

HHIA - Utility Report for Meeting on 2019.04.15 (Monday)

Main San Gabriel Key Water Well Level updates:

**** Historic Low: 169.4 ft. (on 2018.11.21)**

Historic High: 295.30 ft. on 1983.07.20 (Since entry of judgment in 1973)

Current: (As of 2019.03.29), 189.20 ft. (64.07% vs High).

Related link:

<http://www.watermaster.org/>

Local Groundwater Level: **21%** of capacity.

Major Reservoir Conditions in CA: **65%** of capacity.

Local Rainfall: **45%** of Season Normal

CA Snowpack level: 105% of Normal to Date

Related link:

<http://sgvmwd.org/>

California Water Board Adopts Statewide Wetland Definition and Procedures Effort Protects Environmentally Sensitive Waterways from Dredge and Fill Activities

April 2, 2019

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SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) today adopted rules to protect wetlands and other environmentally sensitive waterways throughout the state.

More than 90 percent of California’s historic wetlands have been lost to development and other human activity. Wetlands are a critical natural resource that protect and improve water quality, provide habitat for fish and wildlife, and buffer developed areas from flooding and sea-level rise.

The newly adopted rules provide a common, statewide definition of what constitutes a wetland. They also provide consistency in the way the State Water Board and nine regional water boards regulate activities to protect wetlands and other waterways, such as rivers and streams, and bays and estuaries.

“Californians take pride in balancing both the ecologic and economic needs of our state,” said State Water Board Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel. “It’s critical we established this consistent statewide framework that protects and enhances our most sensitive water resources, while creating regulatory certainty for housing, agriculture, water managers, conservationists, and communities.”

The rules have two components that support each other. First, the rules define what is considered a wetland and include a framework for determining if a feature defined as a wetland is a “water of the state” subject to regulation. Second, the rules clarify requirements for permit applications to discharge dredged or fill material to any water of the state.

The rules are largely based on the scientific conclusions used for the existing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ wetland definition and regulatory programs. One exception is that in arid portions of the

state, the State Water Board’s definition protects non-vegetated wetlands, such as desert playas, that otherwise would not be covered under federal jurisdiction.

Furthermore, waters of the state are, by definition, broader than “waters of the United States” covered by federal regulation. The newly adopted rules do not change that and will ensure that waters of the state will continue to be protected even if protections for federal waters are narrowed by administrative actions or the courts.

As adopted the rules will:

- Clarify what is considered a wetland – and what is not – for the entire state.
- Provide a common framework for monitoring and reporting the quality of California’s remaining wetlands.
- Help ensure no overall net loss, and promote an increase, in the quantity, quality, and sustainability of waters of the state, including wetlands.
- Improve transparency and consistency across the State Water Board and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards in how discharges of dredged or fill material in sensitive waterways are monitored and regulated.
- Avoid duplicative work and streamline requirements to cover all waters of the state, so both state and federal environmental concerns are addressed at once.

Adoption of the rules culminates an effort begun more than a decade ago. In 2008, staff began conducting informal stakeholder meetings to develop the wetland definition and requirements. Early draft versions were released for public comment in 2016 and 2017. Following extensive public and stakeholder input, a revised draft was issued in January 2019. Since January, State Water Board staff held four workshops, as well as one-on-one meetings with various interest groups, to listen to and address stakeholder concerns.

For more information on the State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State, visit the program home page. A fact sheet is also available.

Related link:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2019.html

ROWLAND WATER DISTRICT RECEIVES HIGH MARKS FROM CUSTOMERS IN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Results demonstrate high satisfaction with customer outreach and overall level of service

April 1, 2019 –Rowland Water District has released a detailed report on the results of its most recent Community Opinion Survey. The survey was conducted between October 12-November 4, 2018 among all customers within the Rowland Water District service area. Interviews were conducted in English, Spanish and Chinese on topics ranging from important issues currently facing ratepayers, water usage habits, and customer perception of the District’s job efficiency and effectiveness.

“It was imperative for us to check the pulse of our customers on the issues facing our community, in an era where the focus remains on drought-related topics such as water conservation,” says Rowland Water District General Manager Tom Coleman. “How are we doing, and what can we do better? These are important questions, and the thoughtful responses we have received will go a long way in determining the steps we take in terms of future goals and objectives.”

