

**COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED AND REFERRED
BUTTE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION
MEETING OF AUGUST 1, 2018**

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Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation
308 Nelson Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965

1. *Article from *Chico Enterprise Record*, May 27, 2018, New set of scores released for water bond projects
2. *Article from *Chico Enterprise Record*, June 1, 2018, Drought or no drought: Permanent water saving rules set for Californians
3. *California Water Plan eNews, Wednesday's Update, June 6, 2018
4. *California Water Plan eNews, Wednesday's Update, June 13, 2018
5. *Article from *Chico Enterprise Record*, June 18, 2018, Oroville almost triples state water saving rate
6. *California Water Plan eNews, Wednesday's Update, June 20, 2018
7. *California Water Plan eNews, Wednesday's Update, June 27, 2018
8. *California Water Plan eNews, Wednesday's Update, July 3, 2018
9. *California Water Plan eNews, Wednesday's Update, July 11, 2018
10. *Article from *Chico Enterprise Record*, July 12, 2018, Where would extra water in river come from?
11. *Article from *Chico Enterprise Record*, July 13, 2018, Oroville a leader in water savings
12. *Email from Susan Strachan to the Butte County Board of Supervisors, July 23, 2018, Item 5.04 – Resolutions Supporting Proposed Basin Boundary Modifications
13. *Article from *Chico Enterprise Record*, July 25, 2018, Sites Reservoir earns \$816 million in Proposition 1 funding

New set of scores released for water bond projects

By: Steve Schoonover May 27, 2018

Sacramento >> Water storage projects seeking money from Proposition 1 got another round of scoring Friday from the California Water Commission staff, adding a little more clarity to what will get how much.

Proposition 1, a water bond measure passed in November 2014, included \$2.7 billion for new water storage in the state.

Twelve projects initially sought a share of that money, including Sites Reservoir, a proposed 1.8 million acre-foot off-stream reservoir west on Maxwell in Colusa County.

Project proponents and the staff of the Water Commission have been conducting a back-and-forth since February over the value of the "public benefit" of their project.

That is critical because the language in Proposition 1 says the money can't go just for increasing the amount of stored water. Instead it has to go to water stored to meet five specified public benefits: ecosystem benefits, water quality, flood control, emergency response and recreation.

The public benefit assessment process wrapped up with the Water Commission meeting the first week of May. At the conclusion of that meeting, just eight projects were left in the hunt for funding.

More scores

The public benefit is just one of four factors that will determine where the money will go.

Each project is also rated for its relative environmental value, based on ecosystem priorities established by the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the water quality priorities established by the State Water Resources Control Board.

There's also a ranking for resiliency, which is how flexible a project's operations are, how well it integrates into the state water system, and its ability to respond to an uncertain future.

Finally there's a ranking for implementation risk: What are the chances the project won't be completed.

It's something like a television cooking contest. Each project can get up to 33 points for its public benefit, 27 points for its relative environmental value, 25 points for its resiliency and 15 points for its implementation risk.

The scores are graded on the curve, with the best project getting the maximum score, and the others set on that basis.

Friday's numbers

The numbers released Friday included one big surprise: Temperance Flat Reservoir, proposed on the San Joaquin River above the existing Friant Dam, was ranked at the top of the public benefit category, earning 33 points.

But early in May, the commission ruled Temperance Flat had negligible public benefit, just 38 cents on each dollar sought. In the new report, the public value is \$2.92 for each dollar sought.

The difference isn't that the project was re-evaluated and found to

be better, according to Natural Resources Agency spokeswoman Lisa Lien-Mager. Rather, the Temperance Flat proponents reduced the amount of money they were seeking to what they'd been told they could expect. The ratio approved accordingly.

"They reduced their denominator," Lien-mager said.

All of the surviving projects appear to have done so, as the scores have all jumped since early May. At that time, only two projects had a public benefit higher than the amount sought, and now they all do.

Sites, for example, is now at \$1.10 per dollar sought, up from 67 cents on the dollar.

When all four rankings are totaled, Sites comes in third from bottom, with 61 out of 100. It has a relative public benefit score of 13, a relative environmental score of 15, a resiliency score of 21, and an implementation risk score of 12.

Scores for the eight projects range from 82 to 48 out of 100.

What's next

Lien-Mager said the Proposition 1 statutes require grouping the projects into tiers. The top tier is for scores of 85 and above, the second is for scores of 84-70, and the third is for 69 and less.

The law holds that the top tier be fully funded, with subsequent tiers getting less.

Currently, there are no projects in the top tier, which means the four projects in tier two would be fully funded, and the four in tier three — including Sites — would get less.

