

PRIORITY FOCUS



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GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER OUTLINES THE CRITICAL NEED FOR WATER STORAGE IN LETTER TO LEGISLATURE

In a letter to legislative leaders on Wednesday, Oct. 10, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger outlined the critical need for water storage reservoirs in a comprehensive infrastructure plan to help solve California's water crisis. The Legislature is currently considering proposals during the special session which the Governor called on Sept. 11. The Governor has proposed a \$9 billion plan that includes \$5.1 billion for surface storage, including two new reservoirs and the expansion of one existing reservoir. *For more, see Page 2.*

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LOS ANGELES BUSINESS COUNCIL TO HOST 2007 MAYORAL HOUSING SUMMIT

The Los Angeles Business Council (LABC) will host the 2007 Mayoral Housing Summit on Wednesday, Oct. 17, in Los Angeles. The event will be held at the Korn Convocation Hall of the University of California, Los Angeles, Anderson School of Management from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. *For more, see Page 4.*

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CALIFORNIA CITIES PARTICIPATE IN ACWA PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM **Two New TV Spots and Brochure Launched This Week**

Cities across the state are participating in the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) public education program on current and future water issues. The program addresses challenges to the state's water supply and delivery system. *For more, see Page 4.*

The original version of the Governor's letter is located at www.gov.ca.gov/news-room, under "press releases." Below is an edited version (indented and bolded):

October 10, 2007

Dear Speaker Núñez, Senator Perata, Mr. Villines and Senator Ackerman,

As a water crisis slowly grips California cities and towns, we find ourselves embroiled in the most important debate on this issue since the State Water Project was built more than half a century ago. The question is not just which immediate steps should be taken to protect our great state, but how California's water infrastructure will serve future generations for many decades to come.

The most controversial element of the debate is the proposal to expand California's reservoir system. Opponents of building new reservoirs have used three major arguments to make their case: first, that California has plenty of reservoir capacity. Second, that we can solve California's growing water crisis with conservation and recycling. Third, that reservoirs should be paid for only by local water agencies, not the statewide public.

It is a fact that California's existing reservoirs are dangerously low this year. The capacity to store additional flood waters will provide us with tremendous flexibility and bring greater reliability to our state's water supply.

From October 2005 to September 2006, two reservoirs, Shasta and Folsom, released more than 6.5 million acre-feet of water to the ocean because they did not have room to store flood flows from the Sacramento River. Flood waters stretched our aging levee system to the breaking point. Last year alone, 1.25 million acre-feet of water had to be released from Millerton Lake reservoir off the San Joaquin River because there was no room to store flood flows when the Sierra snowmelt collided with winter storms. Towns along the river, like tiny Firebaugh, were threatened with devastation.

In 2006, the State's major reservoirs released millions of acre-feet of flood waters, well beyond that needed for the environment or other beneficial purposes - and more than enough to fill the proposed new reservoirs at Sites and Temperance Flat, and an expanded Los Vaqueros. This water, had some of it been captured, could have been used to maintain water quality in the Delta, protect threatened fish populations and complete water deliveries to cities and farms when the Delta pumps were shut down to protect endangered fish.

Instead, due to drought conditions this year, the State's major reservoirs have 2.5 million acre-feet less in storage than normal for this time of year. Combine this low storage with drought conditions and reduced pumping from the Delta, and what you have are cities throughout California facing water rationing. Had my comprehensive water plan been in place, we would have started the 2007 water year with an additional 3.3 million acre-feet of water in storage, allowing us to deliver more water and better protect the ecosystem.

Conservation is key, but cannot solve California's growing water crisis alone.

Conservation cannot capture the Sierra snowmelt when it floods the Sacramento or San Joaquin River. There are no conservation measures that would have helped us benefit from the flood flows in 2005-06; that was simply a matter of limited space in our existing reservoirs.

