



Governor Jerry Brown (right) listens during a Fresno meeting of Latino leaders to a presentation by Friant Water Authority Assistant General Manager Mario Santoyo (left), a California Latino Water Coalition Director. Others listening are Rep. Jim Costa (D-Fresno, second from left) and Fresno County Supervisor Henry Perea.

Governor Talks Water In Fresno

Jerry Brown made his first trip to Fresno August 17 since becoming Governor and sounded several water-related messages. The Governor took part in several meetings during the day as well as a fund-raiser that evening for Rep. Jim Costa (D-Fresno).

FAVORS DELTA WATER BYPASS

The Governor told the Fresno *Bee* editorial board that he continues to favor some sort of isolated water conveyance – such as a Peripheral Canal or tunnel – through or around the Delta. His administration favored the Peripheral Canal dur-

Please see [Governor](#), back page

Concern Remains Over Newest Plan For Delta

A great deal of concern continues to be generated over a Delta plan being readied for environmental review by the Delta Stewardship Council.

Friant Water Authority General Manager Ronald D. Jacobsma made it clear at a FWA board meeting in August that the Authority shares anxiety voiced recently by a group known as the Ag-Urban Coalition over many of the provisions within the proposed plan.

“The Delta Stewardship Council seems to want to regulate everything,” Jacobsma said.

Delta Stewardship Council members, under a state law enacted in 2009 as part of a comprehensive legislative package, is developing a Delta plan that is supposed to further co-equal goals of improved water supply reliability and ecosystem health.

The plan must incorporate the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDGP), a process for developing a comprehensive plan to obtain long-term operating permits under the state and federal Endangered Species Acts.

DRAFTS ISSUED

The council has issued five staff drafts of the plan to date and will soon release a draft environmental impact

report, the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) reports. A final plan is to be adopted by January 2012.

“The Ag-Urban Coalition believes that while the fifth draft shows some improvements, the plan in its current

form cannot achieve the co-equal goals,” an ACWA statement says. “Since this draft will largely be the basis for the environmental review, it is critical that the council redirect its efforts now and make the right policy choices

Please see [Delta Plan](#), back page

Ceremonial Start At Madera Ranch

A ceremonial ribbon is cut August 26 at the entrance to the Madera Ranch by (from left) Madera Irrigation District Director Jim Cavallero, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Area Manager Michael Jackson, MID Director Thomas J. Petrucci, former Rep. George Radanovich, Reclamation Mid-Pacific Regional Director Don Glaser, and MID President Gary Bursey, Vice President Carl Janzen and Director Rick Cosjens.

Friant Water Authority / J. Randall McFarland



Millerton Storage Dropping But Remains Above Average

Effects of the big 2011-12 water year that is quickly winding down continue to be evident in the Friant Division’s Central Valley Project water supply and Millerton Lake storage.

Friant’s Class 1 users continue to enjoy a 100% supply and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is continuing a “residual” water supply declaration of 5% Class 2 for Friant Division contractors.

During the so-called “uncontrolled season” that ended along with flood releases on July 31, full supplies of Class 1 and Class 2 water were made available because of limited Millerton Lake storage behind Friant Dam and much higher than normal runoff.

So well was the water supply managed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Friant Water Authority and Friant’s contractors

for Central Valley Project water that Millerton Lake was at capacity only a few days in July.

Although the reservoir continues to drop, it contains considerably more water in storage than normal for so late in the

summer. As of September 1, Millerton Lake storage amounted to 419,400 acre-feet. Its capacity is 520,500 acre-feet.

NATURAL FLOW DROPS

The river’s calculated natural flow at Friant – as if there were no dams – also is

declining and on September 1 fell below 1,000 cubic feet per second – to 857 c.f.s. – for the first time in nearly a year.

Inflow to Millerton Lake has remained higher than normal, in part because of

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FRIANT Waterline

August 2011
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| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Arvin-Edison Water Storage District | Madera Irrigation District |
| Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District | Orange Cove Irrigation District |
| Exeter Irrigation District | Pixley Irrigation District |
| Fresno Irrigation District | Porterville Irrigation District |
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| Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District | Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District |
| Kern-Tulare Water District | Stone Corral Irrigation District |
| Lindmore Irrigation District | Tea Pot Dome Water District |
| Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District | Terra Bella Irrigation District |
| Lower Tule River Irrigation District | Tulare Irrigation District |

AROUND FRIANT AND CALIFORNIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

Empty Feeling Is Just Ahead For Shaver Lake

Shaver Lake, largest of the San Joaquin River power company reservoirs upstream from Friant Dam and Millerton Lake, is on its way to emptiness.

