

Water Horizons

September, 2005

Valley Water Alliance Update

Building Industry Association of Tulare/Kings Counties Steps Up

The Valley Water Alliance is succeeding because of the generous support of so many individuals and organizations throughout the region. We would like to acknowledge the Building Industry Association of Tulare and Kings Counties for their generous contribution of \$10,000. The funds contributed by the BIA were collected from each of their individual homebuilder and subcontractor members who recognize the need to protect our water and our future. Without San Joaquin River water the impact on our economy will be significant. Their Executive Director, Bob Keenan, is also actively serving on the Alliances board of directors. Thank you to the homebuilders of Tulare and Kings counties for stepping up and making a difference.

Councilman Couch from City of Bakersfield Joins Alliance Board

The Valley Water Alliance is a coalition created to represent the diverse citizenry and communities throughout the Central Valley who would be impacted from the loss of San Joaquin River water. Bakersfield City Councilman David Couch has recently accepted our invitation to join the Alliance as a VWA Board member. We know David will compliment our existing board and look forward to having his valuable input and direction to the organization.

The addition of Councilman Couch, who represents the more than 279,700 residents of the City of Bakersfield, will make a significant contribution in our efforts to maintain an adequate water supply. Participation by individuals such as the Councilman who speak directly to what water losses mean to a communities such as Bakersfield will help us insure the social, cultural and economic impacts of any decisions impacting our water supplies are taken into consideration.

Bringing Communities Together

The success of the Valley Water Alliance is its ability to bring all interests who rely upon water for their livelihoods in a community together. This includes business, labor, resource, agricultural and community interests who recognize water is vital to our region. Randy Ghan of the Fresno, Madera, Tulare and Kings Central Labor Council has been a critical member of the VWA board of directors. He recognizes without water the laborers in the community he works so hard to represent every day would be without jobs.

Chuck Waite, a labor colleague from the SEIU in Kern County, also recognizes without water his members won't have jobs. Chuck joined the board of directors of the Valley Water Alliance in July of this year. His input regarding the impact of any water loss to the hardworking laborers in the southern part of our region will be important. The Alliance's success is dependent upon making sure everyone's voice is heard. The participation of people like Randy Ghan and Chuck Waite who understand the impact of any water loss from their unique perspective is critical to our success.

List of City and County Supporting Resolutions Continues to Grow

It is important as we continue to fight for our Central Valley water we have the support of each of the more than 40 cities and communities in the region that will be impacted. Numerous cities, counties and local organizations throughout the Central Valley are voicing their support of VWA and its goals by passing resolutions that acknowledge the need to protect our San Joaquin River water supplies. Community leaders are going on record in support of continued reliable, sustainable water supplies for their citizens as has been afforded them for more than 60 years from the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project, consistent with the

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historic commitments made to them by the federal and state governments. It is the hope amongst the counties, cities and interest groups supporting the Alliance's efforts a reasonable balance among all competing interests is achieved to bring water supply reliability to the region.

It has been the goal of the Alliance to gain unanimous support of the cities and counties impacted directly and indirectly by any change in San Joaquin River water supplies. Over the past week we have had numerous resolutions passed and scheduled for consideration. Among these the County of Madera, the City of Bakersfield and City of Delano have all passed supporting resolutions, while the cities of Corcoran, Lemoore and Dinuba are schedule to vote upon one in the next few weeks. The Alliance wants to thank the cities and counties who have passed or are considering passage of a resolution, and strongly urge those who haven't to introduce a resolution. These resolutions will be carried with the Alliance representatives during lobbying trips to Sacramento and Washington, D.C. this fall. They convey an important message that we are a unified voice in the Central Valley with a common goal of protecting our water and our future.

If you would like to assist the Alliance in having a resolution passed by the City Council or County of Supervisors in your community please contact Alfreda Sebasto at 559-291-0184 or info@valleywateralliance.org.

Mayor Murray of Lindsay Prepares for Lobbying Trip

Making sure our voices are heard in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. will make a difference as we continue to work together to protect our water rights. During the week of September 19, Valley Water Alliance board members, Mayor Ed Murray of Lindsay and Dale Brogan of Delano, who is the secretary/treasurer of the Alliance, will take time from their busy schedules to educate and advocate members of the 109th Congress in Washington, D.C.

The community of Lindsay is dependent upon San Joaquin River water not only for drinking water supplies for their residents, but for irrigation water for the dominate agricultural industry. Mayor Murray will be telling his communities' story to members of Congress and requesting their support to find a balanced solution to the fight for San Joaquin River water. Having depended on San Joaquin River water for a half century, the more than 10,700 residents in Lindsay would be significantly impacted by any change in their water supply. They rely upon the River for their

drinking water supply as well as a source of irrigation for the numerous family farms that employ Lindsay residents. The numerous local businesses such as the hardware store, restaurants and local video store will also see their business disappear if the water supply for Lindsay is redirected to creating a salmon fishery on the San Joaquin River.

Special Acknowledgement

We would like to extend our appreciation to Provost and Pritchard Engineering for their significant support of the Valley Water Alliance. They devoted their entire newsletter in July to a profile of the Valley Water Alliance and our fight to save San Joaquin River water supplies. The effort to assist VWA in spreading the word about the need to come together and fight for our water rights is greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in doing the same please contact Alfreda Sebasto at 559-291-0184 or info@valleywateralliance.org for assistance. You should also feel welcome to reproduce the information provided on the website at www.valleywateralliance.org as long as attribution is given to the organization and source of the information.

Ganskie Heads Back to Cal Poly

This summer the Valley Water Alliance has been fortunate to have Casey Ganskie interning with the organization. A third year Cal Poly student, Casey will be completing his internship this month and heading back to college to complete his degree. Dale Brogan commented, "Casey has been invaluable to the Alliance this summer. Helping us to get our foundation in place, including making countless calls to organizations throughout the region to coordinate speaking opportunities. We wish Casey the best of luck in his future endeavors and look forward to having him advocate for water related issues in the future." Now it's our job to protect our water and our future so Casey, and other college students like him, can find a job in California's Central Valley when they graduate.

WWW.VALLEYWATERALLIANCE.ORG

If you haven't done so yet, don't forget to check out the Valley Water Alliance website.

Please contact the Valley Water Alliance at info@valleywateralliance.org if you would like a presentation about VWA or need additional information. To be placed on the Alliance's mailing list, or to provide edits or submissions for our monthly newsletter please contact Alfreda Sebasto at info@valleywateralliance.org or call 559-291-0184.



Our Water, Our Future.