

# Water Horizons

July, 2005

## Valley Water Alliance Update

### Water Alliance Testifies in Sacramento RE: SB350 (Machado)

Members of the Valley Water Alliance were in Sacramento on Tuesday, June 28 to testify in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife committee against SB350 authored by Senator Mike Machado. As presented to the committee, the bill would have created a special fund of more than \$9 million to support the restoration of salmon runs in the San Joaquin River. The legislation also predicted the federal court judge in the NRDC lawsuit would rule against the Central Valley and its communities.

Through the bipartisan efforts of San Joaquin Valley Assembly members Mike Villines, Nicole Parra, Juan Arambula, David Cogdill, Barbara Matthews, Kevin McCarthy and Bill Maze the bill was held over in committee for amendments. Also of great assistance was Assembly member Lynn Daucher (R-Brea), who understood and pushed for the bill to be amended as a state-sponsored study of the impacts river restoration would have on Central Valley communities.

Appreciation is in order to our legislative representatives that turned the ill-conceived bill around. This is a true example of what a bipartisan partnership between local government, labor, business and agriculture can accomplish when they are working together. It is the Alliance's hope to see the bill constructed so it offers the Central Valley constituency the opportunity to have

the benefit of a river study that keeps in the forefront the Central Valley's need for a secure, reliable water supply upon which our businesses and jobs depend.

### Tulare Farm Bureau Supports VWA with \$10,000 Contribution!

The Valley Water Alliance is fortunate to have a growing list of supporters lending their name and their contributions to the organization's efforts to educate and advocate about the impacts on our communities should there be any water lost from the San Joaquin River. Recognizing how growers and ranchers in Tulare County, and throughout the region, will suffer if their water supplies are sacrificed to re-establish a salmon fishery on the San Joaquin River, the Tulare County Farm Bureau stepped up in a big way with a \$10,000 contribution to the Alliance. Their contribution will go to the outreach efforts, material development and public education about San Joaquin River issues. Water is the lifeblood of our economy. Without water, farmers and ranchers realize their livelihood and the future of our communities are threatened. A big thank you to the Tulare Farm Bureau board of directors and members for realizing they can make a difference!

### June 11 Water Alliance Rally A Success

On Saturday, June 11 more than 200 members of the Valley Water Alliance and interested

members of the community came together to advocate for more storage and raise awareness concerning the potential impacts water losses from the San Joaquin River would have on the region. The rally was held at Fresno State University, prior to a House Subcommittee on Water and Power field hearing chaired by Congressman Radanovich (R-19). Members of the Alliance who spoke at the rally included Dale Brogan, Mayor Victor Lopez of Orange Cove, Bob Keenan with the BIA of Tulare/Kings, Fresno County farmer Paul Betancourt, Madera Supervisors Vern Moss and Frank Bigelow, as well as farmers Ron Pistoresi and Rick Cosyns from Madera.

During the rally speaker Paul Betancourt acknowledged "we loose on average 200,000 to 300,000 acre-feet of water to flood releases annually due to a lack of storage -- enough water to support the needs of more than a half million people." As our population continues to grow, the time is now to bring more storage to the region.

In the words of the Mayor of Orange Cove, Victor Lopez, "We are going to fight for our jobs and we are going to fight for our communities." We need water to fuel the jobs that fuel our economy, which means we need more storage. According to Bob Keenan, "the area the Alliance represents has 2.7 million people and nearly 900,000 work in the tens of thousands of businesses we have -- with millions more projected to come here between now and 2020." We must protect our water. We must increase storage. And we must guarantee our future.

## County of Tulare, County of Kern and City of Wasco Pass Supporting Resolutions

Over the past month the Valley Water Alliance has sought resolutions from the numerous cities and counties in support

of the Alliance's efforts to maintain our water supply from the San Joaquin River. We would like to extend our appreciation to the County of Tulare, County of Kern and the City of Wasco for their supporting resolutions adopted during this month. The Valley Water Alliance is continuing to

seek resolutions from the other cities and counties in support of the Alliance. If you would like to assist us in having a resolution passed by the City Council or County Board of Supervisors in your community please contact Alfreda Sebasto at 559-291-0184 or [alfreda@attglobal.net](mailto:alfreda@attglobal.net).

## Donor Update

The Valley Water Alliance cannot make an impact without the support of the individuals, businesses and organizations that have chosen to make a difference and support our registered 501 (c)(6) non-profit organization with a contribution. We would like to acknowledge the numerous donors who have contributed over the past month to make sure our water and our future is protected.\*

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 \*Partial list and in no particular order.

## Alliance Members are Educating Others Throughout the Valley

Valley Water Alliance board members and friends have been working hard to educate our community about the impact re-watering the San Joaquin River will have on our economy, as advocated for by the Natural Resource Defense Council, and other San Francisco area environmental

and fishing groups. If you know of an organization that would like a presentation about the San Joaquin River issues from the Valley Water Alliance please contact Alfreda Sebasto at 559-291-0184 or [alfreda@attglobal.net](mailto:alfreda@attglobal.net) to make arrangements.

### Coming Soon – [www.valleywateralliance.org](http://www.valleywateralliance.org)

Our website is just about ready to launch so look for more information about the Valley Water Alliance on their new website scheduled to debut later this month!

*Please contact Alfreda Sebasto if you have questions or need additional information about the Valley Water Alliance. Edits and or submissions for the Alliance's monthly newsletter should also be forwarded to [info@valleywateralliance.org](mailto:info@valleywateralliance.org) or call 559-291-0184.*



**Our Water, Our Future.**