Southern California Edison Company, which owns and operates Shaver Lake as part of the massive Big Creek hydroelectric system, began draining the reservoir August 1 with a goal of having it empty by the middle of October.

The drawdown will permit contractors for Edison to complete a major dam safety and maintenance project begun last fall.

The bottom portion of a geomembrane liner being applied to the dam's concrete surface will be installed on the 170-foot-high dam that was constructed in 1927.

The receding waters will expose remnants of the original Shaver Dam, a rock and earth structure that formed a mill pond of about 5,000 acre-feet that served as the water supply for a lumber flume that snaked down the mountains to a finishing mill in Clovis.

Access to the lake bottom, including the old dam and other possible artifact sites, is expected to be severely limited.

Shaver Lake, with a capacity of 135,000 acre-feet, contained just over 90,000 acre-feet on September 1.

It will be refilled during the winter with water being stored in three higher reservoirs, Florence, Edison and Huntington lakes.

Draining of the lake is not expected to impact Millerton operations or Friant water supplies.

SITES RESERVOIR Funds OK'd For Studies

Some funding has been approved for environmental studies connected with the proposed development of a major off-stream reservoir in Colusa County.

The long-proposed Sites Reservoir would be located



Friant Water Authority / J. Randall McFarland

On the way down (at a rate of several inches daily) on September 2, Shaver Lake is to be drained by mid-October in order to complete a major repair and maintenance project on the upstream face of Shaver Dam, constructed in 1927.

in a Coast Range foothill valley west of Maxwell in the Sacramento Valley.

The California Water Resources Control Board voted 3-0 without discussion to allocate \$1.75 million in Proposition 204 funds for environmental studies.

Sites Reservoir has been debated since the 1970s. It would be located in what is known locally as the Antelope Valley. Its namesake would be pioneer homestead John Sites.

The Sites Joint Powers Authority, which includes Colusa and Glenn counties, the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, Maxwell Irrigation District, Yolo County Flood Control District and Reclamation District 108, will complete the environmental analysis in cooperation with the Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Its cost is estimated to be between \$2.3 billion to \$3.2 billion.

It is one of a handful of water storage proposals that could benefit from a water bond scheduled to be on the November 2012 ballot.

Another is Temperance Flat Reservoir on the San Joaquin River in the upper end of Millerton Lake, northeast of Fresno. Temperance Flat is the focus of a full feasibility study.

DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME New Director Is Appointed

Charlton "Chuck" Bonham, 43, of Albany, has been appointed director of the California Department of Fish and Game by Governor Brown.

Bonham has served in multiple positions at Trout Unlimited since 2000, including California director and senior attorney.

The position requires Senate confirmation. Compensation is \$150,112. Bonham is a Democrat.

SACRAMENTO Wastewater Sales Enabled

Sacramento's Regional County Sanitation District would be permitted to sell its treated wastewater as a new supply of drinking or irrigation water under legislation approved in August.

A bipartisan vote of 28-

10 approved the measure.

Sacramento area leaders indicated treated wastewater sales could help offset the cost of complying with new rules that require advanced treatment of the capital area's sewage.

Those rules were imposed by the State Water Resources Control Board after it was shown the 180,000 acre-feet of treated effluent discharged into the Sacramento River near Freeport contains so much ammonia that fish and other elements in the food chain through the Delta are being harmed.

ENDANGERED SPECIES Beetle Could Lose Listing

The valley elderberry longhorn beetle will be considered for removal from the Endangered Species Act list.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced "substantial information" exists that indicates delisting the beetle may be warranted.

The Sacramento-based Pacific Legal Foundation petitioned last year for the delisting.

Elderberry longhorn beetles have been listed since 1980. They are about one-inch long.

The listing has resulted in millions of dollars in costs for landowners and has impeded numerous construction projects.



