

# NEWS CLIPS

Published August 29, 2014



**Resource Conservation and Public Outreach**

Organized by date



Select the proper pan size for cooking, and don't use more water than necessary. Visit [vcstar.com/drought](http://vcstar.com/drought) for more tips and informa-  
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# More study is sought for water tunnel plan

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO— More planning is needed on a \$25 billion proposal to build two massive water tunnels in Northern California, state officials said this week.

About 30,000 pages of environmental reviews and draft plans have already been generated on what would be the biggest water supply project in California in decades, the Los Angeles Times reported.

On Wednesday the Department of Water Resources said it will do further work with state and federal agencies on revising parts of the drafts. They will be reissued next year for additional public comment.

That will push a final decision on the tunnels — originally scheduled for late this year — well into 2015.

Backed by major urban and agricultural water districts, the project would change the way some Northern California supplies are sent south to the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California, the Times said.

Sacramento River water would be diverted into two 30-mile-long tunnels and conveyed under the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta to existing pumping facilities.

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Op-Ed

## Earthquakes pose a hazard to much of California's fresh water



Cellar worker Adam Craig, 36, of Napa works to clear the rubble at the Kieu Hoang Winery, one of several in the area that were damaged by the earthquake. (Rick Loomis / Los Angeles Times)

By SCOTT J. BRANDENBERG AND JONATHAN P. STEWART  
LA TIMES 8/29/2014

We dodged a bullet this time.

Had Sunday's magnitude 6.0 Napa earthquake been located a few miles to the southeast, it could have caused a severe shortage of fresh water felt up and down California, exacerbating the effects of our historic drought.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, a short drive from Napa, is the hub of the state's water distribution system, delivering fresh water to more than 25 million residents and 3 million acres of farmland. Delta water conveyed through a network of levees is crucial to Southern California, the Central Coast, parts of the Bay Area and much of the Central Valley. The drought has significantly curtailed water export, and salt water has intruded into parts of the delta as a result of reduced fresh water outflows.

Islands in the delta are formed by land that has subsided as much as 30 feet below sea level because of the construction of levees around their perimeter and reclamation of delta land for agricultural use. Levee construction began about 150 years ago by dredging soil from adjacent channels, and placing it in an ad hoc manner.

Many of these unengineered levees have only a few feet of freeboard (distance from water level to top of levee) at high tide. A breach of a single segment within a levee system will inundate the interior island. The vast open space within the delta islands exceeds the immediately available volume of fresh water.

Some delta levees are ... vulnerable to liquefaction, and as a result the levees could settle, slump and spread, probably leading to a catastrophic breach.-

Accordingly, simultaneous flooding of multiple islands would draw in saline water from San Francisco Bay, contaminating the fresh water supply for California's water projects. With insufficient fresh water reserves to flush the salt out of the delta during our historic drought, delta water could remain salty for years.

The findings of engineering consultants and university research show that this catastrophic scenario might very well have occurred had Sunday's earthquake struck near or beneath the delta.

Strong shaking from a nearby earthquake can cause saturated, loose, sandy soils to behave temporarily like a liquid (a process called liquefaction). Some delta levees are built of, or are founded on, sandy soils vulnerable to liquefaction, and as a result the levees could settle, slump and spread, probably leading to a catastrophic breach.

Exacerbating the risk, many delta levees are founded on peat, soil that is composed of organic material. Peat is highly compressible and soft, and it is known to be capable of shaking strongly during earthquakes. Peat does not experience strength loss like liquefiable sand, but recent research shows that it is vulnerable to settlement after strong shaking, which would reduce freeboard and contribute to the risk of breach.

This is the subject of ongoing research because it is important for engineers to understand the diverse array of hazards that threaten our levees.

Seismically induced failures of levees are not the product of imaginative speculation. They have been observed elsewhere around the world (mainly Japan) where earthquakes, often close to the magnitude of the Napa event, have occurred near major levee systems.

We ignore the potential for seismic failure of levees in California at our peril. We must do all we can to prevent these catastrophic failures from affecting our water supply. Let's heed the warning that Sunday's earthquake provides by adopting a long-term solution to the water conveyance infrastructure problem in the delta.

*Scott J. Brandenburg and Jonathan P. Stewart are the vice chairman and chairman, respectively, of the UCLA Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.*

## ***City strives to be water-wise***



Courtesy of City of Calabasas

**SPRINKLER MANAGEMENT**—Calabasas is installing a \$600,000 citywide Smart Irrigation Control System with a goal of reducing water consumption on public landscaping up to 25 percent. Above, a worker on the job. Below, the controller is buttoned up.



# Even / Odd Irrigation Program In Effect

## *No Irrigation on Sundays*



In response to the state's drought emergency, the LVMWD Board of Directors has adopted an even-odd irrigation schedule. Addresses ending with even numbers may irrigate only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; odd-numbered addresses may irrigate only on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Irrigation may occur after 5:00 p.m. and before 10:00 a.m. Clip and post next to your irrigation timer or give to your landscape professional.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Even Addresses							
Odd Addresses							

# ***HELP Stop The Waste!***

Take a smartphone  
photo (enable GPS)  
and send to:  
**StopTheWaste**  
**@LVMWD.com**  
We'll contact the  
property owner  
and get the  
problem resolved.



**[www.LVMWD.com](http://www.LVMWD.com)**



# 10 ways to save precious water



The Acorn 8/28/2014

The drought in **California** is so severe that the state has implemented emergency water conservation regulations and will fine those who waste it.

Research shows that Californians use up to 50 percent more water than they need to maintain healthy gardens. However, gardening experts suggest that landscapes would actually be healthier if they were watered less, but more effectively.

Here are 10 tips for saving water during the drought:

**Water early in the morning.** Making sure sprinklers stop running by 8 a.m. will reduce evaporation and lessen the likelihood of water waste caused by wind interference. Watering early also reduces plant disease and water damage.

**Mulch.** Placing a 2- to 3-inch layer of organic mulch on the soil surface around plants can save hundreds of gallons of water every year.

**Repair and adjust sprinklers.** Fixing damaged sprinklers immediately and checking pipes for leaks can save as much as 500 gallons of water per year.

**Water deeper, but less often.** Most gardens in **California** on automatic sprinklers are overwatered. Homeowners should change sprinkler systems to water every other day or every third day, while increasing watering times by only 50 to 75 percent. Consult the local municipality for appropriate watering guidelines.

Change watering times with the seasons. Homeowners can save huge amounts of water by adjusting automatic systems at least three times a year, according to the season. During periods of rain, it is vital to turn automatic systems off.

Use trigger sprayers when hand watering. Trigger sprayers help ensure that water is not wasted while watering gardens. \*Minimize water loss in plants. Use water-retentive potting soils in all container gardens.

Add compost to soil. Adding store-bought or homemade compost to planting beds and pots will decrease the amount of water needed.

Use organic fertilizers. These fertilizers slowly release nutrients into the soil at a natural rate that matches a plant's needs, so plants need less water when fed organically.