According to the 400-plus page report compiled by J. Wallin Research, an independent research firm, 89.2% of survey respondents approve of the job that the District is doing.

“This report offers us invaluable feedback as we look to future operations of the District,” said Rowland Water Board President Robert Lewis. “An active dialogue with our customers is vital to the success of our organization and we look forward to taking their lead in making some of our most important customer service decisions.”

When customers were asked if they believed they are using more, less, or about the same amount of water as they did at this time last year, 21.5% said they are using less water, a direct reflection of the District’s effort to encourage water use efficiency.

Roughly three-quarters of those surveyed (73.5%) said they are concerned about the availability of water in their community in the years to come, and 93.6% of respondents said that recycled water is important in helping with their community’s future water needs.

“It is satisfying to know that our efforts to pursue alternative water supplies is resonating with our ratepayers,” added Coleman. “It is evidence that our conversations with customers are working, and we are excited to have more information on how best to connect with them on pressing issues.”

To learn more about Rowland Water District and to view the results of the community opinion survey, visit the District’s website at www.rowlandwater.com.

Related link:

<https://www.rowlandwater.com/rowland-water-district-receives-high-marks-from-customers-in-community-survey/>

Upper San Gabriel Water District

The drought is over. Or not

California had a wet November, a moist December, an absolutely drenched January and February, and so far a fairly watery March. Los Angeles exceeded its average annual rainfall a month ago, less than halfway into the “water year” (which runs from October through the following September). The Sierra snowpack is at more than 150% of average. The state is soaked.

So how come the U.S. Drought Monitor waited until Wednesday to declare California drought free for the first time in seven years? Hasn’t he been paying attention? And who is that guy, anyway?

It’s complicated. The Drought Monitor isn’t a person or even an agency, but a weekly report by climate scientists that’s issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other partners. These experts use the word “drought” to describe a shortfall on the hydrological balance sheet. It may rain steadily for 40 days and 40 nights, but a region might still be in “drought” — as climatologists, water managers and the Drought Monitor use the term — if its reservoirs are half-empty or if residents are using water at an unusually high clip.

California had a wet 2016-17 water year too. But that didn’t free the state from drought because it followed nearly a decade of unusually dry conditions in which the Sierra snowpack shrank, groundwater reserves were depleted and reservoirs drained.

It's a little like losing your job. The income stops but the expenses remain, so you tap your savings and figure out how to make do with less.

The current wet winter, on the other hand, is like getting a new position with a great salary but little job security. The money's nice, but after seven years of unemployment, there's a backlog of debts to pay. And the cash could stop coming at any time.

Repaying California's water debts means refilling reservoirs and replenishing groundwater. Only this week — after 376 straight weeks of a water deficit — has California broken even.

But not really. Central Valley groundwater was so depleted during the dry streak that much of the land shriveled up and will never again hold as much water as it once did.

The word “drought” doesn't really work in California or the rest of the arid West, where we sometimes go years without much precipitation but can manage a sustainable water supply if we recycle wastewater and capture the few raindrops that do fall, so we can use each gallon many times over. We think of “drought” as a shortage of the stuff that falls from the sky, but that misleads us into thinking that the rain alone is our salvation or destruction. We should think instead of our hydrological bank account — and do more to sustain a healthy level of water assets, regardless of how much rain the water year brings.

Related link:

https://enewspaper.latimes.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?guid=d141a886-4905-40fc-a124-dbc9deb80992

Southern California Gas

SoCalGas Raises Giant Shovel to Remind Southern Californians to Call 811 Before Digging

Thirty-foot-tall shovel brings important public safety message and commemorates National Safe Digging Month

Apr 5, 2019

LOS ANGELES, April 5, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- To promote National Safe Digging Month, Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) will bring a 30-foot-tall shovel to the Angel Stadium of Anaheim to raise awareness about the importance of contacting 811 at least 72 hours prior to the start of any excavation project. When residents or contractors dial 811 before any project that involves digging, utility companies will mark the locations of underground lines to prevent them from being damaged, which could cause injury or service outages.

SoCalGas will take the giant shovel—popular for selfies—to inform area residents about pipeline safety, customer assistance programs and the company's vision for California's Clean Energy Future. The shovel will be displayed at the Angel Stadium of Anaheim from April 5-7. The partnership includes radio spots on Angels Radio AM830 and an in-stadium video that will air for fans.