"Tier three will still get funding," Lien-Mager said, "but they might have to take a haircut."

Currently the projects are oversubscribed for the funding available by about \$140 million, she said.

The release of the numbers starts another round of negotiations between project proponents and the Water Commission, and the numbers could change.

The commission plans to make the final allocations in July.

Reach City Editor Steve Schoonover at 896-7750.

Drought or no drought: Permanent water saving rules set for Californians

By: Paul Rogers, June 1, 2018

Although he declared an end to California's historic five-year drought last year, Gov. Jerry Brown on Thursday signed two new laws that will require cities and water districts across the state to set permanent water conservation rules, even in non-drought years.

"In preparation for the next drought and our changing environment, we must use our precious resources wisely," Brown said in a statement. "We have efficiency goals for energy and cars – and now we have them for water."

Brown signed two bills, SB 606 by Sen. Robert Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys) and AB 1668 by Assemblywoman Laura Friedman (D-Glendale), that require cities, water districts and large agricultural water districts to set annual water budgets, potentially facing fines of \$1,000 per day if they don't meet them, and \$10,000 a day during drought emergencies.

Under the bills, each urban water provider will be required to come up with a target for water use by 2022. Fines for agencies failing to meet their goals can begin in 2027.

The targets must be approved by the State Water Resources Control Board between now and then, and will vary by city and county.

They will be based on a formula that is made up of three main factors:

An allowance of 55 gallons per person per day for indoor water use, dropping to 50 gallons by 2030.

A yet-to-be determined amount for residential outdoor use that will vary depending on regional climates.

A standard for water loss due to leak rates in water system pipes.

The new laws make it likely water agencies will need to offer more rebates for home owners and business owners who replace lawns with drought-tolerant plants and who purchase water efficient appliances, along with other measures like potentially limiting the hours and days of lawn watering, even when droughts are not occurring.

The laws are a response to complaints from some water agencies that the mandatory water targets the Brown administration put in place during the recent five-year drought were too inflexible and didn't take into account local water supplies, population growth and other factors. Those limits ranged from an 8 percent reduction in water use to a 36 percent reduction, based on each community's per capita water use.

The months-long debate over the new laws split the water community, environmental groups and business groups.

Organizations who supported the new laws say it makes sense to reduce demand as the state's population grows, and allow each local area the flexibility for devising their own plan.

Supporters included water agencies like the Contra Costa Water District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, the Santa Clara Valley Water

District, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Environmentalists supporting the laws included the Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"They are definitely a step in the right direction," said Tracy Quinn, water conservation director for the Natural Resources Defense Council, of the new laws. "The framework strikes the right balance between local control and necessary state oversight."

Quinn said that most cities and water districts in California already are close to, or under, a standard of 55 gallons per person per day for indoor use.

Last year, urban Californians used an average of 90 gallons of water per person per day for indoor and outdoor use combined, down from 109 gallons in 2013, according to the State Water Resources Control Board.

Most communities using more were in hot places in Southern California and the Sacramento area, while cities with smaller yards and coastal areas with cooler climates used less. In the summer at least half of residential water use in most communities goes to watering lawns and landscaping.

Opponents of the bill mostly broke into two groups: Environmentalists like Sierra Club California who said the rules didn't go far enough. Of particular concern was a compromise inserted in the bill that allowed cities and water districts to get 15 percent credit on their water use totals if they produce certain types of recycled water.

"All water should be valued," said Sara Aminzadeh, executive director of the California Coastkeeper Alliance, which opposed the bills. "With energy we wouldn't want to offer incentives for the wasteful use of solar or wind energy. Likewise, we want to make sure all water is used efficiently."

Some of the state's major water agencies also opposed it, many on the general argument that Sacramento shouldn't be telling local government what to do. Among the opponents were the Alameda County Water District, Kern County Water Agency, San Diego County Water Authority, and the Zone 7 Water Agency in Livermore.

"Every local water agency supports conservation and has a responsibility to make sure its water users use water efficiently," said Tim Quinn, executive director of the Association of California Water Agencies, which opposed the bill. "This was never about whether we should be pursuing conservation. It was about how."

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN eNEWS

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Wednesday Update



June 6, 2018

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Newly signed water conservation bills add to a "California way of life"

The effort to "[make water conservation a California way of life](#)," received a boost when Governor Brown [signed two bills](#) last week. They establish guidelines for more efficient urban and agricultural water use and drought preparedness, and a framework for setting urban efficiency standards and water use objectives. In a [memo to employees](#), DWR Director Karla Nemeth said the action "...builds on DWR's ongoing efforts to develop a sustainable water management system..." The bills call for the guidelines to be in place by 2022.