Install a smart sprinkler controller. Wireless "smart controllers" activate automatic sprinklers via computer-based weather data and information about specifics of gardens. These "smart controllers" can save over 40 gallons of water each watering day.

*Courtesy of Armstrong Garden Centers.*



Use a water calculator to figure out how much water your household is using. Then try to cut back. Visit [vcstar.com/drought](http://vcstar.com/drought) for more tips and information.

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MALIBU CREEK

## State closing dam access

*Park officials cite safety fears, environment*

By Cheri Carlson  
Ventura County Star 8/28/2014

State park officials announced last week they will close the Rindge Dam area to the public for safety reasons and to protect the environment.

A little more than a mile up Malibu Canyon, Rindge Dam in Malibu Creek State Park has become a destination for kids and others seeking high places to jump from and a place to meet up with friends, officials said.

“It’s never been an issue until recently,” said Craig Sap, district superintendent for California State Parks.

But even in the past year, the number of people seeking out the fairly remote location has gone way up.

A search on YouTube yields a number of videos of people jumping from old walls or high rocks into the water — likely a reason the site has grown in popularity, officials said.

Concerns for public safety, natural resources and the health of federally endangered southern steelhead trout in Malibu Creek prompted the closure, which took effect last Thursday, officials said.

The jumps have led to injuries, but the route to get to the dam also raises safety concerns, officials said.

Most people get to the dam by taking unofficial paths created by other visitors. Those foot paths are not designed for safety and are not maintained, with loose rocks and sometimes steep terrain, park officials said.

Without parking nearby, many people will walk along the winding Malibu Canyon Road, sometimes in large groups, to get to an access point, Sap said.

When someone gets injured, rescue crews also face challenges getting to the area.

Trash and graffiti have become problems, Sap said. With no restrooms, there also are concerns about water quality in Malibu Creek and Malibu Lagoon.

Rangers will be posting signs and stopping people headed that way to let them know about the closure, he said.

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# Panel suggests twice-weekly watering

*Residents get to select days they want*

By Claudia Boyd-Barrett Special to The Star  
Ventura County Star 8/28/2014

A citizens committee in Ventura tasked with recommending emergency responses to the drought has voted for restricting outdoor irrigation to night hours twice a week.

The new Water Shortage Task Force voted 12-1 at its second meeting Tuesday to support the twice-weekly mandatory irrigation restrictions. Residents and businesses each week would only be allowed to water between 6 p.m. and 9 a.m. on two days of their choice.

The proposal applies to automated irrigation systems such as sprinklers. Residents would still be permitted to water plants outside anytime with a bucket or hand-held hose with a shut-off valve.

The recommendations will be drafted into an ordinance for the City Council to consider Sept. 15.

Outdoor irrigation accounts for about half of all water use in the city, according to city staff members. Shana Epstein, general manager for the city's water department, Ventura Water, said restricting irrigation to two days is expected to reduce water consumption about 20 percent. Doing so would meet state guidelines, she said.

"It consciously asks people to think about it, to do their part," Epstein said. "This is really about trying to address what the state's asking us to do, and it addresses a water usage we think most people can do."

Residents could pick which two days of the week to water, the task force decided after a long debate. Ventura Water staff members had proposed specific days for the restrictions: Monday and Wednesday for odd-numbered street addresses and Tuesday and Thursday for even-numbered addresses. That schedule would ensure people do not tax the system by watering their yards on the same day and would simplify enforcement, management analyst Karen Waln said.

But task force members and some residents at the meeting rejected that idea. The proposed days left too much time between waterings, some argued, and enforcement would be challenging on any day because irrigation would be restricted to nights and early mornings. Resetting automatic timers to specific days also would be complicated for some residents, committee member Don Mills argued.

"I want this thing to be user-friendly," he said. "We want to get the community behind this conservation problem and make it as easy as possible."

The committee delayed deciding on penalties for irrigation violations. That issue, along with possible incentives for conserving water, will be on the agenda for the task force's next meeting Sept. 9.

Diane Underhill, task force member and president of Ventura Citizens for Hillside Preservation, was the lone vote against the ordinance proposal. She argued the committee should include a request to the council to suspend new water connections for development until shortages are resolved.

"I don't think we can in good conscience ask our public to take fines and have mandatory reductions when the city is still handing out new development approvals," she said. "We really don't even have enough to serve our existing residents and businesses."

Committee member Ed Summers, who heads the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, said the issue should be discussed at a later meeting. He said development in the city is happening slowly and is not an imminent problem. The task force also received an update on water levels in Lake Casitas, one of the city's three water sources. Lake levels are expected to drop to half by Oct. 1, triggering a mandatory 20 percent reduction in water use for customers, Casitas Municipal Water District General Manager Steve Wickstrum said.

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# NCTC students tour water, wastewater treatment plants

By UTC Miguel Fernandez NCTC  
Ventura County Star 8/28/2014



UT1 Juan Gonzalez, the Naval Construction Training Center instructor who arranged a tour of local water and wastewater treatment facilities, listens as Theo Provencio discusses the reverse osmosis processing unit at the Port Hueneme Water Processing Plant. Photo by UtC MigUel Fernandez / nCtC

Nine students studying the utilitiesman Seabee rating at the Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) and three of their instructors recently toured three water and wastewater treatment plants in Ventura County.

UT Advance Class 14020 at NCTC, located at Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Port Hueneme, took the tour during their first week of class in July, learning how water is purified to meet potable standards and how wastewater is treated so that the final product (effluent) can be discharged back into the environment or reprocessed to meet agricultural water demands.

The utilitiesman rating (UT) encompasses six essential skill sets — plumbing; pumps and compressors; sewage disposal and treatment; water treatment; shore base boilers; and air conditioning. All those skills are needed to ensure that shore base facilities and forward deployed base camps operate efficiently.

In this Seabee rating, every day brings a new challenge to meet efficiency while reducing costs and protecting the environment.

The first stop on the students' excursion was the Ventura County Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"It is always an honor to teach the Seabees how the wastewater treatment plant operates," said their tour guide, Joe Volupe. "They are very knowledgeable when they arrive and ask great questions."

The second stop was the water purification plant in Ojai. Ignacio Rodriguez, a 10-year veteran of the plant, discussed the local aquifers that supply raw water, the filtration and technical treatment process that transforms it into potable water, and the distribution



centers that feed Ventura and parts of Oxnard.

“Seeing the potable water holding tanks underneath the curtains and how the SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) system is used to monitor wells and the facility for this 15 million gallons per day is amazing,” said Utilitiesman 1st Class Jesse Moore.

The final stop was the Port Hueneme Water Processing Plant. Here, students had a chance to see a reverse osmosis processing unit. Theo Provencio, a water treatment level four certified technician, showed the step-by-step process necessary to filter and treat the water so it is ready for distribution to Port Hueneme and NBVC.

“To see the Port Hueneme water treatment plant in action and to know that it feeds 60,000 people every day is just mind-blowing,” said Chief Select Katleen Fowler. “We are working on the lightweight purification system, a smaller version of Port Hueneme Water Treatment Plant, but it is also a reverse osmosis unit that produces 3,000 gallons per day of potable water for field application; the processes are very much similar.”

