

HHIA - Utility Report for Meeting on 2019.05.19 (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 2019.05.10), 196.00 ft. (64.07% to High).

Related link:

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

Local Groundwater Level: **23%** of capacity.

Major Reservoir Conditions in CA: **79%** of capacity.

Local Rainfall: **115%** of Season Normal

CA Snowpack level: **165%** of Normal to Date

Related link:

<http://sgvmwd.org/>

Newsom Backs One Water Tunnel, Curbing Brown Family Legacy

In his first State of the State address, Gov. Gavin Newsom scaled back plans for a project that would deliver water from Northern California to Los Angeles and San Diego. In the process, he capped a 60-year effort of two governors Brown.

Sixty years ago, California voters approved Gov. Pat Brown's plan for a 700-mile system of dams, water pumps and aqueducts to control flooding in Northern California and send water south to Los Angeles and San Diego.

His son, Jerry, spent the better part of four terms as governor trying to expand his father's work.

On Tuesday, Gov. Gavin Newsom effectively capped the Browns' multi-generation effort, known as the State Water Project, the source of about a third of Southern California's drinking water.

The original project didn't deliver as much water as promised, partly because it wasn't truly finished. A canal was supposed to route water around an environmentally sensitive delta in the center of the state. But this "peripheral canal" was controversial, expensive and never built. When the younger Brown took up the cause, voters rejected it in 1982.

Before leaving office a second time earlier this year, Brown scrambled to build an alternative – a pair of water tunnels that his administration supposedly spent over a million hours studying. Though the \$17 billion twin tunnels would carry less than half as much water as the canal, they were supposed to help the State Water Project function despite rising seas, changing snowfall patterns and earthquakes.

In Newsom's first State of the State speech Tuesday, he scaled back that plan too.

Instead, Newsom said he supports a single tunnel.

In doing so, he's adopting a position backed at times by an odd coalition of environmentalists, Northern Californians and officials from the city of Los Angeles and the San Diego County Water Authority.

It's unclear how big Newsom's single tunnel will be, but it's likely to deliver a third as much water as the 1982 canal and cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$11 billion.

The reactions to Newsom's remarks were tentative declarations of partial victory by nearly everyone, supporters and opponents of Brown's twin tunnels alike.

Supporters said Newsom was still talking about doing something, rather than nothing. But it's unclear whether the project can get underway soon or if it'll take another generation of study and planning.

Newer environmental regulations reduce how much water can be taken from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, making State Water Project supplies unreliable. By more precisely managing the way water moves, tunnel supporters argue, the state could protect fish and guarantee reliable water supplies.

Opponents of the project were obviously glad to see the project scaled back.

The environmental argument against the tunnels was always that the current system is inherently destructive and a new project perpetuating the system compounds the destruction for generations to come. And environmental opponents of the tunnels say it's absurd to think building tunnels to take water away from where the fish live could ever help fish.

To give a sense of what a single tunnel means: If the peripheral canal had been built, you could stare at one spot in it for one second and see more than a year's supply of water for the average California household pass by. If the twin tunnels were built and you stared at them both, it'd take about two and a half seconds for the same amount of water to pass by. With one tunnel, it'd take about four seconds.

That diminished capacity could add up, constricting the amount of water the state can move to Southern California during major rainstorms, a big worry for regional water officials because a warmer climate means rain will replace snowmelt as our major source of water. Our current system is designed to capture snow as it gradually melts from mountaintops; large amounts of rain falling at once cannot be so easily contained. The two tunnels were designed to allow Southern California to take a "big gulp" of rainwater.

"You really have to take advantage of big events," Jeffrey Kightlinger, the general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, said Tuesday.

San Diego and its County Water Authority get most of their water from Metropolitan, which delivers water from Northern California and from the Colorado River to 19 million people across Southern California.

