



Water Matters

News for the
Orange County
Water Community

MARCH, 2016



Value of Water Coalition Releases National Poll on Public Attitudes about Water, Infrastructure

The Value of Water Coalition has released the results of a new national poll on public attitudes and concerns about water. The poll found that Americans are deeply concerned with the state of the nation's water infrastructure.

Respondents were evenly split (47/47), initially, with their willingness to personally spend more on their water bills for increased investment in water systems. Once poll respondents received additional information about water issues, 60 percent of Americans are in favor of paying more to invest in water infrastructure – an increase of 13 percent.

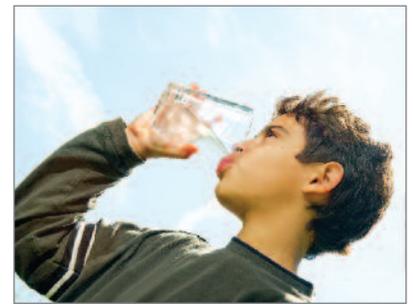
“This is a critical time and important opportunity to have a conversation across the country about the importance of investing in our water systems. Being able to drink water straight from the tap and knowing that wastewater is safely and responsibly treated are top concerns for Americans. As a nation, we must prioritize investment in our water systems – to maintain high-quality water service today and for future generations,” said Radhika Fox, director

of the Value of Water Coalition and CEO of the US Water Alliance.

In light of the crisis in Flint, Michigan, 95 percent of respondents said it was important or very important for public officials to invest in water systems so other communities didn't face what happened in Flint.

The issues that resonated with Americans were clear: we're all dependent on water infrastructure, and we need to invest in it.

About the poll: American Viewpoints and Hart Research conducted this national poll via phone of 1,000 adults across the country in January, 2016. The margin of error is +/- 3.1 percent at 95 percent confidence, and fifty percent of the interviewees have a cell phone. Click here for a closer look at the poll results.



Statewide Water Savings Dips Slightly, but Still 96% of Way to Goal

Californians statewide are running just shy of Gov. Jerry Brown's 25% urban water conservation mandate, with cumulative urban savings since June at 24.8% compared with 2013 usage levels. But overall, Californians are 96% of the way toward the state's goal of saving 1.2 million acre-feet of water by the end of February, according to data released by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Californians have conserved more than 1.1 million acre-feet of water from June 2015 through January, a feat state officials are calling “an unprecedented conservation

achievement.” However, the statewide conservation rate dropped from 18.4% in December 2015 to 17.1% in January, a dip regulators are attributing in part to warmer January weather. Residents also generally use much less water for outdoor irrigation in the winter

months, allowing less opportunity for savings, officials added.

Despite the warmer weather average and limited chance for savings, per capita water use declined from 67 gallons per person per day in December 2015 to 61 gallons in January, the lowest statewide per-person rate since water-use reporting began in June 2014, officials said.

“We're hoping for every raindrop and every snowflake we can handle. We're hoping for a miracle March and an awesome April. But we can't know what the next couple months will bring. And a warm and dry February has proved that we can't count on *El Niño* to save us,” State Water Resources Control Board Chair Felicia Marcus said in a prepared statement. “Californians have risen to the occasion as never before. But we have to stay the course. We have to keep it up.”

Renew or Become a
2016 OCWA Member!
See Page 4 for Details
or Visit oc-water.org and
click on **Membership**
to sign up today.

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This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Water Research Foundation. First envisioned in 1955, the Awwa Research Foundation was officially incorporated on December 5, 1966. The 1967 budget was set at \$34,000. In 1968, the first research project was funded, by the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration (FWPCA). Between 1984–1987, Congress appropriated \$3 million for the Research Foundation. In 1987, the subscription program for water utilities began, an innovation that has allowed WRF to become the industry leader in water research.

One of the most gratifying aspects of WRF's research efforts is the opportunity to help utility subscribers find innovative solutions to complex problems. As part of our year-

long anniversary celebration, WRF will be highlighting several utility stories through videos, showcasing subscriber utilities that have achieved great things, in part because of their use of and participation in WRF research projects.

The first utility story video, launched in February, focuses on Milwaukee Water Works (MWW). MWW has been a WRF subscriber for over 25 years, and has been a participating utility on over 25 WRF projects during that time. In 1993, MWW experienced a *Cryptosporidium* event, which resulted in a boil water advisory. Over the next five years, Milwaukee implemented an unprecedented \$89 million renovation of facilities to strengthen the barriers related to source water protection, disinfection, and filtration. At the time, the \$51 million design-build project was the largest ozone retrofit in the world. To ensure the success of this project, Milwaukee Water Works relied on WRF research on ozone inactivation of emerging pathogens, ozone contactor optimization,

bromate formation reduction strategies, quenching agents, and diffuser design. In addition to the video, a two page summary of the utility story is also available.

The next utility story, coming in March, will focus on Trinity River Authority (TRA), in Arlington, Texas. TRA has been as WRF subscriber since 1989. In 2012, Trinity River Authority began a Tailored Collaboration project with WRF, entitled "Optimizing Filter Conditions for Improved Manganese Control During

Conversion to Biofiltration."

