

NEWS CLIPS

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**Resource Conservation and Public
Outreach**

Organized by date

PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEFS

Pacific High School in Ventura closes early after water break

VENTURA - A water main break Thursday morning in Ventura caused Pacific High School to close early, according to school and city water officials. Between 150 and 200 residents, businesses and the school were impacted.

Pacific High, a continuation school at 501 College Drive, sent about 150 students home about an hour early because of the situation, according to school officials. The school typically closes at 12:42 p.m.

The first break was reported around 9 a.m. at College Drive and Cherry Street, during a planned replacement of a water valve, city water officials said. Another valve failed during that work, causing crews to expand the work area to the neighborhood around and including the high school. That impacted the area around College Drive, Mills Road, Maple Street and Redwood Avenue, water officials said.

Ventura County Star 8/24/2018



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este aviso contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable, por favor lea el aviso en español si va aquí incluido. Si el aviso en español no va incluido aquí, contacte al Sistema de agua para pedir una copia.

Ventura Water has Levels of Total Trihalomethanes Above the Drinking Water Standard

Our water system recently exceeded a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we are doing to correct this situation. We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results received on July 23, 2018 showed Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) levels of 81ug/L. This is above the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 80ug/L.

What should I do? You do not need to use an alternative water supply (e.g., bottled water).

This is not an immediate risk and the water supply is safe to drink. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience liver, kidney, or central nervous system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? Increased reservoir storage and lower usage caused water to reside in parts of the distribution system for extended periods resulting in elevated TTHM levels. Refer to Map below for affected areas.

What is being done? We are currently blending the water in the distribution system with other sources and cycling storage levels. We continue to monitor the TTHM levels in the system and anticipate resolving the issue by the next monitoring period (in October 2018).

For more information, please contact Joe Marcinko at (805) 652-4504 or by mail at the following mailing address at: 336 San Jon Road, Ventura CA. 93002. Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Secondary Notification Requirements

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- SCHOOLS: Must notify school employees, students, and parents (if the students are minors).
- RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS (including nursing homes and care facilities): Must notify tenants.
- BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS, OR OPERATORS: Must notify employees of businesses located on the property.

This notice is being sent to you by Ventura Water / City of Ventura Water Department.

State Water System ID# 5610017. Date distributed: Monday, August 20, 2018.



Murky waters, invasive creatures, local hero, new sci-fi film?

Documentary made about man who is helping Lindero Creek

By [The Acorn Staff](#) | on August 23, 2018



Acorn file photo

MAN ON A MISSION—Joel Goldes examines one of his crayfish traps along Lindero Creek. He’s been taking care of the creek for six years. Acorn file photo

Joel Goldes, a 54-year-old Oak Park resident who makes daily trips to nearby Lindero Creek to remove trash and invasive crayfish, never expected to be the subject of a documentary film.

When Joel’s brother Dan visited him recently and used his iPhone to record him working at the creek, they both thought the resulting video would be seen only by family and friends.

“Joel’s initiative is inspiring, and I wanted to share it with other people,” said Dan Goldes, a 56-year-old San Francisco-based filmmaker.

The name of the five-minute documentary is “Keeper of the Creek,” the same title as a 2017 feature article in *The Acorn* by Sylvie Belmond about Joel Goldes and his mission to improve Lindero Creek as it courses through Oak Park and Agoura Hills.

“Few people come here, and it’s kind of ignored. It’s a wild oasis right in the middle of our suburb. It’s a precious ecosystem and it’s been badly polluted,” Goldes said in the article.



Courtesy photo

Dan Goldes Courtesy photo

The film by his brother had its U.S. premiere on Aug. 11 at the Golden State Film Festival in Sepulveda.

Since 2012, Joel Goldes has collected 200 bags of garbage from the creek, removing plastic bags, hypodermic needles, soccer balls, water bottles and even lost school ID cards. He’s also pulled eight rusty shopping carts from the water.

“Everything ends up here,” Goldes said.

Pesky critters

In 2017, Goldes added a new task to his daily creek routine: trapping invasive crayfish. Since then, he has removed more than 14,000 of the small crustaceans. Goldes also works with the Mountains Restoration Trust, providing crayfish to the organization to use as food in rehabilitating injured raccoons.

Originally from the southeastern and central U.S, the crayfish prey on native species, reduce water quality and cause problems with creek-bed erosion. In California, where the climate is warmer year round, crayfish reproduce quickly and compete with native newts, arroyo chubs and frogs.

