residents.

The project is the 10th water treatment facility built by the WRD in conjunction with groundwater producers.

"This treatment plant will clean the groundwater and provide safe drinking water for residents of Signal Hill," said WRD Board President Leo J. Vander Lans, whose district includes Signal Hill.

"This partnership between the WRD and Signal Hill is another positive step towards protecting the basin's precious groundwater resource."

The City of Signal Hill approached the WRD about constructing a treatment facility to remove iron and manganese in two wells. The WRD provided Signal Hill with a 10-year, no interest loan to build the project. Construction on the facility which consists of a filtration system with two pressure vessels, piping, valves and meters began last April and was recently completed.

The Gundry Reservoir Wellhead Treatment Facility is part of the WRD's Safe Drinking Water Program, which was established in 1991. It enables groundwater pumpers to keep affected wells operating and to bring otherwise non-working wells back into operation. Other treatment facilities have been built in Bell, Bell Gardens, Huntington Park, Paramount, South Gate,

Pico Rivera, and Norwalk. The WRD is currently working on four additional facilities.

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RANDY RECORD TO REPRESENT EMWD ON MWD BOARD

A fifth-generation San Jacinto farmer was recently selected to represent AGWA member agency Eastern Municipal Water District on the board of directors of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Randy A. Record, 50, is the elected director of EMWD's Division 3, which includes San Jacinto, the southern and eastern portions of Moreno Valley, Lakeview, Nuevo, Homeland, Juniper Flats, Soboba Hot Springs, Gilman Hot Springs and Garner Valley. He became EMWD's representative on the MWD board Jan. 6, 2003.

"I'm pleased with the choice of Randy Record because of his high stature in the water community," said Marion V. Ashley, who stepped down as EMWD's representative effective Jan. 6. "He's energetic, knowledgeable about water resource issues and will forcefully and tactfully represent the residents of western Riverside County."

Director Ashley, who served on the EMWD board since 1992, had been EMWD's representative on the MWD board since January 2000. He will assume the duties of Riverside County supervisor for District 5 in January.

Record becomes EMWD's sixth representative on the MWD board since 1951. The others were Irwin Farrar, Doyle Boen, Chet Gilbert, Clayton A. Record, Jr. and Marion Ashley. The late Clayton A. Record, Jr. was Randy's father.

"As you might expect, I'm very pleased to have the confidence of my fellow board members to represent our District at Met," said Record. "Working to make sure Southern California has reliable, economical water is a tremendous challenge that requires a significant commitment, which I am able to make because of the support of my wife

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and family, as well as the people of EMWD.

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Active in agriculture, Record is responsible for hay, vegetable and citrus enterprises in the Hemet and San Jacinto areas. He is a director of the Riverside County Farm Bureau, a member of the Hemet/San Jacinto Groundwater Association, the Western Growers Association and the California Alfalfa and Forage Association.

WATER DROPS

- The Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC) will soon provide security information and terrorist threat alerts to U.S. drinking water and wastewater utilities. According to a press release from WaterISAC, all U.S. drinking water and wastewater systems are eligible to subscribe to the WaterISAC, the only centralized resource that analyzes and disseminates threat information specific to the water community. The WaterISAC will distribute information to subscribers through encrypted email and a secure portal; secure bulletin boards and chat rooms will create a forum for discussing sensitive information. Subscription fees are based on the number of people served by the utility and due to the sensitive nature of the information, subscribers must agree in advance to protect this information from disclosure and establish protocols for handling the information within the utility. Users will be provided a smart card, card reader and a special access code.
- The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has extended to Jan. 31, 2003, the deadline for applying for grants from the District's Innovative Conservation Program (ICP). Under the program, Metropolitan provides monetary grants to support new technologies and approaches to conserving water. The district has \$250,000 earmarked for this year's ICP grants. Applications and

additional information are available on Metropolitan's website, www.mwdh2o.com.

- Senator Nell Soto's Bill, SB 34, may be acted on any time after Jan. 5, 2003. The Inland Empire Water Quality Authority Act was introduced on Dec. 5, 2002, and would establish the Inland Empire Water Quality Authority. The bill would make a related statement of legislative findings and declarations to protect public health and safety by planning and implementing measures to clean up industrial contaminants, particularly perchlorate, that now threaten the region's groundwater supplies. For more information on this bill, log on to Soto's website at <http://democrats.sen.ca.gov/senator/soto>.

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