

## **HHIA - Utility Report for Meeting on 2018.08.20**

Main San Gabriel Key Water Well Level updates:

**Historic Low:** 172.20 ft. (on 2016.10.07)

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

**Current:** (As of 2018.06.08), 175.40 ft. (59.40% vs High; **1.41% less than July 2018.**)

### **Related link:**

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

## **L.A. County votes to put new property tax before voters to clean storm water**

By NINA AGRAWAL

JUL 17, 2018

### **Los Angeles County supervisors voted Tuesday to place a property tax before voters in November to raise money for projects to capture and clean storm water.**

The measure would allow the county to levy a tax of 2.5 cents per square foot of “impermeable space” on private property. Government buildings, public schools and nonprofit organizations would be exempt.

Revenue from the tax, estimated to amount to \$300 million annually, would fund the construction, operation and maintenance of projects that collect, clean and conserve storm water. The average tax for a single-family house would be \$83.

Advocates of the Safe, Clean Water Program say it would improve water quality, enabling cities across the county to comply with federal clean water regulations as well as increase the local water supply.

“Can we ensure an adequate water supply for the future? Can we improve water quality? Can we make sure beaches are clean? The answer, happily, thanks to all of your work, is yes,” said Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, who has led the effort.

“L.A. County is heavily reliant on imported water and faces an uncertain future,” Department of Public Works Director Mark Pestrella said in a presentation before the board Tuesday. “Storm water capture systems are a sound investment in our water security efforts.”

More than 100 billion gallons of storm water is lost to the ocean from L.A. County every year, carrying with it 4,200 tons of trash and pollutants.

With the Safe, Clean Water Program in place, the county could capture up to 42 billion of those gallons, Pestrella said.

Though benefits to the water supply have been a major selling point for Kuehl and Pestrella, the primary goal of the program is to help cities meet costly water-quality mandates.

Under the federal Clean Water Act and related permits given out by the state, cities must clean up the water they discharge into local waterways or face possible costly fines and lawsuits. Compliance with the regulations is estimated to cost L.A. County a total of \$20 billion over 20 years.

“We’ve got 88 cities in the county who have been unable to fully address water quality issues because there is no source of funding,” Kuehl said. “And the deadline to meet the requirements is getting closer and closer.”

More than 100 people spoke at Tuesday’s hearing, most in support of the proposed ballot measure.

Some cited the potential for job creation and benefits for disadvantaged communities, which are identified as a priority under the program.

“We support [this measure],” said Luis Melliz of the Council of Mexican Federations, an L.A.-based nonprofit. “Our most vulnerable communities suffer disproportionately from high flood risk, poor air quality, poor water quality, extreme heat ... and lack of green space.”

Others cited concerns about fairness to those who have already taken measures to mitigate storm water runoff and about the lack of a sunset date for the tax.

The program would grant credits to parcel owners who can show they already capture or treat storm water or have reduced the amount of runoff from their property, but they would have to recertify their eligibility every two years.

The proposed ordinance would reevaluate the need for the program after 30 years and possibly reduce the tax at that time, but it makes no guarantees.

Although the L.A. Chamber of Commerce formally adopted a neutral position on the measure at the last minute, other business groups continue to oppose it.

Mike Lewis of BizFed called the credit provisions burdensome, costly and “designed to discourage people from applying.”

Peter Herzog of NAIOP, a commercial real estate organization, said attention had been diverted from the fact that the measure is “a brand new, permanent tax” with no implementing regulations yet attached.

Supervisor Kathryn Barger cast the lone dissenting vote.

“If this were a parcel tax that dealt strictly with the [storm water discharge] permit on compliance, I would be a yes vote today,” she said. “I just can’t vote for something that goes above and beyond at a time when I feel we need to be fiscally responsible.”

The tax, which will appear on the Nov. 6 ballot, will need approval from two-thirds of voters.

**Related link:**

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-stormwater-tax-20180717-story.html>

**CA State Water Boards Press Releases**

**State Water Board Releases Guidelines for Testing and Reporting on PFOA and PFOS in Drinking Water**

**Division of Drinking Water Provides Guidance to Water Systems Statewide**

Contact: **George Kostyrko**  
[george.kostyrko@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:george.kostyrko@waterboards.ca.gov)  
July 13, 2018

SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board today established new drinking water guidelines for local water agencies to follow in detecting and reporting the presence of contaminants once used in grease and stain-resistant coatings for consumer products and firefighting foams.