A new study in the scientific journal “Conservation Biology,” conducted in part by the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, says the red swamp crayfish eats dragonflies, which is a bad thing because the dragonfly eats disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Lindero Creek runs all year long. While some sections have 4 to 5 feet of water, others are just a few inches deep, thick with muck and man-made debris.

“Most people walk past and never realize how many plants and animals rely on it,” Goldes said. “Over the years, it’s become badly polluted and I hope I can help it become a clean, healthy place again.”

On the red carpet

The Dan Goldes film had its world premiere at the EkoFilm Festival in Poland in May and will screen at the Kuala Lumpur Eco Film Festival in October.

“Keeper of the Creek” is Goldes’ fourth short film. The works have screened at more than 100 film festivals around the world in the past few years.

Goldes is currently in postproduction on “5 Blocks,” a longform documentary about changes to San Francisco’s central Market Street, a neighborhood undergoing its most dramatic change in 50 years.

—Acorn staff report

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Rotating Nozzle for Pop-up Spray Head	\$2/Nozzle (minimum 30 per home)



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Soil Moisture Sensor System	\$35/Station
Rotating Nozzle for Pop-up Spray Head	\$2/Nozzle (minimum of 30 per site)
Large Rotary Nozzle	\$13/Set (minimum of 8 sets)
In-Stem Flow Regulator	\$1/Regulator (minimum of 25 per site)
Food Equipment	
Connectionless Food Steamer	\$485/Compartment
Ice Making Machine	\$1,000
HVAC Equipment	
Cooling Tower Conductivity Controller	\$625
pH-Cooling Tower Controller	\$1,750
Medical and Dental Equipment	
Laminar Flow Restrictor	\$10/Restrictor (minimum of 10)
Dry Vacuum Pump	\$125/0.5HP (up to 2HP max)



For more information, visit:
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08/7/08/09

Another Trump shot at state water policy President steps up attack on state water policy



INTERIOR SECRETARY Ryan Zinke asked his staff to look into “new water storage” in California. He was probably referring to a proposal for Shasta Dam. (Allen J. Schaben Los Angeles Times)

MICHAEL HILTZIK
LA Times 8/22/2018

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, stepping up the Trump administration’s attack on California water policy, on Friday issued a memo to his staff demanding a “plan of action” to circumvent state officials. He gave the staff 15 days to develop a proposal and present it to his deputy, a former lobbyist for big water users at odds with the state.

Zinke’s memo represents the latest volley in a developing war between the Trump administration and the state over the distribution of water from state and federal projects. The administration has been pushing for more water deliveries to Central Valley farmers, many of whom are in districts that delivered votes to Trump in the last presidential election — even though the state as a whole voted for his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton.

Zinke instructed the staff to produce an action plan aimed as “maximizing water supply deliveries,” in part by “streamlining” consultations related to the Endangered Species Act, “better incorporating best science” into Interior decisions, constructing new water storage, and making infrastructure changes to “independently operate” the federally funded Central Valley Project.

Many of those initiatives would run counter to state policy. The state Water Resources Control Board kicked off a two-day public hearing Tuesday on its own plan to increase water flows to the state's rivers to protect fish and fisheries. Zinke referred to those plans as proposals for "additional unacceptable restrictions" that would reduce his agency's ability to deliver water to growers and urban users in Central and Southern California.

"The time for action is now," he exhorted his staff. He called for both proposals for congressional legislation and preparation for litigation, presumably against the state.

Experts in the environmental laws governing state and federal water policy in California viewed the memo as intensifying the intergovernmental confrontation. "It's indicative of a more bullying and hysterical tone," said Doug Obegi, director of the California water program at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Obegi said the memo signaled the government's intention to "gut environmental protections" in the Sacramento Delta, from which water is pumped to serve Central and Southern California users. But he also took its overheated tone as "a sign that the state has been fairly effective at pushing back."

Zinke's reference to "new water storage" is probably a reference to a proposal to raise the height of Shasta Dam to increase the capacity of its reservoir, Lake Shasta, which is opposed by the state.

Zinke's reference to his desire to "independently operate" the Central Valley Project might conflict with federal law, which generally requires the federal government to comply with state policies, even on federally funded water projects.