Webinar will promote ideas to improve stormwater management

A [webinar](#) on outdoor water use will be presented by the [Alliance for Water Efficiency](#) on Tuesday, June 26. It will focus on improving stormwater management by using low-impact development and green infrastructures. The topics will include reducing the pollutant loads in stormwater.

DWR posts progress report on implementation of water data act

DWR has posted the second [Progress Report for Implementation of Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1755, the Open and Transparent Water Data Act](#). The legislation directs several [State agencies](#) to improve the accessibility and usability of water data. The report also describes an updated [strategic plan](#) and [protocols](#) for implementing [AB 1755](#). Other resources being made available for the effort to put data to work include a report on [governance and funding options](#), along with a set of [use cases](#) that support the argument for decision-driven data systems.



Ground is broken on Fremont Weir fish migration project

Ground has been broken on a critical [habitat improvement project](#) in Northern California. Work is underway on the [Fremont Weir Adult Fish Passage Modification Project](#). DWR, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the California Natural Resources Agency are restoring a fish migration corridor in the Yolo Bypass. One part of the project will widen a channel, making it easier for fish to reach upstream habitats.

Central Valley program releases draft guidelines for flood project grants

Public comments are being accepted on the [draft guidelines](#) for the [Central Valley Tributary Program](#). The program provides grants for projects that reduce flood risks and enhance ecosystems. Public workshops for comments will be held this month in [Fresno](#), [Red Bluff](#) and [Sacramento](#). The comment deadline is Friday, July 20.

NASA video shows fresh water movement around the world

NASA has released a [video](#) that illustrates the movement of fresh water around the world. Using data from the [Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment](#), satellites, climate models, and precipitation measurements, NASA identified trends in the way water moves.

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Wednesday Update*June 13, 2018*

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California Water Boards holding annual science symposium next week

The [California Water Boards](#) annual [science symposium](#) will be June 20 and 21, in West Sacramento. The event aims to enhance the use of water quality monitoring to generate meaningful data for water quality management decisions. This year's theme is "[Adapting in the Face of Disruptive Landscape Change](#)."

Questions about the Delta? This beginner's guide has many answers

A new online resource is available with details on an integral portion of California. [A Beginner's Guide to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta](#), provides a wide variety of information, including details on some of the most common Delta questions. The guide is organized in several sections covering the history, plants and animals, challenges facing the Delta, and more.



Adaptation forum will take a close look at California action on climate change

This year's [California Adaptation Forum](#) will focus on promoting strategic leadership across all areas of climate change adaptation and resilience. One of the key topics will be an examination of legislative and regulatory efforts in California. The forum will run Aug. 27-29, in Sacramento.

Webinar to provide insight on San Diego county wildfire damage and recovery

The aftermath of last December's wildfire in San Diego County, will be discussed during a [webinar](#) on Tuesday, June 19. The [Lilac Fire](#) burned more than 4,100 acres and forced the evacuation of hundreds of residents. The webinar will describe the damage done, and the recovery efforts that followed.

Details of Northwest Forest Plan to be discussed at forest service symposium

The U.S. Forest Service will be hosting a [science forum](#) to share key findings of a [Northwest Forest Plan science report](#). The report will be used for the revision of land management plans for 17 national forests in Washington, Oregon, and Northern California. The forum will be June 26, in Portland. A webcast option will be available.

Urban sustainability solutions on the agenda for Meeting of the Minds summit

Save the dates for the [Meeting of the Minds Annual Summit](#), in Sacramento. It will be Nov. 27-29. The summit features urban sustainability solutions for a variety of issues. The list includes water policy, waterfront redevelopment, and climate resiliency. Discount registration rates are available through Friday, Aug. 17.

Water sustainability, jobs, and housing on agenda for economic summit

Strengthening the state's water sustainability will be among the topics discussed at the [2018 California Economic Summit](#). There will also be work on strategies to develop more housing and create a strong workforce. Registration is open for the summit that will be Nov. 15 and 16, in Santa Rosa.



Oroville almost triples state water saving rate

By: Steve Schoonover, June 18, 2018

Water conservation took a dip in April statewide, but locally the numbers were much stronger.

Oroville saved water at almost three times the statewide rate in April, with Chico and Paradise more than doubling it, according to numbers released last week by the state Water Resources Control Board.

The water board said savings averaging 19.6 percent were reported in April by the state's larger urban water providers. That's compared to the benchmark year of 2013, which is considered before the drought.

But customers of the Oroville Division of the California Water Service Co. used 57 percent less water in April than in April 2013.