Through both bench-scale and pilot-scale study, Trinity has found that enhanced biofiltration can provide long-term water quality improvements, including taste and odor control and prevention of manganese break-

throughs. The results and analyses developed from this project provide improved operating parameters that can be implemented at full-scale for water utilities to enhance biofiltration performance.

These are just two examples of innovative and proactive subscriber utilities that have used WRF research to solve complex and multifaceted problems. We at WRF are proud to have played a part in their success.

Moving forward, WRF remains committed to providing its subscribers with the tools and focused research necessary to navigate the ever-changing water industry landscape. To achieve this, the Foundation is increasing its commitment to providing One Water research for the entire water community. Together, the Foundation expects to embark on a path toward the next 50 years of groundbreaking One Water research, paved with the knowledge gained thus far.



State Water Drought Regulations Extended through October

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Californians are urged to continue their efforts to conserve through the winter and spring months. These efforts should include complying with urban water supplier directives to switch to once-a-week watering schedules, not irrigating outdoors during and within 48 hours following a rain event, and fixing leaks that are discovered during individual water user audits, state officials said.

State officials added that, due to the lower monthly savings, January saw the lowest level of water supplier compliance

to date with 58% of suppliers meeting their conservation standards. The State Water Board's Office of Enforcement continues to work with water suppliers that are not meeting their conservation standards, and with small water suppliers that have not filed their December 2015 report, officials said.

On February 2, based on Gov. Brown's November 2015 Executive Order, the State Water Board approved an updated and expanded emergency regulation that will continue mandatory reductions through October, unless revised before

then. According to the State Water Board, the extended regulation responded to calls for continuing the conservation structure savings while providing greater consideration of three factors that influence water use: climate, population growth and significant investments in new local, drought-resilient water supplies such as wastewater reuse and desalination. Under the extended regulation, statewide water conservation is expected to continue at the high levels Californians have been achieving since June 2015, officials said.

Orange County Water and Sanitation Districts \$600 Million Investment in Water Reuse Project Continues to Pay Off

As California faces the fifth year of drought, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted and extended a revised emergency regulation to ensure that urban water conservation continues in 2016. The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) commends this important effort and is proud to have been invited to participate in the state's workgroup, along with Irvine Ranch Water District and San Diego, to develop this regulation. The District advocated for increasing the sustainable water supply credit for agencies that have made investments in drought-resilient water supply projects. The credit also incentivizes the building of new projects that will help mitigate the severity of future droughts.

The SWRCB recognized that without water supplies from sustainable projects, like OCWD's Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS), the current drought conditions would be more severe. It recommended a Drought Resilient Sources of Supply Credit to go toward potable reuse, sustainable water supplies, and desalination supplies when state conservation mandates are in place. This recommendation equates to a credit of up to eight percent to a retail water agency's reduction target, effectively adjusting its conservation saving.

"Time and time again the GWRS proves to be a tremendous investment for OCWD and our 19 member agencies who serve 2.4 million people in north and central Orange County," said OCWD

President Cathy Green. "These 19 retail agencies will now have a lower conservation target because they use water from the GWRS. More than \$600 million was invested in this project that helps the region meet conservation goals, increases local water supplies and helps us better weather drought. We are grateful that the agencies we serve will get credit for their significant investment in this drought-proof project," she added.

The SWRCB's recent action was prompted by Governor Brown's directive, in November 2015, to the board to extend the emergency water conservation regulation should drought conditions persist through January 2016. It will take multiple years of above-average rainfall to recover from current drought conditions, but water and regulatory agencies are working together to diversify supplies and plan for the future. We are all in this together and we are all part of the solution.

OCWD looks forward to working with the state and its staff on any future drought-related regulations. To learn more about the revised emergency regulation passed by the SWRCB, please visit <http://bit.ly/23J9PTR>.



New PPIC Report on Improving the Federal Response to the Western Drought

The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) recently released a report on *Improving the Federal Response to Western Drought: Five Areas for Reform*. The federal government is the largest landowner in the West and is central to the management

of water resources in this region. The federal government also provides significant funding to the western states (i.e., in 2014, more than \$2.8 billion for water and drought response). Because climate models predict that the west will become warmer and drier, it is important to strengthen the relationship between the federal government and western states.

This report proposes five practical reforms (listed below) that can help western states manage drought. These recommendations are based on a review of existing data and interviews with experts from federal, state, and local agencies, along with stakeholder groups: 1) Leverage federal authority; 2) Coordinate federal actions more effectively; 3) Change agricultural support

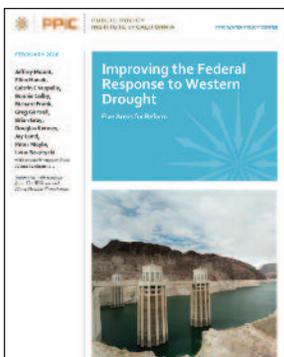
programs; 4) Improve headwaters management; 5) Improve water data and forecasting.

The full report can be downloaded for free from the PPIC webpage.