The tour was organized by UT1 Juan Gonzalez, an NCTC instructor who wanted the students to see that what they’re learning are the same skills that utilitiesman in the civilian sector use.

“I just love to see the light go on when the students grasp the concept of what we are trying to teach them,” he said.

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## EPA says proposed Delta water tunnel would harm environment



Relatively dry regions of California such as Southern California rely on fresh water imported from far-away sources like the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, pictured above. (Los Angeles Times)

By BETTINA BOXALL

LA Times 8/28/2014

In a sharp rebuke of state plans for a massive water tunnel system in Northern California, federal environmental officials say that the project would violate pollution standards and could worsen conditions for imperiled fish species.

The comments by the regional office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency echo concerns that have dogged the proposal to change the way Northern California water supplies are sent to the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California.



After months of political haggling, a ballot measure that will ask voters in November to approve \$7.5 billion in borrowing for water projects sailed through the Legislature on Wednesday. ( Melanie Mason )

They also underscore the difficulty the \$25-billion project may have in getting the necessary environmental permits while also satisfying the water demands of the agencies that are to underwrite much of its cost.

In a letter accompanying 36 pages of [formal comments posted online](#) Thursday, regional EPA administrator Jared Blumenfeld outlines a number of problems with the project, which has been years in the planning.

The proposal calls for the construction of new intakes on the Sacramento River as it flows into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the hub of the state's water system. The river water would be diverted into two 30-mile tunnels running beneath the delta to existing pumping plants that now pull supplies from the interior delta.

Although proponents say that the new diversion point will improve delta conditions and ease pumping restrictions, the EPA concluded that it "would contribute to increased and persistent violations of water quality standards in the Delta," harming the supplies of local farmers and municipalities.

Operations "may contribute to declining populations of Delta smelt, Longfin smelt, green sturgeon and winter-run, spring-run, fall-run and late-fall run Chinook salmon," the document states.

The agency questions whether the extensive habitat restoration that is part of the project will be as beneficial as projected and emphasizes the need for adequate freshwater flows.

The critical comments are a major reason state officials announced Wednesday that they were revising the project's draft environmental review, signaling another delay in a planning process that has consistently fallen behind schedule.

A year ago, officials said a final decision on the proposal would be made in late 2014. But it will take months for the state and federal agencies involved in the project to address points raised in voluminous public comments, pushing a decision date well into next year.



Don't use running water to thaw food. Instead, defrost food in the refrigerator. Visit [vcstar.com/drought](http://vcstar.com/drought) for more tips and information.

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# Ban near Malibu may crush vineyards

*Regulation aims to conserve coastal ridgeline*

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Malibu region's growing wine industry, made up of some 50 commercial vineyards, could be squeezed by proposed regulations prohibiting new grape-growing in a large swath of the Santa Monica Mountains.

The ban, which would apply to 50,000 acres adjacent to, but not including, the city of Malibu, is part of a much bigger coastal resource protection plan that limits the size of new homes and prevents any development on most ridgelines. In the works for more than a decade, it would give the county autonomy in the area instead of having to defer to the California Coastal Commission.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors was slated to vote on the new rules Tuesday, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky said the regulations would ensure the coastal mountains don't become suburbanized, like those to the north in Calabasas or Agoura Hills.

"This plan makes sure that development doesn't dictate the land," he told the newspaper.

Those who oppose more vineyards cite the use of pesticides, the unnatural, linear look of trellises on slopes, and the potential for erosion if hillsides are cleared of their natural chaparral.

They also say a ban would help save water during California's historic drought.

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## **Ventura to join water study**

### **Project to try to make waste potable source**

By Claudia Boyd-Barrett Special to The Star  
Ventura County Star 8/27/2014

Faced with increasing demand and challenges to its water supply, Ventura will participate in a pilot study in the fall researching ways to recycle wastewater into drinking water.

The study, which is scheduled to begin at the Ventura Water Reclamation Facility in the next few weeks, is among a nationwide series of studies funded through the Water Research Foundation, a nonprofit based in Denver.

Ventura is one of three communities taking part in the current project stage, which seeks to test new ways of converting wastewater into potable water, said principal investigator and engineer Andrew Salveson of Carollo Engineers, the company contracted by the foundation to run the project.

Many communities across the country and the world recycle their wastewater into drinking water, Salveson said. However, the process typically involves storing the water for extended periods in groundwater basins or reservoirs before it can be reused. Salveson said this method is time-consuming and often impractical.

In the pilot project, Ventura will test new treatment methods that recycle wastewater so it can be immediately pumped back into the potable-water system. The research will occur on a small scale, and none of the tested water will enter the drinking water supply, officials said.

“It’s very exciting,” said Ventura Water Manager Shana Epstein. “It’s a new field of: How do we reuse water? And we all reuse water. The water we’re using today is the water from the beginning of time. This is just using technology to speed up the natural process that occurs.”

Ventura’s wastewater goes through three treatment steps, which include using bacteria to break down solids dissolved in the water, and filtering. Once treated, the water is deemed safe for watering plants but not for drinking. About 3 percent of this water is used on the city’s two golf courses, at Marina Park and for some other landscaping. Most is discharged into the Santa Clara River, Epstein said.

For the pilot project, researchers and city staff members will experiment with adding a level of treatment to the wastewater to make it potable, combining reverse osmosis, pasteurization and ultraviolet light. The goal is to figure out the best and safest treatment method, project officials said.

Researchers will also test and train Ventura water reclamation staff members in the more traditional form of wastewater recycling, which involves a period of storage, Salveson said.

Results from the study could have big implications for Ventura's water future, Epstein said. Recycled wastewater could become a large source of water for the city, equivalent to the water Ventura now obtains from Lake Casitas or from groundwater supplies, she said.

"It's a great opportunity for us to really evaluate what our viable water resources are for the future," Epstein said. "This is a water we definitely have, and currently we could make a lot better use of it."

Any such change would require a significant investment in infrastructure, she added. Ventura is paying \$100,000 to the Water Research Foundation to help conduct the research. However, the bulk of the project costs are covered by a \$500,000 grant from the foundation, Salveson said.

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## State extends review of \$25-billion delta plan; 30,000 pages not enough



A woman walks on the dock at the Tower Park Resort & Marina in the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta. State officials say they need additional time to complete the environmental review of a proposal to build two massive water tunnels under the delta. (Wally Skalj / Los Angeles Times)

By BETTINA BOXALL

LA TIMES 8/27/2014

Apparently 30,000 pages of environmental reviews and draft plans are not enough when it comes to the proposal to build two massive water tunnels in Northern California.

State officials announced Wednesday that more work is needed, signaling another delay in the biggest water supply project proposed in California in decades.

Backed by major urban and agricultural water districts, the project would change the way some Northern California supplies are sent south to the San Joaquin Valley and the Southland.