On April 9, SoCalGas is partnering with Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Bakersfield Fire and Kern County Fire to raise awareness about National Safe Digging Month and remind customers to contact 811 before digging in the yard or on the job. Both utilities and fire departments will show paint

markings in the street for the approximate location of buried utility lines at SoCalGas' regional base on McMurtrey Avenue near Highways 99 and 65 in Bakersfield starting at 10 a.m.

An underground utility line is accidentally damaged once every nine minutes nationwide. Those accidents can lead to significant safety hazards or result in costly repair bills for homeowners. Across SoCalGas' service territory, about 60 percent of pipeline damage due to digging is caused by homeowners, contractors, and excavators who did not call 811 before digging.

"Last year, SoCalGas recorded close to 3,000 cases of damage to underground infrastructure caused by customers who did not call 811 prior to digging, but we know that number can be drastically reduced by practicing safe digging," said Rodger Schwecke, senior vice president, gas operations and construction for SoCalGas. "Data shows that when customers call 811 before digging, the likelihood of hitting a utility line is decreased by 99 percent."

In addition to the big shovel being at Angel Stadium, Schwecke will be throwing out the first pitch at the Angels game on Sunday, April 7 at approximately 1 p.m. to bring awareness to calling 811 before you dig.

SoCalGas encourages customers to take the following steps when planning any digging project this spring:

- Mark out your proposed work area in white (paint, chalk, flour, flags, etc.).
- Call 811 or submit an online location request to Underground Service Alert at least two working days prior to when you'll start digging.
- Wait to hear from us. We'll either come mark our natural gas lines, indicating pipe material and diameter, or let you know that the area is clear.
- Remember that SoCalGas' uses yellow paint to mark its lines.
- If you need to dig within 24 inches of a marked utility line, use only hand tools to carefully expose the exact locations of the line before using any power excavation equipment in the area.
- Report any pipe damage – no matter how big or how small – by calling us immediately at 1-800-427-2200. Call: 1-800-427-2200.

811 is the national phone number, designated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), that connects professionals and homeowners who plan to dig with a local call center. The call center collects information about the planned dig site and communicates with the appropriate utility companies, which then send professional utility locating technicians to identify and mark the approximate location of lines. Once lines have been marked, the caller may dig safely around the marks.

Related link:

<https://sempra.mediaroom.com/2019-04-05-SoCalGas-Raises-Giant-Shovel-to-Remind-Southern-Californians-to-Call-811-Before-Digging>

SoCalGas Announces a Plan for a Broad, Inclusive, Integrated Approach to Help Achieve California's Ambitious Environmental Goals

New strategy would help keep energy affordable, develop long-term renewable energy storage, and promote rapid consumer adoption - builds on SoCalGas' goal to be cleanest natural gas utility in North America

Apr 2, 2019

LOS ANGELES, April 2, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) today released a broad, inclusive and integrated plan to help achieve California's ambitious environmental goals in a paper titled California's Clean Energy Future: Imagine the Possibilities. The plan embraces an all-of-the-above approach to fight climate change, keeps energy affordability as a key focus, calls for developing long-term renewable energy storage using existing infrastructure, and can aid in promoting rapid consumer adoption. The new strategy comes one month after SoCalGas announced its vision to be the cleanest natural gas utility in North America, delivering affordable and increasingly renewable energy to its customers. As part of that vision, SoCalGas committed to replace 20 percent of its traditional natural gas supply with renewable natural gas (RNG) by 2030.

"Achieving California's ambitious climate goals will require business leaders, non-governmental organizations, and policymakers to work together to re-imagine how California's energy infrastructure can operate as one, integrated system that maximizes emissions reductions and minimizes waste," said Bret Lane, SoCalGas chief executive officer. "Implementing a balanced approach that promotes advanced energy technologies will allow California to keep energy affordable and reliable and preserve consumer choice."

"We need to take an expedited, but Kaizen approach to combatting climate change. I welcome incorporating energy sources such as hydrogen and renewable natural gas into our energy infrastructure," said Duarte Mayor Pro Tem Sam Kang. "It would be irresponsible to legislate solely in favor of one technology over another and doing so could come at the expense of the innovation necessary for a carbon-neutral economy."