Cal Water's Chico customers used 41.1 percent less, and use in the Paradise Irrigation District was down 47.3 percent. The Del Oro Water Co. reported savings of 20.4 percent, and Cal Water's Willows customers used 37.9 percent less.

The Sacramento River watershed overall had savings of 33.4 percent, according to the water board. Savings in the Bay Area were 26.4 percent and, on the South Coast, 13 percent.

April's statewide number was a dip from the 24.8 percent reported in March, but March was a huge shift from a trend of declining water savings.

Savings have dropped ever since mandatory conservation rules were lifted and had reached the point in February where the state was using more water than in February 2013.

Then came March, and it saw the most conservation since February 2017. April's number is the best — excluding March — since May 2017.

Conservation numbers may improve as they've been given a boost by two bills signed by Gov. Jerry Brown that will reinstate conservation targets.

SB 606 and AB 1668 require cities, water districts and large agricultural water districts to set strict annual water budgets, potentially facing fines of \$1,000 per day if they don't meet them, and \$10,000 a day during drought emergencies.

Under the bills, each urban water provider will be required to come up with a target for water use by 2022. Fines for agencies failing to meet their goals can begin in 2027.

The targets must be approved by the State Water Resources Control Board between now and then and will vary by city and county.

Standards will be based on a formula that is made up of three main factors: an allowance of 55 gallons per person per day for indoor water use, dropping to 50 gallons by 2030; a yet-to-be determined amount for residential outdoor use that will vary depending on regional climates; and a standard for water loss due to leak rates in water system pipes.

Statewide, per capita water consumption per day was 81.2 gallons in

April, but that number includes landscape watering.

Oroville used the least water locally in April — 53 gallons per person per day — while the number for Chico was 91 gallons, Paradise 85 gallons, Del Oro 58 gallons and Willows 80 gallons.

The full conservation report is available at <http://tinyurl.com/aprilh2osavings>.

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June 20, 2018

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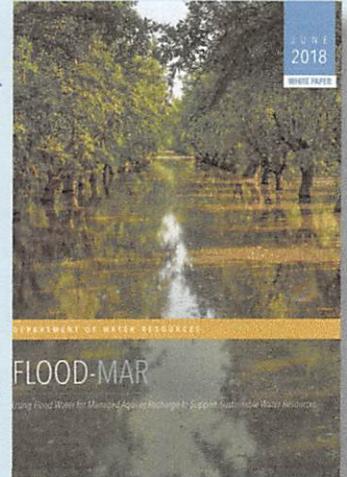
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White paper and research framework outline DWR's Flood-MAR strategy

DWR has released two documents detailing [flood-managed aquifer recharge](#) (Flood-MAR). A [Flood-MAR white paper](#) looks at the potential of using flood water on farmland, and other working landscapes to help recharge groundwater supplies. Also being released for public comment is the [draft Research and Data Development Framework](#) that will identify ways to advance Flood-MAR. This will be discussed in Sacramento tomorrow, June 21, at a joint [luncheon](#) sponsored by the Floodplain Management Association and the Groundwater Resources Association.



Comments being accepted on draft list of grants for emergency flood response

The comment period is open for the Statewide Flood Emergency Response Grant Program's [draft list of awards](#). The list recommends more than \$10.1 million in grants spread among 25 requests for funding to improve emergency flood response. The [comment period](#) runs through Wednesday, June 27.

Recap of February UC Davis SGMA conference available online

A [recap](#) of the February governance conference on the [Sustainable Groundwater Management Act](#) (SGMA), is available online. The conference at UC Davis was held to discuss the ongoing implementation of SGMA. The report includes summaries of roundtable discussions conducted during the conference

WSIP decisions expected at next week's water commission meeting

[Next week's meeting](#) of the California Water Commission will include decisions on the final application scores for project remaining in the [Water Storage Investment Program](#) (WSIP). The meeting will be in Sacramento on June 27 and 28, and if necessary, June 29.

Annual report details progress toward ensuring a sustainable forest future

The [annual report](#) released by [Pacific Forest Trust](#) details progress the organization has made toward its goal of valuing the benefits provided by forests. The report covers accomplishments of the past year, including the securing of funding for forest stewardship, wildfire prevention, and climate adaptation. The organization works to unite urban and rural communities in efforts to ensure a sustainable forest future.



Webinar on direct potable reuse being offered next month by WaterReuse

A [webinar](#) on designing resilient direct potable reuse (DPR) systems will be offered on Wednesday, July 11. The information will highlight a [Water Research Foundation](#) report that provides guidance for any utility considering a DPR system. [WaterReuse](#) will host the webinar.