Valley elderberry longhorn beetle

Water Supply

Continued from front page above-average upstream storage as well as the ongoing draining of Shaver Lake for dam maintenance. (Please see related story, this page.)

Water demands by users served through the Friant-Kern and Madera canals have remained high.

When the water year ends September 30, total San Joaquin River natural runoff is predicted to be about 3.26 million acre-feet, 190% of average.

Well Logs Bill Fought

Opposition is mounting within agriculture to proposed legislation that would make landowners' well logs public records.

Well drillers must report significant well work but the information provided to the state Department of Water Resources has not been readily accessible to the public. The California Farm Bureau Federation, the California Cattlemen's Association and other farm groups oppose the public-records bill.

Justin Oldfield, the California Cattlemen's Associations director of government relations, said, "From a public perspective, there's a lot of concern about putting this information out there about what wells are pumping water and how much they're pumping. This wouldn't help anything. It's creating a solution for a problem that doesn't exist."

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER AND RESERVOIR WATER CONDITIONS

WATERSHED PRECIPITATION

| Inches | 2010-11 Including Aug. 31 | 2009-2010 Including Sep. 1 | Season Avg. Through August |
|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Huntington Lake..... | .20 | .04 | .52 |
| Bass Lake..... | .03 | .00 | .13 |
| Friant..... | .00 | .00 | .03 |

SEASONAL RUNOFF

| Acre-Feet | In 2010-11 Aug. 31 | Predicted | Prev. Year |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|
| Aug. (31")..... | 130,431 | 132,000 | 46,926 |
| April-July period... | 2,243,065 | 2,240,000 | 1,535,227 |
| Water Year..... | 3,255,263 | 3,253,000 | 2,141,000 |

2009-2010 Total (October 1-September 30) — 2,028,707

FLOWS

San Joaquin River

| Cubic Feet Per Second | Aug. 31 | Sep. 1, '10 |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Calculated Natural Flow (Friant)..... | 1,551 | 414 |
| Actual Millerton Lake Inflow..... | 2,718 | 1,689 |
| Actual Flow At Friant..... | 349 | 350 |
| Flow at Gravelly Ford..... | 210 | |
| Flow below Mendota Dam..... | 250 | |

| | |
|--|--------|
| Flow at Vernalis (San Joaquin County)..... | 7,056 |
| Total Delta Inflow..... | 13,112 |
| Delta outflow index..... | 7,056 |
| Delta conditions..... | Excess |

Diversions at Friant Dam

| | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| Friant-Kern Canal..... | 3,099 | 2,820 |
| Madera Canal..... | 621 | 585 |

RESERVOIR STORAGE

| Acre-Feet | Aug. 31 | Last Year | Capacity |
|---|---------|-----------|-----------|
| U.S. Bureau of Reclamation | | | |
| Millerton Lake..... | 427,004 | 314,279 | 520,500 |
| Southern California Edison Company | | | |
| Edison Lake..... | 111,136 | 94,705 | 125,000 |
| Florence Lake..... | 56,305 | 45,596 | 64,400 |
| Huntington Lake..... | 88,309 | 87,818 | 89,000 |
| Shaver Lake..... | 91,538 | 91,525 | 135,300 |
| Mammoth Pool..... | 86,000 | 71,458 | 122,000 |
| Redinger Lake..... | 23,684 | 24,971 | 26,120 |
| Pacific Gas and Electric Company | | | |
| Bass Lake..... | 34,402 | 34,082 | 35,000* |
| Kerckhoff Lake..... | 3,605 | 3,745 | 4,200 |
| *Temporary capacity pending Crane Valley Dam seismic retrofit | | | |
| Upstream Total..... | 494,979 | 453,900 | 611,400 |
| OVERALL..... | 921,983 | 768,179 | 1,131,900 |

