



Water Matters

News for the
Orange County
Water Community

FEBRUARY, 2017



State Water Board Hears Input on Next Steps for Emergency Drought Regulations

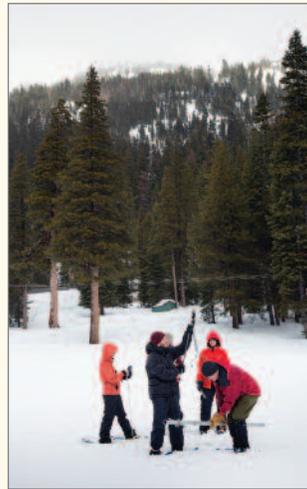
By LISA LIEN-MAGER, *Association of California Water Agencies*

Whether the state should extend the current emergency conservation regulation or let it expire was the focus of a workshop before the State Water Resources Control Board on January 18.

Citing dramatically improved conditions, water agency representatives from throughout the state voiced support for letting the regulation expire in February. They emphasized, however, that urban water suppliers remain committed to helping their customers shift to permanent changes to improve water use efficiency on an ongoing basis.

Water suppliers also reiterated their support for the “stress-test” approach outlined in the current regulation, and many said they would continue monthly water use reporting and data collection if requested by the State Water Board. They encouraged the board to thank the public and shift the focus to the long term.

Their comments followed a presentation in which State Water Board staff recommended that the board extend the current regulation for another 270 days and revisit it in May when the



rainy season is largely over and the water supply picture is clear. The staff also recommended that water suppliers update their stress tests to reflect changing conditions.

ACWA and numerous water suppliers said the emergency regulation had served to focus public attention on the drought, but has outlived its purpose. Much progress has been made, they noted, and residents have changed how they view and use water. Continuing the emergency regulation could create credibility issues and confuse the public, they said.

“It’s clear that water agencies and Californians have stepped up in a big way in response to the emergency regulation,” ACWA Director of State Regulatory Relations Dave Bolland told State Water Board members. “Continuing to message that we are in a crisis or emergency is problematic for a lot of agencies.... It’s time to move on to the long-term, sustainable practices agencies are now focused on.”

Bolland and others said it would be appropriate for water suppliers to continue submitting monthly reports, but noted that could be done under a different mechanism than the emergency regulation. They also noted that the state will soon consider regulations requiring just that under the long-term conservation framework state agencies are finalizing as directed by Gov. Jerry Brown in his May 2015 executive order.

The State Water Board did not take formal action on the staff recommendation. Several Board members indicated they were interested in continuing the data collection and monthly reporting that has taken place under the emergency regulation.

Time to Renew Your OCWA Membership

Please take the opportunity today to renew your membership in the Orange County Water Association.

Existing members can renew their membership through PayPal by using the convenient [Registration Form](#) on the Association website.

2017 Membership Dues must be paid in full to qualify for discounted Member Luncheon Pricing.

If you are not a member yet, and would like to join, [click here](#) to download a Membership Application.

Dues for 2017 are \$70.00. Checks, made payable to OCWA, can be mailed to the Membership Committee at P.O. Box 51404, Irvine, California 92619-1404.

If you have any questions concerning membership, please call [Ryan Gallagher](#) at (805) 298-3380, or you may email him at membership@ocwater.org.

California's Year of Wettest Drought? Could be 2017

By JAY LUND, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering & Director, Center for Watershed Sciences, UC Davis

Wet. After five years of drought, most of California finally has become wet. The mountains are exceptionally wet and covered with snow. The state's reservoirs are fuller than their long term average (with a few exceptions). Flood control structures are being employed, some for the first time since 2006.

We can now better understand the balance needed for California's water system – which must operate for many sometimes-conflicting purposes in a climate with wild swings in water availability. Every year, California must operate for drought, flood, public and ecosystem health, and economic prosperity (or at least financial solvency).

Where is California's Drought today?

Here are today's numbers:

- **Sacramento Valley precipitation** – 201% of normal (for this time of year), 113% of average water year total
- **San Joaquin Basin precipitation** – 206% of normal, 110% of average water year total
- **Tulare Basin precipitation** – 205% of normal, 106% of average water year total
- **Southern California** – Mostly more than 150% of normal
- **Statewide snowpack** – 171% of normal, 110% of average April 1 accumulation
- **Reservoir storage** – 110% of normal, statewide
- **Lake Cachuma (near Santa Barbara)** – 16% of normal (the drought remains here)

2017 will not be a surface water drought for California. Precipitation and snowpack in much of the state already exceeds that for an entire average water year. And we still have two months to go in California's wet season.