The plan of action is to be submitted to Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt, a former lobbyist and attorney for water users who might benefit from the initiatives Zinke ordered, including the vast Westlands Water District in the Central Valley.

By directing staff to report directly to Bernhardt, Zinke placed the former lobbyist at the center of the battle over water rights, despite his potential conflicts of interest.

Bernhardt, whose obligation to recuse himself from decisions affecting his former clients has expired, recently published an op-ed in the Washington Post advocating changes in the Endangered Species Act that could steer more water to Central Valley growers at the expense of fish and fisheries.

Other Trump administration figures have also taken steps to undermine state policies. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross this month ordered agencies under his jurisdiction, including the National Marine Fisheries Service, to circumvent the Endangered Species Act on the pretext that water deliveries blocked by Endangered Species Act rules were needed to fight California wildfires — an assertion contradicted by fire officials. Trump made the same claim in a tweet that was widely derided as nonsensical and uninformed.

Last week, meanwhile, Zinke claimed in an interview with the right-wing Breitbart News radio service that “environmental terrorist groups” are largely responsible for the severity of the fires. Fire scientists and forestry experts say that the main factor in the increasing intensity of wildfires in the West is climate change.

Flushing contact lenses adds plastic waste hazard to oceans

Chris Woodyard

USA TODAY

Add millions of used contact lenses to the plastic waste that's finding its way into oceans and lakes.

A new study released Sunday estimates that these slippery transparent discs, vital to the vision of an estimated 45 million Americans every year, are often flushed into the sewer instead of placed in the trash or recycled.

Worn for as little as a day, their small size contributes to the danger they could eventually wind up polluting a lake, river or go out to sea, says the study being presented at a conference by Arizona State University researchers.

Up to 20 percent of wearers aren't tossing their old lenses into waste containers, instead using sinks or toilets. But because lenses are made of such tough plastics, they don't break down when exposed to microbes. ASU's study found that after going through a sewage treatment plant, they become even smaller pieces, which can find their way into fish, birds or other animals.

Ventura County Star 8/20/2018

As dams rise in the amazon, villagers feel left behind

By Michael Snyder
LA Times 8/18/2018



Photographs by **PHILIP LUNA** For The Times

SAMUEL SURUBI, left, supervises his fishing operation. He lost 24 acres of banana plantation in devastating flooding four years ago.

GUAYARAMERIN, Bolivia — No one in the Bolivian village of Cachuela Mamore saw the flood coming.

The Mamore River, which curves along Bolivia's wildly diverse, 2,100-mile border with Brazil, always rises during the months-long Amazonian rainy season. But the flood in 2014 was different.

Within weeks, the river had reached villagers' doorsteps, and all 38 families — fruit farmers and fishermen, mostly — fled inland.

For the next five months they returned to their waterlogged citrus, banana and avocado orchards, which had once been their primary source of income, and plucked fruit from the low branches to scratch out a living. When the water finally receded, the fruit trees collapsed, and the native fish in the river's stagnant waters disappeared.

Now, the families of Cachuela Mamore still live in the makeshift huts of wood, plastic tarps and corrugated metal that they cobbled together after the floods, living alongside the dirt road that connects the village to Guayaramerin, the nearest major town.

The villagers have also come to believe that it was more than just seasonal rains that caused the Mamore to crest its banks. They blame a pair of dams built downstream and worry that two more dams planned in the region could undo their lives and traditions.

“We still haven’t recuperated,” says Joaquin Montero Mendes, a 42-year-old farmer and fisherman, his rubber boots muddy from working in the new orchard that he and the other villagers planted after the flood. “What happened was a direct result of the dam.”

The dam in question is the Jirau Hydroelectric Plant, 115 miles north of Cachuela Mamore in neighboring Brazil on the Madeira River, one of the Amazon’s largest tributaries. The second in a planned four-dam complex, Jirau, like its predecessor, the Santo Antonio dam just outside the Brazilian city of Porto Velho, was developed to feed power to the fast-growing cities of southeastern Brazil.

Together, the two completed dams, which cost almost \$15 billion to build, already produce enough electricity to power the city of Rio de Janeiro for nearly a year.

If the second two dams are built — one straddling the Brazil-Bolivia border 25 miles downstream from Cachuela Mamore, the other within Bolivian territory on the Beni River — the complex’s capacity will increase by at least 30%. Brazil and Bolivia will share the costs on the future projects, though the price tag is still undetermined.