OTHER SOUTH VALLEY DAMS AND RESERVOIRS

| Acre-Feet | Aug. 31 | Capacity |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Chowchilla River / Buchanan..... | 125,568 | 150,000 |
| Fresno River / Hidden..... | 37,163 | 90,000 |
| Merced River / New Exchequer..... | 857,258 | 1,024,600 |
| Kings River / Pine Flat..... | 720,307 | 1,000,000 |
| Wishon, Courtright total..... | 200,462 | 251,900 |
| Kaweah River / Terminus..... | 53,998 | 185,600 |
| Tule River / Success..... | 28,486 | 40,000* |
| *Capacity for emergency flood control, 82,314 acre-feet. | | |
| Kern River / Isabella..... | 283,424 | 360,000* |
| *Capacity for emergency flood control, 570,000 acre-feet. | | |
| San Luis Reservoir / CVP..... | 649,418 | 980,000 |
| State Water Project portion..... | 847,835 | 1,060,000 |
| San Luis Reservoir total..... | 1,497,253 | 2,040,000 |

New Smelt Ruling Seen As Win For Good Science

Under a preliminary injunction handed down in U.S. District Court in Fresno, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be severely restricted in its plan to make large-scale fall releases of State Water Project supplies to battle salt water intrusion. U.S. District Judge Oliver W. Wanger concluded the agency's efforts would provide little or no benefit to the threatened Delta smelt.

Although the case did not affect contractors and users in the federal Central Valley Project due to this year's big water supply, the decision was widely applauded as a victory for good science.

Even though the Friant Division was not affected, Friant Water Authority General Manager Ronald D. Jacobsma said the decision "is another demand that Delta and related environmental protection decisions are based upon the best possible science."

210,000 ACRE-FEET SAVED

The USFWS plan was to have become effective September 1 and result in some 300,000 acre-feet of State Water Project supplies being released to the ocean. The decision effectively saves about 210,000 acre-feet of water.

The proposed action had been criticized as lacking any clear scientific basis by the National Research Council, by the federal government's own review panel and by every independent scientist who had studied the issue. In granting the injunction, Judge Wanger concluded, "There is essentially no biological evidence to support it."

The court said the USFWS had erroneously bypassed the National Environmental Policy Act and had "completely abdicated their responsibility to consider reasonable alternatives to the [proposed] action that would not only protect the species, but would also minimize the adverse impact on humans and the human environment."

"The result is the issuance and implementation of a one-sided, single purpose [action] that inflicts drastic consequences on California water users, a situation NEPA prohibits."

ANOTHER LOSS FOR AGENCIES

This ruling is the latest in a series of cases in which the federal fish agencies' Delta plans have been found to be scientifically deficient. Wanger previously ordered the agencies to rewrite biological opinions that guide Delta actions to correct past mistakes.

The judge's conclusion, however, stated bluntly, "The agencies still 'don't

"The agencies still 'don't get it'."

— JUDGE OLIVER WANGER

get it.' They continue to believe their 'right to be mistaken' excuses precise and competent scientific analysis for actions they know will wreak havoc on California's water supply."

He said in granting the preliminary injunction that the State Water Project users plaintiffs "have established the likelihood of irreparable harm" and that the loss of State Water Project supplies as the USFWS had proposed would "impact long term water supply reliability for both domestic and agricultural users. There will be further impacts to groundwater re-

charge programs, with resulting direct environmental impacts to groundwater levels, groundwater quality, and energy use. Water supply reductions will cause economic impacts to farmers and may have socioeconomic impacts on agricultural communities, although the magnitude of any such economic and/or socioeconomic impacts given the 'very good' water year in 2011 is unclear."

SALT WATER 'BOUNDARY'

Federal authorities wanted the releases to halt encroaching salt water at a point some 46 miles from the Golden Gate Bridge. Judge Wanger moved the encroachment line to a point no closer than approximately 49 miles from the Golden Gate in order to "significantly reduce the water supply impact" to State Water Project users, the judge said in his decision.

The California Farm Water Coalition observed that the federal fish agencies'

efforts to move the salt water encroachment boundary "is a continuation of the poor science used to develop the biological opinions governing flow through the Delta. ... Agencies charged with developing regulations must realize that they cannot simply take a position without basing it on sound science. Failure to develop science-based decisions serves no purpose."

Jim Beck, Kern County Water Agency General Manager, agreed that the federal action would have been "a regulatory measure that would have resulted in massive water loss throughout the state without any demonstrable benefit to the environment."