The guidelines adopted by the board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) set interim Notification Levels of 14 parts per trillion (ppt) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and 13 ppt for perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), chemicals that were widely used in consumer products until they were phased out in the 2000s due to health concerns. Exposure to PFOA and PFOS over certain levels is associated with adverse health effects that include cancer and developmental harm.

The new guidelines are based on the most health protective levels set by other states and follow a recommendation by the California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. The notification levels are being adopted on an interim basis while OEHHA conducts further analysis and develops a final recommendation later this year.

The notification guidelines do not require water agencies to test their water for these contaminants, although most California water systems serving more than 10,000 people already have. But if they do test and the level is exceeded, then water agencies are required to report the results to their governing boards and to the State Water Board. They are also urged to report this information to their customers.

The establishment of a notification level is often an initial step in the process of adopting a formal state regulatory standard, called a Maximum Contaminant Level. Data collected as a result of the new guidelines, reflecting the extent and levels of contamination, will inform DDW's decision about whether to adopt a regulatory standard for PFOA and PFOS.

As part of these guidelines, DDW is also establishing an interim Response Level of 70 ppt for the total combined concentration of PFOA and PFOS, consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's health advisory level established in 2016. If this level is exceeded in drinking water provided to consumers, DDW recommends that the water agency remove the water source from service.

In California 455 public water systems have tested for PFOA and PFOS. Of those, eight systems reported exceedances of the 70 ppt level for either PFOA, PFOS or both combined. These systems either have taken steps to treat their water to a level below the health advisory or have taken the water source out of service.

Part of a family of chemicals known as perfluoroalkyl substances, PFOA and PFOS were routinely used in grease-proof coatings for food packaging; stain-resistant coatings for carpets, clothing and furniture; and as an ingredient in coatings for not-stick cookware. In addition, these compounds have also been used in fire-retarding foams and various industrial processes.

While consumer products are a large source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water has become an increasing concern due to their persistence in the environment and tendency to accumulate in groundwater. Groundwater contamination is typically localized and associated with an industrial facility where these chemicals were manufactured or used in other products, or airfields which used the chemicals for firefighting.

**Related link:**

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press\\_room/press\\_releases/2018.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2018.html)

**Rowland Water District****“CONSERVATION AS A WAY OF LIFE” CONTINUES AS DISTRICT APPROVES WATER CONTINGENCY PLAN”****Vote Ensures Future Emergency Water Supplies for Customers**

July 19, 2018 – At its regular board meeting Tuesday, July 10th, the Rowland Water District Board of Directors voted 4-0 to adopt an ordinance advancing a comprehensive water conservation plan. The ordinance ensures future availability for customers in the event of a water emergency, limits the demand for imported water to avoid penalties for excessive use, and guarantees a reliable and sustainable supply for public health, safety, and welfare.

“Here in California, there is an ongoing and substantial threat of a severe water shortage in which the District’s supplies could be severely curtailed by State authorities,” explains Tom Coleman, General Manager for Rowland Water District. “We strongly believe that it is in the best interest of the residents and businesses within our District to implement this ordinance swiftly in order to conserve our current water supplies and prevent future waste.”

Ordinance No. 0-7-2018 outlines the measures to be taken in the event of water emergencies in which the District decides that the available water supply is not sufficient to meet expected consumer demands. Shortages range in severity according to Levels 1-4, with Level 4 being the most severe emergency situation such as the breakage or failure of a pipeline or dam.

A full listing of the restrictions applicable to the level of the declared shortage can be found online, and notice of the activation of a shortage will be included in the customer billing statement or in a separate mailing. At each shortage level, consumers will receive written notices for violations, and issued fines if those violations are not corrected within a certain time frame.

“While we are only experiencing an initial conservation stage now, we encourage our customers to always use water efficiently, even during times of adequate supplies,” adds Coleman. “Conservation practices include specific watering hours and other water use restrictions, each of which helps all of us remain aware of what’s at stake if we don’t conserve as much as we can together.”