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June 27, 2018

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Tribal Water Summit videos, other materials available online

Videos of the recent [Tribal Water Summit](#) are available online. The event was held in McClellan Park on April 4 and 5. It looked at indigenous water rights and the effort to address tribal water policy needs. Other available publications include the [summit program](#) and [Tribal Water Stories 2](#).



Deadlines extended for basin boundary modifications, SGMA prioritization comments

DWR has added one month to the submission period for [basin boundary modifications](#). The new deadline is July 31. The extension gives local agencies more time to consider modifications that support sustainable groundwater management. At the same time, DWR has extended the [comment period](#) for the [2018 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act \(SGMA\) Basin Prioritization](#). Comments will be accepted until Monday, Aug. 20.

Application process is underway for Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant program

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is accepting [pre-applications](#) for its [Watershed Improvement Program](#) grants. The funding is for projects that support forest health and provide multiple watershed benefits. Pre-applications are due by Wednesday, July 25.

Delta Stewardship Council to put focus on data during tomorrow's meeting

The Delta Stewardship Council will continue the [Data to Decision-Making Summer Series](#) at its [meeting](#) tomorrow, June 28, in Sacramento. The session will include how data can be used to develop performance measures, and how those measures translate into quantifiable progress.

\$1,500 prize added to the California Safe Drinking Water Data Challenge

A [prize of \\$1,500](#) has been announced for the team that wins this year's [California Safe Drinking Water Data Challenge](#). [Imagine H2O](#) is providing the prize money as part of the contest to find the best ways to use data to increase access to safe drinking water. The winner will be announced in August at the end of the challenge.

Surface water report looks at water quality changes from land to the sea

The [2018 California Surface Water Quality Status Report](#) has been released by the State Water Resources Control Board. This year's edition examines how surface water quality changes as it flows from the land to the ocean. Each section of the report includes a [data analysis](#) summary and an overview of management actions.



Rice consumptive water use examined in two reports

The results of a joint DWR-UC Davis study on [consumptive water use of rice](#) are available in two new reports. [Phase I](#) consists of a UC Davis field study based on data collected in Sacramento Valley rice fields from 2011 to 2013. [Phase II](#) is a California Simulation of Evapotranspiration of Applied Water (Cal-SIMETAW) model study to estimate the water requirements for rice in the Sacramento Valley.

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Tuesday Update*July 3, 2018*

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This weekly electronic newsletter is designed to keep you current on California Water Plan news. We welcome comments, suggestions and any news tips that may be of interest to water planners.

CWC set to award \$2.7 billion in funding at this month's meeting

The California Water Commission (CWC) has approved [final application scores](#) for eight proposed water storage projects. The action clears the way to award nearly \$2.7 billion in funding to help expand the state's water storage capacity. The commission will conditionally award the funding at its [meeting](#) on July 24-26.

Report finds U.S. water use reaches lowest level in 45 years

A [report](#) from the [U.S. Geological Survey](#) found the nation's water consumption is at its lowest level in more than 45 years. In 2015, Americans withdrew 322 billion gallons of water a day. That was a 9 percent less than 2010. Consumption by power plants dropped 18 percent during that same period; largely because of the use of more efficient water-based cooling systems.



EPA-sponsored WaterSense lists accomplishments in annual report

[WaterSense](#) is out with its [annual accomplishments report](#). The 2017 list includes new specifications for home irrigation sprinklers, and a pilot program to fix water leaks in Fort Worth, Texas. WaterSense is a program sponsored by the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#).

Webinar to explore groundwater research and policies in California

The geoscience of managing groundwater storage and recharge will be discussed during a [free webinar](#) on Wednesday, July 18. It will include a look at California's groundwater policies and the research being done in the state. The webinar will be sponsored by the [American Geosciences Institute](#).

Pacific Institute has ideas for expanding the way California captures its stormwater

After looking at stormwater programs across the country, the [Pacific Institute](#) has come up with some ideas that might work for California. [Stormwater Capture in California: Innovative Policies and Funding Opportunities](#) provides insight on the potential of using stormwater as a local water supply. It includes recommendations on expanding stormwater capture in the state.

Fire-prevention travel tips included in latest edition of the WestFAST newsletter

The latest edition of the [Western States Federal Agency Support Team \(WestFAST\) newsletter](#) includes fire-prevention information for those taking summer trips in drought-stricken areas. Also, a recap of the work being done to redefine "waters of the United States." [WestFAST](#) is a collaboration of federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the western U.S.