However, conservation certainly must be a critical component of California's water future. The City of Los Angeles has grown by more than 1 million residents since 1975 and, with aggressive conservation efforts such as low-flow toilets and

showerheads, still uses the same amount of water today that it did thirty years ago. California farmers and water suppliers have adopted state-of-the-art water conservation measures, such as micro-irrigation and satellite crop and soil moisture sensing systems to improve water management and irrigation practices. As a result, agricultural water use efficiency, measured in tons of production per acre-foot of water, has increased by nearly 40 percent since 1980.

There is certainly much more we can do to use water more efficiently, which is why I plan to sign Assembly Bill 715 to require low-flush toilets in new building construction, and why I proposed \$1 billion in funding for local conservation and water recycling programs as part of our bond package. But much more, even beyond conservation, remains to be done.

Estimates are that Los Angeles now saves more than 900,000 acre-feet per year in water through conservation compared to thirty years ago. As good as that is, it didn't prevent Mayor Villaraigosa from having to ask Los Angeles residents to cut back water usage by 10 percent this year because of water supply problems. Local officials in Los Angeles and San Diego counties recently considered denying permits for new housing developments because state and local water agencies cannot guarantee enough water to serve those homes. California's population is expected to reach 60 million over the next forty years. Conservation alone cannot possibly meet that demand.

The public has a strong interest in building new reservoirs.

Critics claim State government should not agree to build new reservoirs until private water users agree to pay for all or most of it. They point to former Governor Pat Brown and the State Water Project as a model to replicate. The fact is that the Legislature approved funding to build reservoirs and canals for the State Water Project before a single private contract was in place to pay for any portion of it. Government leaders then had a vision for California's water infrastructure needs, and they took the lead in building reservoirs knowing that local governments and water agencies would pay their share of the costs commensurate with the benefits they would receive.

But we can no longer afford to have our reservoirs and water supplies governed primarily by the needs of local water contractors. The fact is that we need reservoir capacity for flood control purposes, and we need a place to store water for environmental purposes, especially since our traditional storage - the Sierra snowpack - is less reliable due to climate change. Environmental water can be used to keep cold water flowing in rivers during spawning season for salmon. It can be used to keep drinking water safe from saltwater intrusion in the Delta. It can be used to make critical water deliveries to Central and Southern California when the pumps are idled to protect tiny Delta Smelt from extinction.

My proposal assumes that the public would own and benefit from up to half of the new capacity in the proposed reservoirs. Local beneficiaries would contract to pay for their share before a single public dollar was spent to begin building these facilities. That's more protection for an investment of public dollars than our predecessors gave when the State Water Project was first built.

California needs a balanced and comprehensive plan for our water future. While some want to limit the actions we take, I believe we must invest in a wide range of tools including expanded storage, new conveyance and conservation. The plan does not work if we don't have all three.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger

'Mayoral Housing Summit' Continued from Page 1...

Join your colleagues for a variety of presentations and keynote addresses from numerous speakers, including Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), State Controller John Chiang, California Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata and many other public and private housing leaders.

Topics of note during the summit will include the new economic realities of housing, creating workforce housing, and preparation for an economic upswing.

Registration for LABC members is \$250, \$350 for non-members. For more information on the event and to register, visit www.labusinesscouncil.org.

'ACWA' Continued from Page 1...

As part of an effort to educate their citizens about the water crisis, many cities are using their Web sites by posting materials related to the water crisis program with information, the program's banner ad (instructions below on how to download) and a link to www.calwatercrisis.org.

A number of cities are distributing brochures and showing a five minute video ACWA produced at council meetings. In addition, over 40 public access and local government channels are running the TV spots and the informational video.

Partner with ACWA

Cities interested in partnering in the ACWA program should contact Statewide Outreach Director Scott Adams at (818) 760-2121 or scott@calwatercrisis.org.

New TV Spots Launched This Week

ACWA's program, titled "California's Water: A Crisis We Can't Ignore," launched two new TV spots this week. These are the third and fourth spots in the series. The two new 30-second spots are airing across the state in California's major media markets and are designed to educate viewers about the state's water crisis.

In the spot titled "Family Farmer," Jim Beecher, a family farmer from the Central Valley, discusses how the water crisis impacts agriculture in the state and why the delta needs to be fixed. "Half Empty," the fourth TV spot in the program's series, focuses on the contributing factors to the water crisis.

