

## **HHIA - Utility Report for Meeting on 2019.12.16**

### **Main San Gabriel Key Water Well Level updates:**

Current: (As of 2019.12.06), 212.1 ft. (71.83% to High).

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

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

### **Related link:**

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

## **California Natural Resources Agency / CalEPA**

**Nov. 21, 2019**

### **State Agencies Lay Out Actions to Protect Endangered Species and Meet State Water Needs**

**Department of Water Resources issued draft Environmental Impact Report today**

**Agencies also intend to file litigation against federal government**

**Newsom administration continues to work toward voluntary agreements in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta rivers**

SACRAMENTO — The California Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency today announced a series of actions to protect imperiled fish while improving real-time management of the State Water Project (SWP). Earlier today, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) took a formal step toward more fish-protective management of the SWP by releasing a draft environmental impact report under the California Environmental Quality Act. The move reflects the state's assessment that operating rules recently proposed by federal agencies are not scientifically adequate and fall short of protecting species and the state's interests.

Additionally, the state intends to file litigation against federal agencies to ensure adequate protection of endangered species, shared responsibility of state and federal water project operations to protect those species and to protect the state's interests.

“When California has the opportunity to tackle a longstanding challenge with innovative, collaborative solutions, we take it,” said Governor Gavin Newsom. “We are once again marshaling our collective resources — and building on our record of strong, science-based environmental policies — to chart a new path forward for water policy in California. As stewards of this state's remarkable natural resources, we must do everything in our power to protect them. The next generations of Californians deserve nothing less.”

“We value our partnerships with federal agencies on water management, including our work together to achieve the voluntary agreements,” said California Secretary for Environmental Protection Jared Blumenfeld. “At the same time, we also need to take legal action to protect the state's interest and our environment.”

In a separate but related effort, the Newsom administration is collaboratively working with state, local and federal partners to refine a voluntary approach to provide additional water, habitat and science to improve environmental conditions in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River systems and the Delta, and secure water for other beneficial uses. The effort is a potential game changer in that it combines

flows with a broader suite of tools including habitat and adaptive management to create more opportunities for species to survive and thrive.

In addition, state agencies are preparing to release a draft water resilience portfolio that provides important tools for local and regional entities to continue building resilience and encourage collaboration within and across regional lines. Governor Newsom called on agencies to develop the portfolio via executive order earlier this year. The draft, which will be available soon for public comment, recognizes that no quick or singular fix will safeguard our water resources in coming decades. Instead, advance planning, thoughtful investments, integrated management and unprecedented collaboration are needed to prepare for the future.

“We have to find ways to protect our environment and build water security for communities and agriculture,” said California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot. “We have to become much more creative, collaborative and adaptive, which is why this Administration is working hard to secure voluntary agreements and develop a water resilience portfolio to meet objectives.”

**Related link:**

<http://resources.ca.gov/>

## **La Puente Valley County Water District**

### **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY & INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

**SUBJECT:** The La Puente Valley County Water District (LPVCWD, Lead Agency) proposes to adopt an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Puente Valley Operable Unit, Shallow Zone Remedy Project (Project) located within the Cities of Industry and La Puente, California. This Notice of Availability & Intent to adopt an IS/MND for the Project complies with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15072 requiring public noticing of the proposed Project.

**Project Description:** The proposed Project is comprised of the extraction and treatment of groundwater and conveyance to La Puente Valley County Water District (LPVCWD) for discharge to surface water in conformance with applicable permits. The Project consists of utilizing two existing groundwater extraction wells (EW-C, EW-N); a proposed treatment plant; conveyance infrastructure from the extraction wells to the new water treatment plant and from the treatment plant to an existing storm drain for surface water discharge; and compliance, sentinel, and monitoring wells.

**Project Location:** 111 Hudson Avenue, City of Industry, CA 91744 (Water Treatment Plant)

**Potential Environmental Effects:** In addition to informing the public of the Project and its potential environmental effects, this IS/MND is intended to provide adequate environmental information to public agency decision makers so they may make an informed decision on the Project, consistent with the general responsibilities required of public agencies as outlined in Sections 15020 and 15025 of the CEQA Guidelines.