Blueprint outlines a way arts and culture can connect people with water

Building a bridge between water managers and the leaders of arts and culture is explored in a [blueprint](#) from the [U.S. Water Alliance](#). The idea is to use the creative thinking of artists to develop new approaches to water management. The ideas include using an artistic approach to help people understand and connect with water.

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Wednesday Update*July 11, 2018*

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**Flood-MAR posts new blogs,
comments being accepted on
development framework**

The [latest blog](#) about Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge (Flood-MAR) has been posted to DWR's website. The new entry provides an overview of the Flood-MAR strategy, which uses flood water to recharge groundwater supplies. [Another blog](#) was posted about the Flood-MAR draft [Research and Data Development Framework](#). The comment period for the draft runs through Sept. 20. Instructions for submitting comments are available on the first page of the draft.



**Groundwater storage
webinar will include look
at California policies**

The geoscience of managing groundwater storage and recharge will be discussed during an American Geosciences Institute [webinar](#) on Wednesday, July 18. The agenda will include a look at California's groundwater policies. The one-hour program will also review case studies and potential groundwater developments.

**Tribal funding opportunities
to be discussed during
Prop. 1 update next week**

DWR, and a group of State agencies will host a meeting next week to update tribal governments [on funding opportunities](#) under the Proposition 1 water bond. The meeting will be Wednesday, July 18, in Sacramento. A [webinar option](#) will be available.

**Policy change opens
possibilities for debt financing
water conservation projects**

A [change in policy](#) from the [Government Accounting Standards Board](#) has opened up the ability for utilities to debt finance water conservation and green infrastructure projects. This development should help reduce the costs that have accompanied these projects, which are often financed with utility operating funds.

**Looking for ways to
add natural capital to
national economic reports**

A [webinar](#) focusing on nature's inputs to the economy will be held Thursday, Sept. 6. Natural capital, such as forests, wildlife, and water are not included in most economic reports. The webinar will review some of the latest water data, and discuss ways for building a more complete view of water's role in the U.S. economy.

**Presentation will provide
overview of agency's transition
to a resource recovery agency**

The Orange County Sanitation District is making a transition from being a wastewater treatment plant to a resource recovery agency. An [overview of the move](#) will be presented at an Orange County Water Agency event on Wednesday, July 18, in Irvine. It will include details on a sewer construction project designed to gain 9 million gallons of new water.

**Space station conference
to include water
sustainability workshop**

This month's [International Space Station \(ISS\) Research and Development Conference](#) will include a workshop on water sustainability. It will focus on ways the ISS can raise awareness, and develop potential solutions, for water issues. The conference runs July 23-26, in San Francisco. The workshop is on July 23.

Where would extra water in river come from?

By: Steve Schoonover , July 12, 2018

The framework of a plan for the Sacramento River watershed released Friday by the state Water Resources Control Board calls for an increase in the amount of water running into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and out to sea, but it leaves the question of where that water would come from largely unanswered.

It's a good chunk of water. According to the framework, the target of letting 55 percent of "unimpeded flow" run downstream amounts to a reduction of 17 percent of the current average surface water supply available in the Sacramento River and its tributaries, plus the three rivers that run directly into the delta from the east.

Those four watersheds are grouped together in the Water Board's framework.

About 75 percent of the reductions would go to increased delta outflow during winter and spring, according to the report. That means it would probably have to come from the big dams in the watershed, as they are the only things that restrict the flow those seasons.

The dams save water in the wet season to release it when it is dry. For example in March, according to information on the California Data Exchange Center website, average daily inflows to Lake Oroville reached as high as 64,000 cubic feet per second and were consistently above 2,000 cfs. Average daily releases to the Feather River in March never got above 3,200 cfs, and were as low as 200 cfs.

To get the desired outflow in the wet season, the releases from the dams would have to be increased. There's no way to increase flow from streams that aren't dammed.

However that creates another problem in that the big dams are the only places where the pools of cold water can be saved that are necessary for salmon survival in summer and fall, another goal of the framework.

It points out in the past the Water Board has obtained water for environmental needs just from the Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation, partly as a result of agreements between those agencies and other water users.

"The current Bay-Delta Plan is implemented by a limited subset of water users, on a limited subset of streams, for only parts of the year," the framework reads.

"The current Bay-Delta Plan requirements, as implemented, result in overburdening some streams to the detriment of all beneficial uses in that stream while at the same time failing to protect beneficial uses in other streams and the watershed."

The solution seems to be a hope that other water users will voluntarily come up with ways to let more water run into the river.

"Californians want a healthy environment, healthy agriculture and healthy communities, not one at the expense of the others," Water Board Chair Felicia Marcus said in the press release Friday announcing release of the framework and a final plan for the San Joaquin watershed.