**Related link:**

<https://www.rowlandwater.com/conservation-as-a-way-of-life-continues-as-district-approves-water-contingency-plan/>

**The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**

Contacts:

**Rebecca Kimitch**, (213) 217-6450; (202) 821-5253, mobile

**Bob Muir**, (213) 217-6930; (213) 324-5213, mobile

July 25, 2018

## **METROPOLITAN TO REOPEN DIAMOND VALLEY LAKE TO RECREATION FRIDAY (JULY 27) AS CYANOTOXIN CONDITIONS IMPROVE**

### **Bloom has not affected safety, quality of Metropolitan's treated drinking water**

Southern California's largest lake will reopen to recreation Friday (July 27) after water quality tests confirmed the potential health effects of a large bloom of cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, have diminished, Metropolitan Water District officials announced today.

Recreational activities, including boating, fishing and hiking, had been suspended at Diamond Valley Lake near Hemet in southwest Riverside County since June 21 after the cyanotoxins, produced by a bloom of cyanobacteria, were detected.

The blue-green algae bloom—one the largest ever experienced at the lake since it opened to the public for recreation in October 2003—produced large areas of green water and mats of green scum floating on the lake.

Blue-green algae blooms are common this time of year because of the warm weather. During the current episode, the bloom released cyanotoxins, which in high concentrations can be harmful to humans and animals, especially when ingested.

“These blooms are naturally occurring. And with time they naturally dissipate. We have been regularly testing the lake water to ensure its safety, and we're pleased that the cyanotoxin levels have decreased,” said Dr. Mic Stewart, Metropolitan's water quality manager.

Despite the improved conditions, Metropolitan advises Diamond Valley Lake visitors, particularly children, to stay away from any remaining algae or green material in the lake and on the shore. Visitors also are instructed not to let their service animals drink lake water or swim in the lake. Swimming and other body contact activities in the lake, Metropolitan's largest storage reservoir, are always prohibited.

Any fish caught at the lake should be cleaned with tap or bottled water before cooking, and the guts of fish thrown away. Metropolitan water quality experts, however, assured the public that the quality of the district's treated drinking water has not been affected.

Visit [dvlake.com](http://dvlake.com) for more information about Diamond Valley Lake and lake conditions.

#### **Related link:**

<http://www.mwdh2o.com/newsroom/Media-Releases/Pages/default.aspx>

## **Southern California Gas**

### **SoCalGas Announces New \$75 Residential Rebate for Smart Thermostats New web-based application makes applying for energy efficiency rebates easier and faster**

Jul 17, 2018

LOS ANGELES, July 17, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) today announced the company is now offering \$75 rebates for residential customers who purchase eligible ENERGY STAR® certified smart thermostats that help residents manage their heating and cooling

costs and conserve energy. The rebates, which have increased from \$50, cover models from Nest, ecobee and Honeywell, and others, and are available through Dec. 15, 2018. To help customers take advantage of the opportunity, the utility also launched a new web-based application form, available at [socialgas.com/rebate-app](http://socialgas.com/rebate-app), that streamlines the application process, allowing customers to receive the rebate more quickly. In addition to SoCalGas' rebate, utility customers can apply for a smart thermostat rebate through their electric provider for a combined savings of up to \$150. To learn more or to participate in SoCalGas' Residential Rebate Program, visit [socialgas.com/rebates](http://socialgas.com/rebates).

"Energy-saving technologies, like smart thermostats, have become increasingly popular because they're a great way to help residents manage their energy costs," said Darren Hanway, energy efficiency program operations manager at SoCalGas. "Energy conservation is just one of the ways we're working every day to keep our customers' bills low and to reduce emissions linked to climate change."

SoCalGas offers several rebates to its customers through its Energy Efficiency Appliance Rebate program that covers the partial cost of eligible ENERGY STAR® certified appliances, like clothes washers, natural gas dryers, tankless water heaters, wall or attic insulation, natural gas storage water heaters, pool heaters, and natural gas and wall furnaces. Customers can visit the SoCalGas Marketplace to learn which energy-efficient products are eligible for a SoCalGas rebate.