"It is important to remember that many Californians do not have the means to make the changes some are advocating for," said Andy Molina, president of the Southeast Churches Services Center. "SoCalGas has been a tremendous community partner as we work to ensure all our neighbors have clean and affordable energy in their homes and we welcome this new plan and look forward to continuing this work together."

"It is an honor for the CA Latino Leadership Institute to partner with SoCalGas in California's underserved communities building career pathways into energy including renewable, natural gas and electricity for high school youth," said Lisa Baca, executive director for the CA Latino Leadership Institute. "We welcome any plan that will help create good jobs and maintains affordable energy for all."

Keeping Energy Affordable

A cornerstone of this new clean energy strategy is SoCalGas' commitment to replace 20 percent of its traditional natural gas supply with renewable natural gas (RNG) by 2030. RNG is a renewable fuel produced from food waste, farms, landfills, and even sewer systems. It can rapidly cut greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) because it takes more climate pollution out of the air than it emits as an energy source. RNG is already helping eliminate emissions from trucks and buses and recently SoCalGas asked the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for support to bring this renewable fuel to homes and businesses.

To kickstart the plan, SoCalGas will pursue regulatory authority to implement a broad renewable natural gas procurement program with a goal of replacing five percent of its natural gas supply with RNG by 2022. SoCalGas also recently filed a request with the CPUC to allow customers to purchase

renewable natural gas for their homes. SoCalGas seeks to have CPUC approval of its voluntary program by the end of the year.

Research shows that replacing about 20 percent of California's traditional natural gas supply with RNG would lower emissions equal to retrofitting every building in the state to run on electric only energy and at a fraction of the cost. Using RNG in buildings can be two to three times less expensive than any all-electric strategy and does not require families or businesses to purchase new appliances or take on costly construction projects.

A 2016 law requires 40 percent of methane from California's landfills and farms to be captured, with provisions to deliver that energy to customers. This will bolster the supply of RNG that is already growing rapidly as cities and towns across the country look to divert organic waste from landfills. In California, scientists at the University of California, Davis estimate that the state's existing organic waste could produce enough RNG to meet the needs of 2.3 million homes.

Developing Long-term and Seasonal Renewable Energy Storage Using Existing Infrastructure

California already produces more renewable energy than residents and businesses can use on most days and reaching 100 percent renewable electricity isn't as simple as adding more solar panels and wind turbines. That's because there is a mismatch between when renewable energy is generated (during the day) and when people need it (around the clock). Without new solutions to long-term storage, by 2025, California is expected to waste enough renewable energy each year to power Los Angeles County for more than a month.

Advances in battery technology will help prevent some of this waste. However, batteries are most effective in managing short term demand for energy and are not well suited for long-term and seasonal energy storage. One example of a broad, inclusive view of energy is Hydrogen. Hydrogen is a zero-emissions energy resource that has the potential to provide the long-term and seasonal energy storage on a scale that batteries cannot.

One relatively new technology that can produce green hydrogen is called Power-to-Gas. It works by converting surplus solar and wind electricity into basic elements, including hydrogen that can be used as energy. Power-to-Gas technology has already been deployed at the University of California, Irvine where hydrogen produced from solar panels is being blended into the campus' natural gas system and stored for later use. Large scale Power-to-Gas projects are also underway across Europe including in the United Kingdom where researchers are set to begin blending up to 20 percent of hydrogen (by volume) with the normal gas supply in part of Keele University's gas network. The "Les Hauts de France", in France is another an ambitious Power-to-Gas project, that aims to build five 100 MW hydrogen production units over a five-year period.

Using this technology, SoCalGas' clean energy strategy describes how California's existing natural gas infrastructure could store significant amounts of renewable solar and wind power for months and address seasonal fluctuations in energy supply and demand.

Inspiring Consumer Adoption

Preserving choice, providing affordable options and minimizing disruption to people's daily lives are also important strategies outlined in the plan, to inspire rapid consumer adoption here and around the world. California emits less than one percent of global GHG emissions. To have a meaningful impact on climate change, the state needs solutions that can be readily adopted by other states and countries.

This includes examining the entire energy value chain, so emissions are not inadvertently transferred to other regions.