Sacramento River water would be diverted into two 30-mile-long tunnels and conveyed under the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta to existing pumping facilities.

The \$25-billion project also includes extensive restoration of fish and wildlife habitat in the delta. Supporters say the changes will improve environmental conditions and in the process, ease pumping restrictions that have cut water exports.

But delta interests and some environmental groups are staunchly opposed, arguing that the tunnels will rob the delta of more water, compounding its many ecological problems and diminishing the quality of delta irrigation supplies.

The state released piles of draft plans and environmental documents in December and opened them up to public comment. Originally slated for four months, the comment period was extended until the end of July.

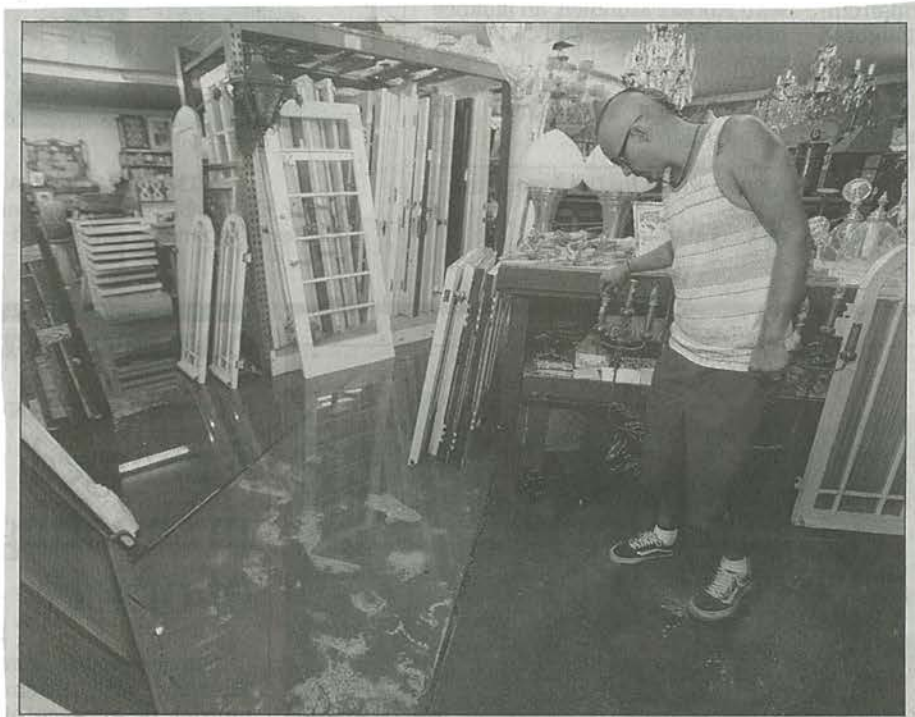
"We received a lot of insightful comments," said Nancy Vogel, public affairs director for the state Department of Water Resources. "We're going through them all now and we see some places where we'd like to improve the plan."

The state and federal agencies involved in the project will revise parts of the drafts and re-issue them early next year -- for more public comment.

That will push a final decision on the tunnels – originally scheduled for late this year – well into 2015.

Bob Muir, spokesman for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, said agency officials were not surprised by the announcement and didn't "foresee significant impacts to the schedule."

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AL SEIB Los Angeles Times

## WATER LINE BREAKS IN ECHO PARK

Eric Ramos, owner of Eric's Architectural Salvage and Antiques in the 2000 block of Sunset Boulevard, walks through water that filled his store in Echo Park on Tuesday after a water main broke.

LA Times  
8.27.2014



When watering with a sprinkler attached to a hose, use a timer as a reminder to turn off the water. Visit [vcstar.com/drought](http://vcstar.com/drought) for more tips and information.

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Local briefs

VENTURA

## Water task force to study restrictions

Ventura's water task force will consider creating a resolution to restrict outdoor watering when it meets Tuesday evening.

The meeting will be the second of the 13-member water task force that the City Council created in July to advise members on ways to respond to the drought and cope with the city's dwindling water supplies.

The resolution would limit the watering of outdoor ornamental landscape or turf with potable water to two days per week.

Violators would receive a warning for the first offense and face penalties of \$100 to \$500 for later offenses.

If approved, the resolution would go to the council for consideration.

The task force will also hear updates on the Casitas Municipal Water District supply, Ventura's recycled-water system and the Santa Clara River estuary status.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Ventura Water maintenance yard, 336 San Jon Road.

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## Santa Monica Mountains land use plan OKd with ban on new vineyards



Los Angeles County supervisors approved a far-reaching land use plan for the Santa Monica Mountains on Tuesday over the objections of a group of vineyard owners but with support from a broad coalition of environmentalists, equestrians and homeowners. (Everett Fenton Gidley)

By [ABBY SEWELL](#)  
LA TIMES 8/26/2014

Los Angeles County supervisors approved a far-reaching land use plan for the Santa Monica Mountains on Tuesday over the objections of a group of vineyard owners but with support from a broad coalition of environmentalists, equestrians and homeowners.

The passage of the plan, known as a local coastal program, consolidates land use authority with the county and sets rules for future development in an 81-square-mile area near Malibu. The plan prohibits building on ridgelines and in areas identified as sensitive habitat, limits the size of buildings and sets rules on agriculture and horse-keeping to minimize environmental effects.

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## FOR THE RECORD

An earlier version of this post said the local coastal program covers an 81-acre area near Malibu.

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In a letter to the California Coastal Commission, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who represents the area, called the plan a "historic achievement."

But one provision of the document raised controversy — its ban on new vineyards. Permitted, existing vineyards would be allowed to remain, but vineyard owners complained that the prohibition on new facilities unfairly singles out their crop from other forms of agriculture.

Don Schmitz, owner of the Malibu Solstice vineyard, argued that grapes use less water than many other crops and would have to be grown organically under the coastal plan in any case. He pointed out that the region just became a federally recognized American Viticultural Area.

"It is an ironic tragedy that you are contemplating destroying this at this very moment," he said.

Yaroslavsky, whose office was heavily involved in developing the coastal plan, said the vineyard ban is a tiny piece of a document that had been carefully negotiated with a wide range of stakeholders.

During Tuesday's meeting, the supervisor held up an aerial picture of a large, clear cut and graded vineyard on Kanan Road in Malibu, as an example of what the plans seeks to avoid.

"These are among the most beautiful mountains anywhere," he said. "...Nobody's ripping out anybody's vineyards, but going forward we don't want the chaparral and the canyons and the ridgelines and the majesty of those mountains to be replaced with this."

Dozens of other property owners urged the supervisors to approve the plan. For decades, residents of the area had to seek approval from both the county and the Coastal Commission to build on their land, and many said the rules were poorly defined.

The Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, representing about 10,000 homeowners in the mountains, wrote to board members that passage of the plan would mean "our homeowners will no longer be compelled to go to the Coastal Commission every time

they want to make a home addition, renovate, or build a horse corral. Finally, we will be able to work with our local county representatives instead of a far-off bureaucracy."