ENERGY STAR® Certified Smart Thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled devices that allow customers to control home heating and cooling temperatures remotely through a smartphone, tablet, or desktop computer. These smart devices can automatically adjust temperature settings by learning personal preference or by setting a schedule that adjusts when residents are asleep or out of the home. In addition, smart thermostats update software periodically to ensure the device uses the latest algorithms and energy-saving features available.

Energy efficiency programs and rebates are just one way SoCalGas helps business and residential customers keep their energy bills affordable. Since 1990, the utility's energy efficiency and rebate programs have reduced emissions equal to taking almost 700,000 cars off the road and have saved SoCalGas customers more than \$670 million in utility bill costs. Moreover, because of energy efficiency measures and new innovative technologies, residential buildings account for only about 5 percent of greenhouse gas emissions statewide, according to the California Air Resources Board. SoCalGas offers more than 90 energy efficiency programs that deliver close to \$161 million in annual cost savings directly to its customers.

SoCalGas is a leader in researching and developing new technologies that improve energy efficiency, reduce emissions, and keep bills affordable for customers. The utility is also working to increase the production and use of renewable natural gas, or biogas, which turns methane emissions into a source of clean energy to fuel homes and businesses. Learn more about the environmental and cost-saving benefits of renewable natural gas by viewing the utility's latest video, *Digesting the Facts About Renewable Natural Gas*, on SoCalGas' YouTube Channel.

Natural gas is the most affordable, reliable, clean, and increasingly renewable energy choice for home and water heating and cooking in Southern California and is used by more than 90 percent of residents in the region. According to the American Gas Association (AGA), across the country, households that use natural gas for water and space heating, cooking and clothes drying save an average of \$874 per year compared to homes using electricity for those applications.

**Related link:**

<https://sempra.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=19080&item=137489>

## **SoCalGas Helps Put the "Green" in Greenhouse with New Thermal Technology at World-Renowned Houweling's Tomatoes**

**New energy-efficient upgrade will save more than 225,000 therms per year - the equivalent of removing more than 250 cars from California roads.**

Jul 20, 2018

LOS ANGELES, July 20, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) and world-renowned greenhouse tomato and cucumber producer, Houweling's Tomatoes, today announced the installation of a new greenhouse thermal curtain system at Houweling's facility in Camarillo, California. The thermal curtain system is designed to reduce heat loss at night, functioning as a thermal barrier between the plants and the roof of the greenhouse, and is estimated to save the grower more than 225,000 therms per year, the equivalent of removing more than 250 cars from California roads. The system also works to reduce the volume of air that requires heating inside the greenhouse, and will provide the customer with approximately \$80,000 in annual energy cost savings. The new greenhouse energy efficiency upgrade was purchased in part with a \$176,000 rebate check through SoCalGas' Energy Efficiency Rebates for Businesses (EERB) program. To date, the utility has supported Houweling's Tomatoes energy efficiency efforts with more than \$725,000 in rebate funding for energy- and cost-saving technologies.

"Energy efficiency innovations, like these thermal curtains, help our customers save on energy costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions linked to climate change," said Rasha Prince, director of commercial and industrial services at SoCalGas. "Houweling's is a true leader in sustainability and partnerships like this can go a long way toward achieving California's climate goals, while supporting great industries and good jobs across the state."

"SoCalGas' energy efficiency rebate programs have been instrumental to the success of our business," said Casey Houweling, owner and chairman of Houweling's Tomatoes. "SoCalGas has been a dedicated partner to Houweling's, not only in helping us move forward with projects we otherwise may not have been able to, but in helping us create the most efficient greenhouse operation in the country."

Through SoCalGas' EERB program, commercial, industrial, and agricultural customers of the utility can apply for energy efficiency rebates on qualifying energy-efficient, natural gas-fired equipment and improvements for the business, like commercial grade dishwashers, ovens, clothes washers, space-heating and other boilers, water heaters, steam traps, and other energy-saving equipment, that help offset a portion of the cost up to \$1,000,000 per customer, per year.

