

New Publications from WEF

The Sacramento-based Water Education Foundation (WEF) published several new materials last year. The 28-page *Layperson's Guide to Nevada Water* provides an overview of the history of water development and use in the state. It includes sections on Nevada's water rights laws, the history of the Truckee and Carson rivers, water supplies for the Las Vegas area, groundwater, water quality, environmental issues, and today's water supply challenges. The book was funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and costs \$7.

Proceedings of the 2005 Colorado River Symposium, "Sharing the Risks: Shortage, Surplus, and Beyond," are now available. The invitation-only meeting assembled top policymakers in the Colorado River Basin to discuss past and present drought and hydrologic conditions, shortage sharing, water rights and international border issues, agricultural-to-urban water use transitions, and the impacts of climate change. The 160-page book costs \$50.

Finally, WEF produced a new map of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that focuses on delta sustainability. The map's text, photos, and graphics explain issues related to subsidence, levees and flooding, and salt water intrusion. Funded by the California Bay-Delta Authority, the 24- by 36-inch map costs \$10.

All materials can be ordered from WEF at www.watereducation.org; additional tax and shipping charges apply.

Irrigation Association Recognizes San Antonio System

The San Antonio Water System (SAWS), which implemented a comprehensive year-round water conservation program, received the 2006 Irrigation Association National Water and Energy Conservation Award. After experiencing a severe drought in 2001, SAWS spent four years working with the irrigation industry and others with an interest in water usage

to develop a comprehensive ordinance that would conserve water without disproportionately impacting irrigation businesses and other water users.

Passed in 2005, the ordinance requires rain sensors for irrigation systems, encourages irrigation audits, and rewards efficient landscape and irrigation designs. In addition, SAWS' Seasonal Irrigation Program provides customers easy access to evapotranspiration data to help them make informed decisions about when and how much to irrigate. The ordinance and SAWS efforts are credited with saving 1.3 billion gallons of water per year.

Visit www.irrigation.org and www.saws.org.

Groups Request Pristine Waters Designation in New Mexico

A coalition of conservation and wildlife groups has asked the State of New Mexico to protect some of its cleanest waters that flow from roadless national forests. Last fall, Forest Guardians, New Mexico Wildlife Federation, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, and the Sierra Club jointly filed a formal petition with the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission to name the waters inside the Inventoried Roadless Areas on the Santa Fe National Forests north of the cities of Pecos and Las Vegas as Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRWs).

According to Forest Guardians, this Clean Water Act designation would permanently protect the critical source of drinking water for the city of Las Vegas, New Mexico, provide a measure of protection for the forests in which these waters are found, and protect healthy landscapes for future generations of humans and wildlife. Among the streams nominated for protection are the Pecos and Gallinas rivers and numerous tributaries, which provide abundant habitat for fish and wildlife and a variety of recreational opportunities. In total, the nomination calls for the protection of more than 100 miles of waterway.

The petition is part of an innovative strategy that responds to the Bush administration's repeal of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule of 2001. Although a California judge ruled last fall that Bush's replacement policy for managing roadless areas violates the National Environmental Policy Act, the Bush administration has made it clear that it does not intend to reinstate the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. This leaves 1.6 million acres in New Mexico unprotected from logging, mining, oil and gas development, and other such activities.

Rather than wait for this legal situation to be worked out in the courts, the coalition is pursuing an alternative. By asking the state to designate waters inside Inventoried Roadless Areas as ONRWs, the coalition says it hopes to protect both the roadless forests threatened by Bush's policy and keep the waters these forests naturally provide forever clean.

Designation as an ONRW would not limit existing uses, but merely ensure the water quality is not polluted beyond its current condition. The nominated waterways meet the criteria for ONRW designation because of their exceptional recreational and ecological values. Such broad water protections are not unprecedented; Montana and Wyoming have named all surface waters in national parks, national wilderness and primitive areas as ONRWs.

The nomination is available at www.fguardians.org/support_docs/petition-nominate-onrw_pecos_10-25-06.pdf.

WEF Holds Big Bash, Adopts Climate Change Resolution

WEFTEC.06, the Water Environment Federation's 79th annual technical exhibition and conference, hosted some 17,000 attendees and a record 965 companies in Dallas last October, the largest annual water quality exhibition in the world. In addition to an expansive exhibit area, the meeting offered 95 technical sessions, 25 workshops, 8 facility tours, and several special

events. Sessions on compounds of emerging concern and a new Water Environment Research Foundation biosolids report drew particular interest.

During the meeting, WEF announced the adoption of a new climate change resolution by its board of trustees. The resolution recognizes climate change and its impacts on the planet's natural hydrologic cycle, and commits WEF to working with its members, member associations, and others to help reduce the impacts of climate change and better prepare the water quality community for its effects. It also urges WEF members and local agencies to become leaders in their own communities by taking steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from treatment facilities and related operations, and by educating the public. The announcement of the resolution followed a keynote address by James Hansen, a leading U.S. expert on climate change and global warming and the director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

Preparations are well underway for WEFTEC.07, to be held Oct. 13-17, 2007 in San Diego. If you're into water quality, put it on your calendar now.

Visit www.weftec.org.

NGWA Recognizes Leaders at Groundwater Expo

The National Ground Water Association's 2006 Ground Water Expo was held in early December in Las Vegas. A record-setting 6,600 people attended the event, including 315 exhibitors. A number of awards were presented, including several to individuals from the Southwest.

Robert E. Mace of the Texas Water Development Board in Austin received the Technology Award, recognizing his role in pioneering the use of groundwater modeling to inform policy makers and citizens about the state of groundwater in Texas. Through his direction, computer models have been developed

for aquifers covering 73 percent of Texas and encompassing 95 percent of groundwater produced in the state.

Bill C. Stoner of Corsicana, Texas, received the Ross L. Oliver Award for outstanding contributions to the groundwater industry. Stoner is president of Stoner Drilling Inc. and has been a director of the Texas Ground Water Association for 28 years.

Thomas C. Winter of the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver received a Life Member Award for his special service in furtherance of the groundwater industry. He was cited for his innovative research on the hydrology of lakes and wetlands that has fundamentally altered the way in which the national and international scientific communities view these aquatic systems.

Visit www.ngwa.org.

SAFE YIELD STUDIES **ARTIFICIAL RECHARGE** **GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT**

LITIGATION SUPPORT **WELLS** **MODELING**

GEOSCIENCE **Ground Water Hydrologists**

Dr. Dennis E. Williams
(Founder and President)

GEOSCIENCE Support Services, Inc.
www.gssiwater.com
P.O. Box 220, Claremont, CA 91711 / Tel: (909) 920-0707 / Fax: (909) 920-0403
E-mail: email@geoscience-water.com

Stewart Brothers
DRILLING CO.

Providing Quality Drilling Services Since 1945

Services Include:

- Water Exploration
- Mud Rotary
- Air Rotary
- Packer Testing
- Coring
- Mineral Exploration
- Environmental

Stewart Brothers Drilling Company
P.O. Box 2067
306 Airport Road
Milan, New Mexico 87021
(505) 287-2986
<http://www.stewartbrothers.com>