He said Judge Wanger's decision "underscores the need to base policies on sound science and complete data that present a comprehensive view of all factors affecting the Delta Smelt."

Wanger Leaving Bench

Federal Judge's Return To Private Practice May Leave A Void In Water Law Expertise

U.S. District Judge Oliver W. Wanger, whose name has become synonymous with major Central and Northern California water and environmental cases and decisions, has handed down what may be his biggest decision of all – to step down from his lifetime seat on the Fresno court's bench.

The 70-year-old Wanger plans to retire from the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California – the nation's busiest – on September 30 to return to private practice as a partner in a new law firm, Wanger Jones Helsey.

WATER KNOWLEDGE

His decision, which he hinted was made reluctantly and at least partially on economic grounds, may leave a significant judicial void for major issues clouding the San Joaquin Valley's water and environmental interests.

"Judge Wanger has been front and center in making rulings on many of the major water and environmental issues our valley faces," said Friant Water Authority General Manager Ronald D. Jacobsma. "Not only is he fair minded and excellent in applying the law, Judge Wanger has amassed a huge amount of knowledge about valley water and environmental issues that will be difficult for the court to replace."

In fact, Wanger will not be replaced. Since taking "senior status" five years ago and since Congress has failed to act on creating six new Eastern California judgeships, Wanger's position will not be filled. His 1,200 cases will be divided between the Fresno court's two remaining federal judges, Anthony Ishii and Lawrence J. O'Neill.

Ishii was quoted by the Fresno *Bee* as observing that his colleague "was unmatched in his passion for justice, fairness

and upholding the rule of law." Judge O'Neill added, "He is a natural teacher and a tireless worker with the goal of justice always at the forefront of everything he has ever touched."

'TOOK IT FOR LIFE'

Wanger told Fresno television station KMPH, "When I took this job, I took it for life and I never had any intention of leaving." However, he added, "We have a son to educate. We have family obligations. I'm going to return to the private sector as a result of that."

He called his judicial post "the best job in the world. This is the best courtroom I think in our nation. You see this office? There couldn't be a better place or environment to work. I will simply put it behind me and revere the time that I have been privileged and honored to serve."

Asked by a reporter what he would do if the situation were different, Wanger said, "I would not go."

Wanger indicated he will be a defense attorney, teacher, adviser to trial lawyers and local governments, and an expert witness, as well as a private judge deciding civil cases.

APPOINTED IN 1991

The first President Bush nominated Wanger, a Republican, in 1991. The Senate confirmed his nomination unanimously. Wanger graduated from the University of California at Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law. A Los Angeles native, he came to Fresno in 1967 as a deputy district attorney but moved into private practice



Friant Water Authority
Judge Oliver Wanger

Governor May Seek Restructuring Of Regional Water Quality Boards

Published reports indicate Governor Jerry Brown may propose a radical restructuring of the state's nine regional water quality control boards.

The San Jose *Mercury-News* reported August 31 that the Governor would seek to consolidate certain boards and reduce membership on each remaining board from nine to five with designated seats for agriculture, water quality experts, the public and others removed.

The San Joaquin Valley is covered by the Central

Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, which apparently would survive.

The Regional Board for the past several years has been involved in enacting irrigated lands water quality regulations which, although receiving little public attention, could greatly increase the regulatory burden on agriculture and extend regulations and possible restrictions to groundwater.

The Governor's proposal would reportedly consoli-

date the Central Coast and Colorado River regional boards into other boards as part of an effort to reduce the size of state government.

There was no immediate comment from the Governor's office.

Nor has any legislation been introduced although a "spot" bill, SB 900, supposedly involves regional water boards. It has been in the Assembly's inactive file for months.

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Delta Plan

Continued from front page

for California.” Ag-Urban Coalition members are mounting an educational and information effort about the current draft plan. The Coalition has submitted an alternate Delta plan.

