



## *NCWA Week in Review*

**March 22, 2016**

### **Bi-Partisan Opposition to Delaying Shasta Releases**

Congressman Doug LaMalfa (R-CA 1<sup>st</sup> District), John Garamendi (D-CA 3<sup>rd</sup> District), Tom McClintock (R-CA 4<sup>th</sup> District), Ami Bera (D-CA 7<sup>th</sup> District), Jeff Denham (R-CA 10<sup>th</sup> District) and Jim Costa (D-CA 16<sup>th</sup> District) last week co-authored a letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Regional Administrator William Steele, expressing their opposition to the NMFS suggestion that Shasta Reservoir be operated in a manner to delay water diversions for Sacramento River Settlement Contractors be delayed by over a month. As expressed in the letter, “Delaying diversion until at least late May would have detrimental consequences for agriculture and related economies in the Sacramento Valley.”

The letter went on to point out, “Absent a mutually agreed upon Operations Plan for 2016 . . . other Central Valley Project (CVP) reservoirs will be impacted, and water supplies south of the delta will be affected.”

The authors recognized the importance of protecting winter-run Chinook salmon, but urged that a “. . . balanced CVP operations plan be in place as soon as possible,” and that whatever resources are needed be devoted to make certain the operations plan is completed soon.

### **Department of Water Resources Presents Key Draft Groundwater Regulations**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will hold a [webinar March 24 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM](#) to present [draft regulations](#) that include how it will evaluate the development and implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans, alternatives, and coordination agreements by local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.

Additionally, DWR will hold a public meeting Friday, March 25, 2016 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, at the Secretary of State Building 1500 11th St, Sacramento, CA 95814. For more information regarding California’s Groundwater Sustainability Plan Emergency Regulations please visit:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsp.cfm>

Public comment to DWR remains open through April 1, 2016. By June 1, 2016, DWR is required to adopt these emergency regulations.

### **A Drone Video is Worth MORE Than A Thousand Words -**

News organizations throughout the Sacramento region picked up the [John Hannon's drone video of water flooding the Yolo By-Pass](#). Also worth viewing is California Farmer Kurt Richter’s [short video on the three reasons the proposed Dam-Train Initiative](#) will wreak havoc on water rights law and threaten the construction of Sites Reservoir.

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### **Silver Anniversary of California Water Policy Conference**



Sunset in the Sacramento Delta  
Photo: Suchi187

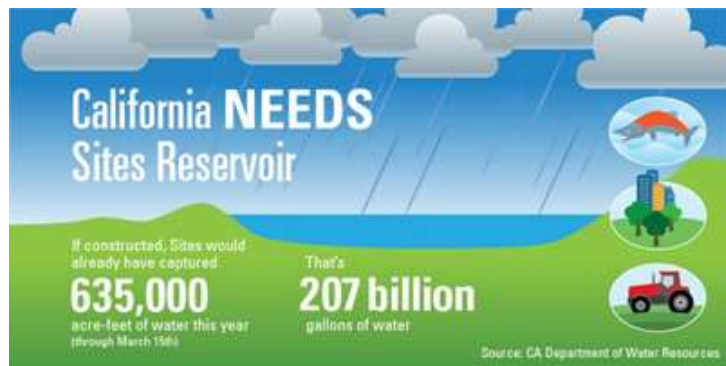
Early registration rates for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual California Water Policy Conference expire Friday March 25. This year's theme, appropriately titled, *Silver Anniversary No Silver Bullet*, will be held for the first time at the UC Davis Conference Center on April 20 & 21, 2016. For more information about speakers and to register visit the [California Water Policy Conference website](#).

### **Allocations Increase North and South of Rain Followed by Sun as Spring Arrives**

A wet beginning to March, that boosted reservoir levels, resulted in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) [announcing an increase in allocations](#) for most recipients to 45 percent of requests for the calendar year. DWR's initial State Water Project (SWP) allocation of 10 percent of requests, announced in December, was increased to 15 percent on January 26 and to 30 percent on February 24 after January storms increased the Sierra snowpack and brought significant rainfall to the drought-parched state.

The [Fresno Bee reported on March 18](#), "... the federal Bureau of Reclamation was optimistic enough to offer water suppliers in the Valley 30 percent of their contract allocations this year."

### **This Week's – If Sites Were Built Storage Update**



### **Water: More or Less**

Former Water Education Foundation executive director, Rita Schmidt Sudman, has co-authored a new book entitled "Water: More or Less." The book captures historic water conflicts, moments of change and offers solutions for the future. Written with co-author, artist and essayist Stephanie Taylor, the authors visually and verbally cover water in three dimensions – art, history, and stories of real people. Twenty diverse top water policy leaders add their voices and stories to the book. For those who were not able to purchase the book at the annual meeting, please be sure to order the book through the Water Education Foundation at: <http://www.watereducation.org/publication/water-more-or-less>.

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