Environmental groups praised the plan's protections for sensitive habitat and waterways.

The two candidates vying to replace Yaroslavsky, who is being forced out by term limits this year, chimed in as well. Former state Sen. Sheila Kuehl sent a representative to read a statement saying the plan "will ensure that the Santa Monica Mountains will be protected now and for generations to come."

Her opponent, former Santa Monica City Councilman Bobby Shriver, praised both the plan and the democratic process: "This is a thing that doesn't happen anywhere else in the world, where people have a chance to go through the process that's been described here — opposing views, fight a little bit with each other, reconcile a little bit with each other and find common ground," he said. "This is really America."

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich voted against the plan, arguing that the vineyard ban infringes on private property rights. Supervisors Gloria Molina and Don Knabe joined Yaroslavsky in voting for it, with Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas absent.

The plan was approved by the Coastal Commission in July.

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## **UPDATES**

**8:57 p.m.:** This post has been corrected to give the correct size of the protected area.



# Drought drawing coyotes to cities

*With food scant, animals threaten pets*

By Rachel McGrath Special to The Star  
Ventura County Star 8/25/2014



There is less food for small animals in the hills, so they come down to eat, and when they do, the food chain comes with them, said Donna Gillesby of Animal Services.

The drought is exacerbating the problem of coyotes prowling for prey in residential neighborhoods, according to Ventura County Animal Services.

While officials think the local coyote population has stayed the same, a food shortage may be driving more animals down from the hills into urban areas. The agency, however, says it is receiving about the normal number of calls for this time of year.

“There’s a lot of wildlife all around us. That’s normal. It’s exaggerated right now because of the drought,” said Donna Gillesby, Animal Services deputy director.

“There is less and less food for small animals in the hills, and so they come down here to eat, and when rabbits and squirrels come down, the food chain comes with them,” she said. “Coyotes are opportunists, and while they may come down for a rabbit, if they see a cat, they will take it.”

Janice Mackey, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, said that calls about coyotes normally peak this time of year and that there is nothing strange about that.

“People are out longer in the evening and are walking their dogs later, and that’s why they are seeing more,” she said.

State agencies do not normally remove the wild animals except in cases of real risks to public safety, she said. Those can include bears and mountain lions in urban areas.

If a coyote has become habituated and no longer fears humans, Animal Services or Fish and Wildlife might act, officials said.

A few years ago, Gillesby said, a coyote in Moorpark was regularly jumping over four backyard fences to get to a house with small dogs. It started to snatch cats, too, along the way.

“He wasn’t scared. Even motion sensor sprinklers didn’t scare him,” she said. Eventually, officials tranquilized and removed him. Under state law, coyotes may not be relocated. If captured they must be euthanized.

Gillesby said that educating the public is Animal Services’ main goal and that pet owners can do plenty to protect their animals.

“If you know you have a coyote in your neighborhood, or your home backs up to hills, don’t let your pet out unsupervised, especially at dusk,” Gillesby said.

Gillesby said all cats and dogs should be brought indoors at night and that pets should not be left outside for extended periods during the day, either.

Those who walk their dogs should use common sense, she said. “If you know there’s a coyote in a certain area, don’t walk your dog there.

“Don’t use extendible leads. Use a lead no longer than 6 feet,” she said. “Be aware of your surroundings, and if you see a coyote, make yourself look big.”

Because humans have to coexist with wildlife, Gillesby said, they must make their environment unattractive to coyotes. She urged people not to leave pet food outside and make sure trash cans have fitted lids and remain covered.

Air horns and motion sensor sprinklers also can help scare a coyote from a yard.

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# Ojai eases home efficiency upgrades

*Programs let residents pay over 20 years*

By Anne Kallas Special to The Star  
Ventura County Star 8/25/2014

Ojai residents have a new path to take to afford energy-efficient and water-wise upgrades to their properties, according to City Manager Rob Clark.

“In the long run the city and the whole world benefits by doing the right thing with energy and water conservation. It’s a way to make (home improvements) easier and more practical to do for people who might not otherwise be able to afford it,” Clark said.

This month the City Council voted to make the Home Energy Renovation Opportunity (HERO) Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing program available to local residents. HERO makes energy- and water-saving renovations affordable for property owners by providing long-term, competitive financing through an additional property assessment. Payments are made through the property tax bill for up to 20 years, and interest is tax-deductible.

According to Dustin Reilich, HERO community development manager, who has been working with cities in Ventura County, the program offers an affordable way to make home improvements designed to increase energy efficiency and water conservation.

The privately funded program offers low-interest loans that would be added to a property tax bill. The loans could be used to finance renewable energy generation sources, improvements in energy and water use or electric vehicle charging, for example.

“It’s similar to an assessment district for maintenance, such as the one we have here for arcade lighting. Each agency joins a joint powers authority. All residents and businesses have the option to participate or not,” Clark said.

Reilich said Ojai, Santa Paula and Fillmore have signed up for the program. The cities of Ventura and Thousand Oaks, along with Ventura County, are taking a wait-and-see approach, Reilich said.

While the HERO program offers what is known as property-assessed clean-energy loans, the Federal Housing Finance Agency has directed government-sponsored entities Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac not to buy properties with the cleanenergy liens. Reilich said that the matter is up in the air but that to his knowledge few sellers of property have had to pay off PACE cleanenergy loans as part of a sale.

“In the 14,000 HERO transactions, hundreds of homeowners who financed have sold their properties, and there is a minimal number that have actually repaid the assessment. What is happening in applications is that the Freddie and Fannie lenders

are not actually making them pay off the assessment when there is a sale,” Reilich said.

He added that people who make clean-energy and water-efficiency improvements to their properties tend to be low-risk for lenders.

The HERO program comprises private companies that offer financing to homeowners. According to Deborah Pendrey, president and executive of the Ojai Valley Green Coalition, a number of clean-energy loan programs are becoming available, and before the group recommends one she would like to see an analysis.

Pendrey said she would like to create a “matrix,” or chart where the programs are compared, with clear information for consumers.

Reilich said the HERO program provides nothing but benefit to the community, such as giving contractors work and offering homeowners a chance to help the environment.

For more information visit <https://www.heroprogram.com>.

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# Time is running out for state's water bill

*Balance hard to find amid conflicts*

By Michael Doyle  
McClatchy Washington Bureau  
Ventura County Star 8/25/2014

WASHINGTON — Secret negotiations over a California water bill are nearing a make-or-break moment after a long, dry summer that has tested some political alliances.

The state's Democratic senators are struggling to balance sympathy for Central Valley farmers with concern for environmental protection. The Obama administration has sometimes moved slowly. Some regional conflicts remain unreconciled.

And time is short.

"We're going back and forth," Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein said in Lake Tahoe recently. "It's difficult, obviously, because the situation continues to worsen, not get better. And hopefully we will have something in the next couple weeks."

Once it surfaces, the California water bill would be the most explicit congressional response to the drought that has dominated the state and decimated some farms. It could redirect water deliveries, authorize new dams and ease environmental rules. Or it might be more modest.