KEY CONCERNS

Coalition concerns include belief that there is:

- **No clear strategy to achieve the co-equal goals.** The draft plan fails to lay out a coherent strategy to improve either water supply reliability or ecosystem health, despite a mandate to do both.
- **No integration of existing efforts.** Though the 2009 legislation made it a key Council function, the draft plan does not integrate actions across agencies.
- **A cloud of uncertainty is created.** The draft plan is vague about what levels of water supply water agencies might expect in the future, despite a goal to improve water supply reliability.
- **Usurping of local decision making.** The plan seeks to dictate local public agency decisions through new state regulation.
- **A potential for reduced water supplies.** The plan could severely constrain the ability of some regions to provide water necessary for economic growth.
- **No comprehensive plan for ecosystem restoration.** Instead of addressing all stressors in an integrated ecosystem approach, the plan recycles failed strategies that emphasize flows without the benefit of other critically needed actions.

IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS

The Ag-Urban Coalition contends the plan must be modified to improve water supply reliability and ecosystem health, as mandated. It says the plan must:

- **Address environmental problems in the Delta.** The plan must accelerate habitat restoration to solve existing physical problems and protect fisheries.
- **Improve water supply reliability for all.** Actions proposed in the plan must improve water supplies over today’s baseline in all regions, not just some. The plan must not further reduce already diminished supplies from the Delta. It must provide certainty and include actions that improve the way water is conveyed through the Delta.
- **Integrate existing efforts.** To avoid repeating past failed approaches, the plan must provide vision and coordination to meet the co-equal goals.
- **Pursue all important ecosystem stressors.** The plan must direct state agencies to address predation, pollution, invasive species and other stressors. Providing increased flows for the environment must not be the sole focus.
- **Leverage partnerships to promote investments.** The plan must allow existing incentive based local resource development to continue.
- **Provide financial justification for those being asked to pay for solutions.** The plan must identify actions to be funded and their expected benefits. Without that, water users and others will be reluctant to help pay for implementation.
- **Use all tools.** The plan must include a comprehensive set of actions. One solution won’t work.

Big Ceremonial Start Is Given Madera Ranch

Madera Irrigation District’s new water supply enhancement project has been launched in happy and enthusiastic fashion. A crowd of about 300 gathered on August 26 at the eastern entrance to the unique 13,646-acre Madera Ranch as a ceremonial ribbon was cut and a cooperative agreement was signed by MID directors and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Several speakers praised the project as an excellent tool for creating a solution that will generate benefits which can help ease larger state water supply and environmental problems.

IMPROVES SUPPLIES

“What MID is doing will improve Madera County’s water supplies and reduce groundwater overdraft for decades to come by capturing flood release water from the San Joaquin and Fresno rivers,” said Madera Irrigation District Board of Directors President Gary Bursey.

“This project will protect the conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater on which we rely and be a major step forward in integrated regional water management,” Bursey said.

Bursey pointed out that had the project been fully operational during the past two water years when above-average runoff occurred, some 110,000 acre-feet of water could have been banked, an amount equivalent to more than one fifth the capacity of Millerton Lake.

“MID growers will benefit but so will Madera city and county residents, and other interests as well,” Bursey said.

PRESERVES OPEN SPACE

“That includes the land itself,” he observed. “The project has been designed carefully so that it will preserve Madera Ranch’s unique open



Signing a cooperative agreement during the ceremony are (from left) Madera Irrigation District Directors Thomas J. Petrucci, Rick Cosyns, President Gary Bursey, Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Regional Director Don Glaser, and MID Directors Carl Janzen and Jim Cavallero. Standing is USBR Area Manager Michael Jackson.

space environment and wildlife habitat. Water operations facilities will take place on less than 10% of the ranch.”

The project is designed to enhance water supply reliability and flexibility while helping maintain affordable water costs for farmers and reducing groundwater overdraft.

It is a new tool in the conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water upon which Madera County depends but will also promote integrated regional water management and provide environmental benefits.

‘GOT IT RIGHT’

Rep. Jim Costa (D-Fresno) noted that the Madera Ranch water bank concept has been around 15 years.

“The idea always had merit,” Costa said, “but it wasn’t the right proposal.” He added in congratulating MID and its project partners, “I think we finally got it right.”

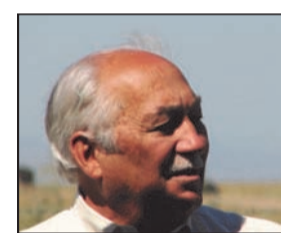
Frank Bigelow, Chairman of the Madera County Board of Supervisors, said that despite success by MID, Reclamation and other agencies in putting the Madera Ranch project together, “We cannot stop working on additional facilities along the San Joaquin River. That river is our life’s blood.”