"That requires the water wars to yield to collective efforts to help

fish and wildlife through voluntary action, which the proposed plan seeks to reward."

Thad Bettner, general manager of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, says his agency has had discussions with the Water Board to voluntarily provide more flows at certain times of the year to help fish, but thinks the focus on how much water is in the river is misguided.

"We're pretty concerned about what's in the report," he said. "We don't believe they're going to accomplish much just with flow."

He said a "strong habitat component" was also necessary, as well as improving water quality and assuring there was ample food for the fish.

He also says groundwater users need to be brought into the discussion on how to solve the problem — "everyone who is using water out of the system."

But the big question is how and where the Water Board gets the water sought by the plan.

"Who would be putting that water on the table?" Bettner asked.

He said the state should work with water users to come up with a solution, and that release of the plans indicates the conversations aren't happening.

"There will be significant impacts if this is done in a dictatorial way rather than cooperatively," Bettner said.

The Sacramento River plan is not as far along as the San Joaquin River plan released Friday. A draft of the Sacramento plan is expected in fall, with a final plan months after that.

Oroville a leader in water savings

By: Steve Schoonover , July 13, 2018

Oroville continues to be one of the state's leaders in water conservation, more than doubling the statewide average in May.

But it had local company, as Paradise and the Del Oro Water Co. also saved at twice the rate of the the state.

The State Water Resources Control Board released water saving numbers earlier this week, and reported statewide savings of 20.2 percent in May, compared to May 2013, the benchmark year for before the drought.

Customers of the Oroville Division of the California Water Service Co. saved at a 45.4 percent rate. The other two Oroville-area water providers — the South Feather Water and Power Agency and Thermalito Water and Sewer District — do not report their water use to the state.

Oroville Cal Water customers' saving rate was the fifth best in California.

The Paradise Irrigation District and Del Oro Water Co. — which serves Magalia, Stirling City, Lime Saddle and a number of other north state communities — weren't far behind with 42.8 percent savings. That was good enough for eighth and ninth in the state.

The Chico Division of Cal Water saved at a 32 percent rate, and Cal Water's Willows customers saved at a 32.4 percent rate.

The savings in other north state cities included 31.1 percent in Marysville, 22.5 percent in Yuba City, 24.1 percent in Red Bluff and 23.7 percent in Redding.

Of the 361 urban water agencies reporting, 199 has savings in excess of 20 percent. Only four reported using more water than in 2013.

Regional variations weren't as strong as usual. Savings in the Sacramento River watershed were 25.7 percent. On the South Coast, the rate was 17.6 percent.

Statewide water use per person per day was 94.4 gallons. Del Oro led local companies with 58 gallons per person per day, followed by Oroville at 84 gallons, Willows at 128 gallons, Chico at 143 gallons and Paradise at 148 gallons.

Statewide, 119,374 acre-feet less water was used in May 2018 compared to May 2013.

The full report can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/may18h2osavings>.

Savings might become more important as drought has crept back into a majority of California the U.S. Drought Monitor report released Thursday put 85.15 percent of the state in some form of drought. That's up from 44.3 percent at the start of the calendar year.

More than a fifth of the state was in extreme or severe drought. None of the state was in that status at the start of the year.

Gosselin, Paul

From: Susan Strachan <susanstrachan@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2018 12:42 PM
To: Connelly, Bill; Wahl, Larry; Kirk, Maureen; BOS District 4; Teeter, Doug
Cc: ClerkoftheBoard@ButteCounty.ne; Gosselin, Paul; Buck, Christina
Subject: Item 5.04 - Resolutions Supporting Proposed Basin Boundary Modifications

Good afternoon Supervisors,

I would like to provide public comment on the Sustainable Groundwater Act proposed basin boundary modification on tomorrow's agenda. I have a work conflict and am unable to attend in person. I am representing the interests of domestic well owners, who are forming a nonprofit organization to formalize that representation. I would not characterize our position on this proposal as "general support." We believe the way in which this concept was developed and brought before the board of supervisors presents significant public policy issues. The development of the previous Vina basin boundary modification (excluding Tehama County/incorporating all of Chico), was heard at multiple meetings of the governance committee and presented an at evening workshop where domestic well owners in the subbasin were mailed invitations. This new modification was daylighted and brought to the Board with a recommendation that the county submit it in about one month, without similar opportunities for public input. An additional concern is splitting the county into a groundwater dependent subbasin and a surface water dominated subbasin will affect the underlying data and assumptions that must be used in groundwater planning and will limit the potential for projects to address groundwater concerns using available surface water.