When the first two dams were built, people in Cachuela Mamore and elsewhere along the Bolivian border were not invited to be part of an assessment of the potential risks to those who live in the area. Now, they are demanding that their voices be heard.

“They say that this is development for the Amazon,” says Lidia Antty, an activist and community organizer whose home in Guayaramerin was flooded in 2014. “But it’s development with death.”

The Jirau and Santo Antonio dams were approved by Brazil in 2007, and construction moved forward despite objections from Bolivia, which said it was never shown any of the relevant studies for the project. When Santo Antonio, the first of the dams to go operational, opened in 2012, the city of Porto Velho on the Brazilian side of the border experienced devastating flooding. Even then, Montero says, word never reached the farmers and fishermen in Cachuela Mamore that there might be problems to come.

“There was no information here at all,” Montero said.

Though experts generally blame the 2014 floods that swamped Cachuela Mamore on unusually heavy rains in the Andes, which drain into the Amazon basin, others say the dams were at least partially responsible by slowing and interrupting the natural flow of the rivers and tributaries in the region.

Carolina R.C. Doria, a biologist at Brazil's Federal University of Rondonia, said in an email that the dams contributed to the problem by holding back water until the rivers began to crest. Villagers in Bolivia's Amazonian borderlands agree that, before the dam was built, they'd never seen a comparable disaster.

As part of the development, the consortium of companies building and operating the dams launched dozens of programs for affected Brazilian communities, including resettlement, cash payments and, in the case of fishermen in Guajara-Mirim, the Brazilian town across the river from Guayaramerin, a management plan for fishing the invasive paiche that had moved into the local waters when the native fish vanished.

But on the Bolivian side of the border, villages like Cachuela Mamore have received no such support.

In Bolivia, one of the continent's poorest nations, project supporters see a broad opportunity to turn an Amazonian resource — water — into an income-producing asset. But for those living along the Amazon's remote tributaries, the feeling is that their lives are being overlooked in the rush to pump power to Brazil's mega-cities.

In the village of San Lorenzo, a day's trip upriver from Guayaramerin, 32-year-old fisherman Samuel Surubi lost 24 acres of banana plantation in the 2014 flooding. "The flood came and left the land just as it was when it fell from heaven," Surubi says. He and others worry that when the next dam goes up, the rainy seasons will become even more devastating.

Doria, the biologist, said villagers such as those in Cachuela Mamore are at a huge disadvantage trying to fight the project.

"These communities are isolated, uninformed and disorganized to fight for their rights or even participate in decision-making forums," she said.

In the last four years, Antty has helped organize a grass-roots campaign connecting rural communities in Bolivia with better-organized activist groups in Brazil and with scientists in Bolivia and abroad. Her goal: to halt the construction of the final two dams.

"The people who will be affected don't want these projects," she says. "The people who come from elsewhere are in favor of it because they can leave when the river fills."

Lidia Bani Lopez, 58, a lifelong resident of Cachuela Mamore, said, "We're not against progress, but we are against this kind of construction that will do away with our Amazon."

Federico Cortez Morai, a native of Cachuela Mamore who worked as a construction contractor on the Jirau dam from 2013 to 2016, said he's hopeful his community will be better equipped to stand up for its rights than it was in the years prior to the Jirau and Santo Antonio dams.

Cortez recalled his years at Jirau and the weekly meetings where he and other workers would raise concerns about flooding. The engineers, he says, would tell them not to worry.

“This calmed us down because we believed that these people, through their studies, could predict and, to some extent, mitigate the consequences. We believed them,” Cortez says now. “I worked three years on the dam and I earned well, but it wasn’t worth anything, because while I was working my home was flooding.”

At the inland settlement where Cortez’s family and their neighbors in Cachuela Mamore relocated, the orange trees planted after the 2014 flooding produced their first fruit this past May. Paiche, which people here find flavorless compared with the native species they’ve consumed for generations, is now the only fish they’re able to catch with any regularity. Electrical wires, installed by a U.S. nongovernmental organization but never connected to the grid, dangle uselessly over their ramshackle houses.

Even as the dams funnel electricity to Brazilian cities 1,500 miles away, the lights still have not come on in Cachuela Mamore.

“They call it progress — always progress,” Cortez says, “but at the end of the day, progress is always just another problem.”

Snyder is a special correspondent.

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