Program Information Brochures

ACWA has produced an information campaign that can be distributed to people at meetings, events and conferences. The brochure can be downloaded and reproduced for distribution. It can be found at www.calwatercrisis.org. Click on "About the Program" on the right-hand side and scroll down to the bottom to find the .pdf file for download.

Copies of the brochure can also be ordered by contacting Kym Belzer at (818) 760-2121 or kbelzer@redgatecommunications.com.

Cities Encouraged to Post Banner Link

The ACWA program has made its logo available for partner organizations to use on their Web sites. This banner helps raise the visibility of the program and is designed to look and feel like the program's Web site.

The banner is on the program's Web site at www.calwatercrisis.org. Click on "About the Program" on the right side. The banner logo is available on the right side of the "About the Program" page.

League Legislative Briefings Scheduled for November

The League of California Cities is hosting two briefing sessions in November. Scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 28, in Pasadena and Thursday, Nov. 29, in San Jose, these identical briefings will focus on bills of note to city officials that passed in the previous legislative session.

Tentative session topics will include:

- Implementation of the State Infrastructure Bond Package
- The fate of ACA 8 and pending initiatives—What's next on eminent domain and regulatory takings
- Climate Change: ARB Regulations, SB 375 (Steinberg), the attorney general's lawsuits, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines: Are you ready for this kind of "green heat?"
- Growing Pains: Legislation affecting redevelopment, flood control, environmental issues, housing and land use
- Employee relations and workers compensation
- Sex offender management, gang abatement, and prison overcrowding: local implications

The cost of attendance is \$140, which includes a luncheon. Registration and further information is available at www.cacities.org/events.

Fire Chiefs Leadership Seminar Set for December

The League of California Cities Fire Chiefs Leadership Seminar is set for Dec. 5-7, at the Monterey Conference Center in Monterey.

Join your fire chief colleagues from across the state for an informative event that features state speakers Ruben Grijalva, director, Cal-Fire and California State Fire Marshall Kate Dargan. A keynote address will also be given by Gordon Graham of Graham Research Consultants, on the topic of management quality control.

Cost of this event is \$440 for city officials/staff, and \$600 for all others. For more information on the seminar and to register, visit www.cacities.org/events. One-day registration is not available, and registration closes on Nov. 13. Housing for this event is filling fast, so those interested in attending are encouraged to register soon.

Does Your City Have Unclaimed Assets?

Remember that feeling of discovering a few dollars in an old coat pocket that you hadn't worn in ages? Now cities have a chance to have the same experience.

The California State Controller's Office has an online "Unclaimed Property Search" system at <http://scoweb.sco.ca.gov/UCP>. A number of California municipalities are on the list as having unclaimed assets. Cities are encouraged to visit the site and research what property may be sitting out there unclaimed.

Call for Education Session Ideas: 2008 Mayors & Council Members Academy, Executive Forum

Do you have a great idea for a session or speaker for the 2008 Mayors & Council Members Academy Executive Forum in Squaw Valley next year? If so, we want to know about it!

The League's 2008 Mayors and Council Members Executive Forum Planning Committee will be considering session ideas for any topic area. To submit your ideas, a fully-completed proposal form packet is due on or before noon on Monday, Oct. 15.

This packet is available at www.cacities.org/events. Any individual, group, business or organization may submit a proposal suggestion.

Who are the thought leaders that understand municipal government and the issues our cities face on a daily basis? What are the vital issues our membership must learn to succeed beyond 2008? This is an exciting opportunity to share your ideas, knowledge and expertise with local government staff, elected officials and decision makers.

The 2008 Mayors & Council Members Academy Executive Forum will be held at the Squaw Creek Resort in Squaw Valley on June 4-6, 2008.

Find a Bill, Legislators, Leg Committee, or Ask League Leg Staff

Visit (and bookmark!) the League's [Legislative Resources](http://www.cacities.org/legresources) Web page (www.cacities.org/legresources). You'll find a roster and contact information for the League's legislative staff; the online Bill Search program, background materials on lobbying your legislators, and more.