**Public Review:** The public review process of the IS/MND will culminate with a public hearing of the LPVCWD’s Board of Directors on **January 13, 2020 at 5:30 P.M. at 112 N First Street, La Puente, CA 91744** to consider adoption of a Final IS/MND. Comments from members of the public or other

interested parties on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will be received by the LPVCWD from November 20 through December 20, 2019. Written comments should be directed to the person listed below. Copies of the initial study checklist and discussion of impacts, and the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration are available for review at the address shown below and on LPVCWD's website at <http://www.lapuentewater.com/>

**Contact Person:**

Greg Galindo, General Manager  
La Puente Valley County Water District  
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**Related link:**

[https://www.lapuentewater.com/Current\\_News](https://www.lapuentewater.com/Current_News)

**CA State Water Boards Press Releases**

**State Water Board Adopts 2019 Ocean Plan Review that Ranks Important Water Quality Issues**

**December 3, 2019**

**SACRAMENTO** – In an ongoing effort to protect California beaches and coastal waters, the State Water Resources Control Board today adopted a report that prioritizes nearly two dozen topics for future projects and rule-making actions, from assessing health risks from harmful bacteria to understanding the impacts of ocean acidification.

The report resulted from a review of the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California (Ocean Plan), the statewide plan that governs the protection of the state's coastal waters by controlling the discharge of waste into the ocean. Discharges can include stormwater runoff, municipally treated sewage outflow and industrial flows regulated by regional and State Board permits.

“The health of California's coastal waters and beaches are critical to the state's population and economy,” said E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board. “Climate change, ongoing pollution challenges, sea level rise, ocean acidification and other threats require our regulatory programs to adapt, learn, and utilize new technologies and science to protect and preserve our coast. Adoption of this review plan transparently sets out the scope and scale of possible future amendments to the Ocean Plan and areas of continued work by the State Board.”

Besides the potential health risks that poor water quality poses, beach closures harm the state economy. Millions of tourists and residents visit California's beaches annually to swim, kayak, dive or surf, generating more than \$10 billion per year. The beaches in southern San Diego County are particularly impacted because of the chronic sewage spills originating in Tijuana.

The review was conducted by State Water Board staff in coordination with the coastal water boards and with input gathered from four public meetings held earlier this year. Using this input, staff prepared the draft report and related work plan that lists and ranks 22 issues as potential future projects.

The five highest-ranked issues in the adopted review are:

- **Tribal Beneficial Uses:** Some of the state's Native American tribes use marine resources for sustenance and cultural ceremonies. Exploring potential definitions and designations of these uses would allow the State Water Board to protect and enhance these resources.

- **Bacteria Objectives for Water Contact Recreation:** Continued study of bacterial water quality objectives would allow the State Water Board to utilize the most current science in assessing risks to the public from exposure to harmful pathogens while swimming or engaging in other water-contact ocean activities.
- **Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS):** The Ocean Plan authorizes the State Water Board to make exceptions to a prohibition against the discharge of waste into Areas of Special Biological Significance, provided special conditions are met that protect natural water quality in these areas. In 2012, exceptions were granted to 27 dischargers who had difficulty implementing the special protections during the 2011-15 drought. This topic would allow the Board to consider clarifying revisions or additional requirements.
- **Desalination Implementation Provisions:** Stakeholders and interested parties have requested clarification about Ocean Plan provisions that protect ocean waters against impacts associated with the construction and operation of seawater desalination facilities. This issue would review existing permitting requirements and consider options for streamlining the process.
- **Ocean Acidification, Hypoxia, and Climate Change Impacts:** Climate change is driving shifts in the chemical properties of ocean waters. To better understand the impacts, the State Water Board would evaluate how to develop water quality objectives and improve the resilience of the coastal environment.

In recent years, the Water Boards, which have more than 200 scientists, engineers and geologists working to protect California's coastal waters, have made significant progress, including the adoption of trash, desalination and bacteria amendments to the Ocean Plan.