While this proposed modification presents these issues, we understand that there are some benefits to bringing the Durham and Butte Valley areas into the Vina subbasin, so that they will fall under the proposed Vina joint powers authority. To address the public process issues identified above, to ensure that domestic well owners in the proposed Butte subbasin have an opportunity for input to groundwater plans (especially those in disadvantaged communities), to assure that sound science underpins planning in both subbasins and to forestall any barriers to project development and implementation arising from bifurcation of the county into groundwater and surface water subbasins, we recommend that groundwater sustainability agencies in the proposed Vina and Butte subbasins commit to three actions. This commitment will demonstrate the agencies' commitment to sound public process, consistent science and collaboration.

1. Using an inclusive and transparent public process that provides the opportunity for stakeholders to review. This process will provide the public with the opportunity to provide substantive input on draft elements of governance structures formed for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and on the groundwater sustainability plans developed pursuant to that act. The process will be formal, with a proper notification process for all interested parties and will include adequate public notice and meetings held in the very late afternoon or evenings so that members of the public can attend. Where input is not incorporated into revisions of proposed elements, the revised documents will include the reasoning and support for the direction chosen.
2. Using the same data, methodologies and assumptions for the four subbasins as currently defined for the following elements:
(a) Groundwater elevation data. (b) Groundwater extraction data. (c) Surface water supply. (d) Total water use. (e) Change in groundwater storage; (f) Water budget. (g) Sustainable yield and (h) interbasin flow. These elements are required to be consistent when multiple plans are developed within a subbasin.
3. Identifying, analyzing and including feasible recharge and water supply projects in their groundwater sustainability plans, without regard to the proposed subbasin boundaries, particularly the opportunities for utilizing supply from available surface water in the County

Thank you,
Susan Strachan
Domestic well owner

Sites Reservoir earns \$816 million in Proposition 1 funding

By: Staff Reports, July 25, 2018

SACRAMENTO — Nearly four years after voters approved billions of dollars for new water storage in California, the state finally announced how the pie would be divided.

Sites Reservoir in Colusa County, west of Maxwell, will get the largest chunk.

The proposed reservoir has been on the drawing boards since last century. It's the largest and most expensive proposal of the eight projects considered by the California Water Commission on Tuesday. It received the largest award, too — \$816 million.

The proposed 1.8 million acre-foot off-stream reservoir, which would fill with Sacramento River water with the help of canals during high winter and spring runoff, is estimated to cost \$5.2 billion to build. Even before the Proposition 1 money awarded Tuesday, the Sites Project Authority said it had enough commitments from water users to get the project built.

As designed Sites would add 500,000 acre-feet of water to the state's system annually, according to the project authority, two-thirds of the total water the eight projects will provide.

The bigger concern is lawsuits, which in California are likely to greet any effort to build a new reservoir.

The Water Commission approved \$2.5 billion in water storage funding on an 8-0 vote. Four of the projects were for new or expanded reservoirs. Four were for groundwater storage.

Other funding commitments for reservoirs included \$171 million for Temperance Flat Reservoir on the San Joaquin River, a fraction of the total cost of \$2.6 billion; \$459 million for Los Vaqueros in Contra Costa County, which will pay about half the total price tag; and \$485 million to replace and expand the Pacheco Reservoir Dam in Santa Clara County, which also will pay about half the total cost.

The groundwater projects were in Sacramento and San Bernardino counties, and two in Kern County.

Sites proponents have argued that storing more water in wet years at Sites would give the state more flexibility both upstream and downstream in the delta.

"Sites is the only project approved by the Water Commission that can improve water supply reliability within the Sacramento Valley Watershed while also increasing flows on the Sacramento River at times that are most critical to struggling fish populations," said Jim Watson, general manager of the Sites Project Authority in a news release.

"The Sites Project offers the unique benefit of improving water quality and habitat conditions in the Sacramento River and delta when and where it's needed most," Watson said. "The project will not block fish migration, does not dam a large river or stream, and will only be filled by storm events, when excess water is available in the Sacramento River and after all existing environmental requirements have been met."

Assemblyman James Gallagher, R-Yuba City, was relieved that the hard work to secure funding paid off.

"Over the last four years I have worked closely with the Sites Project Authority to ensure that this vital project received its fair share of funding out of the Proposition 1 water bond," Gallagher said in a statement. "We held town hall meetings in the district with water commissioners, built bipartisan support in the Legislature, and were constantly reminding the Water Commission of the many benefits of this project. Today I am proud to see that our advocacy has paid off ... including over \$40 million in early funding to help get Sites off the ground. This has truly been a team effort that would not have been possible without us all working together."