Either way the legislation would be the compromise between a 68-page version passed by the Republican-controlled House in February and a 16-page version passed by the Senate in May.

"The House and Senate continue to negotiate throughout the August recess," noted Rep. David Valadao, R-Calif., adding that "it is critical that the Senate and House put in place both immediate and long-term solutions to this water crisis."

Diligently enforced secrecy shields the talks so far.

House Democrats who represent the 1,100-square-mile Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta say they aren't privy to the negotiations. Participants have effectively imposed a gag order on themselves. Normally friendly staffers zip their lips. Normally clued-in lobbyists are cut out.

"If there are negotiations underway in secret, we would be concerned and troubled," said Rep. John Garamendi, D-Calif.

Underscoring the political calculations, Republicans say the Delta-area Democrats like Garamendi aren't going to vote for the California water bill anyway, so it makes no sense to engage them.

Substantively, delicate balancing acts abound. House Republicans, for instance, have insisted on the necessity of authorizing new water storage projects. Some Senate Republicans, though, are leery of any bill with dollar signs attached.

One California Democrat who is participating in the talks, Rep. Jim Costa, said Friday that “there is a possibility” that the final bill includes a specific project, like raising the earthen dam at San Luis Reservoir west of Los Banos, as part of a larger repair job.

“I think the discussions have been positive,” Costa said, adding that “we’re working hard, and we understand there is a critical timeline.”

The clock certainly adds challenges.

Congress returns from its August recess on Sept. 8, with but 10 legislative work days set for the month. By Oct. 4 lawmakers will depart again until at least after the November elections. Prospects for a postelection lame-duck session remain uncertain.

Consequently, House and Senate staffers must essentially finish their grunt work this month so that members can settle any final differences and find floor time for voting.

Legislative proposals have been swapped on specific ideas; although not yet, apparently, as a complete package.

Kiel P. Weaver, longtime staff director of the House water and power subcommittee, is a key House negotiator. Feinstein is primarily represented in the negotiations by her legislative director, John Watts, an attorney. A Republican staffer from the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is involved, as are individual offices like those of Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., the original author of the House bill. Newly elected House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, of Bakersfield, adds heft.

Some progress has been reported, particularly between Feinstein and House Republicans. The still-complicated dynamics, though, include potential differences between Feinstein and Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif. Feinstein is significantly closer to the state’s agricultural community than Boxer.

Donors affiliated with agribusiness ranked third among Feinstein’s campaign contributors between 2009 and 2014, records compiled by the Center for Responsive Politics show. Farm-related donations did not rank among the 20 industries contributing to Boxer.

Boxer, in turn, is chairwoman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and is protective of the Endangered Species Act, a law that can steer California water away from farms.

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# Water's vital role in the Mideast



COLUMNIST  
Ventura County Star 8/24/2014



A Kurdish peshmerga fighter prepares his weapon at his combat position near the Mosul Dam in the town of Chamibarakat, which is just outside Mosul. ASSOCIATED PRESS

Water can put out political fires in the Mideast. Courageous indigenous warriors are making that possible, but the United States must lead.

Kurd forces have retaken the vital Mosul Dam in Iraq from Islamic State militants. They have done so with acknowledged air support from the United States, and probably U.S. Special Forces on the ground.

The Islamic State has so far earned a frightening reputation for brutality and fanaticism. Even extremist al-Qaida rejects its inherently self-defeating murderous tactics.

Events highlight the importance of conflicts in the Mideast over both ethnic identity and essential water. There is nothing new about either element; each can trace roots to ancient times.

The Kurds are a distinctive and often persecuted minority. Their traditional territory of Kurdistan spans national boundaries of Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey.

Turkey until recent years was a reliable friend as well as formal ally of the United States. The election in 2002 of the Justice and Development Party, which is strongly rooted in the Islamic religion, has greatly complicated relations with the U.S. and also Israel.

Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been given to inflammatory rhetoric

regarding Israel and other topics, and autocratic moves. Controversy continually swirls around him and his associates.

Violent Kurd separatists have threatened Turkey's national unity since long before the current government came to power. The Bush administration's 2003 invasion of Iraq was strongly opposed by Turkey, in part due to concern about instability related to the Kurds.

Turkish government officials in Ankara have proved quite willing to use the leverage provided by water resources. This includes but reaches beyond the Strait of Hormuz, which controls access between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean.

Water's leverage was dramatically demonstrated in the fall of 1998 during a four-week standoff with Syria, where Kurd separatist leader Abdullah Ocalan of the PKK sought sanctuary. After an extended confrontation, Syria, in late October, expelled him and then publicly banned him and labeled his PKK a "terrorist organization."

Expulsion of Ocalan from Syria was a major victory for Turkey, reflecting a strong strategic position. Specific leverage was provided by Ankara's control of the Euphrates River, which is vital to Damascus.

Mideast water has steadily become more important, reinforcing the traditional role of tool for strategic leverage.

Since the 1970s, water supplies in various countries have regularly fallen short of demand. This in turn is part of an expanding global problem. The fundamental challenge is not lack of water, but rather that much of the available supply is not fit to drink.

Desalination is a solution, especially applicable to the Mideast.

Abu Dhabi is a leader in fueling plants with renewable energy. Enormous new investments are underway in the region, including in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and the emirates of Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

By contrast, the United States draws only about 5 percent of water consumed from desalination plants. However, the U.S. along with Israel possess major centers of research and development.

The Obama administration could lead in pressing applied research to lower the relatively high cost of desalination. Even small amounts of publicized financial support could create major leverage in world markets, where the promise of significant profits from meeting expanding demand provides strong natural incentives.

Essential to this, however, is focused executive discipline and determination. That is unlikely from this White House, especially in an election year.



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Keep a pitcher of water in the fridge instead of running the tap for a cool drink. Visit [vcstar.com/drought](http://vcstar.com/drought) for more tips.

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# Conservancies' role in water plan hazy

*Agencies to share \$298M under proposal*

By Fenit Nirappil Associated Press  
Ventura County Star 8/24/2014



Jahmal Wilson uses a rake to clean the creek that runs into a lake at Kenneth Hahn State recreation Area, part of the much larger proposed site of Baldwin Hills Park in Los Angeles. Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — On the outskirts of Los Angeles, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy is a haven of hiking trails, sports fields and a lookout point with panoramic views of downtown to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The former oil-drilling patch of rolling hills sits along a flood-control channel, but it doesn't provide a drinking water source nor is it part of Southern California's water-delivery system. Even so, the conservancy stands to gain \$10 million if voters approve the \$7.5 billion water measure that state lawmakers and Gov. Jerry Brown placed on the November ballot this month amid the state's historic drought.

It is one of 10 conservancies, state agencies charged with preserving and expanding open space from the coast to the desert, that would share nearly \$298 million under the proposal. The measure, known as Proposition 1, also funds new reservoirs, groundwater cleanup and technologies for water recycling and desalination.

The ballot measure replaces an \$11 billion water bond that passed in 2009 but never went to a statewide vote. Lawmakers tout the new plan as free of the special interest projects that undermined the old bond.