‘NEAR-TERM SUPPLIES’

Reclamation’s Mid-Pacific Regional Director, Donald R. Glaser, in his keynote address, pointed out that

solutions to the issues and questions that have added up to a major water crisis in recent years will take decades in some cases to resolve.

“We need to think about near-term water supplies,” Glaser said, adding that the Madera Ranch development is an excellent example of what can be done locally and regionally. “It is your vision, your plan and your persistence that has resulted in this project,” he said.



Don Glaser, USBR Regional Director

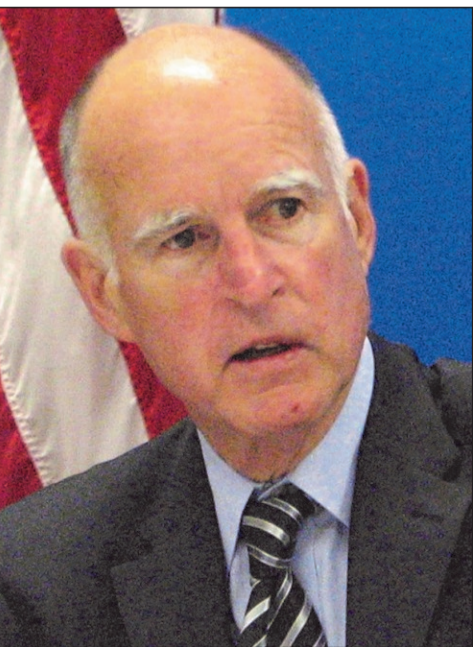
As for larger, more complex and often controversial state-wide water needs, Glaser said, “There is no clear path.” Nor is there unanimity within the water user community on what needs to be done, he said.

Glaser predicted, however, that a comprehensive solution lies ahead. “We will reach it because we must,” he said.

MADERA RANCH FEATURES

The first phase of development is focusing on groundwater recharge and limited recovery facilities. Other work will include reconditioning, extending and expanding existing canals and ditches being used to convey water to and from Madera Ranch.

Governor: Brown Says He Favors Delta Conveyance Facility



Friant Water Authority / J. Randall McFarland
Governor Brown

Continued from front page

ing his first terms as Governor three decades ago.

Brown said such a conveyance facility would be part of the currently-developing Delta plan he said would be released by the summer of 2012.

WATER BOND POSITION

It was reported widely that the Governor said he favored “watering down” the water bond measure that is to be on the November 12 ballot to round out the state’s 2009 comprehensive water program.

Mario Santoyo, Friant Water Authority Assistant General Manager, said Brown’s comments were made in response to a question. “The Governor reflected some concern regarding the current structure of the bond but was not specific on any details,” Santoyo said. “Unfortunately, some have over-characterized what was actually said.”

During a meeting of Latino business, educational and civic leaders organized by Assembly Member Henry T. Perea (D-Fresno), Brown did observe that the bond issue is bound to face a tough electoral road next year, given California’s economic climate.

In a meeting with a number of valley water and agricultural leaders, Brown was accompanied by Senator Michael Rubio (D-Bakersfield), Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross and Secretary of California Health and Human Services Diana Dooley.

Discussed at length was his interest in resolving Delta issues in a way that results in more certainty in supplies for south-of-Delta water users. Brown said he is interested in getting it done.

WATER COMMISSIONERS

What Brown did not talk about is what he did the next day when the Governor

asked the State Senate not to act to confirm two California Water Commission members – Republicans Dave Cogdill (former State Senate leader and author of the comprehensive water infrastructure bond that will go before voters next year) and Paul Kelley. Kelley is Association of California Water agencies (ACWA) President. Both men were appointed by former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

In remarks to a Kenneth L. Maddy Institute luncheon, the Governor talked of the importance of minimizing partisan issues and finding a way to go back to how the Legislature used to operate, with cooperation across the aisle. He was concerned that those days no longer seem to exist.

Brown also discussed numerous other issues, including the troubled valley economy, the budget, crime and custody issues, education and social questions, and high-speed rail.