Despite these wet conditions, California has remnants of drought, some of which will persist for decades. Some Central

Coast reservoirs remain very low. Groundwater in the southern part of the Central Valley remains more than 10 million acre-ft below pre-drought levels. Most of the groundwater deficit is in dry parts

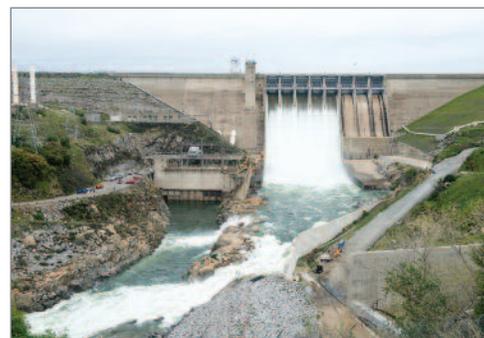
of the San Joaquin and Tulare basins, which could take decades to recover – with long-lasting effects on local wells. The millions of forest trees which died from the drought will need decades to recover, if the warmer climate allows. Native fish species, already suffering before the drought, are in even worse conditions today.

Moving Forward

Although the drought is largely over, California remains a dry place. As a big dry place, some parts of California can be in drought while others are in flood (contrasting Santa Barbara and Sacramento today). Local and regional effectiveness and adaptability are vital for water management in California.

The end of drought does not solve California's most important water problems. Groundwater sustainability (implementing SGMA), Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta sustainability, effective ecosystem management, and fixing rural drinking water systems remain major problems. Solving these issues involves difficult water accounting, integrated management, and finance issues at local and statewide levels.

Leaving the drought, California has a clearer picture of the important work that remains to be accomplished. The next drought (and flood) could be coming soon.



Future Water Leaders: Deadline for ACWA Scholarships Extended to March 1

Know a hardworking graduate or undergraduate student majoring in a water resources-related field? ACWA has several scholarships available to assist the industry's best and brightest, and the deadline for these has now been extended to March 1.

If you know someone who will be a full-time junior or senior college student in a water resources-related field of study for the 2017-'18 academic year, please recommend him or her for this prestigious \$5,000 scholarship Clair A. Hill Scholarship Award.

Graduate students with an eye toward water resources may be eligible for the Stephen K. Hall ACWA Water Law & Policy Scholarship, created in 2007 to honor former ACWA Executive Director Steve Hall upon his retirement. The \$7,000 scholarship is presented annually to a qualified graduate student majoring in law, policy or public

administration with a focus or concentration in California water resources.



Amanda Carvajal Priest,
\$7,000 2016 Stephen K. Hall
Water Law & Policy
Scholarship Winner

Undergraduate students majoring in engineering, irrigation technology, environmental sciences, public administration and other water-resources related fields may be eligible for one of two ACWA Scholarships. The \$3,500 scholarships are awarded to California residents attending a four-year, publicly funded college or university full-time as a junior or senior during the year the scholarship is awarded.

All scholarship applications must be postmarked by March, 1, 2017.

Contact ACWA Outreach and Social Media Specialist Marie Meade at (916) 441-4545 or via email at mariem@acwa.com for more information.

AWWA California-Nevada Section Spring Conference Set for April 10-13 at The Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim

Each spring, the California-Nevada Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) hosts a four day technical conference for water professionals. The conference is designed for the stewards of water. It provides an opportunity to enhance technical skills, engage in hot topics, and network with the others in the water community.

This year's theme is **Facing the Future TOGETHER**. Over 150 technical sessions are presented during the Conference, on topics such as drought, water loss, safety, professional development, and water treatment, to name but a few.

People from various sectors and departments who are passionate about water and continuing education are encouraged to attend.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to assist the Conference by working both Half Day and Full Day Shifts. Volunteers will receive full access to all conference sessions (excluding meals).



Volunteer positions include: Registration Support, Room Monitors, Competitions Support and more!

To sign up as a volunteer and for more details, contact Local Arrangements Committee Chair Bill Moorhead, P.E. from the city of Anaheim at (714) 765-4165 or bmoorhead@anaheim.net.

More information on the Spring Conference can be found on the [conference website](#).

Now Accepting Applications for Competitions and Top Ops!

The year's conference features two days of exciting competitions and an Exhibit Hall featuring the latest innovations in the industry.

Competitions consists of four high energy contests: **Pipe Tapping, Meter Madness, Hot Flares** and **Hydrant Hysteria**.

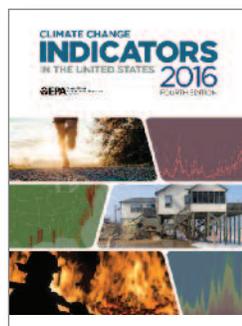
Admission to the Exhibit Hall and viewing the Competitions in action is free.