The Water Boards also safeguard ocean water quality with programs and policies on ocean water use for power plant cooling, permitting of waste discharges, limitations on discharges of waste into areas of special biological significance, monitoring to notify beach users if beaches are safe for swimming and addressing polluted beaches.

To learn more, please visit the State Water Board Ocean Plan website or the fact sheet on the Ocean Plan.

**Related link:**

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press\\_room/press\\_releases/2019.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2019.html)

**State Water Board Streamlines Permitting Process for Diversions of Floodwater and Other High Flows to Support Groundwater Sustainability**

**Nov. 14, 2019**

**SACRAMENTO** – In an effort to expedite its water right permitting process, the State Water Resources Control Board announced today it has streamlined requirements for applicants seeking to divert surface water to underground storage during floods and other high flow conditions.

The new measures are expected to directly benefit groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) and associated local entities striving to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and replenish overdrafted groundwater basins.

The changes, which have no impact on existing laws and regulations, simplify the permitting pathway for capturing water during high flow events and storing that water underground, a process known as

recharge. The streamlined approach also reduces application filing fees and annual permit and license costs.

“Achieving groundwater sustainability is one of California’s most pressing water management challenges,” said State Water Board Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel. “With a more variable hydrology expected, it’s critical that we prepare to capture floodwaters and other high flows, increase groundwater recharge, and better prepare for the effects of climate change. These permitting revisions will help make that process more nimble and efficient, while still protecting fish and senior right holders.”

California depends on groundwater for a third of its annual water supply, and significantly more during droughts. Parties who divert to underground storage and choose this less complicated approach must meet certain criteria and comply with a water availability analysis that monitors diversion of high flows during the winter.

Within the December-to-March time frame, applicants can choose between two diversion triggers: (1) when a river or stream’s daily flows exceed the 90th percentile and no more than 20 percent of the total stream flow is taken; or (2) a flood control agency determines actions are needed to protect the public.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, which became law in 2015, empowers local agencies to manage groundwater resources for long-term sustainability. The long-term planning requirement provides a buffer against drought and climate change and contributes to reliable water supplies, regardless of weather patterns.

New groundwater recharge projects will likely be proposed and implemented by many GSAs as part of sustainable groundwater management. The new streamlined recharge permitting measures are designed to help GSAs obtain water right permits faster to help meet timelines for achieving sustainability.

GSAs also are encouraged to pursue “umbrella” permitting to cover dozens and possibly hundreds of diversion locations in a watershed and large areas of use, such as a water district. This makes broadscale recharge, particularly on agricultural lands, more feasible. It allows a water right holder to manage the diversion, storage and extraction of water on a landowner-by-landowner basis, from one high flow event to the next, or from year to year, without additional approvals from the Board. This enhances efficiency in permitting and annual reporting, gaging and measurement requirements, and accounting.

The State Water Board intends to hold an informational item on the streamlined permitting pathway as part of its regularly scheduled board meeting on November 19th.

Information about recharge and underground storage can be found on the State Water Board website.

**Related link:**

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press\\_room/press\\_releases/2019.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press_room/press_releases/2019.html)

**Rowland Water District**

**DISTRICT RESPONDS TO NEW STATE TESTING REGULATIONS FOR SYNTHETIC COMPOUNDS**

**Customers can be confident their water meets all health and safety standards.**

**November 14, 2019** – Despite recently announced changes to how drinking water is monitored and tested in California, Rowland Water District is assuring customers that its water shows no signs of newly regulated contaminants known in short as PFAS.

PFAS is a collective term for a large group of synthetic chemicals that include perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). Governor Gavin Newsom recently signed AB 756, which gives the State Water Resources Control Board the authority to require water systems to monitor for the compounds beginning January 1, 2020.

Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were identified as health risks during the 2000s and were then phased out of manufacturing in the United States. The contaminants have been detected in some water supplies, particularly around landfills, airports, and existing and former military bases.

“Our customers can rest easy knowing that the District tests their water nearly 1,000 times a year to make sure it meets the highest state and federal drinking water standards,” explains Tom Coleman, Rowland Water District General Manager. “Although PFAS has not been found in our water supplies, we will continue to test for these compounds and other impurities, making sure every drop meets the highest drinking water standards in the nation.”