Metropolitan has done as much as anyone to support the tunnels project. When Brown briefly threw in the towel last spring and decided to back a single tunnel himself, the district's board rallied and revived the twin tunnels project, even if it meant spending an extra \$7 billion. The main rationale for the scramble was trying to get the deal locked in before Newsom took office.

Obviously that strategy failed.

Still, a single tunnel shouldn't affect Southern California's water supply too much, Kightlinger said, if the tunnel is the size of the single tunnel Brown had flirted with.

That said, it won't carry as much water and it doesn't have the sort of redundancy that two tunnels have in the event of an earthquake or other problem.

Doug Obegi, a senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, said he's curious to know how big Newsom's single tunnel will be, under what conditions it's allowed to move water and whether those conditions will do enough to protect the environment.

"The big part of it is how it is proposed to be operated," he said.

The biggest human loser may be farmers in the Central Valley, especially those who farm land irrigated by the Fresno-based Westlands Water District. The district seemed to want water from the tunnels but didn't want to pay for it, at least not yet. Metropolitan had come up with a plan to build the tunnels and then give Westlands the option of using them later.

Westlands could still get more water, though, if environmental laws are loosened. A former lobbyist for the district is now leading the U.S. Department of Interior. The department runs the Central Valley Project, which is physically interconnected but legally separate from the State Water Project.

Newsom also suggested he preferred a "portfolio" of local water projects, like wastewater recycling, over massive diversions of water from one region of the state to another hundreds of miles away. That trend didn't begin with the Browns – it began in earnest when Los Angeles dammed rivers on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada mountains and continued when the federal government and San Francisco dammed the most pristine rivers on the mountains' western slopes – but it could now end with them.

A similar "portfolio" approach was outlined nearly six years ago by a group of environmental groups and by the San Diego County Water Authority, which turned against expanding the State Water Project as it began to rely more heavily on water from the Colorado River.

"For decades, the Water Authority has actively sought cost-effective, right-sized solutions for the complex water supply and ecological issues in the Bay-Delta," the Water Authority's board chairman, Jim Madaffer, said in a statement.

Related link:

<https://www.voiceofsandiego.org/topics/government/newsom-backs-one-water-tunnel-curbing-brown-family-legacy/>

**METROPOLITAN STATEMENT ON NEWSOM ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS
TO ADVANCE A SINGLE-TUNNEL CONVEYANCE SOLUTION IN DELTA**

May 2, 2019

Jeffrey Kightlinger, general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, issues the following statement on today's announcement by the Newsom Administration to begin the environmental review process for the construction of a single-tunnel project to modernize conveyance through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and improve water supply reliability for the state.

“We are pleased that Gov. Newsom’s Administration has reaffirmed a strong commitment to modernize the state’s water delivery infrastructure with a single-tunnel project in the Delta. We will work with the administration to expeditiously advance a project that is long overdue to both meet the water reliability needs of the state and minimize impacts to the communities and ecology of the Delta. “Governor Newsom and Natural Resources Secretary Crowfoot recognize that the status quo in the Delta is simply not an option. New conveyance is essential. The current system is already outdated and vulnerable; climate change will further stress it with a future of sea level rise and increasingly intense floods and droughts. We must work together to update California’s infrastructure and make our water supply more climate resilient.”

Related link:

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

Rivers and Mountains Conservancy

RMC Proposition 68 Final Guidelines

Please find RMC's Final Proposition 68 Grant Program Guidelines posted. RMC has a Spring 2019 call for projects - see Announcement for more details:

April 29th - June 28th.

Email questions to: Prop68@rmc.ca.gov

Related link:

<http://www.rmc.ca.gov/>

Southern California Gas

SoCalGas Kicks-Off 2019 Environmental Champions Grant Program

\$400,000 in Grants Available to Organizations Focused on Clean Air, Clean Energy & Renewable Natural Gas

May 3, 2019

LOS ANGELES, May 3, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) has kicked-off its 2019 Environmental Champions Grant initiative, announcing the company is accepting applications from nonprofit organizations focused on clean air, clean energy and renewable natural gas. Eligible organizations can apply for grants of up to \$25,000 each by visiting this link between May 2 and June 5, 2019. Winners will be selected and notified of their selection in Sept. 2019.