To sign up, or for more information, [click here](#).

USEPA Releases New Report on Climate Change Indicators

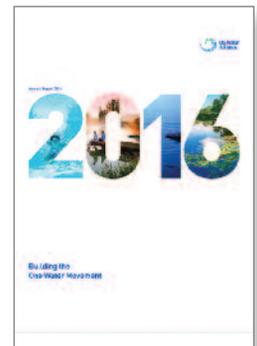
The Water Environment & Reuse Foundation (WE&RF) recently released a report entitled *Potable Reuse Research Compilation: Synthesis of Findings*. The report summarizes research and synthesizes the key issues surrounding direct potable reuse (DPR), which is a form of planned potable reuse in which advanced treated water is added directly into a water distribution system or into a raw water supply immediately upstream of a drinking water treatment facility.

Learn more, or download the complete report, from the [USEPA](#).



A surge in new members and financial supporters – coupled with new staff with diverse backgrounds and expertise – has enabled the Alliance to expand their capacity to take on projects that address the most critical water issues facing the nation. They are furthering their reach and impact, bringing new stakeholders to the One Water table, and building strong partnerships for progress.

Learn more, or download the complete report, from [here](#).



Water Treatment Operator II

City of Tustin • \$5,048 ~ \$6,472 per month

Closing Date: 02/10/2017

Under general supervision, position operates and performs repairs and preventative maintenance on pumps, wells, controls, valves, telemetering, treatment facility and related equipment.

This is a journey level position in the water treatment operator class. Incumbents are expected to perform assigned tasks without detailed instructions, and are expected to assist in the supervision and training of less experienced staff.

Complete information about the position, and detailed application instructions, can be found on the [OCWater.org website](#).

Affirmative Action/EEO Employer.

US Water Alliance Releases 2016 Annual Report

2016 was a remarkable year for the US Water Alliance. Guided by a restructured board of directors and new Chief Executive Officer, the organization has developed a three-year strategy and aligned it's programming around that vision.

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OCWA's Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month, unless notified otherwise. The next meeting is scheduled for:

**February 15, 2017
10:30 am to Noon**

Dave & Buster's Restaurant
Irvine Spectrum
Entertainment Center

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February Luncheon Topic

NOT A DROP TO WASTE, NO TIME TO SPARE: Collaborative Design-Build in a Drought-Stricken State

Presenter:

Ken Ortega

Assistant General Manager/Chief Engineer

Water Replenishment District of Southern California



When faced with challenging times, budget constraints and a critical need for clean water, collaborative design-build is a proven and essential delivery method to aggressively meet water agency needs.

This was the approach taken by the Water Replenishment District of Southern California to sign a design-build Contractor for delivery of a \$110M Advanced Water Purification Facility in 24 months. The facility will include LEED Gold certification, high recovery process (92%), and a 10,000+ AFY capacity.

This presentation will focus on the practices and techniques used to deliver a successful collaborative design-build procurement, as well as present lessons learned, highlighting one of the largest SoCal design-build projects.



Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Dave & Buster's Restaurant ◆ Irvine Spectrum Entertainment Center

11:30 am: Registration ◆ 12:00 – 1:30: Lunch & Presentation

OCWA Members with Reservations..... \$30

Non-Members with Reservations \$40

OCWA Members without Reservations... \$40

Non-Members without Reservations..... \$40

Reservations must be made by Noon, Tuesday, February 14, to qualify for the Reservation Rate. Cancellations received AFTER this date CANNOT be refunded.

To make reservations, please go to the OCWA website: www.ocwater.org

For more information, contact Leticia Villarreal at (714) 378-3203

Please identify yourself by name and membership number (number is printed on the newsletter mailing label.)

RSVP IS A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT. NO-SHOWS WILL BE BILLED

About Our Speaker: Ken Ortega

Ken Ortega is the Assistant General Manager/Chief Engineer for the Water Replenishment District of Southern California. He is responsible for Engineering, Operations, and the Groundwater Reliability Improvement Program (GRIP).

Throughout his 30-year career Ken has directed large-scale private and public agency

projects in California, Nevada, and Texas, which included the award winning \$250 million Groundwater Reliability Enhancement and Treatment Program at the City of Oxnard. The GREAT Program includes brackish water desalting, advanced water purification of municipal wastewater, aquifer storage and recovery, and constructed wetlands for brine concentrate treatment and wetlands restoration.

Other professional experience includes working with internationally recognized agricultural icons Limoneira Company and Driscoll/Well-Pict Berries to create design, build, operate and finance (DBOF) strategies for numerous sustainable water supply solutions to serve agricultural and urban water users in West Ventura County.