Yet, supporters of the revised water measure acknowledge that conservancy funding was key to winning votes from lawmakers who wanted to show they helped their districts, even if the projects have little to do with water.

"That was part of the whole balancing of the needs of the state and the different members (of the Legislature), so it is what it is," said Senate Minority Leader Bob Huff, R-Diamond Bar. "Certainly when you compare it to the 2009 bond, this is a lean, efficient, useful bond."

The spending on the regional conservancies in 2009 was among the biggest targets of the bond's critics. It specified money for interpretive centers, education programs, river parkways and other projects with no direct connection to the stated intent of the water bond.

The current version that will go before voters provides only general amounts of money that would be funneled to each of the conservancies, but it strips the language that specified how it should be spent.

"What you see with this streamlined bond is they learned the lesson from last time," said Chuck Devore, a former Republican Assemblyman who criticized spending in the previous water bond and now works for a Texas think tank. "This time, you have a modest serving of pork, and it's nicely disguised on the plate so it's not as visible."

The ballot measure language restricts conservancy spending to "multibenefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects." Lawmakers and interest groups involved in the water negotiations acknowledge that bicycle trails, interpretive centers and other such projects still could receive money under the measure, which officially is named the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014.

Baldwin Hills Conservancy director David McNeill said bond money could contribute to recycling programs that would provide irrigation water for park land and cemeteries, while also reducing pollution in Ballona Creek, which extends to Santa Monica Bay. State Sen. Holly Mitchell, a Democrat who represents the area, says the conservancy often gets a "raw deal" because of its urban location but is a valuable amenity to the surrounding communities, many of which are low-income.

Environmentalists defend the money for conservancies contained in the ballot measure, saying protecting wildlife habitat and watersheds is a crucial part of a comprehensive water plan for the state even if it does not result in more water pouring out of the tap.

A 2009 audit by the state Department of Finance questioned the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy spending \$1.3 million intended for parks and conservation on administration. It also found that \$55,000 in bond money was spent on lobbying services.

Democratic Sen. Fran Pavley, of Agoura Hills, said transparency provisions in Proposition 1 would prevent repeats of fiscal mismanagement. For example, grants would be approved by a board including local officials during public meetings in the affected areas.

"Most people would rather have a local voice than Sacramento making decisions," she said.

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## EYE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

# In drought, city's trying to catch you ridin' dirty

Kelly Hahs  
Ventura County Star 8/24/2014

I'm proud of my dirty car. I've always been a little oblivious to the layers of dirt on it, but now that we are in an exceptional drought, it has become a source of pride.

You may have seen similarly dirty cars on the streets of Ventura lately. The city has a dirty car contest that started in July and has been extended to the end of August. The contest encourages people to submit photos of their dirty cars to the Ventura Water Facebook page for a chance at a weekly prize, while helping to conserve water and raise drought awareness.

I was a little ahead of the game. The last time I washed my car was May, although I do clean the windows more regularly for safety purposes.

If you can't stand the idea of letting your car get that dirty, or when the dirt gets to the point where it can't be ignored, keep in mind a few things for a good car-washing experience.

The first thing to remember is that car dirt is dirty. Whether you can see it or not, the dirt includes gasoline, oil, heavy metal particles, tar, exhaust fume particulates and other unpleasant things.

The second thing to remember is that the way you wash your car affects more than just the life of your paint job. As the dirt is washed away, it has to go somewhere. You typically have three options: the bad way, the better way and the best way.

The worst way to wash is on hard surfaces, such as in a driveway, street or parking lot, which allows the water to run off into curbs and gutters. The gutters lead to storm drains that flow directly to creeks, rivers and beaches and can carry all the car dirt and detergent residue.

Even if dry conditions mean water can't make it to the ocean today, the residue will still be there to be picked up by water the next time it rains or your neighbors overwater their lawn.

A better way is to park your car on grass, gravel or a similar permeable surface. The water can then soak into the ground, where natural microbes will help break down some of the contaminants. Park where you won't damage sprinklers, and check with your city before you park on the lawn as some have ordinances against it. Also, comply with new mandatory water conservation rules from the State Water Resources Control Board. Those include not allowing potable water on driveways or sidewalks, not letting it run off

from outdoor landscapes onto adjacent areas, and always using a shut-off nozzle.

The best way to wash is at an automated, selfservice or full-service commercial carwash. These typically use substantially less water than washing your car at home and the water is either recycled on site or sent to a wastewater plant for treatment.

Be sure to snap a “before” photo and share it online for a chance to win a prize.

For more tips on keeping an eye on the environment, visit <http://www.cleanwatershed.org>. Kelly Hahs is a water resources specialist for the Ventura County Watershed Protection District. She can be reached at [kelly.hahs@ventura.org](mailto:kelly.hahs@ventura.org). Representatives of government or nonprofit agencies who want to submit articles on environmental topics for this column should contact David Goldstein at 658-4312 or [david.goldstein@ventura.org](mailto:david.goldstein@ventura.org).

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# City's water rules ripped

*To residents, development is the problem*

By Claudia Boyd-Barrett Special to The Star  
Ventura County Star 8/23/2014

The head of Ventura's water department faced a disgruntled group of residents when she attended an East Ventura Community Council meeting to discuss the city's water shortage.

Brandishing printouts of a map highlighting 10 developments either under construction or planned for the east end, several residents slammed the city's call for residents to conserve more water. Instead, the city needs to stop approving new developments that will inevitably tap even more of Ventura's water resources, they said at Thursday's meeting.

"Why should we have to give up any water for someone else, for 10,000 more people, to move to Ventura?" demanded resident Pat Pillow. "Don't you think we could get a moratorium on some of the building?"

In a presentation to Ventura City Council earlier this month, city Community Development Director Jeff Lambert outlined almost 40 developments in the works for Ventura, most of them residential. These include about 3,500 multifamily dwellings and just over 1,000 singlefamily homes. Many of the developments have been planned for years but were placed on hold during the recession because of lack of financing. New construction is starting to rebound.

The Ventura City Council in July discussed a proposal to charge builders a fee to cover the cost of developing additional water supplies for the future. That proposal generated controversy among residents, developers and other interest groups who either argued that the fees were too high or not enough. The city is creating a water commission that would examine the proposed developer fee and come up with recommendations on how to move forward.

In the meantime, Ventura's water department, Ventura Water, has been calling on residents to conserve because of the drought. The city called in February for a 10 percent voluntary reduction in water use. Now, because of diminishing water supplies in Lake Casitas, the Ventura River and groundwater wells, as well as demands from the state, the water department is aiming for a 20 percent reduction in water usage across the city. That most likely will come about through mandated decreases in outdoor watering and enforcement of rules against water waste.

A task force is also meeting biweekly to come up with recommendations for updates to the city's water contingency plan, which could include rate increases and penalties to discourage water use if the drought continues.