Last year, SoCalGas awarded nearly \$400,000 in grants to 32 nonprofits for projects related to clean air, energy, or water. Since its inception in 2015, the Environmental Champions Initiative, which is funded by Sempra Energy shareholders, has awarded more than 150 grants totaling over \$2 million.

"SoCalGas is committed to being the cleanest natural gas utility in North America, and part of that commitment is helping advance the work of the environmental champions working to improve our

local communities each day," said Sharon Tomkins, vice president of strategy and engagement for SoCalGas. "Since our Environmental Champions initiative launched in 2015, SoCalGas has been proud to partner with more than 150 local leaders to develop projects that help improve our environment and tackle climate change."

Last year's winners include:

- **Amigos De Los Rios:** The Emerald Necklace Multi-Campus Urban Greening project will demonstrate urban greening at three San Gabriel Valley schools through the creation of a habitat and green infrastructure that is designed to provide mental health, academic performance, and physical education benefits.
- **Climate Resolve:** The #keepLAcool project will hold a public event in northeast San Fernando Valley to showcase cooling strategies for mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts and provide ongoing tours and education on cool surfaces.
- **The San Bernardino Valley College Foundation:** The Compressed Natural Gas, Electric, and Hybrid Training Expansion project will expand the heavy-duty engine repair training program at San Bernardino Valley College by adding a second equipment lab.
- **Special Service for Groups/Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement:** The Particulate Matters project will install the largest air pollution sensor array in the San Gabriel Valley and collect data for research on air pollution and health outcomes in the region.
- **Energy Independence Now:** The Hydrogen Solutions for California's Clean Economy project will engage stakeholders on the health, economic, and environmental benefits of hydrogen-electric vehicles and renewable/carbon-free hydrogen.
- **Southeast Community Development Corporation:** The Southeast LA STEM Environmental Leadership Academy project will consist of educational workshops (focused on clean air, water, and energy), STEM Labs with mentors, field trips, and 1st Annual SELA STEM Fest event. The project targets high school students from the southeast area of Los Angeles county. The program goal is to educate and mentor future community leaders and develop potential solutions to regional environmental problems.

"Energy Independence Now (EIN) was honored to be recognized by SoCalGas with the Environmental Champions Award. We are proud to stand alongside our peers in the environmental community as we advocate for clean air and the fight against climate change. As the only nonprofit environmental organization dedicated to advancing zero-emission hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles and renewable hydrogen, EIN applauds the work SoCalGas is doing to decarbonize their business model and to further the green hydrogen marketplace," said Brian Goldstein, executive director of Energy Independence Now. "Together, we are exploring renewable energy storage, zero-emission fuel distribution and deep decarbonization opportunities. EIN is thrilled to team up with SoCalGas to improve air quality and to address climate change."

"The Environmental Champions Initiative has provided Southeast Community Development Corporation with the opportunity to focus on educating our youth about clean air, clean water, and renewable energy in the Southeast area," said Cesar Zaldivar-Motts, executive director of the SCDC. "This initiative will assist with educating and mentoring our future community leaders to develop potential solutions to regional environmental problems. Thank you to SoCalGas for supporting these efforts."

The following groups are eligible to apply for the 2019 grant initiative:

- 501(c)(3) organizations that provide programs in communities in the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Ventura, Tulare, Santa Barbara, Fresno, and San Luis Obispo.

- Projects must commence in 2019 or 2020 and be 85% completed by December 31, 2020.
- Eligible proposals include new or existing projects or programs that address the local challenges of clean air, clean energy and renewable natural gas.

Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on June 5, 2019. Following submission, applicants will receive a confirmation email acknowledging receipt of their application.