The bill also requires water systems to report any detection of PFAS contaminants in their annual consumer confidence reports. If the detection exceeds the response level, the public water system must either take the source out of use or provide direct public notification to customers within 30 days.

“Our water undergoes an intensive treatment process before being delivered to homes and businesses in our community, and Rowland Water is continuously investing in additional technology and equipment to ensure our supply is always the highest quality possible before reaching customers,” adds Coleman.

The latest information about Rowland’s water quality can be found in the annual Water Quality Report at [rowlandwaterquality.org](http://rowlandwaterquality.org).

**Related link:**

<https://www.rowlandwater.com/long-term-conservation-still-needed-to-protect-state-from-impacts-of-drought/>

**Southern California Gas**

**Ahead of School Break, Discovery Cube Introduces Fun New Film that Teaches Kids About Renewable Energy**

**Discovery Cube teams up with SoCalGas to produce the film on renewable natural gas, open for viewing at Southern California Discovery Cube locations**

**Dec 9, 2019**

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 9, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- Just in time for the holiday school break, Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) and Discovery Cube are releasing a fun adventure film about renewable energy. The film, created for children but educational for all ages, shows how renewable energy, including renewable natural gas is created and why it's so important.

Energy fuels our lives every day, from recharging our smartphones, to heating our homes and cooking our meals. As California moves to more renewable sources of energy, many people are unaware of

how renewable natural gas works. This film takes the viewer along for the journey from energy creation and storage to its end uses, illustrating the science behind energy and its importance to our everyday life.

"Kids will soon be out of school soon for the holidays, and parents may wonder how to keep them engaged and learning," said Kellee Preston, chief operating officer for the Discovery Cube. "Our new energy film is fun, engaging and presents the science of renewable natural gas in a way that is easy to understand."

"The use of renewable energy, including renewable natural gas, is vital to improve the environment and help California reach its climate goals," said Trisha Muse, director of community relations for SoCalGas. "Using our waste streams to create renewable natural gas is one way we can reduce our carbon footprint, and still enjoy the convenience that natural gas provides. We hope this film educates viewers of all ages on the importance of renewable energy and renewable natural gas."

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. Over the last five years, RNG use as a transportation fuel has increased 577 percent.

SoCalGas is working to build on RNG's success in the transportation sector by making it available to fuel the homes of the company's 21 million customers across Southern California. Earlier this year, SoCalGas' committed to replace 20 percent of its traditional natural gas supply with renewable natural gas (RNG) by 2030 – part of as part of a broad, inclusive and integrated plan to help to help achieve California's ambitious climate goals.

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.

To celebrate the film's debut, SoCalGas and Discovery Cube held a screening and reception today at the Discovery Cube center in Santa Ana. Photos from the event are available for viewing here.

### **About Discovery Science Foundation**

The Discovery Science Foundation serves as the educational program-development and fundraising arm for hands-on science learning centers in Orange County, Los Angeles and Newport Beach, California. Established in 1989, the Discovery Cube, presented by Taco Bell, continues to inspire and educate millions of young minds through engaging science-based programs and exhibits. In 2012, the Cube was named one of the 10 "Most Trusted Brands" in Orange County and in 2013 was awarded the National Medal of service from the Institute of Museum and Library Services at The White House.

In November 2014, a second nonprofit Discovery Cube offering an exhibit and program mix unique to Los Angeles, opened in the Hansen Dam Recreational Area of the San Fernando Valley. Most recently, Discovery Cube's Ocean Quest opened in Newport Beach as a base of operations for ocean-science education and programs. For more information, visit [discoverycube.org](http://discoverycube.org). Follow the Los Angeles and Orange County campus on social platforms (@DiscoveryCubeLA, @DiscoveryCubeOC).