Carbon Capture and Utilization (CCU)

SoCalGas' strategy also calls for carbon dioxide (CO₂) released from industrial processes and power plants to be captured and recycled as a raw material to produce a variety of products. Using Power-to-Gas technology, these carbon emissions can also be combined with hydrogen to form renewable gas to fuel homes, businesses and vehicles.

CCU technology is advancing quickly and many companies around the world are already using it. One California-based company is making plastics from captured carbon instead of petroleum. A Canadian company is using carbon captured from power plants to make stronger concrete. And a German company uses waste CO₂ to make polymers. According to the Global CO₂ initiative, the market for products made from CO₂ could be more than \$800 billion and use 7 billion metric tons of CO₂ per year by 2030—the equivalent of approximately 15 percent of current annual global CO₂ emissions.

The plan released today calls on California to deploy every resource available to combat climate change, and specifically to:

- Use the full suite of energy options currently available, including wind, solar, batteries and traditional natural gas;
- Expand implementation of existing and nascent technologies such as renewable natural gas, Power-to-Gas, and carbon capture and utilization; and
- Foster policies that allow for the development of innovative technologies and new ideas because California cannot assume that all the energy solutions to achieve carbon neutrality are known and in existence today.

To read more about our vision for California's clean energy future, visit www.socalgas.com/vision.

Related link:

<https://sempra.mediaroom.com/2019-04-02-SoCalGas-Announces-a-Plan-for-a-Broad-Inclusive-Integrated-Approach-to-Help-Achieve-Californias-Ambitious-Environmental-Goals>

Traffic Advisory: SoCalGas Pipeline Modernization Project on Grand Avenue & Chestnut Avenue in Santa Ana Expected to Begin April 1

Infrastructure upgrades are part of a multi-billion-dollar safety enhancement program

Mar 29, 2019

WHAT: SoCalGas is performing a pipeline modernization project on a segment of natural gas pipeline on South Grand Avenue and East Chestnut Avenue in Santa Ana. Crews are expected to begin work in the area on April 1, 2019 and continue through March 2020.

To perform this pipeline work safely, full lane closures will take place on the westbound lanes of East Chestnut Avenue before the South Grand Avenue intersection.

K-rail barriers will help direct the flow of traffic. Residents and local business owners may hear some work-related noise. During work hours, commuters passing by the work site may see excavation, equipment and vehicles.

No interruption to natural gas service is anticipated.

Customers may smell the odor of natural gas. Although this is normal when crews are working, SoCalGas encourages anyone who smells gas to call us at 1-800-427-2200. SoCalGas is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

WHERE: East Chestnut Avenue before the intersection of South Grand Avenue as shown in this link.

WHEN: Work is expected to begin April 1, 2019 and continue through March 2020, weather and other conditions permitting. Lanes will be reduced from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. but lane closures may extend beyond work hours on certain days/weeks.

Related link:

<https://sempra.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=19080&item=137629>

Traffic Advisory: Lane Reduction Along Central Avenue & Victoria Street in City of Carson for Pipeline Modernization Project to Begin April 1

SoCalGas Crews are expected to work in the area for approximately 2 weeks

Mar 29, 2019

WHAT: SoCalGas will be performing work for a pipeline modernization project on South Central Avenue and East Victoria Street in the City of Carson, starting April 1. Work is expected to continue through April 12, 2019.

To perform this project safely, the right lane of South Central Avenue will be closed for northbound traffic at East Victoria Street.

Traffic control cones and flagmen will help direct the flow of traffic. Residents, local businesses, and commuters may hear work-related noise and see excavation, equipment and vehicles.

Businesses will be open and accessible during the project. No interruption to natural gas service is anticipated.

Customers may smell the odor of natural gas. Although this is normal when crews are working, SoCalGas encourages anyone who smells gas to call us at 1-800-427-2200. SoCalGas is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

WHERE: Central Avenue and Victoria Street in the City of Carson as shown here.

WHEN: Work hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The northbound, right lane on Central Avenue will be closed. Work will begin April 1 and end April 12, 2019, weather and other conditions permitting.

PUBLIC CONTACT: Customers with questions or concerns about the construction work may call SoCalGas' Customer Contact Center 24-hours a day, seven-days a week at 800-427-2200. Our top priorities are to work safely and to provide the communities we serve with safe and reliable natural gas service.

Related link:

<https://sempira.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=19080&item=137628>

Report by *Ted Chang*
HHIA Board Director, Utility