SoCalGas has been a long-time energy efficiency partner of Houweling's Tomatoes, working together on many projects. In 2011, the utility helped the greenhouse leader fund the installation of the first-ever cogeneration power system in the United States that uses combined heat and power technology to capture traditionally wasted CO<sub>2</sub>, heat, and water for use within the greenhouse, while large natural gas-powered engines produce enough electricity to power the full operation and 8,800 local homes. In total, the new 13.2-megawatt system saves Houweling's over 14,000 gallons of water every day, and has diverted more than 21,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – the equivalent of taking 4,000 cars off the road – by converting it into fertilizer.

Energy efficiency programs and rebates are just one way SoCalGas helps business and residential customers keep their energy bills affordable. Since 1990, the utility's energy efficiency and rebate programs have reduced emissions equal to taking almost 700,000 cars off the road and have saved SoCalGas customers more than \$670 million in utility bill costs. Moreover, because of energy

efficiency measures and new innovative technology, business and homes account for only about 7.5 percent of greenhouse gas emissions statewide, according to the California Air Resources Board. SoCalGas offers more than 90 energy efficiency programs that deliver close to \$161 million in annual cost savings directly to its customers.

SoCalGas is a leader in researching and developing new technologies that improve energy efficiency, reduce emissions, and keep bills affordable for customers. The utility is working to increase the production and use of renewable natural gas, or biogas, which turns methane emissions into a source of clean energy to fuel homes and businesses. Decarbonizing natural gas pipelines with renewable natural gas will help California obtain deep greenhouse gas reductions at the lowest overall cost while preserving energy choice for residents and businesses alike. Learn more about the environmental and cost-saving benefits of renewable natural gas by viewing the utility's latest video, *Digesting the Facts About Renewable Natural Gas*, on SoCalGas' YouTube Channel.

Natural gas is the most affordable, reliable, clean, and increasingly renewable energy choice for home and water heating and cooking in Southern California and is used by more than 90 percent of residents in the region. According to the American Gas Association (AGA), households that use natural gas for water and space heating, cooking and clothes drying save an average of \$874 per year compared to homes using electricity for those applications.

**Related link:**

<https://sempra.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=19080&item=137491>

## **Southern California Edison**

### **Final San Onofre Nuclear Plant Settlement Clears Way for Customer Rate Cuts August 02, 2018**

Media Relations Contact: **Maureen Brown, (626) 302-2255**

Investor Relations: **Sam Ramraj, (626) 302-2540**

ROSEMEAD, Calif., Aug. 2, 2018 -- The settlement of issues and costs related to the closure of the San Onofre nuclear plant was finalized today when parties notified the California Public Utilities Commission that they accept the commission's request that they remove a provision that would have funded university-conducted greenhouse gas research.

The action concludes the commission's San Onofre proceeding and sets the stage for Southern California Edison, majority owner of San Onofre, to give customers rate reductions. The timing of the rate reductions depends on the commission's review of SCE's upcoming filing regarding the rate calculations.

"Today's decision means we can begin delivering the benefits to customers that settling parties proposed seven months ago," said SCE President Ron Nichols. "We're pleased to bring closure to this issue following the diligent efforts over many months by the parties."

Nichols said there are two elements to the reduction in customer rates: a one-time bill credit of about \$11 per average residential customer; and a 2 percent monthly average bill reduction, which equals about \$2 per month for an average residential customer. Rate reductions for non-residential customers

will vary depending upon a number of factors. The changes are expected to be reflected in customer bills beginning in September.

The commission unanimously approved the settlement July 26, with the condition that the settling parties accept the deletion of the greenhouse gas provision. The settlement provides that customers of SCE and San Diego Gas & Electric, a co-owner of San Onofre, will no longer pay for the \$775 million in San Onofre related investments that had not been recovered by the utilities.

The rate reductions under the settlement approved by the commission today are in addition to the more than \$2 billion in customer savings under the prior settlement approved in 2014.

SCE retired San Onofre in June 2013 after a contractor provided faulty steam generators. SCE is focused on safely decommissioning the nuclear plant, guided by core principles of safety, stewardship and engagement. SCE has established a Community Engagement Panel to support those principles. For more information, visit [songscommunity.com](http://songscommunity.com).

**Related link:**

<https://newsroom.edison.com/releases/final-san-onofre-nuclear-plant-settlement-clears-way-for-customer-rate-cuts>

Report by ***Ted Chang***  
HHIA Board Director, Utility