### **Related link:**

<https://sempra.mediaroom.com/2019-12-09-Ahead-of-School-Break-Discovery-Cube-Introduces-Fun-New-Film-that-Teaches-Kids-About-Renewable-Energy>

## **As Temperatures Across Southern California Fall, SoCalGas Offers Tips to Help Customers Save Money this Winter**

### **Smart thermostats and other energy efficient devices can help keep costs down**

**Nov 26, 2019**

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 26, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- With inclement weather and cold temperatures in the forecast throughout our service territory this week, Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) today offered energy savings ideas and appliance rebates to help customers keep their bills affordable this winter.

Temperatures in Southern California typically turn cooler in November and can remain cold through March. During cold weather, it is possible to use three to seven times more natural gas than in summer months as your home heater responds to your thermostat settings and your water heater works harder to keep water hot. SoCalGas offers the following tips to help save on energy costs:

- Customers can save 10 to 15 percent on heating costs by lowering the temperature setting on their furnace three to five degrees.
- Have air ducts tested. Leaky ducts can cost customers anywhere from 10 to 30 percent in heating and cooling costs.
- Install caulking and weather-stripping around doors and windows. This can save about 10 to 15 percent in energy costs.
- Clean or replace furnace filters.
- Install a smart thermostat.
- Install an energy efficient furnace.

More energy savings tips may be found here.

As a reminder, SoCalGas customers who purchase a qualifying smart thermostat model on or after August 1, 2019 are eligible for a \$50 rebate. Smart thermostats can learn your schedule and temperature preferences and adjust the temperature in your home accordingly. They also allow users to adjust home temperatures with a mobile app or computer and can even use local weather conditions to help control energy costs. Last winter, customers who enrolled in SoCalGas' smart thermostat demand response program saved 62,000 therms of natural gas, which is enough energy to fuel 40 homes for an entire year or charge 42 million smartphones.

In addition to rebates for smart thermostats, SoCalGas also offers rebates on other household appliances such as washing machines and dryers, water heaters and furnaces. For more information on available rebates, visit: <https://www.socalgas.com/save-money-and-energy/rebates-and-incentives/natural-gas-appliance-rebates>

Over the last five years, SoCalGas energy efficiency programs delivered more than 180 million therms in energy savings for customers, enough natural gas usage for 403,000 households a year. These advances have also helped save SoCalGas customers more than \$198 million in utility bill costs. In 2018 alone, SoCalGas' energy efficiency programs saved customers \$57 million.

#### **Related link:**

<https://sempra.mediaroom.com/2019-11-26-As-Temperatures-Across-Southern-California-Fall-SoCalGas-Offers-Tips-to-Help-Customers-Save-Money-this-Winter>

## **Southern California Edison**

### **Dec. 16 is Deadline to Apply for \$1.2 Million in Scholarships from Edison Scholars Program**

December 04, 2019

ROSEMEAD, Calif., Dec. 4, 2019 — There's still time for high school seniors whose dreams are to power the future and make a difference through the study of science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) to apply for Edison International's \$1.2 million 2020 **Edison Scholars Program**.

The scholarship application deadline is Dec. 16. To apply and obtain additional eligibility information, visit: [edisonscholars.com](http://edisonscholars.com).

Each year, Edison International, the parent company of Southern California Edison, awards \$40,000 scholarships, paid over four years, to 30 high school students who plan to major in designated STEM fields at a four-year accredited U.S. college or university. See the list of eligible STEM majors.

Applicants must live in SCE's service area and plan to be a full-time undergraduate student majoring in a STEM field. Eligible students also must be a high school senior, have at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA and demonstrate financial need. Students from underserved communities and ethnic minorities are encouraged to apply. Dependents of Edison International and SCE employees and retirees are not eligible for the Edison Scholars Program.

Scholarship recipients will be announced next spring. They may also be eligible for summer internships at SCE after completing their second year of college.

Since 2006, Edison International has awarded an estimated \$9.9 million in scholarships to 640 students through the Edison Scholars Program.

Edison International's support of charitable causes, including the Edison Scholars Program, is funded entirely by Edison International shareholders. SCE customers' utility bill payments do not fund company donations.

#### **Related link:**

<https://newsroom.edison.com/releases/dec-16-is-deadline-to-apply-for-1-2-million-in-scholarships-from-edison-scholars-program>

Report by ***Ted Chang***

HHIA Board, Utility Director