State Drinking Water Advisory Group to Hold meeting on Direct Potable Reuse

Meeting #10 of the California State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water's Advisory Group on Direct Potable Reuse will take place on Friday, April 8, 2016, from 10:30 am until 3:00 pm at the Orange County Water District in Fountain Valley. An agenda is forthcoming. Please visit the Group's website to access minutes from previous meetings and to register for e-mail updates on the Group's activities.

The DPR Advisory Group was established to provide guidance to the Expert Panel and DDW on evaluating the feasibility of developing statewide regulatory criteria for DPR projects. Meetings of the DPR Advisory Group are open to the public.



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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:

March 16, 2016 ♦ 10:30 am to Noon

Dave & Buster's Restaurant ♦ Irvine Spectrum Entertainment Center

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Utilities Analyst I & II: City of Anaheim Public Utilities

The Public Utilities Department is seeking to fill one position at either the **Utilities Analyst I** or **II** level depending on the qualifications of the applicant. The position will perform a variety of professional level work in a variety of areas including budgeting, rate development, planning, scheduling, cost benefit analysis, and perform operations for the **Public Utilities Department, Water Division**. This position will work on a wide range of water related subjects across the entire Water Division.

Note: The department has sole discretion to appoint at either level. The two classes are distinguished by level of experience required. In proportion to candidate's level of qualifications, consideration will be given at the appropriate level.

This recruitment will be conducted on a continuous basis with a **first review date of Friday, March 18, 2016**. Applicants are encouraged to apply by this date to assure consideration.

TO APPLY: Interested applicants **MUST** submit a completed personal profile and may apply online at www.anaheim.net/1954/Careers. The complete job profile may be viewed at www.anaheim.net/2107/Job-Opportunities.

You may contact the Human Resources Department at:

City of Anaheim, Human Resources

201 S Anaheim Boulevard, Suite 501 • Anaheim, California 92805
Phone: (714) 765-5111 • Hours: Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5 pm

FILING DEADLINE: The search for qualified candidates will be conducted internally and externally. **Applicants Encouraged to Apply Prior to March 18, 2016.**

Affirmative Action/EEO Employer, M/F/D/V/E/Verify

March Luncheon Topic

Developing Drought Rates: Why Agencies Should Prepare for a Not-So-Rainy Day

Presenter:

Mr. Sanjay Gaur

Vice President, Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc.

On April 1, 2015, California Governor Jerry Brown delivered news of the State's mandatory water cutbacks from a dried grassy field, where there normally is five feet of snow in early spring. The Sierra Nevada snowpack, a main payer in the State's water supply, registered a water content level of 1.4 inches, or 5% of its normal April 1st average. The 2015 reading was the lowest since California began keeping written records. Furthermore, the State's reservoirs are also well below normal levels as they too have begun to feel the effects of four consecutive years of drought.

In light of a dire water situation and the mandatory cutbacks, water agencies across the State are readying themselves for a period of limited water sales and increased water supply costs. Like many agencies have experienced in the past, this combination of reduced sales and increased costs can make it a challenge to meet financial operating needs. Traditionally, cash reserves have proven useful as a short-term solution for a quick injection of funds to meeting operating needs. However, the takeaway from California's extended drought is that drought rates are a better long-term solution for recovering lost revenues caused by drought conditions.

This presentation will cover how water agencies in California are dealing with these historical drought conditions and how the lessons learned can be applied in other parts of the Country. Specifically the following items will be covered:

- What are the different approaches in allocating water during drought conditions? What are the pros and cons of each approach and how do I know which approach is best suited for me?
- What are the financial cost of the drought? What factors should I take into account?
- How should I recover the cost of the drought? What are the pros and cons of each approach? Again, which approach is best suited for me?

Mr. Gaur has over 18 years of public-sector consulting experience, primarily focusing on providing financial and rate consulting services to water and wastewater utilities. He has often provided his insight into utility rate and conservation-related matters for various publications and industry forums, including: L.A. Times, New York Times, Milken Institute, National Public Radio, American Water Works Association (AWWA), the Utility Management Conference, Association of California Water Agencies, and California Society of Municipal Finance Officers. He has co-authored several industry guide books including AWWA's Manual M1 Principles of Water Rates, Fees and Charges, 6th Edition; Water Rates, Fees, and the Legal Environment, Second Edition and lastly, Water and Wastewater Finance and Pricing: The Changing Landscape. Mr. Gaur is a member of AWWA's Rates and Charges Committee.

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

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 16, to qualify for the Reservation Rate. Cancellations received AFTER this date CANNOT be refunded.

To make reservations, please go to the OCWA website: www.oc-water.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

Membership Deadline Extended! Final Date Set for April 1

**2016 Membership Campaign Drawing to a Close;
Payment by April 1 Ensures Directory Listing**

The deadline for annual membership dues for the Orange County Water Association **has been extended to Friday, April 1, 2016.**

Those who make payment by this date will ensure a listing both for themselves and their organization in this year's Membership Directory.

Dues for 2016 are \$60.

Checks, made payable to OCWA, can be mailed to the Membership Committee at P.O. Box 51404, Irvine, California 92619-1404, or you may pay by credit card at www.oc-water.org.

If you have any questions concerning membership, please email them to membership@oc-water.org.