Supporting local environmental organizations is part of SoCalGas' vision to 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.

In addition, SoCalGas recently announced a broad, integrated, and inclusive plan to help achieve California's ambitious climate 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.

Related link:

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

Southern California Edison

California Energy Companies Announce Wildfire Preparedness Campaign Around Public Safety Power Shutoffs

May 06, 2019

Media Contact: Brian Leventhal, (626) 302-2255

ROSEMEAD, Calif., May 6, 2019 — Today California's three largest energy companies announced a coordinated wildfire safety and awareness campaign to prepare Californians for the threat of extreme weather and power outages during times of increased wildfire danger.

The statewide Power of Being Prepared campaign is being led jointly by Southern California Edison (SCE), San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), at the direction of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The multimedia and multilingual campaign includes radio ads, preparedness resources and a new website, prepareforpowerdown.com. It is a call to action for all Californians to take important steps to get ready before the 2019 wildfire season, such as creating a thorough emergency plan and updating their contact information with their energy company.

According to a recent report released by Governor Gavin Newsom's Strike Force addressing wildfire issues, "More than 25 million acres of California wildlands are classified as under very high or extreme fire threat. Approximately 25 percent of the state's population – 11 million people – lives in that high-risk area."

“Wildfires are a real and growing threat in California,” said Denise Everhart, Pacific Division Disaster Executive of the American Red Cross. “Now more than ever it is critical that Californians be ready for the unexpected and prepare their emergency kits, download the Red Cross Emergency App, outline a family plan and practice safety drills before the need arises. Education, awareness and preparedness can make a difference in keeping families safe and saving lives.”

Public Safety Power Shutoff

Energy companies turn off power to fire prone areas during extreme weather events as a safety precaution. This is known as a Public Safety Power Shutoff. While Public Safety Power Shutoffs are more likely to occur in high fire-risk areas, all Californians could be impacted by emergency events and need to be prepared with a plan and an emergency kit. The Power of Being Prepared campaign provides customers with specific steps they can take to be ready should there be an extended power outage that lasts multiple days.

What to Expect

The decision and action to turn off power is made by each energy company and is based on a combination of factors. These include high winds (including Red Flag Warnings declared by the National Weather Service), low humidity, dry vegetation and conditions on the ground. Power outages could last multiple days, depending on the severity of weather conditions and other factors, so it is important for everyone to have an emergency plan in place.

Energy companies will aim to send early warning notifications via phone calls, text alerts, emails and other means before turning off power. SCE, SDG&E and PG&E are all working with customers to ensure they have updated contact information on file and are able to reach customers before, during and after a Public Safety Power Shutoff event. Energy companies will also use websites and social media channels to share information and provide regular updates to local news and radio outlets.

Safety Tips

Here are some steps Californians can take to help prepare for extreme weather and Public Safety Power Shutoff events:

- Update contact information with energy companies to sign up for important outage alerts:
 - SCE customers: sce.com/safety/wildfire/psps
 - SDG&E customers: sdge.com/wildfire-safety
 - PG&E customers: pge.com/mywildfirealerts
- Identify backup charging methods for phones and keep hard copies of emergency numbers
- Plan for any medical needs like medications that need to be refrigerated or devices that require power
- Plan for the needs of pets and livestock
- Build or restock emergency kits with flashlights, fresh batteries, first aid supplies and cash
- Designate an emergency meeting location
- Know how to manually open garage doors
- Ensure any backup generators are ready to safely operate
- Identify the unique needs of your family and loved ones in the area for your emergency plan

For more information about The Power of Being Prepared, and additional steps customers can take to prepare for wildfire season and Public Safety Power Shutoffs, visit prepareforpowerdown.com.

Related link:

<https://newsroom.edison.com/releases/california-energy-companies-announce-wildfire-preparedness-campaign-around-public-safety-power-shutoffs>

Report by *Ted Chang*

HHIA Board Director, Utility