Sounding flustered as she addressed the two dozen residents at Thursday's meeting, Ventura Water General Manager Shana Epstein said the city issued a call to conserve water because of the drought, not new developments. She said Ventura residents need to rein in their water use whether or not proposed developments go ahead.

"There's room for all of us to use less water," she said.

She added that the decision to approve developments is the domain of the Ventura City Council, and any moratorium on construction would have to come from the council.

Independent of any future developments, the city will need to find new ways to meet the demand for water, Epstein noted. She said one option is to build a facility to treat and recycle wastewater using reverse osmosis. Ventura will participate in a nationwide pilot study this fall to test the idea.

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Letters

## Diminishing water

Greg Meyer, Newbury Park

The very same day a letter I wrote appeared in The Star (where I stated my reasons for increased water consumption in the state of California and questioned the fine of \$500 that could be imposed on residents who waste water), the city of Camarillo posted the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Conejo Creek development.

It states that 2,520 residential dwelling units and 1,770,000 square feet of commercial and industrial buildings were proposed to be built on 895 acres of existing farmland at the bottom of the Conejo Grade in Camarillo.

Don't ask again why is there a water shortage. I rest my case.

## Water measure

John Puccetti, Ventura

Why is it that when thoughtful people start conserving water, such as cutting back on irrigation and removing grass, they feel like fools because we keep hearing that wealthy and politically connected people get all the water they want. Sometimes for free like municipal golf courses.

Desalination is a very energy intensive process with high pollution, i.e., brackish water that is then dumped back in the ocean. Santa Barbara closed its desalination plant years ago and sold the parts to Saudi Arabia.

Now Gov. Jerry Brown wants us to believe that Proposition 1 with all the tax bureaucracy will help save water? Then we allow the poisoning of our most precious resource with fracking.

First, we need a level playing field. Everyone who use water must be charged the same. Catalina Island uses salt water for all its sewage piping. We need to tier price water and put in place incentives for saving water.

## Groundwater level in California basin hits historic low



Brandon Arthur, 10, crawls out of the gooey muddy tailings left by his father Steve Arthur's water well drill site in Terra Bella. (Bob Chamberlin / Los Angeles Times)



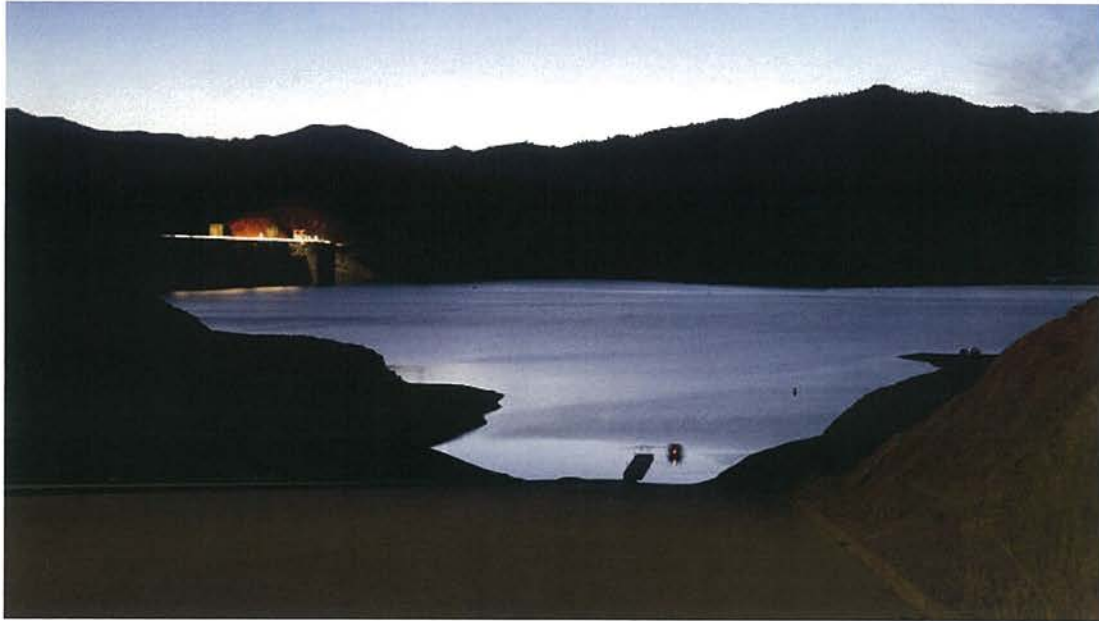
Sunrise illuminates previous signs of life amid the dry, steep banks due to drought conditions at Lake Shasta. (Allen J. Schaben / Los Angeles Times)



Puddles of water are all that remain in some areas of San Gabriel River's West Fork in the Angeles National Forest. (Allen J. Schaben / Los Angeles Times)



Pastel colors at dawn reveal a receding Lake Cachuma in Santa Barbara County. (Allen J. Schaben / Los Angeles Times)



Dusk falls as a lone boater heads out on Lake Shasta near the Lake Shasta Dam. Amid serious drought conditions, Lake Shasta is at only 37% of capacity and is likely to go lower. (Allen J. Schaben / Los Angeles Times)

By VERONICA ROCHA  
LA TIMES 8/22/2014

The groundwater level in the San Bernardino Basin area is at its lowest point in recorded history, officials say.

Measured in volume, the groundwater level for the basin is now about 500,000 acre-feet below full, according to Douglas Headrick, general manager for the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District.

That would put it below the previous low recorded in 1964, a period that followed a 20-year drought, officials said.



So let me get this straight: The state government is telling us we can't hose down the driveway and should feel guilty about watering the lawn. But it's OK for somebody to pump all the groundwater he wants? ( George Skelton )

“This isn’t just an issue for San Bernardino, but many other cities depend on this basin for much of their water supply, including Redlands, Highland, Loma Linda, Rialto, Colton and Riverside,” the district's water resource manager, Bob Tincher, said.

The San Bernardino district and the Western Municipal Water District in Riverside, he said, were facing major challenges, including significant cutbacks in deliveries from the California State Water Project through the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and the Colorado River.

The region's water problems are underscored by the fact that few residents know where their water comes from, Tincher said.

A survey of 400 residents conducted in March that was commissioned by 13 water agencies, including the San Bernardino district, found that just 3% to 5% of Inland Empire residents knew that 30% of the area's water supplies were imported.

"These survey results showed us that we have some work to do," Tincher said. "If Inland Empire residents do not know that we are dependent on water imported from Northern California for close to a third of our water supply, then they will not understand the need for projects such as the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, which will safeguard our critical imported water supplies."

Part of the plan includes the construction of two massive tunnels that would move fresh water from the delta to pumping stations that distribute water to the region.

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## Even / Odd Irrigation Program In Effect - No Irrigation on Sundays

In response to the state's drought emergency, the LVMWD Board of Directors has adopted an even-odd irrigation schedule. Addresses ending with even numbers may irrigate only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; odd-numbered addresses may irrigate only on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Clip and post next to your irrigation timer or give to your landscape professional.



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Even Addresses							
Odd Addresses							

Valley News Group  
8.21.2014